

CABINET DECISIONS – 7 JULY 2017

1. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the participation of the Hon Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister, in the 29th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union. The theme of the Summit was “*Harnessing Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth*”. The Assembly examined, among others, reports on peace and security in Africa, terrorism and violent extremism, progress made on the continental free trade area, reform of the Security Council, and implementation of Agenda 2063.

In his intervention on the theme, the Prime Minister underscored the measures that have been taken for the holistic development of Youth, particularly the reform in the education system, training in ICT, the promotion of sports activities, and the introduction of the back-to-work programme for young women. The Prime Minister seized the opportunity to express his appreciation for the solidarity demonstrated by the AU Member States, particularly the Republic of Congo, at the United Nations General Assembly on the 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.

Mauritius was honoured with the African Gender Scorecard Award 2017 in the category “Employment and Entrepreneurship”. Mauritius is the first country to be invited by the AU Chairperson to make an interim report on the implementation of Agenda 2063.

The Heads of State and Government also commended Mauritius on the holding of the African Economic Platform, and further endorsed the offer of Mauritius to host the second edition of the Platform in March 2018.

In the margins of the Summit, the Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, the Vice-President of Tanzania, the Prime Minister of Lesotho, the President of Niger, the President of Ghana, the President of Uganda, and the Prime Minister of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities and the International Financial Corporation signing a Financial Advisory Services Agreement providing, inter alia, for the Corporation to undertake, in the context of the Water Sector Reform, a due diligence assessment of the current operations, investment requirements, institutional organisation and legal framework of water operations carried under the Central Water Authority.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation implementing the recommendations contained in the Open Data Readiness Assessment Report of the World Bank. The Assessment was carried out to identify datasets that may be released as open data. The World Bank has recommended that the Ministry should consider joining the Open Government Partnership, and work with other Ministries to ensure that opportunities for open data are included in policies on innovation, public financial management, procurement reform, Tourism Sector, and transport improvement. Moreover, Universities and colleges should have data skills in the curriculum or student activities.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. The Memorandum of Understanding aims at furthering collaboration between the two institutions, and enhancing capacity available with a view to forging clinical partnership between physicians of Mauritius and Fellows of the College internationally.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child proposes to organise a Forum in Mauritius in September 2017 to -

- (a) share experience on the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
- (b) mobilise political support for the universal ratification of the Charter;
- (c) urge States Parties, which have not yet reported, to comply with their obligations under the Charter; and
- (d) identify challenges with regard to the implementation of the provisions of the Charter.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the Health Statistics Report 2016 for the Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues. The Report provides information, inter alia, on population and vital statistics, infrastructure and personnel, services, morbidity and mortality.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to the Seychelles where, at the invitation of the President, he attended the National Day Celebrations. In the margins of his visit, the Minister paid a courtesy call on HE Mr Danny Faure, President of the Seychelles, and held discussions, among others, on illicit drug trafficking, smuggling of arms, human trafficking, and the growing threat of terrorism in the South West Indian Ocean region. The Minister also had meetings with the Hon Mrs M. Larue, Minister for Home Affairs, and the Hon Michael Benstrong, Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture, on bilateral relations.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Health and Quality of Life to Rwanda where he participated in the First WHO Africa Health Forum. The theme of the Forum was “**Putting People First: The Road to Universal Health Coverage in Africa**”. The topics discussed included e-health, Global Health Security, Protecting the People of Africa, and Health Research, Innovation and Data for Sustainable Development.

In the margins of the Forum, the Minister of Health and Quality of Life had meetings with -

- (a) Ms Nelly Enweren Bromson, Director Divisional Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy of the International Atomic Energy Agency, on the promotion of cancer treatment; and
- (b) Mr Jithu Bose, Group General Manager of Apollo Hospital Group on specialist training in important priority areas.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to Swaziland and Ethiopia. In Swaziland, the Minister participated in the 2017 Meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Gender/Women's Affairs that reviewed the implementation of the SADC Gender and Development Programme, and agreed on the plan of action for the coming year.

In Ethiopia, the Minister of Gender, Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare attended the 4th African Union High Level Panel on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment that had as theme "*Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth: Empowering Young Women and Girls*". The main issues discussed included the African Union Demographic Dividend Agenda, employment, education and digital skills development of women and girls.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the National Transport Authority with Mr Gyandev Gunoo as Chairperson. Mr Jean Christophe Lucien Oh San Bellepeau, Attorney at Law, has been nominated Member of the Authority in replacement of Mr A. F. Poinosawmy, who had resigned.
