

CABINET DECISIONS – 23 FEBRUARY 2017

1. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the National Day Celebrations, a friendly football match between the Under 21 National Football Team of Singapore, and the Under 21 National Football Team of Mauritius would be held on 11 March 2017 at George V Stadium. Entrance would be free. The main objectives of the match are to prepare the national team for the Indian Ocean Islands Games and promote the Singapore - Mauritius Air corridor via the football platform. Various activities would also be organised in the context of the football match, including a mega blood donation, and sensitisation on the Clean Up Mauritius and Embellishment Campaign.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the Copyright Act 2014 being amended, as proposed by the High Powered Committee, comprising, among others, representatives of artists, the Anti Piracy Unit and the Rights Management Society, for a better protection of the rights of authors, creators, performers and other stakeholders. The comments and proposals of Mr Robert Hooijer, expert from the World Intellectual Property Organization, have also been taken into consideration. The draft Copyright (Amendment) Bill will be uploaded on the website of the Ministry of Arts and Culture for views and comments.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands to India where he had discussions with the Indian authorities on the implementation of the project for the improvement of sea and air transportation facilities at Agalega. The project comprises, *inter alia*, –

- (a) the construction of a jetty for berthing of ships;
- (b) the rehabilitation and repaving of the runway, an apron for two aircrafts and a taxiway;
- (c) the installation of a power generation facility of approximately 300 KW; and
- (d) the setting up of a water desalination plant.

The Government of India would provide assistance in terms of a grant to the tune of USD18m and technical support.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the List of Indicative Priority Fields of Study 2017-2019 prepared by the Tertiary Education Commission. The List, among others, guides prospective higher education students in their choice of fields of study at tertiary level in line with the country's priority needs, and provides a framework within which more meaningful capacity building can be effected.

5. Cabinet has taken note that Polytechnics Mauritius, in collaboration with the Mauritius Institute of Health, would provide general nursing courses leading to the Diploma in Nursing at the Polytechnic situated at Pamplemousses. Courses are expected to start by mid-2017.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to mark the International Women's Day 2017 celebrated on 8 March 2017, namely –

- (a) a national gathering at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre;
- (b) a youth forum on advocating for gender equality and women empowerment;
- (c) a workshop on the theme "**Young Motherhood**";
- (d) dialogue with poor and vulnerable women; and
- (e) the second edition of the Model Commission on Status of Women with students of secondary schools.

The theme chosen by the United Nations is "**Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50:50 by 2030**". The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare has retained the slogan "**Working towards a Gender Inclusive Society**".

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Indian Ocean Commission would hold its 32nd Council of Ministers meeting in Reunion Island on 1 March 2017. The Council would, among others, review the implementation of ongoing projects/programmes, and examine the restructuring of the Commission.

In the margins of the Council Meeting, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade proposes to discuss the following issues with the management of INTERREG V –

- (a) progress report on the five Mauritian projects submitted and disbursement of funds; and
- (b) bilateral cooperation with INTERREG V, namely production in Madagascar of maize consumed by Mauritius and Reunion Island.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the Inaugural Session of the African Economic Platform, organised by the African Union Foundation, would be held in Mauritius in March 2017. The African Economic Platform has been envisioned by the African Union as a forum for frank engagements amongst African political, academic and business leadership on the future of the Continent, and to ensure the implementation of priority issues of Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

9. Cabinet has taken note that an Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of the *Commission de la Jeunesse et des Sports de l'Océan Indien (CJSOI)* would be held in Mauritius in March 2017 to deliberate on amendments to be brought to the CJSOI Games Charter in connection with the National Flags to be used during the Award of Medals ceremonies.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the Fact Finding Mission led by the Minister of Tourism to assess the situation regarding the tourism market in China. The delegation held a series of one-to-one meetings with major Tour Operators which deal with the Mauritian destination, organised a workshop with 20 key trade partners, and met representatives of Hainan Airlines on possible cooperation with Air Mauritius. The mission targeted actions to build more awareness of the Mauritius destination, generate fresh interest, and boost confidence among the Chinese Tour Operators.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security to Rome where he attended the 40th Session of the Governing Council of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The Governing Council took note of the Report on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources and the Principles of Conduct for representatives on the Executive Board of IFAD.

In the margins of the meeting, the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security had discussions, among others, with Mr Majid Bizmark, Director General for International Environmental and Sustainable Development Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Iran, on collaboration in the agricultural sector, especially in the production of citrus fruits.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation to Algeria where he participated in the African Conference on Internet Governance. The Conference –

- (a) requested States to participate in the different forums on Internet Governance in order to improve equity, efficiency and competitiveness;
- (b) invited the major ICT players to invest in infrastructure from which they benefit in the African countries; and
- (c) invited the providers of electronic communication services to engage in dialogue with African countries for a fair sharing of internet benefits.
