

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING - FRIDAY 25 AUGUST 2023

The Cabinet met today under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, the Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth. The highlights of the deliberations are as follows:

1. Cabinet has taken note of the promulgation of the Companies (Payment of Fees to Registrar) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 which would, inter alia, provide for the introduction of new user fees for the services being provided by the Companies and Business Registration Department.
2. Cabinet has taken note of the promulgation of the Statutory Bodies Pension Funds (Amendment) Regulations 2023, in order to align the provisions regarding portable benefits in the Statutory Bodies Pension Funds Act to that of the Pensions Act. This will allow an officer leaving a statutory body after reckoning not less than ten years' pensionable service to have a portable benefit of at least one year of his pensionable salary.
3. Cabinet has taken note of the promulgation of the Central Water Authority (Dry Season) (Amendment No. 6) Regulations 2023 to extend its application until 30 September 2023. The Regulations provide for authorisation to a person entitled to carry out irrigation of sugarcane from a watercourse, provided that such watercourse does not feed impounding reservoirs and where the Central Water Authority does not abstract water for domestic water supply. In addition, such abstraction should not cause prejudice to any interest that a person may hold in the concerned watercourse.
4. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius endorsing the Abidjan Declaration of the Alliance of African Ministers for Urban Development Financing adopted on 21 October 2022 at the meeting of the Alliance of African Ministers for Urban Development Financing in Ivory Coast.
5. Cabinet has agreed to the hosting of the 39th Meeting of the Trade and Customs Committee of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) from 23 to 27 October 2023 in Mauritius.

The main objective of the Committee is to discuss trade and customs related issues and make recommendations to the Inter-governmental Committee and the Council of Ministers of the COMESA. Discussions would focus on issues related to regional economic integration such as the full implementation of regional commitments, the participation of all Member States in the COMESA Free Trade Area and the implementation of regional trade facilitation programmes with a view to increasing economic interaction and boosting intra-regional trade and investment in the region.

6. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius would host the 21st General Conference of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) and its associated meetings on 02 and 03 October 2023. The aim of the Conference is to provide a platform to Member States, affiliates and partners to review the number of activities and projects that AIBD has implemented in the year and also look into their future projects. The AIBD Strategic Plan Team Meeting and the Executive Board Meeting would also take place concurrently.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning would host the 19th Conference of the Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission from 28 to 31 August 2023. The agenda of the Conference includes technical issues such as hydrographic surveys and charting status, bilateral and regional cooperation agreements and capacity building management plans.
8. Cabinet has taken note that the University of Mauritius would organise the 50th Textile Research Symposium, in collaboration with the Textile Machinery Society of Japan and the Kobe University, the Kyoto Institute of Technology and the Shinshu University on 07 and 08 September 2023. The Symposium would promote textile research and communication between scientists and technologists.

The main objectives of the Symposium are to:

- (a) present and discuss state-of-the-art research in textile industries;
 - (b) take stock of and review the recent developments in textile machinery and potential for improving quality and productivity;
 - (c) present and illustrate the increasing importance of fibrous composites in the high-tech industries;
 - (d) discuss latest developments in apparel science and smart textiles, textile dyeing and finishing industries with regard to improving their environmental impacts; and
 - (e) position the UN Sustainable Development Goals at the Center of the Global Textile Industry.
9. Cabinet has taken note that the meetings of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) 36th Academic Board, the 15th Executive Governing Board meetings, the High-Level Roundtable for Vice-Chancellors and Senior Officials of COL's partner open universities would be held from 02 to 05 October 2023. The meetings would contribute in:
 - (a) the demonstration of the commitment of Mauritius to quality higher education;
 - (b) the strengthening of the ties with the COL and other universities that offer Open and Distance Learning;
 - (c) enhancing the international visibility of the Open University of Mauritius; and
 - (d) the adoption of the academic culture of openness and sharing in order to have a global reach and be beneficial to Mauritius as an Education hub.
 10. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology in collaboration with the British High Commission and the Premier League (UK) would organise a football tournament from 29 August to 14 September 2023, involving the participation of students of state and private secondary schools.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the status of 37 road capital projects being implemented by the Road Development Authority across the island, including:
 - (a) the Verdun Bypass project which was completed and opened to the public on 21 June 2023;
 - (b) the Construction of the Grade Separated Junction to link the Verdun Bypass and the St Pierre Bypass which is expected to be completed in February 2024; and
 - (c) the Flic en Flac Bypass which is expected to be completed in July 2025.
12. Cabinet has taken note of the opening of the Preview Exhibition at the Intercontinental Slavery Museum in the context of the International Day for the Remembrance of Slave Trade and its Abolition on 01 September 2023. The International Day for the Remembrance of Slave Trade and its Abolition is commemorated on 23 August annually. The exhibition would be opened to the public as from 04 September 2023 and guided visits would also be scheduled.
13. Cabinet has taken note that the Mauritius Yachting Association would organise the Mauritius Regional Yachting Championships from 09 to 16 September 2023 at Pointe Jérôme Beach, Le Morne Public Beach and Anse La Raie Public Beach. The Championships are expected to regroup athletes from Seychelles, Madagascar, Maldives, Reunion and Mauritius. The athletes would compete in four sailing events, namely laser, windsurfing, optimist and kitesurfing.
14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives at the 43rd Summit of the SADC Heads of State and Government in Luanda, Angola. The Agreement amending the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and other Related Materials in the SADC region and the SADC Declaration on Accelerating Action to End AIDS as a Public Health Threat by 2030 were signed in the margins of the Summit by Mauritius.
15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance in the G20 second Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting held in Kolkata, India. The following documents were adopted at the Meeting:
 - (a) the Kolkata Anti-Corruption Minister's Declaration;
 - (b) G20 High-Level Principles on Strengthening Law Enforcement relating to International Cooperation and Information Sharing for Combatting Corruption;
 - (c) G20 High-Level Principles on Strengthening Asset Recovery Mechanisms for Combatting Corruption;
 - (d) G20 High-Level Principles on Promoting Integrity and Effectiveness of Public Bodies and Authorities Responsible for Preventing and Combatting Corruption;
 - (e) the Compendium of Good Practices in Enhancing the Role of Auditing in tackling corruption; and
 - (f) the 2023 Accountability Report on Mutual Legal Assistance.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Executive Committee of the Senior Citizens Council for a period of two years, with Mr Hanslall Seebaruth, MSK as part-time Chairperson.
17. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Employment Relations Tribunal for a period of three years.
18. Cabinet has taken note of the renewal of the contract of Mr Ramesh Sunt as Ombudsperson for Sports for a further period of one year.

Note: Cabinet decisions are available on the internet. The address is <http://pmo.govmu.org>

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Port Louis**