

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2025

1. Cabinet has taken note that the Central Water Authority (Dry Season) Regulations 2025 would be promulgated with effect from 17 February 2025 to enforce measures aimed at preventing water wastage, being given the precarious situation of our reservoirs.

The regulations would impose restrictions on the use of water from the Central Water Authority network or from any other watercourse for “non-essential” activities such as washing vehicles, cleaning pavements or buildings, watering gardens or lawns, and filling of swimming pools, by using a hosepipe, sprinkler or pressure washer, without reasonable excuse. Additionally, to allow for flexible and prompt decision-making, the Water Resources Monitoring Committee would determine and review the frequency of irrigation of vegetables and crops based on water availability. Irrigation of sugarcane would remain suspended.

Any person who would contravene the regulations would commit an offence and would, on conviction be liable –

- (a) in the case of a domestic consumer, to a fine not exceeding Rs50,000 and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years; and
- (b) in any other case, to a fine not exceeding Rs200,000 and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the actions being undertaken by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change in respect of the formulation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 3.0 for the Republic of Mauritius in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The NDC 3.0 would include the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement, conducted from 2021 to 2023, whereby countries were encouraged to come up with more robust targets, aligned with limiting global warming to 1.5°C and taking into consideration the different national circumstances, their respective capacities as well as components for the adaptation sector.

The Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change had, since December 2024, embarked on the preparation process for the development of the NDC 3.0 for the Republic of Mauritius, with the support of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ), a German development partner. Three experts from the GIZ NDC Partnership Readiness Project Team would be in Mauritius for a one-week mission from 17 to 21 February 2025. The proposed NDC 3.0 would include bold measures to make Mauritius a climate-change resilient and low emission country in line with the Government Programme 2025-2029.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the results of the Higher School Certificate (HSC) Examinations 2024. Out of a total of 7,425 school candidates who took part in the 2024 HSC Examinations in the Republic of Mauritius, 5,857 were successful resulting in a percentage pass rate of 78.88%, compared to 84.40% in 2023. 1,681 school candidates have scored at least one "A" at Principal Level in 2024, compared to 1,839 in 2023.

The HSC pass rate for 2024 for the Island of Mauritius was 79%, compared to a pass rate of 84.31% in 2023. As for Rodrigues, the HSC pass rate for 2024 was 75.96%, compared to 87.30% in 2023.

4. Cabinet has taken note of activities being organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection in the context of World Consumer Rights Day 2025, which is celebrated on 15 March every year, namely –

- (a) holding of a workshop in collaboration with the COMESA Competition Commission on 13 and 14 March 2025 on consumer protection matters in Mauritius;
- (b) signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection and the COMESA Competition Commission, which would provide for collaboration in the field of consumer protection;
- (c) dissemination of short video clips on the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation and social media on the rights and responsibilities of consumers, legal obligation of traders, unfair trade practices or misleading consumers, among others;
- (d) participation in radio/TV programme and in the media to sensitise the public in general on consumer rights and protection; and
- (e) targeted sensitisation and educational campaigns through talks in Secondary Schools, Women Centres, Social Welfare Centres and Community Centres.

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

- (a) Board of Directors of SME Mauritius Ltd, with Mr Aslam Adam Hossenally as part-time Chairperson;
- (b) Central Water Board, with Mr Maneswar (Pradeep) Peetumber as part-time Chairperson; and
- (c) Management Committee of the Trust Fund for Excellence in Sports, with Mr Nagaissen Valaydum as part-time Chairperson.
