

LIST OF CABINET DECISIONS – 12 MAY 2017

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Extradition Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to make better provision for the extradition of persons from, and to, Mauritius, enable and facilitate extradition even in the absence of treaties, simplify extradition procedures, and promote cooperation, without for that matter neglecting to make adequate allowance for the rights of persons whose extradition or arrest is sought.

2. Cabinet has agreed to Government, through the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, making a contribution of US\$150,000, to help South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and North East Nigeria which are currently facing severe famine.

3. Cabinet has taken note that, according to the last monthly report published by the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Tourism, 111,432 tourists visited Mauritius in the month of April 2017 as compared to 91,992 in April 2016, i.e., an increase of 21.1%. Growth has been registered in arrivals from Germany (+47.8%), Italy (+42.9%), United Kingdom (+30%), Reunion Island (+39.8%), South Africa (+63%), Switzerland (+88.1%), Netherlands (+41.6%) and Austria (+33.5%).

4. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a Technical Committee, chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, to come up with an action plan for the rehabilitation and reintegration of children placed under Court Orders in Residential Care Institutions/Shelters on a fast track basis, and to elaborate a holistic child care strategy for the continuous care and overall development of children placed thereat.

5. Cabinet has taken note of development in the setting up of a Disaster Recovery Site for the Government Online Centre that hosts, among others, critical applications and websites of Ministries and Departments, the Government e-mail System, as well as the Government Web Portal. The disaster recovery facility would act as a backup in providing contingency measures for the primary data centre.

6. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the World No Tobacco Day 2017 observed on 31 May, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would, among others, –

- (a) organise a competition on short film/video with the aim of raising awareness on the harmful effects of tobacco smoking;
- (b) mount a sensitisation campaign on the ill effects of tobacco; and
- (c) launch the Global Youth Tobacco Survey Report 2016.

The theme chosen by the World Health Organisation for this year is “**Tobacco – a threat to development**”.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the list of Public Holidays for the year 2018 which is as follows –

New Year	Monday 01 January
New Year	Tuesday 02 January
Thaipooosam Cavadee	Wednesday 31 January
Abolition of Slavery	Thursday 01 February
Maha Shivaratree	Tuesday 13 February
Chinese Spring Festival	Friday 16 February
Independence and Republic Day	Monday 12 March
Ugaadi	Sunday 18 March
Labour Day	Tuesday 01 May
Eid-UI-Fitr**	Saturday 16 June
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Wednesday 15 August
Ganesh Chaturthi	Friday 14 September
Arrival of Indentured Labourers	Friday 02 November
Divali	Wednesday 07 November
Christmas	Tuesday 25 December

****The exact date of this festival is subject to confirmation as its celebration depends on the visibility of the moon.**

8. Cabinet has taken note that the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions would host the African Prosecutors Association Conference in Mauritius in September 2017. The Association runs a number of programmes covering mutual legal assistance, trafficking in persons, counter-terrorism, trafficking in drugs, money laundering, cybercrime, sexual gender-based violence, environmental crime and witness protection. The Conference would provide an opportunity for regional prosecutors and other stakeholders to discuss legal issues.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation, in collaboration with the World Bank, would, in May 2017, organise the following workshops –

- (a) the Open Data Portal Workshop to assist the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation in the launching of an Open Data Portal and creating continuous engagement on open data; and
- (b) the Geospatial Workshop to create a Crowd Sourcing Community comprising mappers and cartographers who will update or enrich the street maps of Mauritius with features indicating bus stops, street names and shops.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Brussels, where he attended the 105th Council of Ministers of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, and the 42nd Council of Ministers of the ACP and European Union. The ACP Council of Ministers, among others, reaffirmed the three strategic pillars to guide the Group's work after 2020, namely Trade, Investment, Industrialisation and Services; Development Cooperation, Technology, Science and Innovation/Research; and Political Dialogue and Advocacy. The ACP Council also approved, in principle, the processes, modalities and substance for negotiations with the EU for a successor agreement to the current ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement which will expire in 2020. The ACP-EU Council of Ministers discussed, *inter alia*, the implementation of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda and Climate Change, Migration and the implementation of the joint Valletta Action Plan and the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

In the margins of the Meetings, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade had meetings on bilateral issues, among others, with HE Mr Neven Mimica, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development; Mr Stefaan Depypere, Director, International Affairs and Markets, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries; and HE Dr Patrick Ignatius Gomes, Secretary General of the ACP.

11. Cabinet has taken note that an Expert Consultative Meeting of the Inter-Country Quality Node on Early Childhood Development would be held in Mauritius in June 2017. The main objectives of the Meeting are to –

- (a) draft a policy brief, and propose good practices and a human resource framework for Early Childhood Care and Education workforce development for African countries;
- (b) review proposed approaches to expand early learning services to children and parents; and
- (c) prepare a 3-year plan for capacity building in Early Childhood Care and Education human resource development.

Some 20 international and 15 local participants are expected to attend the Meeting.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Dangerous Chemicals Control Board with Dr Mrs S. Sivapragasam, Head Occupational Health Unit as Chairperson.
