

CABINET DECISIONS - 15 DECEMBER 2017

1. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of the Contract Agreement between the Police Department, on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, and Mauritius Telecom Ltd for the implementation of the Safe City Project. The project that aims at enhancing the security and safety of the public, comprises a CCTV Smart Camera Surveillance System, a Multimedia Radio Trunking System, a Central Watch and Management System, an Integrated Emergency Response Management System and an Intelligent Command System, to enable the Police Department to obtain better intelligence with a view to optimizing response.

2. Cabinet has taken note that following allegations of malpractices and mismanagement at the Irrigation Authority, the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security has set up a Committee of Inquiry under the Chairmanship of Mr Didier Dodin, Barrister, to –

- (a) examine industrial relations issues at the Irrigation Authority and advise on ways and means for the satisfactory resolution of industrial disputes, as well as improving industrial relations at the Authority;
- (b) examine whether all procedures are duly followed in cases where disciplinary action is envisaged and taken;
- (c) examine and advise as to whether the provision regarding Human Resource issues are properly implemented at the Authority;
- (d) advise on the setting up of a proper grievance framework and structure;
- (e) examine and advise on the reporting and working procedures at the Authority; and
- (f) review the draft Employee Handbook and the Procedure Agreement between the Authority and the affiliate Unions with a view to ensuring that both manuals are in line with and encompass the provision of legislation in Mauritius relating thereto.

3. Cabinet has taken note of development in the Waste-to-Energy Project of the Central Electricity Board, a potential source of energy in the medium and long terms.

4. Cabinet has taken note that, according to the last monthly report published by the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Tourism, 1,186,245 tourists visited Mauritius from January to November 2017 as compared to 1,127,093 for the same period in 2016, i.e. an increase of 5.2%.

5. Cabinet has taken note of development in the implementation of the new ENT Hospital Project at Vacoas. The project cost is estimated at around Rs889M. The new hospital, a state-of-the-art complex, would comprise a range of essential services. Works would start shortly and be completed in around 15 months. Arrangements have been made for the relocation of the ENT Services to Victoria Hospital to avoid disruption of service.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Health and Quality of Life making the Pharmacy Council (Levying of Fees and Registration of Pharmacists) Regulations under the Pharmacy Council Act for the levying of fees and the taking of charges from registered pharmacists.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would hold a meeting on Accident Prevention in Radiotherapy within the framework of the project "*RAF9059 Strengthening Member State Technical Capabilities in Medical Radiation Protection in compliance with requirements of the new International Basic Safety Standards*" in Mauritius in April 2018. The objective of the meeting is to provide guidance to the Regulatory Authority and radiotherapy professionals on the activities that need to be considered and performed with a view to reducing the likelihood of hazards in radiotherapy for medical treatment. Some 30 participants from the IAEA Member States, would attend the meeting.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands to Malaysia, where she participated in the International Conference of Women in Politics. The theme of the Conference was "*Women and Industrial Revolution 4.0: Leadership and Substantive Equality*".

During her mission, the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands had meetings, among others, with -

- (a) the Hon Dato' Sri Rohani Abdul Karim, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development of Malaysia regarding collaboration in terms of training on women, family and community development affairs; and
- (b) the Hon YB Tan Sri Noh Bin Haji Omar, Minister of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government on capacity building for the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to France where he participated in the 34th Session of the *Conférence ministérielle de la Francophonie* (CMF). The theme of the Conference was "*Les économies nouvelles: économie bleue, économie verte – nouveaux moteurs de création de richesse, d'inclusion sociale et du développement durable.*" The Conference adopted three resolutions namely -

- (a) *Résolution sur les économies bleue et verte;*
- (b) *La paix par un autre chemin*, through education, inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue specifically regarding terrorism; and the challenges of terrorism and radicalisation faced by Member States of the Francophonie; and
- (c) *Résolution sur le climat.*

In the margins of the Conference, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade had meetings, among others, with Mr Jean Baptiste Lemoyne, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France; Mr José Gurría, Secretary General of the OECD; Mr Henry Rabary-Njaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Madagascar; and Mr Didier Reynders, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium on furthering bilateral relations.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Brussels where he participated in the 106th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers and the Ministerial Committee on Commodities. The ACP Council of Ministers –

- (a) approved the ACP Secretariat's Budget for Financial Year 2018;
- (b) was updated on the EPA negotiations and implementation;
- (c) took note of the report from the Ministerial Committee on Commodities; and
- (d) considered the EU List of the So-Called Non-Cooperative Tax Jurisdictions.

The Minister also had meetings, among others, with HE Mr Andrus Ansip, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Digital Single Market; Ms Sandra Gallina, Director for Sustainable Development, EPA's, ACP, Agri-food and Fisheries, DG Trade; and Mr Linnar Viik, Founder and Director at E-Governance Academy in Estonia on bilateral issues.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security to Addis Ababa where he attended the Regional Meeting of the Food and Agricultural Organisation on “Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition.” The meeting aimed at bringing dialogue and exchange of knowledge and experience regarding biotechnologies from the global to the regional levels using a multi-sectoral approach, covering crop, livestock and fishery sectors.

During his mission, the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security had meetings, among others, with -

- (a) Dr Pierre Grard, Regional Director, Botany and Computer Sciences and Dr Claire Billot, Team Leader, Population Geneticist from the *Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement* (CIRAD) East Africa on cooperation in agrosystems; and
- (b) Dr Kassahun Tesfaye, Director General, Ethiopian Biotechnology Institute on assistance on the setting up of a National Biotechnology Institute in Mauritius.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives to India where he participated in the 21st International Conference on Small and Medium Enterprises. The theme of the Conference was “*Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization by Promoting SMEs*”. The Conference focused, among others, on specific themes such as Green Finance for SMEs; Role of SMEs in Sustainable Development; Integration of SMEs in Global Value Chain; Adoption of Green Industrial Policies, Technologies, and Industrial Processes among SMEs; Trade, Market Access, and Sustainable Development; and Access to Information and Communication Technology.

During his mission, the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives had meetings, among others, with the Hon S. P. Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India; the Hon A. Hossain Amu, Minister of Industry of the Government of Bangladesh; and Mr. D. J. Msibi, President of the World Association of Small and Medium Enterprises and Chairman of Standard Micro Finance Bank of Nigeria on avenues of cooperation for the development and promotion of SMEs in the region.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives to Malaysia where he participated in the Global Conference of the International Cooperative Alliance and presented the Cooperatives Strategic Plan 2018-2020 proposed by his Ministry for the Mauritius Cooperative Movement.

During his mission, the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives had bilateral meetings with YB Dato' Seri Hamzah bin Zainuddin, Minister of Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism; Datuk (Dr) Hafsah Hashim, Chief Executive Officer of SME Corp; and Assoc. Prof. Dr Abdul Rahman Shaik, Director General of Cooperative College of Malaysia on bilateral assistance in the fields of cooperatives and SME development.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Darsanand Balgobin, as Executive Director of the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) .
