

CABINET DECISIONS – 11 AUGUST 2017

1. Cabinet has agreed to pay day for the month of August 2017 being rescheduled to 25 August instead of 29 August 2017 in view of Ganesh Chaturthi Festival, and following a request from the Mauritius Marathi Mandali Federation.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the first Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for the Indentured Labour Route Project would be held in Mauritius from 30 October to 01 November 2017. The Meeting would ratify the Terms of Reference of the Committee, establish priority projects, and examine proposals from the working groups. Participants from Fiji, Guyana, India, Madagascar, Malaysia, Reunion Island, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, the United Kingdom and Yemen would attend the meeting.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the Meeting of the International Scientific Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Slave Route Project would be held in Mauritius in November 2017. The Meeting would be followed by a Conference on slavery. The main objectives of the Slave Route Project are to -

- (a) break the silence and make universally known the subject of the transatlantic slave trade and slavery in the Indian Ocean, Caribbean and the Mediterranean regions, with its causes and modalities;
- (b) highlight the global transformations and cultural interactions that have resulted from the history of slave trade; and
- (c) contribute to a culture of peace by promoting reflection on cultural pluralism, intercultural dialogue and the construction of new identities and citizenships.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the African Union Commission would hold the following meetings in Mauritius during the period 28 August to 2 September 2017 –

- (a) Experts Meeting on the implementation mechanism of the Draft Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons that aims at developing a roadmap and establishing a task force to guide the African Union Commission on the implementation strategies; and
- (b) Experts Meeting on the finalisation of the Draft Protocol on Statelessness in Africa for submission to the Specialised Technical Committee on Legal and Judicial Affairs.

Some 240 delegates are expected to attend the Meetings.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the fishing of octopus would be closed from 15 August to 15 October 2017. The main objective of the fishing prohibition period is to allow the stock to reproduce and increase in size and weight.

6. Cabinet has taken note that, according to the last monthly report published by the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Tourism, 112,347 tourists visited Mauritius in July 2017, as compared to 108,122 in July 2016, i.e., an increase of 3.9%. For the period January to July 2017, tourist arrivals reached 738,206, as compared to 694,586 during the same period in 2016.

7. Cabinet has agreed to Government signing an Agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization providing for assistance for the execution of the Programme “*Supporting the Application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Considering Climate and Pollution Impacts*” (EAF – Nansen Programme). Under the programme, a research vessel “Dr Fridtjof Nansen” would be operated to conduct marine surveys with a view to improving the sustainable management of fisheries resources.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the performance of the Mauritian athletes at the *VIII^{eme} Jeux de la Francophonie* held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. Mauritius ranked 18th on 54 participating countries and won a total of five medals, i.e., one Gold in the cultural contest (*Danse de Création*), one Silver in Judo (feminine), and three Bronze in judo (feminine) (1) and athletics (2).

Cabinet has also taken note that in the context of the *VIII^{eme} Jeux de la Francophonie*, the Minister of Arts and Culture participated in the *IV^{eme} Conférence ministérielle de la Francophonie sur la Culture*. The objective of the conference was to discuss cultural challenges being faced by Member States of the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*, and identify prospects for joint actions. The Conference adopted a Declaration and an Action Plan that would enable countries of the ‘*Francophonie*’ to respond to existing cultural challenges.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the International Data Corporation, in collaboration with the National Computer Board, would organise the IDC-CIO Summit 2017 in Mauritius on 16 August 2017. The theme of the Summit is “**Enabling Dynamic Change for the Digital Era**”. The Summit would present proven IT strategies for developing business and also consider the following issues -

- (a) highest-priority IT investment areas for the years ahead;
- (b) preparing business for success in the digital era; and
- (c) technologies which are being embraced for gaining a competitive edge.

10. Cabinet has taken note that, on the occasion of the International Youth Day 2017, commemorated on 12 August, the Ministry of Youth and Sports would organise a Youth Concert at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute with the participation of local young artists, and *Temoignages* on subjects, such as education, sports, and drugs. The theme for the Youth Concert is “**Zenes to destin dan to la main**”.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Reunion Island where he had meetings, among others, with -

- (a) Mr Amaury de Saint-Quentin, Préfet of Reunion Island, and Mrs Faouzia Aboubacar, Deputy Chairperson of the Conseil Régional on regional cooperation; and
- (b) Mrs Manuella Pothin, Deputy Director of the *Centre Hospitalier Universitaire* of Reunion Island on collaboration for the treatment of Mauritian cancer patients.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade also reviewed the status in the implementation of projects under the INTERREG V Programme.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training to Madagascar where he participated in the Conference on “*Investir dans la Formation: l’Exemple Mauricien*”. In the margins of the Conference, the Minister had meetings, among others, with –

- (a) Mrs Marie Lydia Toto Raharimalala, Minister of Employment and Training, with whom he discussed the possibility of an agreement on circular migration; and
- (b) Mr Jean de Dieu Maharante, Minister of Labour, and Mr Mohamed Rachidy, Senior Adviser to the President of the Republic of Madagascar, with whom he discussed the Malagasy workforce in Mauritius.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Nursing Council of Mauritius for the period 2017 to 2020.
