

CABINET DECISIONS – 15 SEPTEMBER 2017

1. Cabinet has taken note that on 29 September 2017, the World Bank would make a presentation on their Findings and Recommendations on the Reform of the Water Sector to Ministers and the Members of the National Assembly.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the third round of discussions that the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport had with the representatives of the three bus companies operating along the corridor of the Metro Express Project, ahead of the meeting to be chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities with all stakeholders, including bus industry workers, in the context of the implementation of the New National Transport Network, for a long term viability of the Transport Sector, and the job security of the workers.

3. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius endorsing the Kigali Initiative to Mobilise African Intellectuals Towards Quality Tertiary Education in line with Government's vision to transform Mauritius into an Education Hub and a Centre of Excellence for Higher Education. The Initiative aims at mobilising African leaders and African society to invest strongly and consistently in upgrading tertiary education with the goal of creating a high level performance through Africa by 2030. Mauritius would, accordingly, commit among others, to –

- (a) foster the leadership of Mauritian public universities towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the African Union's Agenda 2063; and
- (b) mobilise local intellectuals, business leaders, and the Mauritian diaspora world-wide to contribute to the Initiative's success.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life would make the Medical Council (Postgraduate Medical Education Board) (Amendment) Regulations to enhance the proper functioning of the Postgraduate Medical Education Board. The functions of the Board are to advise and assist the Medical Council in the registration of Specialists.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the main recommendations of the Report entitled “*Republic of Mauritius: Industrial Waste Assessment – Opportunities for Industrial Symbiosis*” prepared by UNIDO to guide policymakers in the development of the strategic green industrial policies. The Assessment aimed at determining the amount and the main categories of industrial waste currently being generated by the main selected industries in Mauritius, and identifying opportunities to set up industrial symbiosis projects and proposals. The main recommendations include review of legislations, revision of the industrial waste audit procedures, industrial waste collection and establishment of a recyclers’ association.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised by the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, and Environment and Sustainable Development to mark the Clean Up the World Campaign 2017, namely –

- (a) the launching of the Campaign, followed by the distribution of medicinal plants and eco-friendly bags, on 21 September 2017 at Bambous Social Welfare Centre; and
- (b) clean up and tree planting at La Gaulette and Ile d’Ambre islet.

Cabinet has also taken note of measures taken to keep Mauritius permanently clean, including intensification of the efforts of the local authorities to collect waste and clean public places, rivers, etc., an education and communication campaign to rally the support of the public, and a competition to showcase and reward the most effective initiatives.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the 5th Meeting of the Southern African Regional Cooperation Group on Safety of Navigation and Marine Environmental Protection (SAGNEP) being held in Mauritius in February 2018. SAGNEP is a regional cooperation group addressing issues related to aids and safety of navigation in any region on the African Continent, and aims at, inter alia, –

- (a) creating a forum for discussion on matters of mutual interest related to safety of navigation and marine environment protection;
- (b) organising and encouraging cooperation in training for the attainment of the required standards (of competence), including skills development and research; and
- (c) promoting awareness of the need to establish internationally agreed aids to navigation and maritime safety information services.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, in collaboration with the University of Mauritius, would hold the 26th African Human Rights Moot Court Competition in Mauritius from 18 to 23 September 2017. The Competition is the largest gathering of students, academics and judges around the theme “*Human Rights in Africa*”, and aims at preparing a new generation of lawyers to argue cases of alleged human rights violations before the African Court, and tackle issues related to the rights to development and freedom of expression, among others. The theme for this year is ‘**The Maputo Protocol and Poverty Alleviation: Towards the Realisation of Women’s Rights in Africa**’.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the University of Mauritius would organise an International Seminar on “*Ending Indenture: Comparative Perspectives 1880-1930*” from 28 to 30 September 2017 to mark the Centenary of the Abolition of Indentureship in the British Empire. The main objectives of the Seminar are to –

- (a) analyse particular themes, such as the continuity between slavery and indentureship in the global capitalist order and within countries and the consequences of these regimes on the people;
- (b) study the situation of indentured immigrants in its last years of immigration and the role of Mauritius in the campaign against indentured immigration; and
- (c) analyse the social and economic activities of descendants of indentured immigrants in the immediate post-indentured period in Mauritius and the Indian Ocean.

Some 22 participants from India, France, Reunion Island, the Seychelles and South Africa would attend the Seminar.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the International Atomic Energy Agency would organise a “*Regional Workshop on the use of the Sterile Insect Technique within an Integrated Approach to control population of mosquito vectors with special reference to Dengue in Mauritius*” in Mauritius in October 2017. The objectives of the Workshop are to review progress of participating Member States on mosquito control activities, including the Sterile Insect Technique component, and discuss national future plan with the different counterparts. Some 40 participants from African Member States, would attend the Workshop.

11. Cabinet has taken note that on the occasion of its 60th Anniversary celebrated on 2 October 2017, the Mauritius Family Planning and Welfare Association would organise a series of activities on themes relevant to Sexual Reproductive Health and Community Welfare, including a debate, a road show in Port Louis, documentary film shows, cultural activities, and sensitisation campaigns. A Gala and Award Night would also be held on 25 October 2017 to reward pioneers and volunteers promoting the objectives of the Association.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised to mark the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, celebrated on 16 September, namely –

- (a) a workshop aiming at sensitising stakeholders on the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol;
- (b) sensitisation campaigns on the ozone layer depletion and preservation, as well as the way forward for the healing of the ozone layer; and
- (c) a workshop for operators involved in the servicing and maintenance of refrigeration and air-conditioning appliances on alternatives to hydrofluorocarbons.

The theme for this year is "**Caring for all life under the sun**".

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation to South Africa where he participated in the Meeting of SADC Ministers Responsible for Communications and ICT. The theme of the Conference was "**SADC preparing for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Through ICT**". The SADC Declaration on the Fourth Industrial Revolution commits, among others, to treat Internet as an essential tool to be accessed by all citizens, and reposition the Internet and the ICT Sector as a crosscutting tool for socio-economic transformation to benefit all citizens

14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training to Swaziland where he participated in the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa Ministerial Conference. The theme of the Conference was "**Mixed and Irregular Migration in the SADC region: Linking protection, immigration, border management and Labour Migration**". The Conference reviewed progress made towards the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Irregular and Mixed Migration endorsed in 2015, and reflected, inter alia, on –

- (a) the need for Member States to develop national Labour Migration policies by 2019; and
- (b) the promotion of bilateral and multilateral agreements for the collection and sharing of labour market data, and development of collective management of Labour Migration in the region.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance to Tanzania where he participated in the 17th Council of Ministers Meeting of Eastern and Southern African Anti-Money Laundering Group. The Council took note of –

- (a) the mutual evaluation programme concerning the assessment of Mauritius and the Seychelles;
- (b) the close collaboration between the Secretariats of the East African Community, the COMESA and the SADC; and
- (c) the post evaluation monitoring process for various Member States.

The Council also adopted the recommendations of the Task Force of Senior Officials concerning Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Risk in the region.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of the Land Drainage Board with the Permanent Secretary, National Development Unit, Ministry of Home Affairs, External Communications and National Development Unit, as Chairperson.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Construction Industry Development Council with Mrs Nadia Daby-Seesaram as Chairperson. Mrs Daby-Seesaram is a Registered Professional Engineer with specialisation in Environmental Management and has extensive experience for having worked on various projects.

18. Cabinet has taken note that the Board of SME Mauritius Ltd has endorsed the appointment of Mr Rajendra Puddoo as Chief Executive Officer. Mr Puddoo is Fellow of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, and holds an MBA from the University of Birmingham, UK.
