

CABINET DECISIONS – 23 OCTOBER 2015

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill and the Good Governance and Integrity Reporting Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, introduced by the Prime Minister, is to amend the Constitution to provide for the taking of possession of property by way of confiscation –

- (a) under the ownership of a person to an extent which is disproportionate to his emoluments and other income;
- (b) the ownership, possession, custody or control of which cannot be satisfactorily accounted for by the person who owns, possesses, has custody or control of the property; or
- (c) held by a person for another person to an extent which is disproportionate to the emoluments or other income of that other person.

The main objects of the Good Governance and Integrity Reporting Bill, introduced by the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms, are to –

- (a) promote a culture of good governance and integrity reporting in Mauritius;
- (b) stimulate integrity reporting in the public and private sectors;
- (c) encourage positive reports of acts of good governance and integrity;
- (d) disclose malpractices and recover unexplained wealth; and
- (e) protect and reward persons making disclosures and reports.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Asset Recovery (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The main object of the Bill is to amend the Asset Recovery Act to provide that the Enforcement Authority shall, instead of the Director of Public Prosecutions, be the Financial Intelligence Unit, which shall take over the functions and powers conferred on the Director of Public Prosecutions by virtue of the Asset Recovery Act.

3. Cabinet has taken note that, during his recent visit to Rodrigues, the Rt Hon Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC, Prime Minister, attended, among others, the activities organized in the context of the 13th anniversary of the autonomy of Rodrigues, the Official Ceremony of the opening of the Grande Montagne - Gravier Road; the Official Opening of “Le Flamboyant” hotel; and the Hindi Diwas 2015 organised by the Rodrigues Hindi-Speaking Union. He also had a working session with the members of the Executive Council of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly who raised a number of issues, including –

- (a) amendment to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act in order to address a number of perceived weaknesses and omissions;

- (b) the development of the Airport of Rodrigues and the extension of the runway so as to receive A319 aircraft;
- (c) the posting of a Gynaecologist to Rodrigues on a full-time basis to ensure continuous treatment to pregnant women and the setting up of a fast track system for cardiac patients and those needing eye treatment in Mauritius; and
- (d) the review of the recommendations made by the Truth and Justice Commission in respect of Rodrigues.

The Prime Minister has requested Ministers concerned to follow up on the issues raised.

4. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the implementation of the nine year schooling project, the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research would make regulations for the conduct of the Primary School Achievement Certificate Examinations, the phasing out of the Certificate of Primary Education Examinations as from 2017, the mode of admission to Grade 7 in 2018, and the related transitional arrangements.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Tourism and External Communications and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Aviation Cooperation. The fields of cooperation are, *inter alia*, -

- (a) promoting trade in civil aircraft and components, equipment supplies and other civil aviation products;
- (b) deepening investment cooperation in air transport services;
- (c) expanding cooperation on aviation infrastructure construction; and
- (d) promoting exchange and cooperation on aviation services.

6. Cabinet has taken note that Divali would be celebrated at national level on Saturday 7 November 2015 in Quatre Bornes with the participation of foreign and local artists.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organized on the occasion of the 181st Anniversary of the Arrival of Indentured Labourers in Mauritius, commemorated on 2 November. The Official Ceremony would comprise a wreath-laying ceremony, cultural performances, the launching of a booklet entitled '*Antoinette (Phooliyar) an invitation to discover the Indenture Heritage of Mauritius*' and an exhibition on '*Life of Indentured Labourers on sugar estates*'.

8. Cabinet has taken note that regulations would be made under the Medical Council Act and the Dental Council Act to include the following in the appropriate list of recognized medical institutions for the purpose of registration –

Medical Institution

- (a) the Hebei North University;
- (b) the Southeast University of the People's Republic of China;
- (c) the University of Szeged of Hungary; and

Dental Institution

- (d) the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (formerly known as Kaunas University of Medicine) of the Ex-Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

9. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training releasing the bank guarantees made under the Non-Citizens (Work Permits) (Deposits) Regulations 1994 by companies employing expatriate workers during the period November 1994 to August 2013, subject to the companies undertaking to bear any maintenance, support and repatriation costs of the non-citizens up to a maximum of Rs100,000 per non-citizen.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the Baie du Tombeau Chagossian Community Centre would be named after late Mrs Marie Charlesia Alexis, in recognition of her contribution to the welfare of the Chagossian community.

11. Cabinet has taken note that, for the period January to September 2015 as compared to the corresponding period in 2014, the value of exports of the Export-Oriented Enterprises Sector increased by 1.2%. There has been an increase in the value of exports of Textiles (Yarns and Fabrics) (+0.7%), Shirts (+9.9%), Trousers (+8.0%) and Jewellery, Pearls, Precious and Semi-Precious Stones (+15.7%).

Cabinet has also taken note of the growth in exports to the United Kingdom, USA, South Africa and the Netherlands.

Cabinet has further taken note that the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection, in collaboration with stakeholders, has taken a number of measures to boost exports, namely –

- (a) implementation of the Export Development Plan, which would bring about product diversification and export readiness, and contribute to the expansion of exports in Africa, Asia and Gulf countries;
- (b) preparation of a comprehensive National Export Strategy covering the main export sectors; and
- (c) implementation of the report on Technical Textiles.

12. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection reviewing the regulations to provide for more stringent measures for the holding of events, especially trade fairs.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the National Council for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled would sign a Memorandum of Understanding on collaboration in the field of autism with '*Autisme Réunion*' and '*L'Association Laïque pour l'Éducation, la Formation, la Prévention et l'Autonomie*' of Réunion. The Memorandum of Understanding provides, among others, for capacity building, strengthening the capabilities of NGOs, social workers and parents of children with autism; the preparation of a Strategic Plan on autism, and the organization of a Regional Conference on autism.

14. Cabinet has taken note that the Third Edition of the Africa Open Judo Mauritius would be held in November 2015. Some 200 athletes and officials from 45 countries would participate in the competition.

15. Cabinet has taken note that the Executive Board Meeting and the General Assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) would be held in Mauritius in November 2015. The General Assembly would be attended by high profile persons in the world of sports, namely, Mr Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee; Mr Sheikh Ahmad Al-Farad Al-Sabah, President of the Association of the National Olympic Committee; Intendant General Lassana Palenfo, President of the National Olympic Committees; and Mr Sebastien Coe, President of the International Association of the Athletics Federations. Some 200 delegates from the 54 member countries of ANOCA would attend the meetings.

16. 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 Spain, where he attended the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The Code is a reference framework for national and international efforts, including the formulation of policies and other legal and institutional frameworks and instruments, to ensure sustainable fishing and production of aquatic living resources in harmony with the environment. A forum organised on the occasion focused on the state of ocean governance, the increasing role of fish farming in contributing towards food security, improving seafood safety and traceability, fish handling, reducing food waste, certification of sea food products and harnessing marine resources for sustained economic growth.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Raj Hemansing Prayag, PD SM, as Chairperson of the Board of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute. Mr R.H. Prayag was the Director of the Department of Environment, of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

18. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of -

- (a) the Council of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute/Rabindranath Tagore Institute with Mr Jaynarain Meetoo as Chairperson; and
- (b) the Council of the Mauritius Institute of Education with the Acting Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research as Chairperson.
