

CABINET DECISIONS – 13 JANUARY 2017

1. Cabinet has taken note of the reintroduction of the Leasing Equipment Modernisation Forex Scheme. The new Scheme will provide leasing finance in USD and Euros to export enterprises to expand and modernize their production facilities in order to enhance their competencies. The leasing facility will be limited to a total of Rs75m per enterprise.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the recommendation of the Ministerial Committee on Petroleum Hub and Port Development, chaired by the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands, not to proceed with further negotiations with Dubai Ports World (DP World) regarding its proposals for the development of the Port after taking into consideration the observations of the Transaction Advisor, potential strained industrial relations, and security risks.

3. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements made by the Central Electricity Board, under its Small Scale Distributed Generation Scheme, for the implementation of a Green Energy Scheme for Cooperatives as announced in Budget Speech 2016-2017. The objective of the Scheme is to allow cooperative societies to produce electricity from solar photovoltaic systems. Under the Scheme, cooperative federations and societies would be entitled to install solar PV not exceeding 5 kilowatt peak, and benefit from a one-off grant of Rs10,000 per kilowatt up to a maximum of Rs50,000. Any excess of electricity produced by a cooperative federation or a society would be credited to its energy account at the Central Electricity Board under a net metering system.

4. Cabinet has taken note that, as at date, some 150 Trainee Engineers have been placed in public sector bodies to enable them to qualify for registration with the Council of Registered Professional Engineers of Mauritius as announced in Budget Speech 2016-2017. In view of the significant interest shown, arrangements are being made for Trainee Engineers to also undergo training in the private sector under the supervision of a registered Engineer.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation, in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the e-Governance Academy of the Republic of Estonia, would organise a Stakeholders Meeting to design the scope of activities of the Regional e-Governance Academy which would be set up in Mauritius, and a regional capacity building exercise for the training of trainers on the key pillars of e-Governance. The Republic of Estonia is a leading country in the field of e-governance infrastructure and digital services in the European Union.

The Stakeholders Meeting would examine various aspects of the setting up of the Academy in Mauritius, based on the Estonian model, and make recommendations. The objective of the regional capacity building exercise would be to provide training for trainers of IOC Member States so that key institutions and officials are empowered to establish and operationalise the e-Governance Academy.

Cabinet has also taken note that it is proposed to renew the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Government of Estonia in September 2015 to encourage further cooperation in consolidating the ICT Sector.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the Strategic Action Plan on Suicide Prevention aiming at reducing suicide and its associated sufferings. The Action Plan has been worked out to provide for specific measures to prevent suicidal tendencies in line with the recommendations of the Study on the Causes and Consequences of Suicidal Behaviour among Teenagers in Mauritius. The key aims of the Action Plan are to –

- (a) improve mental health in high risk groups;
- (b) provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide;
- (c) support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour;
- (d) support proper data collection and monitoring; and
- (e) train staff assisting in suicide prevention and dealing with cases of suicide.

7. Cabinet has taken note that many Ministries and Departments have elaborated/reviewed their Customer Charter, that constitutes a form of dialogue and ushers common understanding for the benefit of the institutions and the public. The elaboration of a Customer Charter has been made mandatory to ensure that public officers adhere to organisational norms and standards, and call upon customers to comply to specific conditions that would facilitate timely service delivery.
