

CABINET DECISIONS – 5 JUNE 2015

1. Cabinet has taken note of the Judgments of the Supreme Court with respect to the Mauritius National Identity Card (MNIC) Project, and of measures being taken to destroy the databank containing fingerprints and biometric photographs of the new Identity Card to protect sensitive personal data of citizens as announced in Government Programme 2015-2019. The ID Card system is being reviewed to remove the biometric data, including photograph, fingerprint image and fingerprint minutiae. New processes are being worked out for first time registration and when applying for replacement ID cards. In the meantime, persons, who urgently need a national identity card, would have to sign a Consent Form agreeing for the temporary storage of biometric data in the MNIC database pending the implementation of the new system.

Cabinet has also taken note that the validity of the old paper laminated National Identity Card would be extended up to 30 September 2015.

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2. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius would assume the Presidency of the Vanilla Islands Organisation as from 10 June 2015. The Organization, which groups the South West Indian Ocean Islands, comprising Reunion Island, the Seychelles, Madagascar, Mayotte, the Comoros, Maldives and Mauritius, aims at increasing the visibility of the island destinations, along the same line as the Caribbean region, whereby travellers may benefit from twin and multi-destination packages and an authentic destination product from the region. The islands within the Organization are promoted as complimentary destinations where visitors have the opportunity to enjoy a diversified product, namely a beach product in Mauritius, Seychelles and Maldives; hiking in Reunion Island; and ecotourism in Rodrigues, the Comoros and Mayotte.

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3. Cabinet has taken note that the Imperial College London would carry out an audit of the Postgraduate Programmes offered by Dr D.Y. Patil Medical College. The Terms of Reference of the audit exercise are to -

- (a) conduct an objective appraisal of and evaluate the arrangements in place for the provision of the medical studies programme at postgraduate level at Dr D.Y. Patil Medical College and indicate the extent to which the provision is efficient, effective and in compliance with prevailing international benchmarks in the field of medical and clinical training;
- (b) provide advice and strategic guidance so as to bring suitably benchmarked improvements, if needed, in the content and delivery of the postgraduate medical education programmes that had been on offer, including the provision of clinical training; and

- (c) define, as part of the risk-mitigating action, the scope and the modalities for the mounting of any relevant top-up programme in identified areas.

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4. Cabinet has agreed to the ratification of the Amended Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean, and the Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-Based Sources and Activities, also known as the LBSA Protocol (2010), that provide, among others, for parties to take appropriate measures, in conformity with international law, to prevent, reduce, mitigate, and combat pollution, and protect and manage the marine and coastal environment.

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5. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of an Agreement on the Transfer of Prisoners with the Government of the Republic of Seychelles. The main objective of the Agreement is to facilitate the social rehabilitation of nationals of both countries, who have been convicted and sentenced as a result of a criminal offence, by serving their sentences within their own society.

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6. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Comprehensive Civil Aviation Cooperation with the Civil Aviation Administration of China. The fields of cooperation would include infrastructure, air transport, air navigation, environment and sustainable biofuels, and aeronautical industry. The Memorandum of Understanding would be beneficial to the Aviation Sector, more particularly for the proposed setting up of a Regional Aviation Training Academy at the SSR International Airport.

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7. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would conduct the 6th National Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Survey. The main objectives of the Survey are to determine the incidence and prevalence of diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, obesity and their associated risk factors in the population, and study the trends of each of them.

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8. Cabinet has taken note of the Report of “*Les Assises de la Famille*”. The Report has recommended, among others, the reinforcement of legislation, implementation of measures and strategies to portray the joys of the family life in a modern society, and the conduct of research in fields, such as substance abuse in schools, impact of gambling on families, evolving family types, and alcoholism.

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9. Cabinet has taken note of developments in the preparation of the Comprehensive Policy and Strategic Plan on Children. An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been set up, among others, to -

- (a) examine the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child;
- (b) identify gaps in the chain of protection and welfare services, as well as missing links in the support system available for children;
- (c) prepare a Comprehensive Policy and Strategic Plan on Children based on the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; and
- (d) explore the duties and obligations of children.

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10. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organized to mark the Music Day, celebrated on 21 June, namely a Mega Musical Concert at Mahebourg Waterfront, and cultural programmes and music performances in various regions of the country.

