

CABINET DECISIONS – 24 JANUARY 2014

1. Cabinet has taken note that the Project Plan Committee has recommended 15 projects to the tune of Rs3.09 billion for inclusion in the Public Sector Investment Programme. The projects include an Emergency Alert System in Mauritius, construction of the Balaclava Marine Park Visitors Centre, a market fair at Chemin Grenier and a Community Health Centre at Grand Baie, Trou d'Eau Douce and Camp de Masque; sewerage projects at Pellegrin and Trianon; and construction of a dual carriageway along Moka-Camp de Masque - Flacq Road from Telfair Roundabout to Reduit flyover at Moka.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life would promulgate Regulations to exempt a person from undergoing the examination referred to in the Medical Council Act and the Dental Council Act where –

- (a) he establishes to the satisfaction of the Medical Council or the Dental Council that he is duly registered with the regulatory body of the country where he was practicing immediately before he applied for registration in Mauritius and had practiced for a minimum period of 3 years in that country; or
- (b) before 1 August 2013, he was registered as a pre-registration trainee under the respective Acts.

3. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius signing the Protocol relating to the setting up of a Regional Vessel Monitoring System for Member States of the Indian Ocean Commission. The main objectives of the System are to monitor fishing activities in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Member States as defined in their respective legislation, and provide real-time data on the activities of fishing vessels. The Protocol, amongst others, defines the operation of the System for the exchange of data on fishing activities, describes the scope of cooperation with respect to the nature of the data to be shared, the geographical areas to be covered, and the types of vessels to be monitored, and lays down rules on confidentiality, sharing and use of data.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the calendar of activities relating to the Fourth Trade Policy Review of Mauritius scheduled for October 2014. The Review would take place on the basis of two reports, namely the Report by Government that contains a review of changes in the economic and trade policies since the last review in 2008, and the Report by the WTO Secretariat. A Committee, comprising representatives of the public and private sectors, has been set up to prepare for the Review.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the results of the CPE Resit Examination 2013. Out of the 1,779 candidates re-examined in the Republic of Mauritius (Mauritius & Rodrigues), 1,351 (1,295 in Mauritius and 56 in Rodrigues) had passed the Examination, i.e., a pass rate of 75.94%. The total pass rate at the first sitting for 2013, including Resit Examination, thus stands at 81%. Following the results of the CPE Resit Examination, the 1,351 pupils have been offered a seat in Form I in a secondary school. With regard to admission to prevocational streams, the enrolment in Year I is expected to be 3,378. The pedagogical initiatives introduced by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, the Enhancement Programme, the use of Sankoré in the teaching and learning process, the diagnostic assessment and remedial education have greatly contributed towards the positive results.

6. Cabinet has taken note that, under the Child Welfare and Family Empowerment Programme, the National Empowerment Foundation has distributed school materials comprising, *inter alia*, school bags, uniforms, shoes, socks and stationery, to some 28,725 needy children of pre-primary, primary and secondary schools, both in Mauritius and Rodrigues, for academic year 2014. The Foundation has also set up a desk to receive requests from late comers and to attend to complaints, if any.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the next round of talks on the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with India would be held from 27 to 29 January 2014 in Delhi. The Mauritian delegation would be led by Ambassador Mrs U. Canabady, Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the submission of the Second State of Conservation Report and the Revised Management Plan of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property to the World Heritage Centre for examination during the 38th Session of the World Heritage Committee to be held in Doha, Qatar in July 2014.

The Conservation Report is an update of actions undertaken to maintain the site and the Buffer Zone, whereas the Revised Management Plan sustains the mechanism in place to preserve the site, establishes the managerial system for the monitoring of the heritage component in the buffer zone and supports the establishment of a framework in the buffer zone that would encourage the development of the area into a vibrant heritage district and tourist site.

