

**CABINET DECISIONS – 18 DECEMBER 2015**

1. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a Ministerial Committee to make recommendations on electoral reforms, including -

- (a) the introduction of a dose of proportional representation in the National Assembly, and guarantee better women representation;
- (b) the mandatory declaration of community;
- (c) anti-defection measures;
- (d) the widening of the powers of the Electoral Supervisory Commission;
- (e) the Financing of Political Parties Bill; and
- (f) amendments to the electoral system in Rodrigues.

The Ministerial Committee would take into consideration, among others, reports and documents published on electoral reforms. The Ministerial Committee will be chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications, and comprise the following Ministers -

- (a) the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities;
- (b) the Minister of Youth and Sports;
- (c) the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport;
- (d) the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research;
- (e) the Minister of Health and Quality of Life;
- (f) the Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment;
- (g) the Attorney General;
- (h) the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms;
- (i) the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions; and
- (j) the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms.

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2. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of the Heritage City Co. Ltd, a state-owned company, for the implementation of the new Heritage City Project at Minissy under the aegis of the Ministry of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms. The Project would comprise, among others, landmark iconic buildings to accommodate the Prime Minister's Office and the new Parliament, high rise intelligent buildings to accommodate Ministries/Departments, Government Data Centres, 75 luxury riviera residential units, around 1,200 town houses and apartments, modern "in the city" transport facilities, green areas, food courts, entertainment centres, Bollywood Theme Park, a city hotel and solar energy clusters with a solar farm of 15MW capacity. The intelligent buildings would integrate and optimize the new e-governance ICT systems, for a modern public sector.

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3. Cabinet has agreed to foreign students, who are following courses of a duration of at least one academic year in private universities and other institutions offering post-secondary education in Mauritius, being authorized to work on a part time basis, except in the field of security, for 20 hours a week, subject to prescribed conditions.

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4. Cabinet has taken note that the World Bank has agreed to carry out a feasibility study on the reform of the distribution and supply of water in line with Government objective to improve and ensure a regular and reliable water supply. The study would start in January 2016.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that Christmas would be celebrated at national level on 23 December 2015 in the yard of the Municipal Town Council of Curepipe. The theme of the celebration will be "*La magie de Noël au Royaume du Père Noël*". The programme of activities would comprise, among others, a "*Tableau Vivant*" on nativity, activities for children, film projections (cartoons), magic shows, a défilé of Disney characters accompanied by a marching band and a group of "*échassiers*", and cultural performances.

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6. Cabinet has agreed to Mr B. Appanah, former Director of the Pay Research Bureau, being appointed as Independent Arbitrator to, among others, -

- (a) review the salaries and conditions of service of the employees of the former Mauritius Sugar Authority who have joined the Mauritius Cane Industry Authority; and
- (b) recommend the way forward for employees who would eventually opt to join the PRB conditions of service as from January 2019, and those who would opt to retain the present conditions of service on a personal basis.

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7. Cabinet has taken note of the preparation of a National Plan of Action (NPOA) for the conservation and management of sharks in line with the International Plan of Action for Sharks of the Food and Agriculture Organisation. The NPOA would aim at implementing strategies, among others, for -

- (a) decreasing the fishing effort in any fishery where shark catches are unsustainable;
- (b) supplementing the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission resolutions calling for the use of nylon leaders on longlines for those fleet not targeting sharks and releasing sharks unharmed;
- (c) improving data collection and monitoring of shark species; and
- (d) exercising control over the access of fishing vessels which exploit shark stocks.

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8. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Local Government would make –

- (a) the Local Government (Exemption from Building and Land Use Permit) Regulations that would provide for 37 classified trades as listed in the Schedule to the Regulations, being exempted from applying for a Building and Land Use Permit, subject to prescribed conditions; and
- (b) the Local Government (Amendment of Schedule) Regulations that would provide for the inclusion in the Twelfth Schedule of the Local Government Act 2011 of additional trades, that are carried out by small and medium enterprises.

The regulations will come into operation on 1 January 2016.

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9. Cabinet has taken note that the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service would sign the Deed of Concession with the Urban Cooling Ltd for the implementation of the Deep Ocean Water Application project on 23 December 2015. The project aims at putting up a centralized production and distribution of chilled water, using sea water and other environment friendly and energy efficient methods to provide air conditioning to residential, commercial and industrial facilities in Port Louis.

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10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which was held in Paris, France. The main objective of the Conference was to discuss a legally binding outcome or an agreement on climate change which will come into force as from 1 January 2020. The Conference culminated into an agreement referred to as the Paris Agreement, that, among others, aims at strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty by -

- (a) holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels;
- (b) increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development; and
- (c) making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

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11. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of the Board of the Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency with Dr Arjoon Suddhoo as Chairperson.

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