

CABINET DECISIONS – 8 AUGUST 2014

1. Cabinet has taken note of the performance of the Mauritian athletes in the Commonwealth Games 2014. Mr Kennedy St. Pierre won the Silver medal in Boxing in the category of less than 81 kgs, and Ms Annabelle Laprovidence won the Bronze medal in Judo in the category of more than 78 kgs. The other athletes put up a satisfactory performance. Mauritius ranked 27th among the 71 participating countries, that is the best performance ever recorded in the Commonwealth Games.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the National Water Policy that is based on Government socio-economic policies and development strategies, and defines the national objectives and targets for the water and sanitation sectors. The long term objective is to ensure availability of good quality water at an affordable price taking into account Government's social responsibilities to the poor, reduction of Non-Revenue Water to an acceptable level of 20% by 2040, the financial sustainability of the Water Sector, the protection and conservation of water resources, and the extension of the public sewerage network to achieve 75% coverage by 2040.

3. Cabinet has taken note of measures taken by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life in the wake of the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease in the Western part of Africa, namely –

- (a) reinforcement of surveillance at the port and airport;
- (b) follow up on incoming passengers, particularly, from affected countries;
- (c) strengthen the sensitization campaign on precautionary measures to be taken;
- (d) preparation of a Protocol for the clinical management of the Disease; and
- (e) arrangements for the operation of an isolation ward at Souillac Hospital.

Ebola Virus Disease is a severe, often, fatal illness with a death rate of up to 90%. Infection occurs from direct contact, through broken skin or mucus membrane, with blood or other body fluids or secretions of infected people.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Executive Programme on Arts and Culture between the Government of Mauritius and the Government of the Republic of Mozambique would be renewed. The Programme covers, amongst others, -

- (a) exchange of visits of cultural groups;
- (b) technical cooperation in the fields of Archaeology, Museums, Archives and Libraries; and
- (c) support for the Genealogy Project.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, in collaboration with Rogers Group and the Reef Conservation, would launch a sensitization campaign on climate change adaptation in the coastal zone of Mauritius. The campaign, which is in line with the Climate Change Information, Education and Communication Strategy and Action Plan, aims, amongst others, at enhancing access to information on climate change, and public participation and engagement in addressing and responding to climate change.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the organization of a Capacity Building Workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy System and Governance for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Resilience of Small Islands Developing States. The main objective of the regional Workshop is to provide technical assistance and share knowledge and skills to further strengthen national governance mechanisms with a view to promoting long term planning and addressing development challenges of climate vulnerability, economic growth and youth employment.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the 10th Session of the Mauritius-Pakistan Joint Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation held in Mauritius in July 2014. The Working Group serves as a platform for structured dialogue to dynamise trade, investment and economic relations between the two countries. The Joint Working Group has, amongst others, made the following recommendations –

- (a) establishment of a Joint Trade Committee and a Sub-Committee on Customs matters for the implementation of the Preferential Trade Agreement;
- (b) the Agreement signed in 2007 between the Small Enterprises Handicrafts Development Authority (SEHDA) and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority of Pakistan being revisited;
- (c) facilitation of the export of Mauritian Victoria pineapples;

- (d) Pakistan would send medical teams in areas, such as cancer and heart surgery/transplant, to help Mauritius to become a medical hub; and
- (e) strengthening of mutual cooperation in the field of ICT through sharing of experiences, transfer of knowledge, promotion of quality standards, institution-to-institution collaboration, joint-ventures and outsourcing.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre would organize the Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Lecture on 21 August 2014, with Prof Graham Durant, Director of Questacon, the National Science and Technology Centre of Australia, as the Guest Speaker. The theme of the Memorial Lecture is **A World of Science Centres**. The objectives of the Lecture are to encourage reflection on important scientific issues, and to allow interaction among well-known scientists, students, and academics.

9. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius signing the Gender COMESA Social Charter adopted at the last COMESA Summit held in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The principal aims and objectives of the Charter are to –

- (a) promote the welfare of the people of the region;
- (b) improve the quality of life;
- (c) accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development; and
- (d) enable all individuals from the region to live in dignity and realize their full potential.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to China where she participated in the Sixth China (Longnan) International Forum for Qiqiao Festival and Women's Development. The main objective of the Forum was to share the influence and attraction of the Qiqiao culture on Chinese women and women's development.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the mission of the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to Malawi where she participated in the Meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Gender/Women's Affairs. The objectives of the Meeting were to discuss the SADC Regional Gender Programme, and the forthcoming Beijing +20 Meeting, share progress made by Member States in the implementation of SADC gender commitments, and consider the Draft Revised SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Plan 2015–2020.
