

## **CABINET DECISIONS – 6 NOVEMBER 2015**

1. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the mission of the Rt Hon Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC, Prime Minister, to India where he participated in the Third Edition of the India-Africa Forum Summit. The Summit approved two outcome documents laying down the basis for cooperation between India and Africa for the next five years. The documents make reference to the promotion of cooperation for the development of Ocean/Blue Economy, with special emphasis on collaboration in developing sustainable fisheries, combating illegal and unregulated fishing, management of marine resources, conducting hydrography surveys, exploring non-marine resources, disaster risk reduction and developing renewable energy. In his address, the Prime Minister focused on the India-Africa relationship, the special relations binding Mauritius to India and the transformation of Mauritius as a regional investment and business hub, making Mauritius the natural investment gateway between India and Africa.

The Prime Minister met -

- (a) HE Mr Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, with whom he raised the issues of the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention, the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement, the Overseas Citizen of India Card, and Visa Reciprocity for Mauritian Nationals; and
- (b) HE Mr John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana, with whom he discussed developments regarding the setting up of the Technology Park in Tema, Ghana and the issue of facilitating the travel to Ghana of third nationals who may wish to participate in the Tema Project.

He also had meetings with the Chairpersons and CEOs, among others, of Godrej Group, Bajaj Corporation and Mahindra, as well as with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Confederation of Indian Industry.

The Prime Minister also launched the Board of Investment (BOI) India Office in New Delhi.

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2. Cabinet has agreed to the proposals contained in the National Curriculum Framework Nine-Year Continuous Schooling, and the National Curriculum Framework Grades 1-6 that lay the foundation on which teaching and learning, and assessment would be based. The Framework, constructed around the core values of equity, quality, multilingualism, inclusion, sustainability and inter-culturality, provides for a curriculum that is broad-based and comprehensive to attain the desired outcomes pertaining to learners becoming responsible citizens, effective communicators and critical, creative and innovative thinkers.

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3. Cabinet has taken note of the Report on Trafficking in Persons 2015 published by the US Department of State and that Mauritius has been classified under Tier 2 Watch List.

Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Committee, under the chairmanship of the Attorney General, to look into the issues raised in the Report.

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4. Cabinet has taken note that the items “Roll your own cigarettes” papers imported under H.S Code No. 48.13, and “Rolling Machines (other than rolling machines of industrial types) used to manufacture cigarettes” would be reintroduced on the list of prohibited goods in the Second Schedule to the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 1999.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that, according to the last monthly report published by Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Tourism and External Communications, 109,015 tourists visited Mauritius in October 2015 as compared to 101,327 in October 2014, i.e., an increase of 7.6%. For the period January to October 2015, tourist arrivals reached 912,770 as compared to 826,950 during the same period, in 2014, i.e., an increase of 10.4%.

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6. Cabinet has taken note that the Eastern, Central and Southern African Health Community (ECSA-HC) 62<sup>nd</sup> Health Ministers Conference would be held in Mauritius from 30 November to 04 December 2015. The theme of the Conference is “**Transitioning from Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals**”. The Conference would expand the regional advocacy agenda to focus attention on enhancing universal health coverage through innovations in health financing, regional collaboration in the surveillance and control of communicable diseases, and innovations in health professional training.

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7. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Indonesia, where he participated in the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association. The main issues discussed were:

- (a) Enhancing Regionalism;
- (b) Blue Economy;
- (c) 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Indian Ocean Rim Association;
- (d) Germany as a Dialogue Partner; and
- (e) 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Economic and Business Conference.

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8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment and the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to Reunion Island where they participated in the international symposium on the theme "**Crossing perspectives on parenthood in Indian Ocean**". The objectives of the symposium were, among others, to -

- (a) understand the anthropological and historical foundations of various forms of families of the Indian Ocean Region;
- (b) share the different policies and best practices regarding family and parenthood support programmes; and
- (c) identify the most efficient and successful policies, programmes and projects that are culturally and socially appropriate.

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9. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Board of the National Solidarity Fund with Mrs Francette Ng Cheng Hin, MSK, as Chairperson;
- (b) the Monitoring Committee under the Protection of Elderly Persons Act, 2005 with Mr Mohamad Khalill Udeen Sairally as Chairperson; and
- (c) the Cooperative Tribunal with Mr Dinay Reetoo, Acting Principal State Counsel as Chairperson.

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