

CABINET DECISIONS – 31 MARCH 2017

1. Cabinet has taken note that Mr Luchmyparsad Aujayeb, Acting Assistant Solicitor General, has been appointed to inquire into the renewal of the contract of the former Executive Director of the Trust Fund for Specialised Medical Care under new terms and conditions, and make appropriate recommendations in the light of the findings of the inquiry.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the report of the Fact Finding Committee on the outbreak of the Foot and Mouth Disease. The Committee has, *inter alia*, recommended –

- (a) the setting up of a Protocol to be strictly followed whenever a disease appears in animals;
- (b) the setting up of a proper laboratory in Rodrigues to carry out tests for the early detection of diseases in case of occurrences thereof; and
- (c) close collaboration with African and Indian authorities on the importation of live animals and carcasses.

A Committee would be set up at the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security to examine the recommendations and propose measures for implementation.

3. Cabinet has agreed to Government acquiring the buildings of the Sugar Industry Fund Board situated at Pamplémousses and Souillac to house District Courts as announced in Budget Speech 2016-2017.

4. Cabinet has taken note that, following the request of Government, UNESCO has designated Miss Jane Constance, MSK, as a UNESCO Artist for Peace for the next two years for her courage, determination and outstanding musical career, as well as her commitment to many of the activities that are at the heart of UNESCO's mandate. The honorary title of UNESCO Artist for Peace will be conferred upon Miss Constance during an official designation ceremony at the UNESCO Headquarters.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the validity period of the old National Identity Card would be extended to 30 April 2017 taking into consideration the number of people who call at the two Conversion Centres for the conversion of their Identity Cards and the resource capacity of the Centres.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Mauritius Institute of Education (Amendment) Bill into the National Assembly. The main object of the Bill is to upgrade the Mauritius Institute of Education into a degree-awarding body in the context of the education reforms. The Institute would continue to associate itself with external universities in course development, quality assurance, curriculum development and research.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Shooting and Fishing Leases (Amendment) Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to amend the Shooting and Fishing Leases Act to empower the Minister to make regulations.

8. Cabinet has taken note that Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic and Social Policies of Singapore would make a working visit to Mauritius from 6 to 9 May 2017. He will, among others, pay courtesy calls, and have working sessions with various Ministers.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Diabetes and Related Fields with the Dasman Diabetes Institute of the Kuwait. The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to explore the possibility of establishing a cooperative relationship between the two institutions, including the carrying out of projects associated with diabetes and its complications.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life and HSCC (India) Limited would sign an Agreement for the provision of consultancy services for the implementation of the ENT Hospital project at Vacoas. The project is funded by the Government of India.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the recommendations of Ms Sandra Dupuy, Expert from the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, on the setting up of a legal and administrative structure for the domestication of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption. She has, *inter alia*, recommended –

- (a) the introduction of a single and comprehensive adoption law in conformity with the provisions of the Convention;
- (b) the review of the responsibilities, role and functions of the National Adoption Council; and
- (c) the establishment of criteria and procedures to declare a child adoptable and the voluntary relinquishment of children for adoption.

12. Cabinet has taken note that an African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Preparedness Workshop for Small and Medium Enterprises would be held in April 2017. The objectives of the Workshop are, *inter alia*, to sensitise operators on the existing opportunities provided by AGOA, impart practical knowledge and skills to navigate the AGOA export process, examine constraints affecting product diversification on the US market, and explore possible solutions to address constraints with the operators. Three Experts, delegated by the US Agency for International Development, would participate and talk on opportunities in the US market relating to the following sectors: Apparel, Home Décor/Fashion Accessories and Speciality Food during the Workshop.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the anti-influenza vaccination exercise for 2017 would start on 5 April 2017. Vaccine would be provided, free of charge, to elderly persons aged 60 and above, children with disabilities attending specialised schools, and inmates of charitable institutions and private licensed Homes. The vaccination exercise would also be carried out in Rodrigues.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the setting up of a Steering Committee to plan and implement the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project in Mauritius. The SKA project involves the development and connection of radio telescopes in the nine African countries of the Consortium, resulting in the joint operation of the largest array of radiotelescopy in the world.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life to mark the World Health Day 2017, observed on 7 April, namely -

- (a) launching of the programme '*Prevention Nationale des Maladies Non Transmissibles*';
- (b) holding of a national symposium; and
- (c) carrying out sensitisation campaigns on the problem of depression.

The theme for this Year is "**Depression**".

16. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands to India. The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands, among others, opened the 10th Meeting of the Indo-Mauritian Joint Committee on Hydrography, and assisted the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between his Ministry and the NBCC (India) Ltd for the construction of 700 duplex type houses in Dagotièrè and Mare Tabac.

17. 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 Senegal where she attended the Triennial Meeting of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA). The central theme of the Triennial was "*Revitalizing Education towards the 2030 Global Agenda and Africa's Agenda 2063*". The Triennial provided a platform for forward-looking policy dialogue, sharing of knowledge and experience on how education and training can be positioned to provide the human capital essential to drive the transformation of Africa towards attaining sustainable development.

18. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Health and Quality of Life to Morocco where he participated in the Crans Montana Forum as Chief Guest. The Forum deliberated on the new vision of Africa for the 21st Century, as well as on the following themes – Food Security for Africa, Integration of Women in the Political and Economic Framework, COP 22 Meeting on Climate Change, SIDS Integration, Public Health Security, Migration Phenomena towards Europe, and Energy Production and Supply.

19. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Arts and Culture to South Africa. During his visit, he attended the signing ceremony of the Twinning Agreement between the Robben Island Museum and Le Morne Cultural Landscape. The Minister of Arts and Culture also had a working session with Hon Nkosinathi Emmanuel "Nathi" Mthethwa, Minister of Arts and Culture of the Republic of South Africa on the signing of the new Cultural Exchange Programme, and a meeting with Hon Ms Anroux Marais, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport of the Province of Western Cape on the organisation of Carnival in Mauritius on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Independence.

20. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to New York where she participated in the 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The theme for the year 2017 was "**Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work**". The Commission provided a platform to discuss progress and gaps in the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action.

21. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the Islamic Cultural Centre Trust.
