

## **CABINET DECISIONS – 27 FEBRUARY 2015**

1. Cabinet has taken note of the proposed programme of activities for the celebration of National Day 2015 that would be held at Champ de Mars as from 17 30 hours. The theme for the celebrations will be “**Nouvo Destin Avec Lelep**”. The programme would comprise –

- (a) Flag Raising Ceremony;
- (b) March Past by Disciplined Forces and Uniformed Organisations;
- (c) Display by helicopters and flypast;
- (d) Parajump;
- (e) Show by a Troupe from the Seychelles; and
- (f) A défilé depicting the rich cultural diversity of the Mauritian nation with the participation of Cultural Centres and Speaking Unions.

A popular cultural show would be held as from 19 00 hours on the Young Mauritian Football Association (YMFA) playground.

Cabinet has taken note that the Logo, submitted by Mr Kewin Kotadoo, has been designated as the best logo and would be used for the celebrations. The logo portrays a boat online, which is meant to represent Mauritius, a multi-cultural country, as one nation made up of the colours of the national flag moving together as one people towards a new destiny.

Cabinet has further taken note that arrangements would be made for reduced bus fares to those travelling by bus to Champ de Mars two hours before, and two hours after the official celebrations as follows –

- (a) all fare-paying passengers to pay half the normal rate; and
- (b) all beneficiaries of the Free Travel Scheme, i.e., old-aged persons, disabled persons, and children aged less than 13 years, to travel free of charge as usual.

Cabinet has also taken note that a number of activities would be organized in Rodrigues and Agalega.

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2. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport amending the Road Traffic Act and related regulations to abolish the penalty points system in view of the ineffectiveness of the system and the heavy administrative procedures, and introducing a new and simpler mechanism in line with Government commitment.

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3. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Finance and Audit (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to review the Finance and Audit Act in order to strengthen public financial management, accountability, transparency and fiscal discipline in line with Government programme. The Bill provides, among others, for –

- (a) a simplification of the annual estimates of revenue and expenditure, both recurrent and capital, in respect of the services of Government;
- (b) the appropriation of the estimated financial requirements by vote of expenditure; and
- (c) a change in the definition of “financial year” from calendar year to a period of 12 months ending on 30 June.

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4. Cabinet has agreed to a Ministerial Committee comprising the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications, the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation, the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport and the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms looking into the running of Casinos and Domaine les Pailles in view of heavy losses encountered by those organisations.

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5. Cabinet has agreed to the adoption of a Framework for the exploration and exploitation of the Joint Management Area of the Extended Continental Shelf in the Mascarene Plateau Region, falling under the joint management of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles. In March 2011, the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf conferred upon both Mauritius and Seychelles jurisdiction over an area of 396,000 sq kms of Extended Continental Shelf in the Mascarene Plateau Region, over which Mauritius and Seychelles now exercise sovereign rights jointly for the purpose of exploring and exploiting seabed resources. Following discussions with the Seychelles authorities, the following documents have been elaborated as part of the Framework for the exploration and exploitation of the Joint Management Area (JMA) -

- (a) The Joint Ministerial Declaration Concerning the Sustainable Development of the JMA in the Mascarene Plateau Region calling for a strong political commitment to balance the conservation and the protection of the marine environment of the Area with the long-term sustainable development of the resources;
- (b) The Environmental Code of Practice that upholds the provisions of the Joint Ministerial Declaration and provides the necessary framework for the sustainable management of the natural resources, seabed and marine environment of the Area;
- (c) The Model Petroleum Agreement that sets out the modalities for the determination of the Petroleum Royalty, Petroleum Income Tax and Petroleum Additional Profits Tax payable by contractors;

- (d) The Offshore Petroleum Safety Code that provides for the safe, secure and sustainable exploitation of petroleum resources of the Area, in accordance with the provisions of the two Treaties signed by both States in March 2012; and
- (e) The Joint Fiscal and Taxation Code that applies to the taxation of income generated directly or indirectly from natural resource activities.

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6. Cabinet has agreed to the recommendations of the Ministerial Committee set up under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications to oversee amendments to be brought to the Local Government Act 2011. The recommendations relate to –

- (a) the holding of municipal council elections;
- (b) increase in the number of Municipal Councillors;
- (c) change in eligibility to stand as candidate;
- (d) presentation of candidates of both sexes by groups/party alliances presenting more than 2 candidates at a municipal council election;
- (e) assumption of office of the Lord Mayor, Mayors, Chairpersons of District Councils and their Deputies;
- (f) holding of meetings of local authorities; and
- (g) the quorum for meetings of local authorities.

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7. Cabinet has agreed to –

- (a) the following Offices functioning as a distinct department of the Attorney General's Office –
  - (i) the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions with the Director of Public Prosecutions as Responsible Officer, as was the case until 2009;
  - (ii) the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel with the Parliamentary Counsel as Responsible Officer, as recommended by Lord Mackay in his Report in 2006;
- (b) the Solicitor General being the Supervising Officer, and the Chief Legal Secretary the Accounting Officer of the Attorney General's Office; and
- (c) the Enforcement Authority under the Asset Recovery Act to be the Financial Intelligence Unit pending the setting up of the Financial Crime Commission.

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8. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for the improvement of Sea and Air Transportation Facilities at Agalega with the Government of India. The project comprises, among others, –

- (a) the construction of a jetty for berthing of ships;
- (b) the rehabilitation and repaving of the runway;
- (c) the installation of a power generation facility;
- (d) the setting up of a water desalination plant; and
- (e) the construction of a National Coast Guard Post.

The Memorandum of Understanding would be signed during the forthcoming visit of HE Sri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.

