

**CABINET DECISIONS – 19 JUNE 2015**

1. Cabinet has taken note that the Mauritius Meteorological Services, with the technical support of the World Meteorological Organization, would implement a pilot project on the Impact-Based Forecasting and Warning Services. The main objective of the project is to provide timely and accurate information on the impact of hydrometeorological hazards and events in a form that the public understand and take action to protect lives, livelihood, and property. In developing the impact-based forecast and warning, the Mauritius Meteorological Services would engage with partners for access to exposure, and vulnerability data and information, such as ground cover, run-off, topography, roads and other infrastructure, time of day and traffic conditions, among others. Such data would allow the Meteorological Services to forecast the risks of impact and issue warnings targeting those exposed to the hazard.

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2. Cabinet has taken note of the Report of the Advisory Committee on the Reinforcement of Framework for Protection from Domestic Violence. The main recommendations of the Report are, among others, -

- (a) the criminalization of all forms of domestic violence, and provision of harsher penalties for offences;
- (b) the setting up of an effective crime prevention and criminal justice response; and
- (c) better protection, support and assistance to victims.

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3. Cabinet has taken note that the payment of the annual increment to public officers would be maintained on 01 January every year, despite the fact that the financial year has changed from January-December to July-June. However, the Performance Management Cycle would be aligned with the financial year as from July 2015.

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4. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius bidding to host the 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Indian Ocean Islands Games in 2019, in the event Comoros does not host the Games. The main objective of the Games is to foster friendship and mutual understanding among the peoples of the islands of the Indian Ocean in the olympic spirit. Mauritius hosted the Games in 1985 and 2003.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade participated in the 3rd COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Summit held in Egypt. During the Summit, Heads of State and Government or their representatives signed the Declaration to launch the Tripartite Free Trade Area and were requested to expedite the process towards the operationalisation of the Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement. The general objectives of the Free Trade Area are to –

- (a) promote economic and social development of the Region;
- (b) create a large single market with free movement of goods and services to promote intra-regional trade;
- (c) enhance the regional and continental integration processes; and
- (d) build a strong Tripartite Free Trade Area for the benefit of the people of the Region.

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6. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to South Africa where he participated in the World Economic Forum, Africa. The main objectives of the Forum were to share insights on the present geopolitical and geoeconomic landscape of Africa, and identify innovative approaches to accelerate inclusive growth for the African continent. Discussions centred, among others, on -

- (a) Trade and Investment: Boosting African Value Chain;
- (b) Navigating the Geopolitical Landscape of Africa;
- (c) the Blue Economy; and
- (d) Supporting Regional Growth - Meeting the Development Challenge.

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7. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands to Portugal where he participated in the Blue Week 2015. The Ministerial Meeting, held on the occasion, considered the following issues for the development of the blue economy -

- (a) Government responsibilities/challenges for preserving the ocean while promoting the Blue Economy;
- (b) the need for multilateral and innovative financing mechanisms for the ocean economy;
- (c) the need to have appropriate legal framework to facilitate sustainable and long term investments; and
- (d) ensuring global governance of the ocean.

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8. Cabinet has taken note that the Africa Public Service Day 2015 would be commemorated on 23 June. The theme chosen by the African Union Commission is **The Role of Public Service in Women Empowerment, Innovation and Accessible Service Delivery**. The activities that would be organized on the occasion include –

- (a) an Open Day at the Registrar General's Department, and the National Women Development Centre;
- (b) an Essay Writing Competition on the theme *"Elaborate on the measures to promote and encourage Women Empowerment in the Public Service"*; and
- (c) a Debate Competition on the theme *"If development is not engendered, it will be endangered"*.

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9. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Wasser Ramtoolah and Mr Peter Goldsmith as Members of the Board of the National Transport Corporation. The Board is being chaired by Mr Ashvin Jain Gokhool.

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10. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Radiation Protection Council with Dr Ahmud Yousuf Maudarbocus as Chairperson.

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