

## **CABINET DECISIONS – 2 JUNE 2017**

1. Cabinet has taken note that the President of the United Nations General Assembly has convened a Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on 22 June 2017 to consider Item 87 of the Agenda, i.e., *Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965*.

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2. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the State Visit of the Hon P.K. Jugnauth, Prime Minister, to India on 26 and 27 May 2017. The Prime Minister had a working session with Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, on bilateral issues and matters of international importance, and reviewed the implementation of projects financed from grants from India, namely the Metro Express Project, the construction of New Supreme Court Tower, the New ENT Hospital and the Headquarters of National Coast Guard, and the implementation of Social Housing Projects. They also discussed the Chagos Archipelago, the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement, Combatting International Terrorism and Related Matters, and the Double Taxation Agreement Convention. Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding on projects in Agalega, the construction of the Civil Service College, and Cooperation on Ocean Research and Technology were signed. Opportunity was taken to sign the International Solar Alliance Agreement.

The Prime Minister paid courtesy calls on the President and Vice-President of India. The Minister of Home Affairs, the Minister of External Affairs, the Minister of Finance and Defence, the Minister of Railways and the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas called on the Prime Minister. They had discussions on the status of various projects financed by the Indian authorities. The Confederation of Indian Industry, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India had organised a meeting with the business community leaders of India on the theme "*Mauritius: Your Preferred Regional Investment and Business Platform*". At the invitation of India Foundation, the Prime Minister, in the presence of the Speaker of Lok Sabha, Ministers and Members of Parliament, had addressed an audience, comprising intellectuals and decision makers, on international challenges and opportunities for business and innovation at global level.

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3. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements being made for the preparation of the Development Plan 2017-2020 that would jumpstart a new phase of high economic growth with shared prosperity and enhanced quality of life and ultimately transform Mauritius into an inclusive high-income country by 2030.

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4. Cabinet has agreed to the recommendations of the Project Plan Committee for the inclusion of 41 projects to the tune of Rs6.4 billion in the Public Sector Investment Programme. The projects include –

- (a) upgrading and widening of Berthaud Road, Quatre Bornes, including drainage works;
- (b) the construction of a Traffic Centre at Piton, La Vigie-La Brasserie-Beau Songes Link Road, a flyover at Quay D and an additional lane along Motorway M2 between Roche Bois Roundabout and Jin Fei Roundabout;
- (c) the upgrading and reprofiling of a number of roads, and rehabilitation of bridges;
- (d) reconstruction of B104 Road at Chamarel;
- (e) the construction of market fairs at Goodlands and Bel Air Rivière Sèche;
- (f) the setting up of a national park with provision of a *Salle de Fête* and futsal at Quartier Militaire; and
- (g) the setting up of a Livestock Zone at Melrose, and a Heifer farm.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that, since the launching of the Citizen Support Portal on 28 April 2017, some 3,894 representations have been received, and 1,605 cases resolved.

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6. Cabinet has taken note that a team of Assessors of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group would be in Mauritius from 5 to 16 June 2017 to carry out the second round of the mutual evaluation of the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism. The evaluation is based on the Financial Action Task Force Mutual Evaluation System, which assesses the extent to which a country is compliant with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force.

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7. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius participating in the following cultural components of the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *Jeux de La Francophonie* to be held in Ivory Coast in July 2017 - *sculpture/installation, art visuel, littérature, danse, chanson* and *photographie*.

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8. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised to commemorate the 250 years of existence of the Mauritius Police Force, namely -

- (a) the cleaning and embellishment of Police premises;
- (b) charity walks culminating with the lighting of *flambeau*;
- (c) a demonstration by the National Coast Guard vessels at Le Caudan Marina;
- (d) a Security Week and Exhibition at Gymkhana Grounds, Vacoas; and
- (e) the unveiling ceremony of a monument for "*Guardian of Peace and Security*" at Line Barracks.

