

CABINET DECISIONS – 10 APRIL 2015

1. Cabinet has agreed to Government meeting the full cost of the fees of all candidates attending State, private grant-aided, and private fee-paying secondary schools and sitting for 2015 Cambridge School Certificate Examinations in a maximum of eight subjects, and 2015 Cambridge Higher School Certificate Examinations in a maximum of five subjects as announced in Government Programme 2015-2019.

Cabinet has also agreed to Government, as from 2016, meeting the full cost of the fees of the candidates attending State, private grant-aided, and private fee-paying secondary schools and sitting, for the first time, for –

- (a) October/November Cambridge School Certificate Examinations in a maximum of eight subjects, or the Cambridge Higher School Certificate Examinations in a maximum of five subjects;
- (b) the Cambridge HSC Professional Examinations (HSC Pro); and
- (c) October/November Cambridge GCE 'O' Level in a maximum of 8 subjects, or GCE 'A' Level in a maximum of 5 subjects, at the request of their respective schools.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Committee to look into barriers affecting the Small and Medium Enterprises Sector and make recommendations.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a modern Cancer Centre as announced in Government Programme 2015-2019. The new Centre would consist of state-of-the-art medical equipment, including a new Linear Accelerator, and logistics. Cancer is one of the leading causes of death with approximately 600,000 people dying around the world yearly. In Mauritius, mortality due to cancer reached 12.9% of all deaths in 2013.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate and the Cambridge International Examinations propose to sign a General Framework Agreement to formalize the areas of collaboration in the fields of assessment and educational services. The main objectives of the Agreement would be to provide assessments with integrity designed to meet the curriculum requirements of the Mauritian national educational policy, ensure greater collaboration, and identify new opportunities for joint developments and services.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the State Trading Corporation has returned 1,334 metric tons of white wheat flour to Les Moulins de la Concorde Ltée for destruction under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, and the Corporation.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration, also known as The Mauritius Convention on Transparency, was awarded the “*Best development of 2014 in the field of international arbitration*”, and the London Court of International Arbitration - Mauritius International Arbitration Centre - the award for “*up and coming regional arbitral institution of the year*” during the 2015 Global Arbitration Review Award Ceremony. The UN Convention on Transparency is an instrument by which Parties to investment treaties express their consent to applying the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration to their existing investment promotion and protection agreements.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands would make Regulations under the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007 to prescribe new sites at sea for fish farming and oyster culture, namely at Grand Gaube, Poudre d’Or, Grand River South East, Quatre Soeurs, and Bambous Virieux. The sites, which are in addition to the 20 existing ones, would be allocated to fishermen cooperative societies/associations to enable them to undertake fish farming in floating net cage structures at sea.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the next meeting of the Indian Ocean Data Rescue Initiative (INDARE) Working Group would be held in Mauritius in July 2015. The INDARE aims at rescuing data on climate through improved modern archiving facilities, quick electronic imaging, and digitization. The data would be used in research and for generating high-value climate products and services for the benefit of the countries of the Indian Ocean. The main objectives of the Meeting are, among others, to –

- (a) assess existing facilities and expertise in the region that would be made available to develop optimal repository and infrastructure for data rescue and management functions;
- (b) advise on solutions for an optimal sharing of physical and technological infrastructure and human resources; and
- (c) advise on the development of a prototype web portal for INDARE.

9. Cabinet has taken note that a delegation of Senior Citizens Council of Delhi, India, led by Shri J. R. Gupta, President of the Council, would visit Mauritius from 16 to 22 April 2015. The Senior Citizens Council of Delhi, an NGO that groups Senior Citizens Associations, is one of the first organizations in India to start a movement for the promotion of welfare and respect of the elderly in India and abroad. The delegation would, among others, have interactive sessions with senior citizens, and visit the Aapravasi Ghat and Ganga Talao.

10. Cabinet has taken note that, according to the last monthly report published by the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Tourism and External Communications, 96,595 tourists visited Mauritius in March 2015 as compared to 87,977 in March 2014, i.e., an increase of 9.8%. For the first quarter of 2015, tourist arrivals reached 291,329 as compared to 263,293 during the same period, in 2014, i.e., an increase of 10.6%. The overall performance of the European source markets was positive with a growth of 12% in arrivals. UK (+47.3%), Germany (+34.6%) and Italy (+20%) performed exceptionally well. With regard to the emerging markets, the performance of India and China was positive with arrivals going up by 27.3% and 22.3% respectively.

11 Cabinet has taken note of the 2013 Report on Statistics in Mauritius: A Gender Approach. The Report presents sex disaggregated data for the year 2013 collected on demographic characteristics, persons with disabilities, children, and the health, education and employment sectors. In 2013, Mauritius ranked 72nd out of 152 countries with a Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of 0.375. The Gender Inequality Index is a composite measure reflecting inequality in achievements between women and men in three fields, namely, reproductive health, empowerment and labour markets.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Pratabsing Iantish Bacorisen, Barrister-at-Law, Mr Gérard Sanspeur, Managing Director of Enova Consult Ltd and Chairperson of the Board of Investment and Mr Oumashanker Ochit as Members of the Board of the Tertiary Education Commission.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Aliakbar Abdool Gaffoor Mohammad Hajee Adam, Mr Tsang Fan Yin Roland Tsang Kwai Kew, Mr Virrsing Ramdeny, Mr Vishnoo Gopaloodoo and Mr Baboo Keywurdutt Seebaluck as Members, not being medical practitioners, of the Medical Council of Mauritius under section 4 of the Medical Council Act.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Board of the Fishermen Welfare Fund with Mr Keeshorlal Gungah as Chairperson; and
- (b) the Committee of the *Centre de Lecture et d'Animation Culturelle* with Mrs Emmanuelle Némorin as Chairperson.
