

CABINET DECISIONS – 16 JANUARY 2015

1. Cabinet has agreed that, in line with Government Policy, a Public Service Bill would be introduced in the National Assembly shortly. The object of the Bill would be to provide for the establishment and management of the Public Service of the Republic of Mauritius with, inter alia, the following regulations –

- (a) establish an apolitical and performance-oriented public service that is efficient, effective and economical in serving the Government of the day and the citizens;
- (b) uphold the essential qualities and values of the public service;
- (c) provide the necessary legal and institutional framework for the effective and fair employment and management of public officers;
- (d) define the roles, powers and responsibilities of Ministers and Supervising Officers for more accountability; and
- (e) establish the rights and obligations of public officers.

It would also include Code of Conduct for Ministers, Public Officers and Advisers, and the grade of officers who should declare their assets.

The Bill would enhance and entrench the fundamental values and character of the Public Service.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the Report of the Fact Finding Committee constituted by the Board of the Tertiary Education Commission in relation to DY Patil Medical College, set up in March 2014, under the chairmanship of Mr A. G. Pillay, GOSK, former Chief Justice. The objectives of the Fact Finding Committee were, amongst others, to establish facts regarding the implementation of the Clinical Training of Postgraduate Medical students of DY Patil Medical College at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, compliance of the College with the Clinical Training Framework as per its agreement with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, and the role and responsibility of the Tertiary Education Commission's management in ensuring compliance with its guidelines. The main findings are as follows –

- (a) The Tertiary Education Commission, the University of Technology, Mauritius, the Medical Council, and the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life failed to rigorously monitor compliance with the agreements signed with DY Patil Worldwide Ltd.
- (b) The University of Technology, Mauritius being the awarding body, also failed to ensure compliance with all recommendations of the International Monitoring Committees and continued to extend accreditation of medical programmes every year.

- (c) Though the College had been in operation since August 2012, no effective quality assurance had been conducted, especially with regard to clinical training programmes.

The recommendations of the Fact Finding Committee, amongst others, are -

- (a) DY Patil Worldwide Ltd should urgently acquire land to construct a campus as required by the Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Technology, Mauritius and the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life.
- (b) A Committee should be set up to reassess medical education and formulate a policy decision for a coherent and quality assured undergraduate and postgraduate medical education.
- (c) DY Patil Worldwide Ltd should ensure that the 18 postgraduate students of the August 2013 batch are refunded the fees paid, given that the College had failed to inform them before their enrolment of the amendment of the Medical Council Act regarding registration requirements.
- (d) DY Patil Worldwide Ltd should **not** be allowed to enroll postgraduate students until it satisfies the requirements of the Clinical Training Framework Agreement, that is, the students are registered with the Medical Council of Mauritius and have one year post internship experience.
- (e) The Tertiary Education Commission should ensure that the College complies with the various agreements which it had entered into with relevant authorities and take such appropriate action it considers fit, in cases of non-compliance.

3. Cabinet has agreed that Medical Institutions, whose awarding bodies are not recognized by the Medical Council, would **not** be allowed to recruit students for Year 1 of MBBS Programmes until further notice.

Cabinet has further agreed to the setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Committee comprising the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, the Minister of Health and Quality of Life, and the Attorney General to consider the case of the Mauritian students enrolled at MBBS level at Anna Medical College and DY Patil Medical College.

4. Cabinet has agreed to Mrs Premila Balgobin, retired Puisne Judge, being appointed as independent Arbitrator to look into the unresolved issues in relation to the disputes referred to the Commission for Conciliation and Mediation by the Joint Negotiating Panel as provided in the Collective Agreement signed between the Mauritius Sugar Producers' Association and the Joint Negotiating Panel in November 2014.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised to mark the 180th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery in Mauritius on 1 February 2015, namely -

- (a) the Official Programme at Le Morne Public Beach, comprising, *inter alia*, the National Anthem sung by children of Le Morne village, a wreath laying ceremony, unveiling of a sculpture at the International Slave Route Monument, and a cultural programme;
- (b) an exhibition on the theme '*Lest We Forget*';
- (c) unveiling of a Plaque at Bassin des Esclaves, Pamplemousses;
- (d) an International Conference on the theme '*Yer Rezistans Zordi Rezilians*'; and
- (e) a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Monument des Esclaves, Pointe Canon, Mahebourg.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the report of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre following the passage of Cyclone Bansi. The main features of the report are –

- (a) a total of 1,400 refugees attended the 14 refugee evacuation centres opened throughout the country.
- (b) A bridge had partly collapsed at Notre Dame, and there were landslides at Kewal Nagar, and at Camp Thorel, there was an access problem at the bus terminal. Appropriate remedial action is being taken.
- (c) The Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management has already made arrangements for scavenging works, and cleaning of wastes.
- (d) The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life is carrying out an intensive larviciding and spraying campaign, as well as sensitization activities on the need to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds. The public is also advised to take the usual basic sanitary precautions and to boil tap water before consuming.
- (e) The Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute has carried out a survey to assess the impact of the cyclone on the food crop sector. Plantations in respect of the main crops have been affected, namely carrots (50%); green vegetables, fine herbs and lettuce (60%); tomato (25%), and creepers, such as bitter gourd, pumpkin, and cucumber (10%).

The Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute is providing technical and advisory services to the farming community to help them rehabilitate their crops, improve the quality of produce and reduce post-harvest loss.

The Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security is making arrangements to provide seeds and planting materials, free of charge, to planters whose crops have been affected.

The Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security would authorize the importation of carrots to meet demand. The Agricultural Marketing Board has sufficient stocks of potato, onion and garlic to ensure adequate and regular supply.

Cabinet has also taken note that, following the passage of Cyclone Bansi, a Task Force would proceed to Rodrigues during the weekend to assist the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in reconstruction works.

7. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius contributing a total amount of US \$ 100,000 towards the fight against Ebola Virus Disease, namely to the WHO Africa Public Health Emergency Fund, the UN Trust Fund for Ebola, the ACP Fund, and the three UN member countries worst affected by Ebola, i.e., Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia.

8. Cabinet has taken note that, during his recent visit to India, the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands handed over to the Prime Minister of India a personal invitation to be the Guest of Honour at the National Day celebrations this year. The Vice-Prime Minister also had discussions with the Prime Minister, amongst others, on Visa on Arrival, cooperation in the fields of defence, security issues and scholarships granted by the Government of India.

Cabinet has also taken note that, the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands participated in the 13th Session of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. The event marked the centenary celebrations of the return of Mahatma Gandhi to India. In his inaugural speech, the Prime Minister of India laid emphasis on the special relations that bind India, Guyana, South Africa and Mauritius and spoke about the people of Mauritius and the manner in which the country upholds Indian culture and traditions.

During the visit, the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands also had meetings, amongst others, with -

- (a) Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs with whom he discussed issues of bilateral cooperation;
- (b) the Hon Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, on cooperation in the field of Information Technology; and
- (c) the Hon Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas of India on the provision of petroleum products and the setting up of an Oil Storage Terminal in Mauritius.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the following appointments –

- (a) Mr Arnaud Martin as Chairperson of the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority;
- (b) Mr Robert Desvaux as Chairperson of the Tourism Authority;
- (c) Mr Jayprakash Roshansingh Seetohul as Chairperson of the Airports of Mauritius Limited Group; and
- (d) Mr Yusuf Elahee as Chairperson of the Tourism Employees Welfare Fund.
