PRESS RELEASE

The Executive Council met at 10.00 hours this Friday 9 December 2011 under the chairmanship of the Chief Commissioner, Mr. G. JABEEMISSAR, GOSK and has, among its deliberations:

DECIDED:

(i) to approve that the Commission for State Lands set up a fast track procedures for the grant of industrial leases to applicants for industrial/commercial leases. In line with the policy to promote economic development it is agreed to expedite procedures to grant leases to all eligible applicants.

(ii) to approve the Commission for Fisheries’ proposition to revise criteria for registration of off lagoon fishers as follows:

- Fisherman shall be 18 years of age or more but less than 55 years on the date of application.
- Applicant shall have successfully followed an approved training course in off-lagoon fishing techniques or has been a bank fisherman for at least two fishing campaigns.
- Applicant shall agree to forgo any other social aid at the time of his registration.
- Applicant shall be the owner of an off lagoon fishing boat or shows proof that he has access to such a boat for fishing; and
- Priority will be given to the conversion of lagoon fishers to off lagoon.
DECIDED:

(iii) to approve that the Commission for Women’s Affairs sets up incubators for women in the six local regions namely, Cascade Jean Louis, Port Sud Est, Terre Rouge, Malartic/Le Chou, Graviers and Rivière Coco with the aim to allow access to training, raw materials/equipment, and to create a label for women entrepreneurs. The incubators will inter-alia (i) allow Women to get trained, (ii) empower them in terms of management of business and budgeting, (iii) standardise their products and (iv) specialise in one type of products.

(iv) to approve that the Commission for Public Infrastructure proceeds with the construction of track roads/footpath in local region No. 4, 5 and 6 as well as the following minor works: -

- Football playgrounds at Montagne Goyaves and Roseaux;
- Children/Public Garden at Port Mathurin;
- Green spaces/Children Gardens at Deux Goyaves and Citronelle (MBC);
- Bus shelters at Solitude/Vangar, Chateau D’eau, Dans Bébé and Mt. Goyaves;
- Volley ball pitch for beach volley at Baladirou; and
- Green spaces at Palissade and Anse Femie.

(v) To approve that the Commission for Public Infrastructure proceeds with the provision of construction materials to some 400 applicants for social housing according to the following criteria: -

(a) The family income shall be less that Rs 5,000 monthly;
(b) Separated couples;
(c) Unmarried parents;
(d) Social aid beneficiaries;
(e) or, any other hardship.
DECIDED:

(vi) to approve the implementation of the Fonds d’Insertion des Jeunes Programme and the setting up of a board comprising the representative of the Commission for Youth and Sports (as Chairperson), and representatives from the Commission for Industrial Development, Commission for Agriculture, SMEDA, Development Bank of Mauritius and the Chairperson of the Rodrigues Regional Youth Council and other three representatives of the private sector to be nominated by the Executive Council. Under the “Fond d’Insertion Jeunes”, a monthly support of up to Rs 3000 will be provided to young entrepreneurs with innovative business proposal.

(vii) to approve that the Commission for Agriculture set up a fast track for the distribution of Agricultural Permit to farmers who have applied for such facilities.

(viii) to approve that the decision taken on Friday 29 July 2011 to continue with the present practice of acceding to requests of lessees to extend their leases to have access to financial facilities provided that the life of the running lease is above five (5) years instead of 7 years as previously decided.

(ix) to approve that the Commission for Agriculture proceeds with the placement of fencing on agricultural land under the Community Participation System by providing fencing and related materials to farmers in the following twenty one (21) localities: - Eau Claire, Anse Raffin, Pistache, Camp Paul, Patate Theophile, Anse Baleine, Mt Du Sable, Baie Du Nord, Deux Goyaves, Pte Butte, Plateau Bois Noir, Plaine Corail/Cascade Jean Louis, La Ferme Citron and Grand Var.

(x) to approve that the Commission for Water Resources grants permission for the drilling of a beachwell borehole at Anse Ally to Hydroelec Overseas Ltd in the context of an hotel project.

(xi) to approve the refund of recurrent expenditure incurred by the Rodrigues Water Company Ltd (RWC Ltd) for period 01st July to 30 September, 2011.
**TAKEN NOTE:**

(i) that the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate (MES) has informed that the CPE Examinations 2011 results will be released on Tuesday 13 December 2011.

