

CABINET DECISIONS – 24 APRIL 2015

1. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements being made for the National Insurance Company Limited to safeguard the existing insurance policies of the BAI Co. (Mtius) Ltd, which consist of 135,283 recurring premium policies and pensions, and to take over, on new terms and conditions, the 24,690 single endowment policies, also referred to as the **Super Cash Back Gold** Plan.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the introduction of the Insurance (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to amend the Insurance Act to provide, among others, –

- (a) for the Financial Services Commission to exercise more effective supervision over related companies of an insurer;
- (b) that the Minister may request the Financial Services Commission to appoint a special administrator where he is satisfied, on the basis of a report submitted by the Commission, that the liabilities of an insurer and any of its related companies exceed its assets by at least one billion rupees and that such excess is likely to be a threat to the stability and soundness of the financial system of Mauritius; and
- (c) for the transfer of undertaking, in whole or in part, of an insurer and any of its related companies to another insurer and any of its related companies approved by the Minister.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Employment Rights (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to amend the Employment Rights Act to extend the duration of maternity leave from 12 to 14 weeks, as announced in Government Programme 2015-2019, in order to better support working mothers in the fulfillment of their family obligations.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Supplementary Appropriation (2013) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to provide for the supplementary appropriation, by votes of expenditure, both recurrent and capital, in respect of services of Government for the financial year 2013, in excess of the expenditure appropriated by the Appropriation (2013) Act 2012 and by the Supplementary Appropriation (2013) Act 2013.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the Committee of Enquiry set up to look into the cases of endophthalmitis following intravitreal injections of Avastin at Subramania Bharati Eye Hospital, Moka, and chaired by Dr J. Isabelle, Consultant in Ophthalmology.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the Action Plan 2015-2017 “Re-engineering the Cooperative Sector” based on Government's major objectives of employment creation, poverty alleviation and upgrading of the quality of living generally. The Plan contains a wide variety of projects and programmes to boost up the Cooperative Sector. The main recommendations are –

- (a) reviewing the existing legal framework to make cooperative societies financially more responsible and accountable in line with the principles of good governance, and enabling the societies to keep pace with the challenges of the modern economy;
- (b) enhancing capacity building of cooperative societies by providing appropriate incentives and support services; and
- (c) providing cooperators and cooperative societies with easy and wide access to markets by organising regular market fairs and facilitating their participation in other local and international fairs.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives would launch the third edition of the Mauritius Excellence Awards for Cooperatives. The main objective of the Awards is to give national recognition to the best way business is conducted by cooperative societies. It also provides an opportunity to disseminate cooperative principles and values that are used as a benchmark for the continual improvement of cooperatives on their journey towards excellence. The Awards would help implement a gamut of training programmes geared towards excellence, and monitor the endeavour of cooperative societies towards good governance. The competition is open to all cooperative societies in Mauritius and Rodrigues.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the services of a Consultant from the World Health Organisation being enlisted to assess the demographic trends, and review and revisit the National Population Policy. Mauritius has undergone a rapid demographic transition leading to changes in the age structure and ageing of the population. It is forecasted that the proportion of people aged 60 and above would increase from 13.8% in 2013 to 25.6% in 2033, while the proportion of people below the age of 15 would decline from 20.4% in 2013 to 14.3% in 2033.

9. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements being made by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life to set up a National Health Care Waste Disposal Facility for the disposal of medical wastes for both public and private health care institutions on an independent site away from residential areas.

10. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the formulation of the fourth phase of the Regional Strategic Action Plan on Integrated Water Resources Management and Development, a Water Week would be organized in Mauritius from 3 to 5 June 2015 under the theme “**From Vision to Mission**”. The Action Plan covers the strategic areas of water governance, infrastructure development and water management with focus on the creation of an enabling environment for the joint management of the regional water resources, and the development and implementation of activities in the SADC water sector.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised to mark the World Environment Day 2015 commemorated on 5 June. The theme chosen by the United Nations Environment Programme for the World Environment Day is **Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care**. The Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management, in collaboration with other stakeholders, would organise –

- (a) an exhibition at the Youth Centre of Rivière du Rempart on the following topics: sustainable consumption and production, solid waste management and recycling, climate change and disaster risk reduction, coastal erosion and management, energy efficiency and water savings and biodiversity;
- (b) an island-wide embellishment programme “*Embellir Maurice*” to foster a cleaner, greener and safer Mauritius; and
- (c) sensitisation campaigns on good environmental practices for sustainable lifestyles and the safe management of chemicals.

