

CABINET DECISIONS – 27 JULY 2018

1. Cabinet has taken note of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Drug Trafficking which was chaired by Mr Paul Lam Shang Leen, former Judge of the Supreme Court. The Report would be made public and uploaded on the website of the Prime Minister's Office <http://pmo.govmu.org>

2. Cabinet has taken note that the Prime Minister would promulgate the Gambling Regulatory Authority (Personal Management Licence) Regulations. The main object of the Regulations is to ensure that people working in the gambling industry are fit and proper without any criminal antecedents. The Personal Management Licence would be valid for three years from the date of issue.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Republic of Kenya on Cooperation for the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Export Processing Zones (EPZs) in Kenya. The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a framework for collaboration between the two countries for the development of SEZs and EPZs in Kenya through the setting up of a Joint Technical Committee which would, inter alia, oversee the implementation and viability of SEZ or EPZ in designated sites in Kenya.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Kenya for collaboration in Higher Education and Scientific Research. The areas of cooperation for higher education would include, among others, mutual recognition and equivalence of qualifications, inter-university linkage, staff and student exchanges, accreditation and quality assurance and academic scholarship programmes. The main areas of collaboration for scientific research would include collaborative research, inter-research institution linkages and exchange programmes.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Republic of Kenya in the field of tourism. The Memorandum of Understanding provides inter alia, for cooperation in the following areas –

- (a) enhancement of sustainable and inclusive tourism;
- (b) joint promotion and marketing of both destinations;
- (c) exploring new opportunities and avenues for larger inflow and outflow of tourism traffic between the two countries;
- (d) tourism training and skills development; and
- (e) setting up of a Joint Working Group to draw up an Action Plan for enhancing cooperation between the two countries.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Exchange Programme with the Government of the Republic of Kenya for the years 2018 to 2021. The Memorandum of Understanding provides, among others, for –

- (a) exchanges among cultural and artistic troupes;
- (b) close collaboration between institutions dealing with film classification, museums, film development, archives, and national library;
- (c) promotion of activities related to folklore and traditions and exchanges in the conservation and restoration of archival documents; and
- (d) support from the Kenyan Authorities in the setting up of a Museum of Slavery.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the Mauritius Standards Bureau signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kenya Bureau of Standards. The Memorandum of Understanding would promote and facilitate bilateral trade between the two countries through the elimination of non-tariff barriers, thereby minimising any adverse impacts on our export industries. The main activities to be undertaken under the Memorandum of Understanding include the –

- (a) establishment and development of direct relationships between the scientific and research institutes on Standardisation and Conformity Assessment; and
- (b) provision for harmonisation of specified standards with international standards for promotion of technical and scientific cooperation and the elimination of technical barriers to trade.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping promulgating three Regulations under the Merchant Shipping Act, namely –

- (a) the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Training Provider) Regulations that would provide a legal framework for maritime training institutions to operate and deliver courses in line with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping 1978;
- (b) the Merchant Shipping (Weight Verification of Containers) Regulations that would enforce the implementation of amendments to Regulation 2 of Chapter VI of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS); and
- (c) the Merchant Shipping (Port State Control) Regulations that would provide a legal framework for the conduct of Port State Control inspections of foreign ships in our ports to ensure compliance with various International Conventions, with a view to eliminating substandard ships in our waters.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the International Organization for Migration (IOM), would provide technical assistance under the ACP-EU Migration Action to carry out an Assessment Study for the setting up, in due course, of an Electronic Visa System in Mauritius. There is a need to set up a modern web-based electronic Visa (e-Visa) system in line with the business facilitation objective of Government and to improve the delivery of services to foreign nationals requiring a visa to travel to Mauritius. The proposed e-Visa system would also be a valuable tool for the Passport and Immigration Office to ensure a better border control and management.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised by the Civil Status Division on the occasion of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Day, commemorated on 10 August, as recommended by the 4th Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration in December 2017. The Civil Status Division would seize the opportunity of the commemoration to, among others, showcase the technological progress made by the Division to serve the population of Mauritius and also organise an Open Day to provide information on services offered by the Division.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised in the context of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, commemorated on 30 July 2018, namely –

- (a) sensitisation campaigns by way of radio, TV and the social media to raise awareness on the problem of Trafficking in Persons;
- (b) a capacity building workshop in collaboration with SADC/UNODC for the setting of a database on Trafficking in Persons; and
- (c) the production of a “Know Your Rights” pamphlet in various foreign languages to sensitise foreign workers on Trafficking in Persons.

12. Cabinet has taken note that the “17^{ème} Colloque VIH/SIDA Océan Indien” would be held in Mauritius from 20 to 22 November 2018. The “Colloque” is a platform where all stakeholders involved in the fight against HIV share their knowledge and expertise on treatment, care and support of People Living with HIV. Some 300 participants from various countries of the Indian Ocean including representatives of the Indian Ocean Commission, World Health Organisation, UNDP and European Union would attend the “Colloque”.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Zambia where he attended the 20th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Common Market for the Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). The theme of the Summit was “Towards Digital Economic Integration”. Mauritius intervened, among others, on issues regarding the United Nations Commission for International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the Ministerial Conference on Maritime Security and Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. In the margins of the Summit, the Minister had a meeting with Hon Mrs Margaret D. Mwanakatwe, Minister of Finance of Zambia with whom he discussed the Eastern and Southern Africa Economic Partnership Agreement and the setting up of a Joint Commission for Cooperation with Zambia.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation to Kenya where he participated in the Cyber Defence Summit. The objectives of the Summit were to, inter alia, –

- (a) promote cyber security and governance from top level of every organisation;
- (b) address cyber security holistically by enhancing collaboration between African nations and across industry verticals;
- (c) identify gaps and build capacity for strategic, technical and operational elements of cyber security; and
- (d) initiate a dialogue towards the setting up of regional cyber security action framework.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Tourism to Italy. The objectives of the mission, were to hold a round table and meetings with key stakeholders in Milan prior to the launch of Alitalia flights, in order to obtain direct feedback from the travel trade, motivate the key Tour Operators and address hindrances and bottlenecks in the market. Individual meetings were held with representatives of Mauritian hotel Groups in Italy, Costa Crocière, and major Italian tour operators.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of the Executive Council of the Sanskrit-Speaking Union with Mr Kessen Budhoo as President.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the –

- (a) Executive Council of the Bhojpuri-Speaking Union with Mrs Sarita Boodhoo as President;
- (b) Executive Council of the Urdu-Speaking Union with Mr Shehzad Abdulla Ahmed as President;
- (c) Board of Trustees of the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden with Dr S. Ganeshan as Chairperson;
- (d) Board of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute with Mr Premchand Saddul, Associate Professor, as Chairperson; and
- (e) National Productivity and Competitiveness Council with Mr Sanjiv Mulloo as Chairperson.
