

CABINET DECISIONS - 10 FEBRUARY 2017

1. Cabinet has taken note of the programme of activities that would be organised to celebrate National Day 2017. The theme is '**Lame dan lame**'. The programme would comprise -

- (a) the Flag Raising Ceremony;
- (b) parades and *défilés* by the Police Force and non-governmental organisations; and
- (c) an artistic technological show with state-of-the-art sound and light effects, video projections, and synchronised pyrotechnics.

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

- (a) bus fares for fare-paying passengers at half the normal rate; and
- (b) free transportation for disabled persons, old age pensioners and children aged less than thirteen years.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the Public Sector Business Transformation Strategy, prepared with the technical assistance of the Commonwealth Secretariat. The Strategy purports at setting out the vision of Government for the transformation of the Public Sector while emphasising a collective response to the business of Government, as well as themes of national importance, and creating a joint ownership model for implementation, action and results.

A Ministerial Committee chaired by the Rt Hon Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC, Minister Mentor, Minister of Defence, Minister for Rodrigues, has been set up to examine the proposals contained therein and make recommendations.

3. Cabinet has taken note that a Ministerial Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands to initiate actions for a Clean Up Mauritius and Embellishment Campaign, particularly in the wake of the heavy rainfall and cyclonic seasons. The Committee would, among others, -

- (a) ensure an effective coordination between the public and private agencies responsible for cleaning and maintenance; and
- (b) take action for the prompt cleanliness of the various regions of the country.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life would make the Medical Council (Continuing Professional Development) (Amendment) Regulations that provide for the grant of an exemption from the necessity of acquiring Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points by Medical Practitioners/Specialists in 2016. The Regulations would take effect from 31 December 2016.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would enlist a second batch of 125 Pre-Registration House Officers from the list of successful candidates who took part in the Pre-Registration Entry Examinations conducted by the National Board of Examinations of India, under the aegis of the Medical Council of Mauritius, in November 2016.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the Second Round of Negotiations for the renewal of the 2014-2017 Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the European Union held in Brussels in January 2017. The draft Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its annex were reviewed. The meeting also considered the Programme under the 2014-2017 Protocol. As Mauritius has executed about 81% of the projects under the Programme, a second instalment of 302,500 Euros would be disbursed shortly. A third instalment would be disbursed in May 2017 subject to the completion of the Project at a satisfactory level.

7. Cabinet has taken note that negotiations would be held with the Government of the Seychelles by the end of February 2017 for the renewal of the reciprocal fishing agreements. Under the current Agreements, fishing vessels are authorised to fish tuna and associated species against the payment of an appropriate licence fee.

8. Cabinet has taken note that, according to the last monthly report published by the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Tourism, 124,362 tourists visited Mauritius in the month of January 2017 as compared to 118,426 in January 2016, i.e., an increase of 5%. Growth had been registered in arrivals from the United Kingdom (+16.7%), Germany (+9.2%), Italy (+8.2%), China (+52.3%), Poland (+79.0%), Czech Republic (+31.3%), Sweden (+15.3%), Switzerland (+7.4%), Russian Federation (+13.0%), and Reunion Island (+1.2%).

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Housing and Lands, in consultation with the Board of Investment and Landscape Mauritius Ltd, has prepared a Master Plan for the development of the 325 Arpents of State land at Riche Terre (ex Jinfei Site). A zoning system with specific uses would be assigned to each development block. The activities would include port related/logistics activities, light and heavy industries, warehousing, food processing and small and medium enterprises. Provision has also been made for a food court, and an open leisure park.

Cabinet has also taken note of the implementation of the road network project to ease the flow of traffic to and from Riche Terre. Works are expected to start by June 2017 and completed within 15 months.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection promulgating -

- (a) the Consumer Protection (Control of Import, Manufacture, Supply and Storage of Cement) Regulations to provide that no person shall import, manufacture, supply and store cement which does not conform to the specifications corresponding to Mauritian Standards MS EN 197-1:2011 or MS 36-3:2007; and
- (b) the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) (Amendment) Regulations to provide that only cement complying with the Mauritian Standards MS EN 197-1:2011 or MS 36-3:2007 would be allowed to be imported.

Cabinet has also agreed to the subsidy applicable to Portland cement being extended to a new type of blended cement recently put on the market in Rodrigues.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Addis Ababa where he attended the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. The Summit launched the theme of the African Union for the year 2017 - "*Harnessing Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth*". The main issues discussed were-

- (a) financing of the African Union;
- (b) Continental Free Trade Area;
- (c) Mauritius Declaration on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa; and
- (d) institutional reforms of the African Union Commission.

The Summit also adopted a Resolution on the Chagos Archipelago and resolved to fully support the action initiated by the Government of the Republic of Mauritius at the level of the United Nations General Assembly with a view to ensuring the completion of the decolonisation of the Republic of Mauritius and enabling the Republic of Mauritius to effectively exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade also proceeded to the Seychelles where he met HE Mr D. Faure, President of the Republic of Seychelles, and had discussions on the hosting of the 12th Session of the Joint Commission between Mauritius and Seychelles in Mauritius in 2017. The Minister also had a working session with the Foreign Secretary, Mrs L. Potter and, *inter alia*, reviewed the progress report on the implementation of the deliberation of the 11th Session of the Joint Commission held in October 2015 and exchanged views on issues related to the Indian Ocean Commission.

12. 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 the UK

where she participated in the Second Commonwealth Education Ministers' Action Group Meeting. The main focus of the meeting was to support Ministries of Education, through the provision of strategic direction and advice on -

- (a) developing policy frameworks;
- (b) establishing curriculum frameworks;
- (c) strengthening the Commonwealth scholarships programme; and
- (d) building partnerships and mobilising resources.

In the margins of the meeting, the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research had discussions with Mr Jonathan Dale, Programme Director, London Centre for Leadership of the University College London (UCL), on possible areas of collaboration between UCL and the Mauritius Institute of Education, and support for the training of Quality Assurance Officers, and the Inspectors of the Private Secondary Education Authority.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the 2015 Report on "Statistics in Mauritius: A Gender Approach". The Report presents sex disaggregated data for the year 2015 collected on demographic characteristics, education, economic characteristics, persons receiving pensions, persons with disabilities, children, domestic violence and child abuse, among others.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Council of Registered Professional Engineers of Mauritius.