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11. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organized to mark the Day of the African Child 2015, commemorated on 16 June. The theme chosen by the United Nations is “**25 years after the adoption of the African Children’s Charter: Accelerate our collective effort to end child marriage in Africa**” and the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare has chosen the theme “*Proteksion zanfan, se responsabilité tou dimoun*”. The activities would include a “16 Days 16 Rights campaign on the Rights of the Child”, a photo exhibition, launching of a booklet on the Articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, an interactive session on the “Rights and Responsibilities of Children”, and a Creativity Workshop.

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12. Cabinet has taken note that primary and secondary schools in the electoral areas of the Municipal City Council of Port Louis and the Municipal Town Councils of Beau Bassin/Rose Hill, Vacoas/Phoenix, Quatre Bornes and Curepipe would be closed on 15 June 2015 in view of the Municipal City Council and Municipal Town Councils Elections.

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13. Cabinet has taken note that an International Workshop on “Developing Intra-Regional Exchanges through the Abolition of Commercial and Tariff Barriers: Myth or Reality?” would be held in Mauritius in October 2015. The main objectives of the Workshop are to bring together professionals, institutions, and students to –

- (a) develop and foster inter-regional exchanges;
- (b) generate research and discussions in order to analyse the current situation regarding existing barriers to such inter-regional exchanges; and
- (c) trigger collaboration between students from different participating universities for the benefit of the research community.

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14. Cabinet has taken note of the holding of the Annual Meeting of the Safety Enhancement of Edible Products, Legislation, Analysis and Management (SELAMAT) Consortium in Mauritius in July 2015. The main objectives of the Symposium are to bring together top experts from the food safety world, share the latest food safety developments, network with peers, and capture challenges and opportunities in the dynamic food sector. SELAMAT Consortium is a unique partnership of science-based organizations established in Asia and the European Union that work in the area of food safety.

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15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms and the Attorney General to South Africa where a Memorandum of Understanding on the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between Mauritius and South Africa was signed. They also participated in the Corporate Offshore Investment Mauritius Conference organized by Africa Influence Exchange, and attended by prominent South African institutional investors. During the mission, they met Mrs Nicky Newton-King, Chief Executive Officer of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange with whom they discussed avenues of cooperation and agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding providing, among others, for cross-linking the Stock Exchange of Mauritius and the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

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16. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research to Incheon, Republic of Korea, where she participated in the World Education Forum 2015. The Forum –

- (a) took stock of achievements and shortfalls in the implementation of the Education for All Dakar Framework for Action and the Education-related Millennium Development Goals during the period 2000-2015;
- (b) agreed to a joint position for the education goal and targets in the Post-2015 Development Agenda; and
- (c) agreed to a comprehensive Framework for Action to guide and support the implementation of the future education agenda.

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17. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Health and Quality of Life to Geneva, where he participated in the 68th World Health Assembly. The Assembly discussed, among others, the Ebola Virus Disease, International Health Regulations, Non-Communicable Diseases, Neglected Tropical Diseases, Malaria, Poliomyelitis, Nutrition, Antimicrobial Resistance, Global Action Plan on Vaccination, Adolescent and Women's Health, Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition, the Post-2015 Development Goals and Public Health Innovation, and Intellectual Property.

The Minister of Health and Quality of Life also participated in the Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting. The theme of the Meeting was *Universal Health Coverage with an emphasis on ageing and good health*. The Meeting recommended that the Heads of Government collectively support the call for Universal Health Coverage as one of the health goals in the Post-2015 Development Goals.

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18. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security to Belgium where he participated in the 101<sup>st</sup> Session of the ACP Council of Ministers and the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers. The ACP Council of Ministers examined, among others, the following issues -

- (a) Study on the current and forecast effects of the EU sugar regime reform and trade policies for ACP sugar suppliers to the EU market;

- (b) Accompanying Measures Support Programme;
- (c) Update on Sugar Research Programme;
- (d) 14<sup>th</sup> ACP Ministerial Conference on Sugar; and
- (e) Special Fund of the ACP Sugar Sub-committee.

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19. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of -

- (a) the Construction Industry Development Council with Mr Gaëtan Siew as Chairperson ;
- (b) the Board of Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund with Mr Jean Georges Archimède Lascie as Chairperson; and
- (c) the Board of the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund with Mr Dharam Yash Deo Dhuny as Chairperson.

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20. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of the Board of the Financial Services Promotion Agency with the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms as Chairperson.

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