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9. Cabinet has agreed to the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of ocean economy with the Government of India. The object of the Memorandum of Understanding is to strengthen and expand cooperation in the field of ocean economy, fisheries and aquaculture, seaport development, shipping and green tourism. The Memorandum of Understanding would be signed during the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister of India.

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10. Cabinet has taken note that the Prime Minister would make Regulations under the Protection of Human Rights Act to enable a convicted person or his representative to apply to the National Human Rights Commission requesting the latter to conduct an enquiry with a view to establishing whether there exists sufficient fresh and compelling evidence that would justify referring the case back to the Court of Criminal Appeal for reconsideration.

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11. Cabinet has taken note that, at the request of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands would make regulations under the Cadastral Survey Act to defer the coming into force of regulations made under the Act in 2013, in Rodrigues. The Rodrigues Regional Assembly would, subsequently, be able to acquire the required equipment and set up an appropriate land administration system for the implementation of the regulations made in 2013. Surveyors would, for the time being, be exempted from the need to insert Parcel Identification Numbers in Survey Reports and Memoranda of Survey relating to land parcels in Rodrigues; the Island Chief Executive would be empowered to register deeds and other documents; and the Departmental Head in Rodrigues would be responsible for the care, control and custody of all Memoranda of Survey and survey reports.

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12. Cabinet has agreed to the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation migrating Channels 1, 2 and 3 from the analogue platform to the digital platform by 17 June 2015 in accordance with the Geneva 2006 Agreement. It is noted that digital broadcasting technology offers better picture and sound quality, makes better use of the radio spectrum, and stimulates competition in the broadcasting sector by allowing more channels to be offered than the conventional number of channels allowed in the analogue broadcasting mode.

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13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the GEF/UNDP project on Removal of Barriers to Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation in Buildings in Mauritius. The project aimed at overcoming barriers to energy efficiency in buildings in Mauritius and reinforcing the development of a market approach to improving energy efficiency in residential and non-residential buildings. The main outcomes of the Project are, among others, the development of -

- (a) a legal framework to promote energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy and raising of awareness on the efficient use of energy;
- (b) an Energy Audit Management Scheme to promote energy management in the non-domestic building stock;
- (c) an audit software tool that has been distributed to professionals in the Energy Sector;
- (d) guidelines on the design of buildings of less than 500m<sup>2</sup> to encourage the use of natural ventilation and minimise heat from the sun and external sources; and
- (e) a framework for the labelling of electrical appliances to promote efficient use of energy in households.

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14. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised on the occasion of the International Women's Day 2015. The theme will be "**Gender Equality is my Agenda**". Activities that would be organised, include –

- (a) a Consultative Workshop with representatives of the public sector on the theme "*Envisioning a World for Women for Post – 2015*";
- (b) a Round table with the private sector on the theme "*Partnering with the Private Sector for Advancing the Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality Agenda*";
- (c) an NGO Forum on the theme "*The future we want for our Women: A Civil Society Perspective*";
- (d) launching of a Special Commemorative Cover in collaboration with the Mauritius Post Limited;
- (e) laying of wreaths at the statue of Anjalay Coopen and the tomb of Lisette Talate;
- (f) a football match between two female teams at George V Stadium; and
- (g) culinary and craft exhibitions.

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15. Cabinet has taken note that the International Conference on Renewable Energy Sources and Sustainability would be held in Mauritius in March 2015. The main objective of the Conference would be to explore the potential role of renewable energy in the mitigation of climate change for policymakers, the private sector, academic researchers and the civil society. It would also help develop ocean governance tools for sustainable use of the ocean resources and assess the ocean vulnerability to climate change and energy security. About 60 participants, comprising academics, scientists, engineers, researchers and other stakeholders from various countries, would attend the Conference.

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16. Cabinet has taken note that, in line with the Cooperation Agreement signed in 2013, the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta would, as from March 2015, open a Chancery in Mauritius.

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17. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities to Paris where he participated in the 16th Symposium of the *Syndicat des Energies Renouvelables*. The theme of the Symposium was **Vers une nouvelle croissance: Les énergies renouvelables contre le dérèglement climatique**. The Symposium is a key event that brings together policy and decision makers, civil society, researchers and private sector organisations to discuss renewable energy.

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18. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Youth and Sports to Cameroon where he participated in the First Meeting of Africa Regional Commonwealth Youth Ministers. The theme of the Meeting was **Young People Building a Safe and Sustainable Future**. The objectives of the Meeting were, *inter alia*, to assess progress in relation to the recommendations of the 8th Meeting of Commonwealth Youth Ministers, take stock of the current trends in youth development in the region and identify strategies and priorities for future action to advance youth empowerment in the Commonwealth.

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19. 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 Rwanda where she participated in the Second Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF VI) and the Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Ministerial Conference on Education Post-2015. The main objectives of the Conference on Education Post - 2015 were to –

- (a) take stock of regional progress in education, in particular Education for All, yield lessons learnt for the future and examine emerging issues, challenges and priorities for education post-2015; and
- (b) provide regional perspectives and recommendations for the post-2015 global education and development agendas, and contribute to the elaboration of the Framework for Action to be adopted at the World Education Forum (WEF) 2015 in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

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20. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to Zambia where she participated in the 8th Meeting of the COMESA Ministers Responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs. The objectives of the Meeting were to take cognizance of progress achieved since the last Meeting held in September 2013, and consider and adopt the report of the 10th Technical Committee.

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21. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of –

- (a) Mr Robert Pallamy as Chairperson of the Cargo Handling Corporation Ltd; and
- (b) Mr Ramalingum Maistry as Chairperson of the Mauritius Ports Authority.

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22. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the Fashion and Design Institute with Mrs Pushpanjali Luchoo as Chairperson.

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