

**CABINET DECISIONS – 23 MAY 2014**

1. Cabinet has taken note that, on the personal invitation of HE Mr Narendra D. Modi, Prime Minister elect of India, Dr the Hon Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP, Prime Minister, would attend his Swearing-in Ceremony scheduled for 26 May 2014. He would have a high-level meeting with the new Prime Minister of India to discuss issues of mutual interest. He would also pay a courtesy call on HE Mr Pranab Mukherjee, President of India.

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2. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements being made by the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security to carry out an assessment of the socio-economic and environmental impact of the abolition of the EU sugar quota, with a view to coming up with a new strategy and plan to ensure that the Sugar Sector continues to be viable and sustainable, play its multifunctional role, and contribute, in a significant manner, to the development of the socio-economic framework of the country. The study would, amongst others, have to –

- (a) propose measures and actions to mitigate the likely impact on the industry, stakeholders, in particular the small planters and métayers;
- (b) quantify the costs of the impact and the mitigation measures; and
- (c) propose financing alternatives, including support from the EU.

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3. Cabinet has taken note that a Workshop to validate the draft Mauritius Country Case Study Report entitled "*Rethinking Africa's Agricultural and Rural Transformation in the Global Context: Challenges, Opportunities and Strategic Policy Options - The Case of Mauritius*", would be held in June 2014. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa had commissioned the Study in five countries, namely, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Botswana and Mauritius, with a view to supporting the African Union, its institutions and Member States. The Report highlights the successful transformation of Mauritius from a low income per capita agro-based economy dominated by sugar to an upper middle income country due to prudent fiscal policies, macro-economic reforms and management and export diversification. The Study has also revealed that Mauritius has satisfied the five conditions underpinning the successful agricultural transformation, namely macro-economic and political stability, access to lucrative markets, transfer of knowledge, strongly protected ownership rights and employment creation and generation of income in the non-farm sectors.

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4. Cabinet has taken note of developments in the implementation of the Mauritius Light Rapid Transit Project that aims at solving traffic congestion problems and providing an efficient and quality public transport, in the first phase, from Curepipe to Port Louis.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that Mr Yaaseen Edoe, a young Mauritian with Disability, has been invited by the Leonard Cheshire Disability to a special event that would be hosted at St. James' Palace, London, in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on 29 May 2014. Mr Edoe, born with spinal bifida and wheelchair-bound, did not attend school. However, he completed his secondary studies. He is now holder of a diploma in Information Systems, and is following BSc (Hons) Course in Multimedia and Web Technologies at the Université des Mascareignes. As part of his social engagement, he, inter alia, drives the Young Voices, a Forum set up by Leonard Cheshire Disability, to enable young persons with disabilities to speak out and stand up for their rights. Mr Edoe has also been selected by an international NGO, A World at School, to be one of its 500 Global Youth Ambassadors to campaign for getting every child into school and learning so as to meet the deadline of the Millennium Development Goals.

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6. Cabinet has taken note that the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) Examinations 2014 would be held from 14 to 17 October 2014. Results are expected to be announced by 05 December 2014 at latest. Some 22,720 pupils (Mauritius and Rodrigues) would take part in the Examinations. The CPE resit examinations would be held on 19 December 2014 and results announced by 30 December 2014.

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7. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, in collaboration with the Communication Multimedia and Infrastructure Association of India would, in July 2014, hold the 8<sup>th</sup> NTA ICT World Communication Summit and Awards, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global ICT Forum on the theme "*Innovation to drive economy of developing countries and Cybersecurity*". The NTA ICT World Communication Summit and Awards play an important role in organizing the contribution of the ICT Sector towards economic growth and nation-building and have been central to raising awareness and improving access to ICT. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Global ICT Forum would showcase the latest research, processes, services and products emerging from the ICT sector and provide an opportunity for knowledge sharing.

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8. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, in collaboration with the Institute of Engineering Technology (Mauritius Branch), would organise a workshop on "*Cyber Attack on Key ICT Infrastructure*" in June 2014. The main objective of the Workshop is to focus on cyber-attacks and other hazards that can potentially disrupt businesses, including natural disasters, power failures, terror events and local security breaches.

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9. Cabinet has taken note of the performance of the Export-Oriented Enterprises Sector for the period January to April 2014 as compared to the corresponding period in 2013. The value of exports has reached Rs15.35 billion as compared to Rs14.62 billion in the corresponding period in 2013, i.e., an increase of 5.0%. Increase has been recorded in the value of export of textile and clothing (+8.4%), T-shirts (+11.7%), Trousers (+27.7%), Jewellery, precious and semi-precious stones (+41.5%). Increase has also been recorded in exports to France (+15.4%), Italy (+14.3%), Belgium (+26.5%) and USA (+29.0%).

