

CABINET DECISIONS – 4 AUGUST 2017

1. Cabinet has taken note that, on the recommendations of the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise, the Metro Express Ltd has awarded the Turnkey Design and Construct Contract to Larsen & Toubro Limited for a fixed sum of MUR 18,799,880,000, inclusive of provisional sums works, and with no variation and extension of time of execution, and without being detrimental to the norms and the standards of quality and safety as spelt out in the Request for Proposal. The implementation of the project is scheduled to start in September 2017 and completed in November 2021. The sector stretching from Rose Hill to Port Louis is expected to be operational in September 2019. A Traffic Engineering Unit, with the Korea Expressway Corporation, the Mauritius Research Council, and the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport, has been created to address issues of traffic interference.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the criteria and procedures for the implementation of the Solar Home Project, as announced in Budget Speech 2017-2018. Some 10,000 rooftop solar kits would be installed on rooftops of households that fall in the Social Tariff 110A category of the Central Electricity Board and satisfy the established criteria, over the next five years. Beneficiary households will get the first 50 kWh monthly, free of charge, and all surplus production of electricity will go to the Central Electricity Board.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of an appropriate legislative framework to provide for the settlement of disputes in respect of construction contracts, through adjudication, in order to avoid late delivery of infrastructural projects due to major contractual difficulties faced by contractors and consultants, and unfair and abusive conditions of contractors in construction projects.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the setting up of SME Mauritius Ltd, a wholly government-owned company, that would take over the functions of SMEDA and bring fundamental institutional reforms to better support the small and medium enterprises as recommended in the 10-year Master Plan for the SME Sector, and enunciated in Budget Speech 2017-2018.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection would amend the Consumer Protection (Export Control) Regulations 2000 to give effect to the measures that would further facilitate the business and trade framework. In this context, a number of items, including live animals; meat and edible meat offal of bovine animals, swine, sheep, goats, horses, asses, mules or hinnies; and vegetables, would no longer require an export permit.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of an Agreement on the Transfer of Prisoners with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. The Agreement will apply to all offences committed by a prisoner of either party in the territory of the other party, and the transfer will be effected after the parties have shown the need to transfer the prisoner or after receiving a request from the appropriate authority of either party, subject to a number of governing principles.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Mauritius Maritime Week 2018, organised by Transport Events Management Limited of Malaysia, would be held in Mauritius in January 2018. The Maritime Week is an international trade event that is designed to promote transportation and logistics in the Indian Ocean. The event will comprise the 12th Indian Ocean Ports and Logistics Conference and Exhibition that aims at showcasing Port Louis Harbour as a cruise destination and an important maritime logistics and transport hub in the region. The Maritime Week would feature 30 International Exhibition Stands. Some 35 International Conference Speakers are expected to discuss topical issues and challenges on global transportation and logistics. Some 300 delegates from the African Union and the Indian Ocean region would participate in the Conference.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Tourism to China where he participated in media roadshows organized in Hangzhou and Shanghai, in collaboration with Trends Group, the leading media conglomerate in China. The roadshows presented Mauritius as a travel destination through pictures, videos and experiences, and showcased its uniqueness, as well as its customs, natural style and, rich cultural diversity. The Minister had meetings, among others, with -

- (a) Mr Wu Longxue, Secretary of Party Committee and Deputy Managing Director, China Eastern Airlines Co. Ltd; and
- (b) the Vice-President of the Shanghai Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

On his way to China, the Minister of Tourism stopped over in Singapore, where he had a meeting, among others, with the representatives of the Changi Airport Group on the Air Corridor.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Attorney General to Swaziland where he attended a meeting of the Committee of SADC Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General. The Committee discussed, inter alia, the following issues -

- (a) adoption and entry into force of SADC legal instruments;
- (b) draft Agreements amending the SADC Protocol on Extradition and the SADC Protocol on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters;
- (c) money laundering and financing of terrorism;
- (d) child abduction in the SADC Region;
- (e) draft Charter for the Establishment of the Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre; and
- (f) trafficking in persons in the SADC Region.

10. Cabinet has taken note that, following a selection exercise, the Board of the Medical Council had appointed Dr Maydhavrutji Ancharaz as Registrar of the Council.
