

CABINET DECISIONS – 22 JUNE 2018

1. Cabinet has agreed to the 3rd Universal Periodic Review National Report of Mauritius being transmitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council. The Universal Periodic Review is a unique process which involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all United Nations Member States every four years. It provides an opportunity for all States to explain the actions taken to improve the human rights situation in their countries and to fulfill their human rights obligations. The ultimate aim is to improve the human rights situation in all countries and address human rights violations wherever they occur. The Report highlights the following –

- (a) new developments in the human rights framework since the last review in 2013;
- (b) human rights policies for the promotion and protection of human rights on the ground over the period 2013 to date; and
- (c) achievements and best practices in terms of human rights projects and programmes.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the publication of the second National Drug Observatory Report for the period July 2016 to June 2017. The role of the National Drug Observatory is to closely monitor the drug situation in the country and provide reliable data to enable the various authorities concerned to respond more proactively, efficiently and in a timely manner to the problem of drug addiction.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of an Agreement between the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and "*Groupement d'intérêt public formation continue et insertion professionnelle*" of the "*Académie de la Réunion*", for a study on technical and professional training needs in Rodrigues which would be funded by the "*Agence Française de Développement*". The main objectives of the study are to –

- (a) make an inventory of human resource needs in Rodrigues taking into account the development objectives of the island;
- (b) carry out a systematic inventory of the ongoing training programmes offered by public and private Rodriguan organisations;

- (c) identify the priority training needs of Rodrigues with a view to proposing continued professional training schemes adapted to the specificities of the island; and
- (d) advise on the appropriate structure for technical and professional training in Rodrigues.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Annual Board Meeting of the Indian Ocean Regional Anti-Doping Organisation (RADO) would be held in Mauritius on 04 and 05 July 2018. The main objective of RADO is to promote sports without doping and bring together countries in the Indian Ocean for the organisation of anti-doping activities. The main issues to be discussed at the meeting are the compliance with World Anti-Doping Agency latest code, regulations by country members, yearly assistance to conduct anti-doping control and expertise of RADO for Indian Ocean Islands Games 2019.

5. Cabinet has taken note that according to the last monthly report published by the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Tourism, 101,138 tourists visited Mauritius in the month of May 2018 as compared to 96,557 in May 2017, i.e., an increase of 4.7%. During the period January to May 2018, 562,520 tourists visited Mauritius as compared to 547,671 for the same period in 2017, i.e., an increase of 2.7%. Growth has been registered in arrivals from Germany (+30.3%), France (+9.7%), United Kingdom (+0.9%), India (+13.1%), South Africa (+12.0%), Saudi Arabia (+259.6%), Netherlands (+32.5%) and Czech Republic (+29.4%).

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would organise the following activities to mark the World Population Day 2018, commemorated on 11 July, namely -

- (a) a one-day workshop for different stakeholders to improve their knowledge on “Family Planning and Contraceptive Methods”; and
- (b) sensitisation campaigns on family planning services.

The theme chosen by the United Nations Population Fund for this year is “Family Planning is a Human Right”.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised on the occasion of the World Hydrography Day, commemorated on 21 June 2018, namely -

- (a) an opening ceremony on-board Mauritius Coast Guard Ship Barracuda on 27 June 2018 and unveiling of the newly designed logo of the Mauritius Hydrographic Service;
- (b) the handing over by the High Commissioner of India of the new chart 'Approaches to Grand Port'; and
- (c) an exhibition of hydrographic and cartography assets, nautical products and recent work undertaken by the Hydrography Unit of the Ministry of Housing and Lands at Port Louis Harbour and Mahebourg.

The theme for this year is "Bathymetry – the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways".

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Arts and Culture to France where he attended the 7th Session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 2nd Bureau Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage. The main objectives of the 7th Session of the General Assembly were to discuss, share insights and adopt resolutions aimed at safeguarding and promoting the world's living intangible cultural heritage.

The 2nd Bureau Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage examined and approved various requests for international assistance. The Minister of Arts and Culture also had bilateral meetings, among others, with –

- (a) Mrs Danielle Cliché, UNESCO Chief of Section of Diversity of Cultural Expressions and Secretary of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions regarding the draft Status of Artist Bill; and
- (b) HE Mr Andrew Toh, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of Singapore to UNESCO and discussions focused on the possibility of boosting cultural exchanges between the two countries.
