

CABINET DECISIONS – 28 MARCH 2014

1. Cabinet has taken note that, according to the March 2014 issue of the Economic and Social Indicators on Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment, the rate of unemployment for 2013 was 8.0%.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the preparation of a National E-Waste Policy Document to ensure a better management of e-wastes. Mauritius imports, on an annual basis, around 25,000 tonnes of electrical and electronic products, which include household appliances, information technology and telecommunication equipment, lighting equipment, electrical and electronic tools, medical devices, toys, leisure and sports equipment. These products generate about 8,000 tonnes of e-waste annually.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the status of the three islets that have been formed in the Port Louis harbour area. The islets of 11,750 m², 8,750 m² and 7,700 m² consist of dead corals, sand and broken shells. Vegetation has started growing on the islets. According to the Hydrographic Unit of the Ministry of Housing and Lands, the formation of these islets has been gradual over time and there are indications that they would continue to grow. Action is being taken to update the existing nautical charts and maps by including the islets and to name them.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the value of export of the Export-Oriented Enterprises for the months of January and February 2014, as compared to the same period in 2013, has increased by 2.2%. Increases have been recorded in the value of exports of textiles and clothing (+6.0%); jewellery and precious and semi-precious stones (+35.6%). Exports of manufactured goods have increased substantially within the Eurozone and the USA.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the University of Mauritius, in collaboration with the African Accounting and Finance Association, would hold the fifth African Accounting and Finance Conference in Mauritius in September 2015. The Association, established in 2010, brings together academics, graduates, students and practitioners and the accounting and finance community worldwide, to share information, experience and challenges, while networking with peers and establishing professional contacts.

6. Cabinet has agreed to deferring the operationalization of the measure announced in the Budget Speech 2014 relating to VAT collection at wholesale level for mineral waters, aerated waters and soft drinks and alcoholic drinks, in view of practical implementation difficulties.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development to the Gabonese Republic. The main objectives of the visit were, amongst others, to –

- (a) reinforce the long standing historic and economic relations;
- (b) develop an investment strategy with a view to tapping into the growing South-South investment opportunities; and
- (c) participate in the Business Forum organised by the Gabonese authorities to present business opportunities including investment projects already identified in Gabon.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development paid a courtesy call on HE Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Gabonese Republic.

During the visit, the delegation signed two Letters of Intent providing for the recruitment of 250 secondary school teachers and instructors, and some 1,300 medical and paramedical personnel by the Gabonese Government.

8. Cabinet has taken note that 41 entries have been received for the Public Service Excellence Award 2013 edition. The theme of the edition is **Maurice Ile Durable-Adoption of modernized methods for a green Civil Service**. A Panel of Jury, under the chairmanship of Mr François de Grivel, Managing Director, Rocanvel Ltée, has been constituted to assess the entries.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands to Malawi where he participated in a meeting of the SADC Local Government Ministers Forum. Concurrently, the Southern Africa Regional Conference on Local Economic Development was held on the theme “Creating Opportunities for Developmental Local Government through Regional Engagement on Local Economic Development”. The Forum agreed, inter alia, to:-

- (a) Local Economic Development being adopted as an approach to development and mainstreamed into the work of local government in the region;
- (b) regional exchanges and country-to-country cooperation to better promote understanding and learning on Local Economic Development; and
- (c) a strategy for the institutionalization of local government within SADC.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection to Geneva where he participated in the 2nd Edition of the Africa CEO Forum. The main objective of the Forum was to bring economic players of English and French speaking countries together in order to facilitate the growth of regional trade, foster public private dialogue, lay ground for the development of new activities and promote African entrepreneurship.

In the margins of the Summit, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection had meetings, amongst others, with HE Hon Alamine Ousmane Mey, Minister of Finance of Cameroon, HE Hon Amadou Gon Coulibaly, State Minister and Secretary General to the Presidency of Côte d'Ivoire and HE Haruna Iddrisu, Minister of Trade and Industry of Ghana.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to New York where she participated in the 58th Session of the Commission of the Status of Women which addresses critical issues related to gender equality and women's rights. The Session focussed on the theme "Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls", and reviewed the theme relating to "Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work".

In the margins of the Meeting, the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare had a working session with Ms Freda Miriklis, President of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, and Dr Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Board of the Tourism Authority with Mr Christian Lefevre as Chairperson; and
- (b) the Board of the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre Trust Fund with Mr Keerty Kumar Motee as Chairperson.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of the Council of Professional Quantity Surveyors.
