

**CABINET DECISIONS – 24 AUGUST 2018**

1. Cabinet has agreed to the Airports of Mauritius Ltd (AML), Airports of Rodrigues Ltd (ARL) and Airport Terminal Operations Ltd (ATOL) signing a Memorandum of Understanding with ADP International Société Anonyme (ADP) (formerly Aéroports de Paris Management S.A.). The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is to discuss and propose the most suitable scheme for the future development of the SSR International Airport and the Plaine Corail Airport. The focus would be on –

- (a) the preparation of an Airport Development Plan in relation to both SSR International Airport and the Plaine Corail Airport; and
- (b) making recommendations on the best option for the development of the terminal facilities at the SSR International Airport through the extension of the existing Passenger Terminal.

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2. Cabinet has agreed to the publication and implementation of the Tourism Strategic Plan 2018-2021. The Strategic Plan advocates a skill-intensive and technology-driven model of tourism development taking into account the goals set in the Government Programme 2015-2019 and the Vision 2030 statement. The Plan also adopts a four-pronged strategy geared towards intensifying the visibility of the destination, improving accessibility to the destination, enhancing the attractiveness of Mauritius and fostering sustainable tourism development to promote a globally competitive and sustainable tourism industry with a well-diversified tourism product portfolio catering for different tourist profiles. The Strategic Plan incorporates some 84 projects and programmes that would have to be implemented by different Agencies within a given time frame.

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3. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the air services negotiations held recently with the Republic of Turkey and agreed to convey approval to the Government of the Republic of Turkey on the proposals made in the Bilateral Air Services Agreement, namely on designation of airlines, frequency/capacity, own stopover right, codesharing rights, and existing limitations.

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4. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius would host the 24th Session of the Inter-Governmental Committee of Experts (ICE) of Southern Africa Meeting to be organised by the United Nations Economic Commission of Africa (UNECA) from 18 to 21 September 2018. The Conference would focus on –

- (a) the Blue Economy sector as a means of production, investments, accelerated growth, poverty reduction and development in Southern Africa;

- (b) country experiences on the blue economy, national policies and strategies;
- (c) strengthening collaboration among coastal states; and
- (d) the role of SMEs in the industrialisation process in Southern Africa and Land, Identity and Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation in Southern Africa.

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5. Cabinet has taken note of developments on the negotiations of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Mauritius and China. The Draft Agreement comprises, among others, the chapters on Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Economic Cooperation, Dispute Settlement, Electronic Commerce, Competition Policy, Intellectual Property Rights, Trade Remedies, Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

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6. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised to mark the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer celebrated on 16 September, namely –

- (a) a panel discussion on ozone and mitigating the effects of climate change on 19 September 2018 at the City Council of Port Louis;
- (b) an exhibition from 17 to 21 September 2018 at the City Council of Port Louis; and
- (c) sensitisation campaigns to raise awareness on ozone related issues.

The theme for this year is “**Keep Cool and Carry On! The Montreal Protocol**”.

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7. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the reality show ‘Zenes Montre To Talan’ organised by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in the context of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Independence of Mauritius. Around 1300 candidates (individuals or groups) registered for the castings. The Grand Finale was held at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre on 11 August 2018 and the winners, as designated by the public, were –

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Mr Vivek Vijayanand Koyeela (Dancing)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Mr Loïc L’Entêté (Beat boxing)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Mr Venkatesh Hutchamah (Magic)

The special Jury Award was conferred upon Miss Julie Sauteur for her song.

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8. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms advising the President of the Republic to make the Civil Establishment Order 2018 and the Civil Establishment (Rodrigues Regional Assembly) Order 2018 that establish offices in the public service, determine the number of persons who may be appointed to such offices, and determine the emoluments to be attached to such offices.

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9. Cabinet has taken note that amendments would be made to the Non-Citizens (Employment Restriction) Exemptions Regulations for the purpose of implementing new conditions governing the employment of foreign students in Mauritius. The amendments proposed are as follows –

- (a) the minimum age requirements would be 18 instead of 16;
- (b) courses would have to be of a continuous duration and on a full time mode;
- (c) the minimum duration of programmes of study would have to be at least three academic years for undergraduate courses or one academic year for postgraduate courses; and
- (d) international students enrolled in technical and vocational institutions would not be eligible to work during their studentship.

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10. Cabinet has agreed to the use of the design of the "Arms of Mauritius" as printed in the Interpretation and General Clauses Act in the Revised Laws of Mauritius of year 2000. A *Communiqué* would be issued to inform the public of the need to have the express authorisation of the Prime Minister to use the "Arms of Mauritius" in accordance with section 76A of the Criminal Code.

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11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security to Namibia where he attended the 38<sup>th</sup> Summit of the SADC Heads of State and Government. The theme of the Summit was "Promoting infrastructural development and youth empowerment for sustainable development". The Summit has, inter alia, -

- (a) approved the operationalisation of the SADC University of Transformation in the form of a virtual university;

- (b) noted progress in the implementation of the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2015-2020;
- (c) noted progress made in the implementation of SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063; and
- (d) reviewed the SADC regional economic performance.

In the margins of the Summit, the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security paid a courtesy call on the Rt Hon Saara Kuukongelwa, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia and had meetings with Hon Tjekero Tweya, Minister of Industrialisation and Trade and SME Development and Hon. Alpheus Naruseb, Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Resettlement of Namibia.

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12. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Commission for Conciliation and Mediation with Mr Iswarduth Seetohul as President;
- (b) the Board of The Vallée d'Osterlog Endemic Garden Foundation with Mr S. Dorasami as Chairperson; and
- (c) the Board of Trustees of the Trade Union Trust Fund.

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