(ii) that the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology and the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre, in collaboration with the Commission for Education will organise a Sky Observation Programme on Saturday 10 December 2011 from 1830 hrs to 2100 hrs at Baie Lascars Football Playground and a Boat Regatta on Sunday 11 December 2011 from 1230 hrs to 1600 hrs at Pointe L’herbe, next to Phoenix Beverages Ltd. The following activities will be organised:-

- Viewing of celestial objects with telescopes of 10 cm diameter;
- Film show “Les Mystères de l’Univers”;
- Lecture on astronomy; and
- Night watch: visitors will be provided with a sky chart and will be explained how it should be used to locate different constellations with the naked eye, their time of visibility as well as their positions in the night sky.

The boat regatta will be organised with the aim of demonstrating the relationship between science and the sea. The competition will be for two categories of boat and for each category, prizes will be awarded as follows:-

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<tr>
<th>Prizes</th>
<th>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Category</th>
<th>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Prize</td>
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<td>Rs 7000</td>
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<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Prize</td>
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<td>Rs 1000</td>
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TAKEN NOTE:

(iii) That the Commission for Women Affairs will organize the Women Award at Coralie La Diff’rence Restaurant on Saturday 17 December 2011 at 19.00 hrs. The objective of the Award is to encourage and reward Women Entrepreneurs who are taking risks in various field of development. Eight sectors have been identified viz: Agriculture, Textile, Handicraft, Tourism Service, Food/Catering, Food Preservation and Commerce. The three winners per sector will be rewarded as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> per sector - Rs 5,000

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> per sector - One mobile phone

The winner of each sector will compete as finalists for the Women Award and three women will then be awarded prizes as follows:-

- The winner - Rs 50,000 – Cash Prize and a Trophy
- 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up - Rs 25,000 – Cash Prize
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up - Rs 15,000 – Cash Prize
- A certificate of participation will be awarded to all participants.

(iv) that the Commission for Environment proceeds with the distribution of compost bins as follows: One per Pre-Primary and primary Schools, two per colleges, one compost bin per village, one per master composter and other members of the public who show interest in this pilot project.

(v) that the Commission for Environment will extend the pilot waste segregation project to villages of Piment/Reposoir, Pte L’herbe, Anse Aux Anglais, Songes, Citron Donis and Remir. Two bins, green and orange, will be donated to each family for conducting waste segregation at source.
TAKEN NOTE:

(vi) that the Commission for Agriculture carried out the second meeting of the Steering Committee of the IRACC project in Rodrigues from 8 to 9 December 2012 under the aegis of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). The specific objectives of the programme, are inter-alia:-

(a) to share information and promote agro-ecological practices to better cope with climate change with better yield;

(b) provide support for the implementation of agro-ecological techniques and systems at the level of villages as a solution to adapt to climate change in order to ensure soil/water conservation and protection, add value to agricultural products (bio-farming) and improve access to market opportunities; and

(c) promote integration of agro-ecology in agricultural development strategies and approach.

(vii) that the Commission for Agriculture has awarded the contract for the Construction of Slaughter House at Baie Diamant for the sum of Rs 56,212,885.50 inclusive of VAT. The contract agreement has been signed on 07 December 2011 and the handing over of site is scheduled for Wednesday 14 December 2011.

(viii) that the Commission for Health will carry a workshop on Capacity Building for a Rapid Response team in Rodrigues in case of outbreak of infectious diseases from 13 to 15 December by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life at les Cocotiers Hotel.

(ix) that the Commission for Social Security will proceed with the launching of tenders for the construction of 100 toilet blocks for needy families all around the island. The construction of these toilet blocks is meant for needy families with a view to improve their sanitary condition.

(x) that the Commission for Water Resources will award a contract for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a Reverse Osmosis Brackish Purifications Plant at Caverne Bouteille. This project will enable the provisions of potable water to the inhabitants in regions of Dans Coco, Vangasailles and others.

Date: 9 December 2011

Central Administration
Chief Commissioner’s Office
Port Mathurin
Rodrigues