

**CABINET DECISIONS – 12 OCTOBER 2018**

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Acquisitive Prescription Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to repeal the Affidavits of Prescription Act and the Affidavits of Prescription (Suspension of Certain Provisions) Act and to provide for a new and more appropriate legislative framework with better safeguards regarding acquisitive prescription.

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2. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Code Civil Mauricien (Amendment) Bill into the National Assembly. The main object of the Bill is to amend the Code Civil Mauricien by modernising the current regime of *copropriété* and of *associations syndicales*, which dates back to 1978, by a regime which is more flexible and better adapted to the reality of the local real estate sector. The Bill also –

- (a) introduces specific provisions relating to groups of *associations syndicales* with a view to ensuring the smooth administration of common areas in complex property developments, as announced in the Budget Speech 2017-2018;
- (b) makes provision for a new article 552-1 which codifies *la division en volumes* as regards *la propriété immobilière*;
- (c) amends article 703 by providing for new circumstances in which “*servitudes*” shall cease; and
- (d) amends article 2151 by providing who shall be “*les créanciers privilégiés sur les immeubles*”.

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3. Cabinet has taken note of development in the implementation of the Trident Project. The Project is meant for the integrated development of the infrastructural facilities of the National Coast Guard (NCG) which would comprise the NCG Headquarters, repair facilities and a flotilla. A Project Management Consultant would be appointed shortly and he would, inter alia, have the responsibility to –

- (a) prepare and float tenders with the required specifications and construction drawings;
- (b) coordinate with all regulatory authorities for statutory approvals;
- (c) monitor the execution of the works and ensure quality control; and
- (d) commission and trial run of equipment.

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4. Cabinet has taken note of the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Drug Trafficking. In this connection, a Committee has been set up under the chair of the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service and comprising representatives of Ministries/Departments/Organisations to look into the legal/institutional/administrative issues contained in the Report.

The Committee has been holding working sessions with representatives of the Ministries/Departments concerned with a view to expediting the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report, other than those referred to the Task Force.

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5. Cabinet has agreed to the extension of the Social Contract entered between the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment and the households eligible under the Social Register of Mauritius up to 30 June 2020. As at June 2018, some 11,222 households, including 2,198 households in Rodrigues, eligible under the Social Register of Mauritius, are benefitting from the payment of a monthly subsistence allowance and other support under existing Empowerment Schemes. The beneficiaries have the obligation to, inter alia, participate in empowerment and employment programmes proposed to them, ensure that their children attend school, register with the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training in the event they are unemployed and ensure that they attend health care centres for pre-natal, post-natal and preventive medical care.

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6. Cabinet has agreed to the sale of the individual housing units at La Valette, Bambous to beneficiaries who have no arrears or have already paid the rental for the first three years. The housing units would be leased to beneficiaries who still have arrears. The main objective of the project was to provide housing facilities to 199 vulnerable families with a view to facilitating their integration in the mainstream society through home ownership and providing them with empowerment support in terms of increasing employability skills, enhancing the educational performance of the children, imparting life skills training and creating awareness on environment values and community living.

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7. Cabinet has taken note that the United Nations has made a proposal to Mauritius for the setting up of a United Nations Technology Innovation Laboratory. The Technology Innovation Laboratory is a platform established as part of the UN Information, Technology and Communication (ICT) Strategy and aims at promoting the development of new and innovative technologies to deliver on developmental projects, while assisting countries in achieving their Sustainable Development Goals. A Workshop would be organised by the UNDP in Mauritius in November 2018, to further discuss the proposal with stakeholders.

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8. Cabinet has taken note that according to the last monthly report published by the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Tourism, 102,849 tourists visited Mauritius in the month of September 2018 as compared to 96,282 in September 2017, i.e., an increase of 6.8%. During the period January to September 2018, 975,066 tourists visited Mauritius as compared to 934,679 for the same period in 2017, i.e., is an increase of 4.3%. Growth has been registered in arrivals from Italy (+11.6%), Germany (+10.0%), France (+8.3%), United Kingdom (+0.7%), China (+0.1%), South Africa (+21.6%), Reunion Island (+16.2%), Saudi Arabia (+30.7%), Netherlands (+29.9%), Poland (+29.9%), Austria (+13.1%) and Switzerland (+1.2%).

