

CABINET DECISIONS – 16 MAY 2014

1. Cabinet has taken note of the actions initiated by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping, in collaboration with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre, to alleviate hardships encountered by the residents of the neighbouring areas following the rock fall disaster which occurred on 26 April 2014 at Macondé along the coastal road at Baie du Cap. The road has been closed and a diversion through Chamarel and Case Noyale is in operation. Following the closure of the road, the NTA has provided shuttle services, free of charge, from Baie du Cap to Croisée Case Noyale and vice-versa. The Ministry has enlisted the assistance of Japanese experts from the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the services of a geotechnical expert to assess the situation and make recommendations. The Director General, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre has also contacted the *Bureau de Recherche Géologique et Minière* of Reunion Island to seek technical assistance, as Reunion Island has a vast experience in matters of rock fall.

2. Cabinet has taken note that, for a better management and maintenance of the network, the Road Development Authority would, henceforth, be responsible for street lighting along motorways. Arrangements are also being made to replace the current lighting system by the solar system.

3. Cabinet has taken note of developments in the operationalization of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Skills Hub and Response Mechanism that would be hosted by Mauritius. The Hub aims at enhancing the capacity of SIDS and LDCs to access and manage climate finance, and facilitating inter - and intra-regional sharing of skills, knowledge and expertise. The Hub and Response Mechanism would be based on an active partnership between Commonwealth Member States and draw on the Commonwealth's strengths in technical cooperation.

4. Cabinet has taken note that Professor Leo Chalupa, Vice-President for Research and Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology at the George Washington University, would visit Mauritius in July 2014. The main objective of the visit is to discuss long term collaboration with Mauritian universities in the field of big data, space studies, the setting up of an African School of Leadership, joint research programmes, offering dual degree programmes and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Housing and Lands would prescribe the Pas Géométriques (Amendment of Schedule) Regulations to withdraw 22 villages from the List of Declared Villages in the First Schedule to the Pas Géométriques Act to enable some 17,000 families, who have a housing unit on leased State lands located within those villages, to opt to buy the land at the price of Rs 2,000 as announced in Budget Speech 2014. To date, some 6,000 applications from eligible families have been received, and a substantial number of the applicants occupy building sites within the villages listed in the First Schedule to the Pas Géométriques Act.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Webcup 2014 would be held in June at the national level, and in October 2014 at regional level. The Webcup is a 24-hour non-stop competition where teams, both amateurs and professionals, from Mauritius, Reunion Island, Mayotte, Seychelles, Madagascar and the Union of the Comoros compete to design a website simultaneously. The main objectives of the Webcup are, amongst others, to -

- (a) promote Mauritius as an international ICT destination;
- (b) obtain the suitable visibility and accountability by demonstrating the ability of the Mauritian ICT sector to deploy technologies to challenge for international contracts;
- (c) promote the propitious based-on-knowledge environment by encouraging exchange know-how among participants; and
- (d) create a state-of-the-art facility to help young people integrate the new internet economy.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the 35th Edition of the African Senior Judo Championships would be held in Mauritius in June 2014. It is expected that some 300 competitors from 32 countries, accompanied by their coaches, would participate in the competition.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the ratification of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 of the International Labour Organisation. The Convention, which came into force in August 2013, sets out the basic rights of seafarers to decent employment and puts an obligation on Member States to ensure to a seafarer the right to –

- (a) a safe and secure workplace that complies with safety standards;
- (b) fair terms of employment;

- (c) decent working and living conditions on board a ship; and
- (d) health protection, medical care, welfare measures and other forms of social protection.

The provisions of the new Convention apply to all ships, whether publicly or privately owned, ordinarily engaged in commercial activities, but are not applicable to ships engaged in fishing or in similar pursuits, ships of traditional build, such as dhows and junks, and warships or naval auxiliaries.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the 9th edition of the Dragon Boat Festival would be held on 25 May 2014 at Le Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis. Seven teams would participate in the competition. The event would, amongst others, comprise a défilé of dragons, cultural items, and a performance by the Arts Troupe from Liaoning, People's Republic of China.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised to mark the World No Tobacco Day, observed on 31 May, namely –

- (a) holding of a workshop on strengthening tobacco control policies;
- (b) launching of a Smoking Cessation and Counselling Clinic at the University of Mauritius;
- (c) sensitisation campaigns on the ill-effects of tobacco use and existing tobacco control policies; and
- (d) a march from Vacoas Terminus to the Town Hall of the Municipal Town Council of Vacoas/Phoenix.

The theme chosen to mark the World No Tobacco Day this year is “**Raise taxes on tobacco**”.

Cabinet has further taken note that, the yearly per capita cigarette sticks consumption has decreased from 1,046 sticks in 2009 to 776 sticks in 2013, i.e., a decrease of 30%.

11. Cabinet has taken note of activities that would be organised to mark the World Blood Donor Day, observed on 14 June, namely -

- (a) distribution of a Fact Sheet on Blood Donation in all secondary schools to sensitize students on the importance of blood donation;
- (b) a blood drive at Super U, Grand Baie;

- (c) sensitization programmes and electronic displays on the theme at the Municipal City Council of Port Louis, and the Municipal Town Councils of Vacoas-Phoenix and Quatre Bornes; and
- (d) a Bicycle Fun Ride.

The theme for this year's campaign is **Safe blood for saving mothers.**

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Abu Dhabi where he participated in the Abu Dhabi Ascent Meeting, the main high-level meeting convened by HE Mr Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General, to brainstorm a range of scaled-up actions and partnerships to raise the level of ambition in tackling climate change ahead of the UN Climate Summit to be held in September 2014. The Abu Dhabi Ascent sought pathways towards a low-carbon future that would enable us to stay within a 2° Celsius cap. The focus of the debate was energy and climate finance, including how to address the lack of adaptation funds.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands to Reunion Island where he participated in the Annual Congress of Firefighters and Rescuers. In the margins of the mission, the Minister had discussions, amongst others, on the legal and institutional framework for the operation of the fire fighting and rescue service; the concept and practice of volunteer fire fighter; and response time and scope of intervention. Following discussions with Colonel Jean-Marc Loubry, Officer in Charge of the *Service Départementale d'Incendie et de Secours de la Réunion*, a Convention of Cooperation, to provide, *inter alia*, for the consolidation of the respective regulatory frameworks in the field of fire and rescue, the training of trainers and the establishment of the voluntary firefighters and rescuers, would be signed.

14. Cabinet has taken note that Mr Rajeshsharma Ramloll, Assistant Solicitor General, has been nominated Chairperson of the Financial Services Commission in replacement of Mr Marc Hein who has resigned. Mr Ramloll is a Fellow of the Society for Advanced Legal Studies and a member of the International Fiscal Association. The appointment of Mr Ramloll would take effect on 1 June 2014.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the Beach Authority under the chairmanship of Mr Jaykissoo Anand Nunkoo.
