



THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE OF MAURITIUS

EXTRAORDINARY

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ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Declaration by the Prime Minister under section 34(1) of the Environment Protection Act

1. WHEREAS section 34(1) of the Environment Protection Act provides that where a major threat to the environment is posed as a result of a spill or otherwise, the Prime Minister may, in consultation with the Minister responsible for the subject of environment, declare an environmental emergency.
2. WHEREAS the motor vessel Wakashio of Panama flag ran aground off Pointe D'Esny on 25 July, 2020, at 19 31 hours local time, and has currently developed cracks which has resulted in an oil spill.
3. NOW, THEREFORE, in view of the fact that a major threat to the environment is posed as a result of the oil spill, I hereby declare, in consultation with the Minister responsible for the subject of environment, an environmental emergency.
4. As a result of the environmental emergency, I am therefore, pursuant to section 34(2) and (3) of the Environment Protection Act, directing all concerned public departments, including the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Director of Civil Aviation and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre, to take all appropriate actions, including the cleaning up of the spill, and to activate the Response Plan as per the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan to contain and mitigate the impacts of the spill.
5. Any person engaged in an action or measure taken by the Director of Environment in the case of the oil spill, or in furtherance of a direction by me in the present environmental emergency, may exercise any of the powers under section 35 of the Environment Protection Act, including –
 - (a) without warrant enter any premises, except a dwelling house, and have access through or over any building, structure, vehicle or by land, water or air;
 - (b) construct or set up any structure, machinery, materials and equipment on any premises; and
 - (c) remove the pollutant or any object, plant, animal, to any part of the environment which is reasonably suspected to be affected by the pollutant.
6. Members of the public are hereby reminded that they should strictly comply with any directive of the Commissioner of Police to facilitate the implementation of the above measures.

P. K. JUGNAUTH

*Prime Minister; Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and
External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues,
Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity*

07 August 2020