12. Cabinet has taken note that, on the occasion of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, observed on 28 April, the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms, in collaboration with other organisations, would organize the following activities for the benefit of public officers:

- (a) a workshop on the theme “**Join in building a culture of prevention on Occupational Safety and Health**” to create awareness on occupational safety and health matters within the Public Service and secure top management commitment in that respect;
- (b) regional talks and training programmes on safety and health and associated issues and on the importance of observing and following safe work procedures; and
- (c) a sensitization campaign in all Ministries and Departments, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training on the theme of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the Influenza Vaccination Campaign 2015 would be launched on Monday 27 April 2015 in the regional hospitals, the district hospitals, the area health centres and the mediclinics. The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life carries out a targeted vaccination campaign for high risk groups, such as health care professionals, pregnant women, children aged between 6 months and 2 years, and patients with chronic lung disease, chronic bronchitis, bronchial asthma, diabetes, tuberculosis, chronic renal failure requiring dialysis, cardiovascular disease, cancer and HIV/AIDS. Vaccination for the elderly (60 years and above) and persons with disabilities staying in charitable institutions is being carried out by the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions. The vaccination campaign would also be carried out in Rodrigues and Agalega.

14. Cabinet has taken note that the Global SIDS Conference on Anti-Corruption Reform for Small Islands Jurisdictions would be held in Mauritius in August 2015. The Conference would address topics of common concern in anti-corruption efforts, such as conflict of interest, asset declarations, mandates of anti-corruption agencies and anti-corruption action plans following the reviews of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Participants would have the opportunity to make recommendations on anti-corruption reform and be invited to discuss and agree on common contextual characteristics for anti-corruption reform in Small Islands Developing States (SIDS).

15. Cabinet has taken note that the International Conference on Energy, Environment and Climate Change, organized by the University of Mauritius, in collaboration with the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany, would be held in July 2015 in Mauritius. The Conference would focus on energy production and management, renewable energy, green energy, environmental engineering, environmental management, climate change and sustainable development. It would provide a forum to policy makers, the private sector, academics and researchers to exchange up to date information and high quality research results that would help develop policies and strategies for energy security, efficiency and management; renewable energy technologies; environmental management; and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Youth and Sports to Paris, France where he had discussions, among others, with -

- (a) Mrs Patricia Delesque, *Chargée des Relations Internationales* and Mr Patrick Roult, *Adjoint au Directeur Général (Direction de la performance sportive)* of the "*Institut National du Sport, de l'Expertise et de la Performance*" on avenues of cooperation in the field of sports;
- (b) Mr Jean Luc Rougé, President of the *Fédération Française de Judo* and General Secretary of the International Judo Federation, on enhanced cooperation in judo and training of athletes; and

- (c) Mr Yves Pianelli and Mr Alain Seghai, President and Secretary, respectively, of the Sporting Club of Bastia, on cooperation in the setting up of a Football Academy in Mauritius and on assistance to enhance the quality of our football.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the Financial Services Commission with Mr Dharam Dev Manraj, GOSK, Financial Secretary, as Chairperson. The members would be :

- (a) Mr Akilesh Deerpalsingh, Adviser on Financial Services, Ministry of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms;
- (b) Mr Rajesh Sharma Ramloll, Acting Deputy Solicitor General;
- (c) Mr Antoine Domaingue, Senior Counsel;
- (d) Mr Vishwanaden Soondram, Lead Analyst, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development; and
- (e) Mrs Warda Dulmar Ebrahim, Bar-at-Law.

18. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of -

- (a) the Waqf Commissioners under section 49 of the Waqf Act 1941 with Mr Shah Nawaz Namdarkhan, Acting Principal State Counsel, as Chairperson; and
- (b) the Muslim Family Council under section 29 of the Civil Status Act 1981 with Mrs Shameen Banon Ayyub Hamuth-Laulloo, Deputy Master and Registrar and Judge in Bankruptcy, as Chairperson.

19. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Motor Vehicle Insurance Arbitration Committee with Mr Jacques Panglose as Chairperson, and the appointment of –

- (i) Mr Satidanand Karansing Auchoybur;
- (ii) Mr Zahid Nazurally; and
- (iii) Mr Vedakur Sharma Rampoortab,

as Vice-Chairpersons to fast-track the process for ascertaining liability and paying compensation in the case of certain road accidents resulting only in damages to vehicles involved.

20. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –
- (a) the Executive Committee of the Senior Citizens Council with Mr Hanslall Seebaruth as Chairperson;
 - (b) the Board of Trustees of the Loïs Lagesse Trust Fund with Mr Nishi Raj Kamal Rambans Dookun as Chairperson;
 - (c) the Board of the Business Parks of Mauritius Ltd with Mr Johnny Thierry Dieudonne Dumazel as Chairperson;
 - (d) the Board of the Information and Communication Technologies Authority with Mr Bhanoodutt Beeharee as Chairperson;
 - (e) the National Transport Authority with Mr Gyandev Gunnoo as Chairperson;
and
 - (f) the Board of the Commission Nationale du Sport Féminin with Mrs Geeantee Toory Sungkur as Chairperson.