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9. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised to mark Music Day, celebrated on 21 June, namely –

- (a) a classical concert with the participation of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute and the *Conservatoire de Musique François Mitterrand*, followed by the performance of an orchestra and a fusion of contemporary music forms;
- (b) a musical programme with the participation of members of CLAC at the China Cultural Centre, Bell Village; and
- (c) five flash mob hours in collaboration with the commercial malls.

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10. Cabinet has taken note that in the context of the United Nations World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, commemorated on 15 June 2017, the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, and Environment and Sustainable Development would organise an intergenerational programme aiming at raising awareness on ill-treatment of the elderly and strengthening the bonds between the generations. The UN theme for the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2017 is "*Understand and End Financial Abuse of Older People: A Human Rights Issue*".

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11. Cabinet has taken note that, on the occasion of the World Blood Donor Day, commemorated on 14 June, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would, among others, organise an Open Day at Victoria Hospital, and carry out awareness campaigns on the need to donate blood. The slogan chosen by the World Health Organisation is "*What can you do? Give Blood. Give now. Give often*".

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12. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health of Quality of Life, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, would hold the third Global School-based Student Health Survey in Mauritius and Rodrigues. The data obtained would be used to develop priorities, establish programmes and advocate for resources related to school health and youth health programme.

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13. Cabinet has taken note that the University of Mauritius, in collaboration with James Cook University, Australia, would organise the “2017 BEST EN (Building Excellence in Sustainable Tourism Education Network) XVII Think Tank” from 14 to 17 June 2017. The theme of the Conference is “*Innovation and Progress in Sustainable Tourism*”. Discussions will focus on new perspectives in the field of tourism within the global environment. Some 70 participants, including academics, researchers and practitioners in the field of tourism from the United Kingdom, Australia, Africa, New Zealand, the United States, India, Finland, Sweden and Mauritius, would attend the Conference.

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14. Cabinet has taken note that, on 22 May 2017, the *Chambre de Métiers et de L'Artisanat de la Réunion* and the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) had signed a *Convention de Partenariat* to promote cooperation in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Sector. The *Convention de Partenariat* would, among others, facilitate cooperation in improving the pedagogy in MITD training centres, and instructional materials and industrial attachment for trainees.

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15. Cabinet has taken note of the findings of the 2015 National Health Accounts Study. The National Health Accounts provide insights to the policymaking process on resource mobilization and allocation. The per capita total health expenditure in the mainland Mauritius was Rs17,299, while in Rodrigues Rs9,911. Total Health Expenditure as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product was 5.49% in Financial Year 2014.

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16. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research to Washington DC, where she participated in the World Bank Human Development Forum. The theme was “*Human Development in a Changing World*”. Discussions were held on issues covering human development that cuts across the domains of education, health and social assistance/protection.

In the margins of the Forum, the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research had a meeting with Mr Makhtar Diop, Vice-President of Africa region at the World Bank, on possible areas of collaboration in the fields of education and training.

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17. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Health and Quality of Life to Geneva where he participated in the WHO World Health Assembly Meeting. The Meeting had an overview of the measures taken to coordinate disease prevention, and the mechanisms put in place for diseases preparedness, and launched collaboration among countries in support of global health security.

In the margins of the Meeting, the Minister of Health and Quality of Life had discussions, among others, with -

- (a) the Assistant Director General and Programme Manager of WHO, on assistance for reinforcing disease surveillance for communicable disease; and
- (b) senior officials of the *Hôpitaux Universitaire de Genève*, on collaboration in specialised areas, such as Cardiology, Cardiac Surgery, Paediatrics, Ophthalmology, Nephrology and renal transplant.

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18. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security to India where he participated in the 52nd Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank, and the 43rd Annual Meeting of the African Development Fund. The theme was "*Transforming Agriculture for Wealth Creation in Africa*". During the meetings, emphasis was laid on the Africa-India cooperation on enhancing the strategies that were considered to be a compelling opportunity to accelerate Africa's transformation.

In the margins of the meetings, the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security had discussions, among others with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority on assistance in the fields of food processing, bio-farming techniques, and soil testing.

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19. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the MAURITAS Accreditation Committee with the Permanent Secretary of the Industry Division of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection as Chairperson.

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