

CABINET DECISIONS – 20 OCTOBER 2017

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the National Employment Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to repeal the Employment and Training Act and enact a more appropriate and modern legislative framework in order to address the needs of the labour market, including skills mismatch, underemployment, unemployment and future employment prospects, and to anticipate future needs and expectations of individuals and employers. The Bill provides for a National Employment Department, which will take over the functions and powers of the Employment Service of the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training, and, inter alia, –

- (a) facilitate the employment of job seekers, and ensure that job seekers are able to find employment that meet their aspirations;
- (b) provide labour market information on demand and supply of skills to local employers, job seekers and training institutions;
- (c) promote placement and training of job seekers, including young persons and persons with disabilities, through approved programmes;
- (d) promote labour migration; and
- (e) encourage and promote home-based work.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the fields of management of operations and staff training with the Seychelles Prisons Service. The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a broad framework, and mechanisms for cooperation on matters of mutual interest related to prison services vision, mission, functions and strategic objectives; and implement collaborative activities to address any identified issue.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on the recruitment of teachers and other specialists in the Education Sector from Mauritius as required by the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development of the Republic of Seychelles. The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is to create a mutual operating framework for cooperation in the recruitment of Mauritian teachers and other specialists in the Education Sector to work in Seychelles.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Commonwealth of Learning would provide capacity building and institutional strengthening for the development of Quality Assurance systems, and an Open Education Resource in Business at the Open University of Mauritius.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the twinning of the Haematology Unit of Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, Rose Belle with Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, Johannesburg, South Africa. Mauritius has been chosen to be part of the twinning programme by the World Haemophilia Federation in view of the remarkable progress achieved in relation to blood transfusion and treatment of haemophilia cases. The project will serve as a framework for effective treatment, transfer of know-how, assistance in terms of medical technology and equipment, and capacity building to lead to better management of bleeding disorder and haemophilia cases in Mauritius without resorting to the need to refer patients overseas for treatment.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Mauritius Cinema Week – East Meets West, held from 5 to 8 October 2017 in the context of the celebrations of the 50 years of Independence of Mauritius, was graced by the presence of some 20 high-profile guests from Hollywood, Bollywood, Tollywood, France, the United Kingdom and South Africa, and received wide coverage from the international press. The Cinema Week has considerably enhanced the visibility of Mauritius as a film shooting destination and of the Film Rebate Scheme on the international scene. The Board of Investment is currently discussing future film production under the Film Rebate Scheme with four international stakeholders who were present in Mauritius.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised to mark the World Diabetes Day 2017, observed on 14 November, namely, –

- (a) the launching of the World Diabetes Day 2017 on 14 November 2017 at the Esplanade, Emmanuel Anquetil Building, Port Louis;
- (b) an exhibition on Non-Communicable Diseases and other health related issues; and
- (c) sensitisation campaigns on complications associated with the disease, and the importance of a balanced diet and physical activity.

The theme of this year is "**Women and diabetes - our right to a healthy future**".

8. Cabinet has taken note that a Regional Training Workshop on the SADC Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship Support Facility would be held in Mauritius in November 2017. The objective of the Facility is to strengthen small and medium enterprises in the Renewable Energy Industry through capacity building, awareness of technologies, mentorship and technical support to develop business plans and assess business potentials of sustainable energy. The Workshop would be followed by an Inaugural Advisory Board meeting of the SADC Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship Support Facility.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Financial Services Commission would host the International Organisation of Pension Supervisors (IOPS) Meetings and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/International Organisation of Pension Supervisors Global Forum in Mauritius from 23 to 25 October 2017. The major goal of IOPS is to improve the quality and effectiveness of the supervision of private pension systems throughout the world, thereby enhancing their development and operational efficiency, and allowing for the provision of a secure source of retirement income in as many countries as possible. The Global Forum, which will have as theme “*Care for the Future: Think of Pensions*”, will provide a platform for over 80 jurisdictions to meet and address policy issues and challenges prevailing in the private pensions industry across the world.

10. Cabinet has taken note that a first gathering of pre-selected athletes for the Indian Ocean Islands Games 2019 would be held on 21 October 2017. A march against drugs and doping in sports involving the pre-selected athletes, including those from Rodrigues, the youth and the public would take place on the same day from Ebène Commercial Centre via Rose Hill to Plaza.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister Mentor, Minister of Defence, Minister for Rodrigues visited Rodrigues where he participated in the celebrations of 15th Anniversary of the Autonomy of Rodrigues. Besides attending the official ceremony of the 15th Anniversary of the Autonomy of Rodrigues, the Minister Mentor launched the Rodrigues Citizen Support Portal, laid the foundation stone of a new college at Songes, and handed over keys to Mr and Mrs Prudence, beneficiary of a new house under the new Housing Scheme for Rodrigues.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation to Zambia, Switzerland and the UK. In Zambia, the Minister participated in the 10th COMESA Infrastructure Ministers Meeting that considered the report submitted by the Joint Meeting of Committees, and decided to accelerate the implementation of regional infrastructure programmes and projects in the COMESA region that would be vital in developing high quality infrastructure networks and services with standards that would reduce the cost of doing business in the region.

In Switzerland, the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation attended the Joint Awards Ceremony for 2016 Integrated Index for Postal Development (2IPD) and the International Letter-Writing Competition. Mauritius was designated the Regional Champion for Africa for its high quality, well connected, diversified and inclusive postal services.

In the UK, the Minister met the officials of Facebook with whom he discussed, among others, cross border legal issues, enhanced verification process for minors and data retention, availability and account preservation for use by law enforcement agencies.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Attorney General, Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms to Zambia where he attended the Twentieth Meeting of COMESA Ministers of Justice and Attorneys-General. The Meeting considered the Report of the Twenty First Meeting of the COMESA Committee on Legal Affairs that consisted, among others, of –

- (a) the Draft Staff Rules and Regulations of the COMESA Competition Commission;
- (b) the Draft COMESA Competition (Appeals Board Procedure) Rules;
- (c) the Draft COMESA Common Investment Area Agreement;
- (d) Amendments to the Protocol on the COMESA Fund; and
- (e) Progress Report of the COMESA Court of Justice.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Youth and Sports to Russia where he attended the International Ministerial Meeting of Ministries, Secretaries and Heads of Departments responsible for national youth policy. The purpose of the Meeting was to coordinate collaborative actions of youth departments on overcoming current challenges youth faces all over the world, and exchange the best practices of national youth policies for achieving stable development.

15. Cabinet has taken note that Mr Steeve Jacques Lebrasse, Mrs Priscilla Raboude, Mr Jean Alain Residu and Mr Darandas Cheenadoo have been appointed Members of Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund Board.
