

CABINET DECISIONS – 26 OCTOBER 2018

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the National Payment Systems Bill into the National Assembly. The main objects of the Bill are to provide for –

- (a) the regulation, overseeing and supervision of national payment systems and payment systems being operated in Mauritius;
- (b) the Bank of Mauritius as the authority which shall ensure the safe, secure, efficient and effective operation and accessibility to the public of national payment systems and payment systems being operated in Mauritius; and
- (c) common rules for the protection of systems.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport making Regulations under the Road Traffic Act for the implementation of an Online Payment for Renewal of Motor Vehicle Licences by the National Transport Authority (NTA). The online system would provide a one-stop-shop service to vehicle owners. The vehicle owners would be able to connect virtually with the NTA system for the renewal of their Motor Vehicle Licence through their IT device on a 24/7 basis and effect payment. The project would concern over 420,000 vehicles, excluding autocycles which are registered with the NTA.

3. Cabinet has agreed to consultations being held on the draft Special Education Needs Authority Bill with relevant stakeholders including NGOs, Specialists and institutions engaged in the Special Education Needs sector. The object of the Bill is to provide for the establishment of the Special Education Needs Authority, which shall be responsible, inter alia for –

- (a) monitoring and facilitating implementation of Special Education Needs policies of Government;
- (b) advising on the formulation of policies and prescribing criteria for the registration of Special Education Needs institutions;
- (c) providing guidelines for the design and development of curriculum for Special Education Needs;
- (d) the payment of grants to Special Education Needs institutions and for ensuring that the grants are being used for the intended purposes; and

- (e) the harmonisation and promotion of programmes and policies for the education and holistic development of persons with Special Education Needs in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the release of the draft Report on provisions and measures for the drafting of the Status of Artist Bill, for public consultation and feedback. The document which has been prepared with the technical assistance of UNESCO, would be posted on the website of the Ministry of Arts and Culture. The legislation would, inter alia, establish the professional status, improve economic, social and working conditions of artists, with a view to their professionalisation, as a precondition for the development of cultural and creative industries in Mauritius.

5. Cabinet has taken note of developments in the implementation of the New Cancer Centre Project at Solferino. Cabinet has also noted that a tender exercise was carried out for the construction of the new cancer centre and the contract would be awarded shortly.

6. Cabinet has taken note that funds have been secured for the construction of some 2,550 housing units by NHDC Ltd under the Line of Credit of the Government of India and the Saudi Fund for Development.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister Mentor, Minister of Defence, Minister for Rodrigues would make the DNA Identification (Fees) Regulations under the DNA Identification Act to provide for the payment of a fee for carrying out a forensic analysis for the purpose of ascertaining filiation under the Code Civil Mauricien.

8. Cabinet has taken note that an enquiry would be carried out to, inter alia, shed light on any shortcomings in the management of the case of Mrs Linda Pitchen who was diagnosed of breast cancer. The Enquiry Panel would be chaired by Dr (Mrs) N. Luckheerain, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life who would be assisted by relevant health personnel.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Association of African Universities would organise a Seminar on Legal Issues, Procurement and Contract Management in Higher Education Institutions in Mauritius, from 20 to 23 November 2018, in partnership with the University of Mauritius. The main goals of the Seminar are to -

- (a) create robust contract and procurement management systems;
- (b) increase awareness of current legal cases involving/against Higher Education Institutions in Africa;
- (c) increase awareness of legal pitfalls in the appointment, supervision, evaluation, tenure and promotion process;
- (d) perform in-depth legal audits to determine potential violations of law (for instance in environment safety); and
- (e) initiate activities for managers to adopt a culture that ensures compliance with State regulations.

Some 30 international participants would attend the Seminar.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the 18th Mega Blood Donation organised by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life in collaboration with the Blood Donors Association, would be held on 20 December 2018 at the Esplanade of the Emmanuel Anquetil Building, Port Louis.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Youth and Sports would organise a Street Dance Battle in four categories namely, Breakdance, Hip Hop, Afro Dance and Choreography Dance for young persons aged 12 to 35 years during the months of October to December 2018. The competition would start on 27 October 2018. The Grand Finale would be held on 15 December 2018.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Armenia where he attended the *'XVII^{ème} Sommet de la Francophonie'*. The theme of the Summit was « *Vivre ensemble dans la solidarité, le partage des valeurs humanistes et le respect de la diversité : source de paix et de prospérité pour l'espace francophone* ». The "*Déclaration d'Erevan*" which was

adopted at the Summit focuses particularly on the promotion of peace and human rights, the strengthening of collective security, implementation of sustainable development and commitment to democratic governance and gender equality. HE Mrs Louise Mushikiwabo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and East African Community of Rwanda, was elected by consensus as the Secretary-General of the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)*.

In the margins of the Summit, the Minister had meetings, among others, with –

- (a) President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo of the Republic of Ghana and discussions centred on the holding of the next meeting of the Mauritius-Ghana Permanent Joint Commission for Cooperation; and
- (b) HE Mr Rivo Rakotovo, Acting President of the Republic of Madagascar regarding the consolidation of ties between Mauritius and Madagascar.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Youth and Sports has been designated by the International Youth Committee as the winner of the prestigious “**Best Youth Minister Award 2018**”. The International Youth Committee which is accredited to the United Nations, is a non-profit international youth organisation working to provide a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people in the world.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the State Trading Corporation with Dr Ramchandra Bheenick as Chairperson.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping as Chairperson of the National Ocean Council.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Dental Council of Mauritius.
