

## CABINET DECISIONS – 18 APRIL 2014

1. Cabinet has taken note that, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Mauritius had, in May 2009, made a submission for the extension of the continental shelf around Rodrigues Island for an additional seabed area of approximately 123,000 sq kms. The UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf has now invited Mauritius to make its presentation and defend its submission. The Commonwealth Secretariat has agreed to provide legal and technical support, as it did for the Mauritius-Seychelles Joint Submission for an extended continental shelf.

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2. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Professional Land Surveyors' Council Bill in the National Assembly. The main object of the Bill is to provide for the establishment of the Professional Land Surveyors' Council to, amongst others, -

- (a) regulate and control the profession of land surveyors;
- (b) register professional land surveyors;
- (c) exercise and maintain discipline in the profession of land surveyors, with the assistance and support of such Professional Conduct Committee as may be set up; and
- (d) disseminate literature on developments in the field of land surveying or any other related matter to land surveyors.

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3. Cabinet has taken note that Miss Aarthi Burtony, and Mr Yaseen Edo, two young persons with disabilities, have been nominated to participate in the Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders 2014 and the Global Youth Ambassador on Education respectively. The Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, a new flagship programme of President Obama, aims at providing 500 young citizens of Africa with leadership training, academic coursework and mentoring in either Business and Entrepreneurship, or Civic Leadership, or Public Management. "A World at School", an international NGO launched in 2013, has selected Mr Y. Edo as one of its Global Ambassadors to campaign across the globe to get all children into school and learning.

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4. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organized by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, in collaboration with stakeholders, to mark Earth Day 2014 commemorated on 22 April, namely, -

- (a) launching of a campaign "*Un enfant, Une Plante*" at Rabindranath Tagore Secondary School, comprising a tree planting ceremony, distribution of plants and inauguration of rainwater harvesting system;

- (b) creation of a promenade along the river banks at Ebène Cyber City;
- (c) planting of trees on the Signal Mountain and at L'Escalier; and
- (d) sensitization campaigns on the importance of tree planting and environmental protection.

The theme for this year is **Green Cities**.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that the Hon Ms Julie Bishop, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia, who would be on an Indian Ocean Tour during the month of July 2014, proposes to visit, amongst others, Mauritius. During the Indian Ocean Rim Association Meeting held in Perth in 2013, the increasing importance of the Indian Ocean region to Australia was highlighted. The meeting adopted the "Perth Principles Declaration" which reaffirmed a shared commitment to peaceful, productive and sustainable use of the Indian Ocean and its resources. The visit of the Hon Ms Bishop would be an opportunity to further consolidate our bilateral relations with Australia.

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6. Cabinet has taken note that Prof John Scrimgeour, Executive Director of the Energy Institute of the University of Aberdeen, would visit Mauritius from 20 to 27 April 2014. The purpose of the visit is to discuss areas of collaboration, in particular:

- (a) joint or articulated degrees relating to petroleum engineering;
- (b) provision of high quality scholarship to students; and
- (c) development of joint research projects.

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7. Cabinet has taken note that 55 Mauritian athletes would participate in the 2nd Edition of the Africa Youth Games to be held in Gaborone, Botswana in May 2014. The Games, a multi-sport competition for athletes aged between 14 to 18 years organized by the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa, serve as a trial run for the Olympic Games and foster Olympic values. Mauritius would participate in 11 disciplines, namely Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Judo, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Triathlon, Volleyball and Weightlifting.

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8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to the Union of Comoros where he participated in the 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Commission. The main issues discussed were, amongst others, -

- (a) Reconstruction of Madagascar;
- (b) Regional Connectivity;

- (c) Maritime Security Project; and
- (d) 11th European Development Fund/Regional Indicative Programme.

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9. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Housing and Lands to Australia in the context of the implementation of LAVIMS. The Minister renewed the Memorandum of Understanding between Landgate, a State Government Agency of the Ministry of Lands, Government of Western Australia, and the Government of Mauritius and had discussions on technological progress in land management and new ways to harness data to ensure that the expected outcomes are reached.

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10. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of the Council of the Mauritius Society for Animal Welfare with Dr Alexander Espitalier-Noël as Chairperson.

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