Cabinet has also taken note that the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre would be operational shortly.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons and the National Council for Disabled Seychelles would sign a Memorandum of Understanding on collaboration for the promotion of the welfare of persons with disabilities. The organisations would, amongst others, mount training programmes, initiate exchange programmes/placements, and support and promote interaction between NGOs in an effort to strengthen dialogue and initiate capacity-building programmes.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the proposal of the Government of Tuvalu for the establishment of diplomatic relations. Tuvalu, formerly known as the Ellice Islands, became independent within the Commonwealth on 1 October 1978, and joined the United Nations in September 2000. It is a member of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. The establishment of diplomatic relations with Tuvalu would be beneficial in the promotion of the interests of Small Island Developing States in the international fora.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service Act 2013 would be proclaimed to come into operation on 5 February 2014. The main objects of the Act are to provide for the setting up of the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service, make better provision for the prevention of and response to fires and other events likely to endanger the life of persons, animals, property or the environment, and enhance coordination and harmonise working relationships among emergency organisations.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the performance of the Export-Oriented Enterprises Sector for the year 2013 as compared to the year 2012. The value of exports increased from Rs45.6 billion to Rs47.26 billion, i.e., by 3.6%. Increases have been registered in the following sub-sectors – Textile and Clothing (+2.2%), Fish and Fish Preparations (+7.3%), Jewellery, Pearls, Precious and Semi-precious Stones (+11.9%) and Medical Devices (+2.4%).

13. Cabinet has taken note of the candidature of Ms Pramila Patten, Barrister-at-law, for re-election to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) for the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2018. Ms Patten is member of the Committee since 2002. The Committee has been established pursuant to Article 17(1) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to consider progress made in the implementation of the Convention.

Cabinet has also taken note of the candidature of Mr Coomaravel Pyaneandee, Barrister-at-Law and Chairperson of the Loïs Lagesse Trust Fund, for election as member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Committee, *inter alia*, considers Reports of State Parties submitted under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

14. Cabinet has taken note of activities that would be organized in the context of the World Cancer Day commemorated on 4 February, viz. -

- (a) a one-day workshop aiming at formulating strategies for a selective screening programme for breast cancer;
- (b) the opening of the Digital Mammography Screening Service at Victoria Hospital; and
- (c) talks and sensitization campaigns in Community Health Centres, Women Centres, Social Welfare and Community Centres and Elderly Day Care Centres on cancer.

This year, the World Cancer Day would focus on the fifth target of the World Cancer Declaration, that is, to reduce stigma and dispel myths about cancer under the tagline “*Debunk the myths*”.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Fisheries to South Korea. The main objective of the visit was to explore avenues of cooperation in the Fisheries Sector. The Minister of Fisheries had a meeting with the Vice-Minister of Ocean and Fisheries of South Korea, who has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation and the provision of technical assistance in the field of fisheries research and aquaculture. Moreover, the Dongwon Industries has also agreed to enter into a fishing agreement to increase its fishing activities in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Mauritius and in the region, and establish a fish processing plant for high grade sashimi fish product for the Asian market. The company would also provide technical assistance to support infrastructure development for the fishermen community, fisheries research and capacity building.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent visit of the Minister of Health and Quality of Life to Paris where he signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the “*Groupe Hospitalier Pitié-Salpêtrière/Charles Foix, Paris*”, France to enhance cancer care in Mauritius. The Memorandum of Understanding provides, *inter alia*, for the formulation of a National Cancer Plan 2014-2018; the setting up and operationalization of the National Cancer Agency; capacity building for staff involved in cancer care, and the establishment of a framework to manage complicated inoperable cases of cancer in Mauritius.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the 2012 Report on “Statistics in Mauritius: A Gender Approach”. The Report presents sex disaggregated data for the year 2012 collected on the demographic characteristics, persons with disabilities, children and the Health, Education and Employment Sectors.

18. Cabinet has taken note that, at the 25th Meeting of the Parties of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer of the United Nations Environment Programme, it has been decided that Mauritius would chair the Executive Committee for a period of one year as from January 2014. The Executive Committee manages the Multilateral Fund set up under the Protocol that aims at protecting the Ozone Layer by the gradual phasing out of ozone depleting substances such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halons.
