

**CABINET DECISIONS – 31 AUGUST 2018**

1. Cabinet has taken note of the recommendations made by the Ministerial Committee on Electoral Reform and is considering the proposals of the Ministerial Committee Report.

\*\*\*\*\*

2. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius hosted the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mauritius-Seychelles Joint Commission of the Extended Continental Shelf in August 2018. Cabinet has agreed to the proposal of the Mauritius-Seychelles Joint Commission to issue a Notice in the international press announcing that the exploration blocks in the Mauritius-Seychelles Joint Management Area in the Mascarene Plateau Region, are now open for commercial exploration.

\*\*\*\*\*

3. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius signing the Memorandum of Agreement between SADC Member States regarding the establishment of the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE). The main objective of the Centre is to contribute towards increased access to modern energy services and improved energy security across the SADC Region through the promotion of market based uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The Centre has been mandated by SADC Member States to play a key role in the implementation of the Southern Africa Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan.

\*\*\*\*\*

4. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a Ministerial Committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities to examine the Report of Poten and Partners (UK) Limited on the adoption of Liquefied Natural Gas and make recommendations on the proposed course of action.

\*\*\*\*\*

5. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius signing a Memorandum of Understanding on “*Coopération de Défence*” with France. The Memorandum of Understanding provides a framework for collaboration on matters of maritime security and fighting against maritime threats in the Indian Ocean region and relates mainly to the conduct of joint naval operations by Mauritius and France in the Maritime Zones of Mauritius.

\*\*\*\*\*

6. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operative Activities with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The aim of the Memorandum of Understanding is to set out conditions for cooperation between OECD and Mauritius with a view to strengthening and supporting effective regulation, sound corporate governance and good conduct in Mauritius and in the Southern and Eastern African regions. The areas of cooperation would focus on markets and regulatory conduct and include, among others, –

- (a) regulation and supervision of the financial sector, and the development of sound, transparent and efficient financial markets, private pensions and insurance;
- (b) financial literacy and education, financial consumer protection and financial inclusion;
- (c) functioning of capital markets and corporate governance of both listed and state-owned enterprises; and
- (d) anti-bribery and blockchain policy issues in the financial sector and other sectors.

\*\*\*\*\*

7. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius signing a Memorandum of Understanding on the conclusion of the negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Mauritius and China. The Memorandum of Understanding would be signed to confirm that negotiations on the FTA have been completed. The FTA would be signed after both sides complete their respective internal processes.

\*\*\*\*\*

8. Cabinet has taken note of the framework for monitoring progress on implementation of measures announced in the Budget Speech 2018/2019. Three Project Monitoring and Coordination Committees have been set up, namely –

- (a) for Community Based Projects chaired by the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands, Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to monitor implementation of infrastructural projects at community level;
- (b) for Other Capital Projects chaired by the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security; and
- (c) for Non-infrastructure Measures chaired by the Financial Secretary.

The Project Monitoring and Coordination Committees would report to the Prime Minister on a monthly basis.

A Monitoring Committee has also been set up under the chair of the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms to monitor the filling of vacancies in the Civil Service.

\*\*\*\*\*

9. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised by the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, and Environment and Sustainable Development to mark the Clean Up the World Campaign 2018, namely –

- (a) the launching of the Campaign at Bel Ombre on 22 September 2018;
- (b) the clean up of various locations, including La Pointe Cassis at Le Morne, Quatre Soeurs public beach and Pointe aux Sables fish landing point; and
- (c) a sensitisation campaign through billboards.

The theme for this year is '**Beat Plastic Pollution**'.

\*\*\*\*\*

10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment to China where he participated in the "2018 FOCAC Africa-China Poverty Reduction and Development" Conference. The topics covered during the Conference included –

- (a) the perspectives for future development cooperation between Africa and China;
- (b) Africa-China Poverty Reduction Cooperation and analysis of the commercial ties and implementation of policy recommendations; and
- (c) promotion of inclusive development by the private sector through South-South cooperation.

In the margins of the Conference, the Minister had meetings with -

- (a) HE Ms Josepa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner of the Rural Economy and Agriculture Committee of the African Union regarding technical assistance to Mauritius for the setting up of a monitoring and evaluation framework in the fields of agriculture and poverty reduction; and
- (b) Mr Zuo Changsheng, Director of the International Poverty Reduction Centre of China on new avenues of cooperation in the field of poverty reduction.

\*\*\*\*\*

11. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Standards Council of the Mauritius Standards Bureau with Mr Abdool Rahman Burahee as Chairperson.

\*\*\*\*\*