

CABINET DECISIONS – 30 OCTOBER 2015

1. Government congratulates Jane Constance for her outstanding performance at “The Voice Kids 2” organised by the French television channel TF1. Cabinet has agreed to a cash reward of Rs500,000 being credited in a savings account to be opened in her name at the State Bank of Mauritius Ltd. The State Bank of Mauritius Ltd has informed that it would also offer a reward of Rs500,000.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Deed of Concession with the Urban Cooling Ltd for the implementation of the Deep Ocean Water Application project. 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. The project is in line with Vision 2030 to make the ocean economy an important industry to sustain economic diversification, job creation and wealth generation.

3. Cabinet has taken note that, during the recent participation of a delegation led by the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service in the International Civil Aviation Organisation – Air Services Negotiations Event (ICAN 2015) held in Turkey, new Bilateral Air Services Agreements (BASA) were initialed and Memoranda of Understanding signed with Brazil, Republic of Congo, Finland, New Zealand, Nigeria, Portugal, Rwanda, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. The new BASAs would provide, among others, for a total of 105 additional weekly frequencies to Mauritius, code share and cooperative arrangements between Air Mauritius Ltd. and the airlines of the other countries, including third country code share, and the operation of cargo service by the designated airlines of each country. Cabinet has agreed to all procedures being completed before the signing of the Agreements.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Acting Prime Minister would promulgate the Tourism Authority (Tourist Enterprise Licence Fees and Operating Fees) Regulations to provide for a Tourist Accommodation Certificate, which would be valid for a period of three years. The Certificate will constitute an omnibus permit combining all activities operated by a hotel, guesthouse, tourist residence and domaine, i.e., restaurant, beauty parlour, health and fitness, spa and wellness, boathouse, shops, boutique and bar. The licence fees currently applicable to a hotel, guesthouse and tourist residence in respect of each individual activity, will no longer be payable. A single operating fee would, henceforth, be charged for all activities being carried out by the Tourism Sector. The Operating Fee would be effective as from 1 January 2016.

5. Cabinet has taken note that, in view of the sensitive nature, complexity and technicalities of the subject of horse racing, the services of Mr D. G. Gunn, and Mr J. P. Scotney, the Commissioners of the Commission of Inquiry on Horse Racing in Mauritius, would be enlisted to implement the recommendations of the Report. Both Mr Gunn and Mr Scotney have extensive and wide ranging experience on integrity issues in horse racing and other sports discipline. The appointment of the two Commissioners shows the determination of Government to combat the mafia in the gambling industry, and the scourge of illegal betting and corruption in horse racing.

Cabinet has also taken note that some of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry are already being implemented, e.g., an improved interagency framework of cooperation among the different institutions involved in horse racing, restructure and reinforcement of the *Police des Jeux*, review and reorganization of the Gambling Regulatory Authority, and monitoring of the revenue of operators by the Mauritius Revenue Authority.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the Jewellery (Dealer's Registration and Transactions) Regulations being amended to promote business, and facilitate and enhance ease-of-doing business in the Jewellery Sector.

7. Cabinet has taken note that a fruit fly species, belonging to the *Bactrocera dorsalis* complex, has been detected in certain regions of the country, particularly in Beau Bassin and the West of the country. The Entomology Division of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security is currently implementing an eradication programme. Beau Bassin and Médine have been declared as pest quarantine areas. The situation is being closely monitored.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the nomination of Mrs P. Balgobin, former Judge and Deputy Chairperson of the Human Rights Division of the National Human Rights Commission, for election as member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The main mandate of the Committee is to ensure and monitor the implementation of the African Charter by Member States.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Finance and Economic Development to the Seychelles where he participated in the 11th Session of the Seychelles-Mauritius Commission on Bilateral Cooperation. The Meeting focused, *inter alia*, on -

- (a) collaboration in the setting up of a regional shipping company and a Regional Investment Fund to finance projects for regional development;
- (b) collaboration in increasing the visibility of the Indian Ocean region as an attractive cruise destination under the Vanilla Islands concept; and
- (c) recruitment of Mauritian professionals, and facilitating internship of newly qualified Mauritian doctors in the Seychelles Health Services.

Two agreements relating to the transfer of prisoners, and collaboration between the National Heritage Fund of Mauritius and the Seychelles Heritage Foundation, were signed.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Attorney General to Kenya where he participated in the First Africa Colloquium on Environmental Rule of Law – Towards Strengthened Environmental Governance, Justice and Law. The objects of the Colloquium were to define and promote such measures in the field of the environment, including the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, and enhance the capacity of the legal and auditing communities to develop and implement environmental rule of law.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security to Italy where he participated in the 42nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The theme of the Conference was “**Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition**”. The following issues were discussed –

- (a) the Committee on World Food Security and the Sustainable Development Goal Challenge;
- (b) State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015;
- (c) Policy Convergence - Water for Food Security and Nutrition; and
- (d) Coordination and Linkages with the Committee on World Food Security.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of new members of the Environment and Land Use Appeal Tribunal. The Chairperson of the Tribunal is Ms Vedalini Phoolchund-Bhadain, who had been appointed in 2012 by the Public Service Commission under the Environment and Land Use Appeal Tribunal Act 2012.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the Manufacturing Sector Workers Welfare Fund with Mr Vishnooduth Hujoory as Chairperson.
