

CABINET DECISIONS – 30 JUNE 2017

1. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Rt Hon Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC, Minister Mentor, Minister of Defence, and Minister for Rodrigues, to New York, where he had participated in the UN General Assembly. The Assembly, at a Plenary Meeting held on 22 June 2017, had considered Item 87 of the Agenda entitled “*Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965*”. The draft resolution, was introduced by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Congo, in his capacity as Chair of the African Group of Ambassadors in New York. The Minister Mentor had carried out a lobbying campaign and also held a meeting with the Permanent Representatives of the African Union Member States during which he had briefed them on the action initiated by Mauritius at the level of the UN General Assembly, and the inaccurate information circulated by the UK regarding the Chagos Archipelago. An exhibition, focusing on the atrocities and inhumane conditions faced by the Chagossians as a result of their forcible removal by the United Kingdom from the Chagos Archipelago, was also held in the margins of the UN General Assembly. The resolution was adopted by a recorded vote of 94 in favour to 15 against, with 65 abstentions. The UN General Assembly vote on the resolution is historic.

Cabinet has also taken note that the submission to be made to the International Court of Justice is already in preparation.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the Hon P.K. Jugnauth, Prime Minister, would proceed on mission to Addis Ababa where he would attend the 29th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. He would leave on 1 July 2017.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Allied Health Professionals Council Bill into the National Assembly. The Bill provides for the establishment of the Allied Health Professionals Council of Mauritius that will, inter alia, -

- (a) register and regulate the professional conduct, and promote the advancement of Allied Health Professionals, such as audiologists, chiropractors, clinical scientists, counsellors, dietitians, radiographers, medical laboratory technologists, nutritionists, occupational therapists, orthopaedic technicians, osteopaths, physiotherapists, podiatrists, psychologists, psychomotor therapists, psychotherapists, speech therapists and sports therapists; and
- (b) approve, conduct or cause to be conducted training courses, programmes, lectures, seminars or conferences, including continuous professional development courses or programmes.

4. Cabinet has agreed to bank fishing vessels being allowed to carry gasoline for use by dories for a further period of two years with effect from 3 July 2017, and pending the renewal of the existing fishing vessels in order not to disrupt the supply of frozen fish on the local market.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands would promulgate the Local Government (Exemption from Building and Land Use Permit) (Amendment) Regulations to exempt a company, an individual, or a self-employed from applying for a Building and Land Use Permit prior to starting a trade, provided that the activities in relation to the trade do not, among others, require the construction or demolition of a building, or extensive alterations to an existing building, and result in direct or indirect dangerous or congested traffic conditions on any nearby roads.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the following national periodic reports being transmitted to the respective Treaty Bodies, namely -

- (a) the Fifth Periodic Report on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the period 2010-2016 to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Report highlights, among others, the reassertion of Mauritius of its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago and the Tromelin Island, and the legal and administrative measures initiated by Government to promote gender equality and enhance the participation of women in the decision making process; and
- (b) the Twentieth to Twenty-third Periodic Reports on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination for the period 2009-2016 to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The Reports highlight, among others, the legal and administrative frameworks that have been developed to prohibit all forms of racial discrimination, and the measures taken to prohibit the incitement of racial discrimination.

7. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the celebrations of Eid-UI-Fitr at national level, the following activities would also be organised -

- (a) a lunch for inmates of orphanages, day care centres and centres for persons with disabilities to be hosted by the Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Fund;
- (b) launching of a short film entitled '*Eid et le Partage*', produced by the Mauritius Film Development Corporation, in collaboration with the Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Fund;
- (c) a cultural show at the Islamic Cultural Centre; and
- (d) a National Eid Dinner, together with a cultural show, at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre.

8. Cabinet has taken note that an international conference on diabetes and associated diseases would be held in Mauritius in July 2017 by the Dasman Diabetes Institute, Kuwait, the World Community on Prevention of Diabetes Foundation, Spain, the Diabetes Foundation Mauritius, and the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. The objective of the Conference is to bring together leading experts in the field of diabetes to discuss current issues relating to non-communicable diseases, take stock of the least evidence-based best practices to address the epidemic, and formulate practical remedies for the management of the disease. Some 200 participants are expected to attend the Conference.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the 2017 Africa-China Poverty Reduction and Development Conference, organised by the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development of the People's Republic of China, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment, would be held in Mauritius in September 2017. The theme of the Conference is "**Joining hands to meet new challenges in poverty reduction**". The issues that would be addressed include -

- (a) poverty reduction challenges, strategies and practices in African countries;
- (b) progress and challenges of poverty alleviation in Africa;
- (c) role of Local Governments in promoting China-Africa cooperation; and
- (d) the role of society engagement (businesses and civil societies) for China-Africa poverty reduction cooperation.

Some 100 participants from African countries would attend the Conference.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the Second International Conference on Energy, Environment and Climate Change 2017 would be held in Mauritius in July 2017. The Conference would lay particular emphasis on energy production and management, green energy, environmental engineering, environmental management, climate change and sustainable development, and provide a forum for the exchange of latest technical information and the dissemination of the high-quality research results.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister Mentor, Minister of Defence, and Minister for Rodrigues would amend the Maritime Zones (Economic Activities) Regulations 2014 to include the construction of marinas and related structures as an economic activity in the area of land-based oceanic industry as announced in Budget Speech 2017-2018.

12. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would organise the following activities on the occasion of the World Population Day 2017, commemorated on 11 July, -

- (a) a one-day interactive session on fertility decline having as main theme: *'Providing a supportive environment for couples to form families with two or more children'*; and
- (b) sensitisation campaigns, talks and training programmes and workshops on Family Planning and Sexual Reproductive Health issues.

The theme for this year is **"Family Planning: Empowering People, Developing Nations"**.

13. Cabinet has taken note that Mr Mike Mungur would be appointed Chairperson of the Board of the Mauritius Ex-Services Trust Fund.