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9. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research signing a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of Scientific Research with the Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of South Africa. The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding would be to promote –

- (a) information and knowledge sharing about policies relating to scientific research;
- (b) the development of joint scientific solutions, in support of the developmental agendas; and
- (c) the emergence of scientific research involving the industrial communities, in support of creating knowledge economies for mutual benefit.

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10. Cabinet has taken note of the findings and recommendations of the fourth Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance Survey among People Who Inject Drugs which was carried out in Mauritius in November-December 2017. The main recommendations of the Survey include –

- (a) strengthening of the Information, Education and Communication Programme on HIV risky behaviours among People Who Inject Drugs, including female People Who Inject Drugs as well female sex workers;
- (b) strengthening of outreach HIV detection programs among People Who Inject Drugs;
- (c) scaling up of screening for Sexually Transmitted Infections in programmes providing services to People Who Inject Drugs; and
- (d) maintaining efforts to decrease the size of active People Who Inject Drugs.

The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would disseminate the findings and salient features of the Survey report to all stakeholders.

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11. Cabinet has taken note of the school calendar for the Primary and Secondary Education Sectors for the academic year 2019 which is as follows –

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Term	Friday 11 January to Friday 12 April	Friday 11 January to Friday 12 April
2 <sup>nd</sup> Term	Monday 29 April to Friday 19 July	Monday 29 April to Friday 19 July
3 <sup>rd</sup> Term	Monday 19 August to Friday 08 November	Monday 12 August to Thursday 31 October

Admission to Grades 1 and 7 would be held on 10 January 2019.

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12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Arts and Culture to the People's Republic of China and France. In China, the Minister signed the Executive Programme between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the People's Republic of China for the period 2018 to 2020. The Executive Programme provides for cultural cooperation in different fields, including exchanges of performing arts troupes, holding of arts and crafts exhibitions, cooperation and professional exchanges in archives, heritage, museums and cinema. The Minister of Arts and Culture also had meetings, among others, with –

- (a) Hon Mr Luo Shugang, Minister of Culture and Tourism regarding assistance to the National Archives Department for the restoration of historical and valuable archival documents; and
- (b) Mr Lan Shaomin, Mayor and officials of the Nanjing Municipal Government with whom he discussed training opportunities for Mauritians in video animation and the twinning of Nanjing with a town in Mauritius.

In France, the Minister of Arts and Culture chaired the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bureau meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The objectives of the meeting were, inter alia, to -

- (a) discuss and approve the provisional timetable of the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage to be held in Mauritius from 26 November to 01 December 2018; and
- (b) examine the requests for international assistance.

The Minister also had meetings at the UNESCO with –

- (a) Ms Danielle Cliché, Chief of Section of Diversity of Cultural Expressions regarding the Status of Artist Bill project and the setting up of the Mauritian National Troupe; and
- (b) Mr Ali Moussa Iye, Chief History and Memory for Dialogue regarding follow up on the outcome of the UNESCO International Scientific Committee for the Indentured Labour Route project and the UNESCO International Scientific Committee for the Slave Route project held in Mauritius in 2017.

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13 Cabinet has taken note that on the occasion of the World Food Day, commemorated on 16 October, the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security would organise, among others, -

- (a) an agricultural fair *cum* exhibition at Domaine les Pailles;
- (b) the launching of a special commemorative cover; and
- (c) an exhibition of posters at the Esplanade of the Renganaden Seeneevassen Building, Port Louis;

The theme chosen by the Food and Agriculture Organization for this year is “***Our actions are our future – A #zero hunger world by 2030 is possible.***”

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14. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Nature Reserves Board with the Senior Chief Executive of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security as Chairperson.

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