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10. Cabinet has taken note that a Workshop on Organisational Capacity Assessment and Social Audit would be held on 29 and 30 May 2014. The main objective of the Workshop is to empower Non-Governmental Organisations to enhance their performance and service delivery using capacity building diagnostic tools, and apply social audit as an effective and innovative tool to enhance governance. The Workshop would be conducted by Dr Manoj Mishra, Associate Senior Faculty and Centre Coordinator-Micro Enterprise, Micro Finance and Sustainable Livelihood of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad.

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11. Cabinet has taken note of the performance of the Mauritian athletes in the 20<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Wako World Cup Kickboxing held in Hungary –

(i) **Gold**

James Agathe (81 kg)

(ii) **Silver**

Burtlan Simiss (51 kg)

(iii) **Bronze**

Fabrice Bauluck (54 kg)

Facson Perrine (63.5 kg)

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12. Cabinet has taken note that, with a view to providing opportunities to Mauritians to enjoy nautical and water sports activities at affordable rates, a Beach Fun Day would be held at Mont Choisy Public Beach on 1 June 2014. Activities would comprise, amongst others, -

(a) nautical and water sports, such as catamaran tours, glass bottom boat trips, parasailing, submarine dives, *bouées/bananes* rides and semi-submersible activities;

(b) beach activities, such as jumping castles for children, bumper ball, Limbo dance, penalty shot, sumo combat and giant baby foot; and

(c) musical animations, including Sega songs, by local artists and a Juke box.

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13. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius has become the “Partner Country” in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Izmir International Fair to be held in September 2014 in Izmir, Republic of Turkey. The Fair, the oldest tradeshow in Turkey, brings under one roof over 1,200 exhibitors from various product groups. The Fair serves as a platform to foster trade relations, boost cross border investments, promote tourism and cultural activities and establish linkages and networking. It would be an opportunity for Mauritius to showcase its “savoir faire” as a reliable sourcing destination, sound financial centre, attractive tourist destination, and business-friendly environment for investment.

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14. Cabinet has taken note that, on the occasion of the Africa Day observed on 25 May, the Ministry of Arts and Culture, in collaboration with the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture, Enterprise Mauritius and the African Ladies Guiding Hands, would hold a series of activities, including an exhibition of African musical instruments and artworks, a musical show, a fashion show, and a culinary exhibition. Moreover, the finals of the 'Annual Oral Skill Competition' opened to Form VI students on the theme '*Ki Manyer Mahatma Gandhi Ek Nelson Mandela Kapav Inspir Enn Pei Pli Zis Ek Pli Solider Ki Kapav Reponn A Bann Defi Ki Devan Nou*' would be held on 26 May 2014 at the seat of the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture.

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15. Cabinet has taken note that the National Library of Mauritius and the National Library of China would sign a Memorandum of Understanding aiming at fostering cooperation through a set of mutually agreed activities, including acquisition of each other's portion of catalogues, provision of experts to establish conservation exchange programmes, and methodological approach for the digitisation of selected library materials deemed mutually beneficial to both parties.

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16. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Housing and Lands to Geneva where he attended the Geospatial World Forum 2014. He received the Geospatial World Policy Award that has been awarded to the Ministry of Housing and Lands, in the Policy Implementation Category, in respect of its submission relating to the Land Administration, Valuation and Information Management System. In the margins of the Forum, the Minister had bilateral discussions with the Hon Dato' Sri James Dawos Mamin, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Malaysia, the Hon Alhaji A.B. Inusah Fuseini, Minister for Lands and Natural Resources of Ghana, and the Chief Executive Officer of Geospatial Media and Communications Pty Ltd on avenues of cooperation in the geospatial field.

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17. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of the *Commission de la Jeunesse et des Sports de l'Océan Indien* (CJSOI) held in Mauritius on 14 May 2014. The Meeting, amongst others, reviewed the organization of the 9<sup>th</sup> CJSOI Games, and agreed to the 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Games being hosted by Madagascar.

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18. Cabinet has taken note that Mr Eric Ng Pin Cheun has been appointed Chairperson of the Tertiary Education Commission.

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19. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the Seafarers' Welfare Fund with Mr Louis Harold Patrick Cecile as Chairperson.

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