

**THE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT)  
BILL (No. XIV of 2015)**

**Explanatory Memorandum**

The object of this Bill is to amend the Public Holidays Act to provide for –

- (a) the day of commemoration of –
  - (i) the Abolition of Slavery; and
  - (ii) Arrival of Indentured Labourers,to be observed as public holidays every year; and
- (b) either the day of celebration of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary or All Saints Day, and either the day of celebration of Thaipoozam Cavadee or Tamizh Puttaandu (Varusha Pirappu), to be observed, on an alternate basis, as public holidays every year.

**Sir A. JUGNAUTH, G.C.S.K., K.C.M.G., Q.C.**  
*Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home  
Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and  
National Development Unit*

11 September 2015

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**ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES**

*Clause*

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Section 3 of principal Act repealed and replaced
4. New section 7A inserted in principal Act
5. Schedule to principal Act repealed and replaced
6. Second Schedule added to principal Act

7. Commencement

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**A BILL**

**To amend the Public Holidays Act**

ENACTED by the Parliament of Mauritius, as follows –

**1. Short title**

This Act may be cited as the Public Holidays (Amendment) Act 2015.

**2. Interpretation**

In this Act –

“principal Act” means the Public Holidays Act.

**3. Section 3 of principal Act repealed and replaced**

Section 3 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following section –

**3. Public holidays**

(1) The days specified in the second column of the First Schedule shall be observed as public holidays every year.

(2) The days specified in items 1 and 2 of the Second Schedule shall, on an alternate basis, be observed as public holidays every year.

(3) In the year 2016 –

(a) the day of celebration of Tamizh Puttaandu (Varusha Pirappu); and

(b) the day of celebration of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary,

shall be observed as public holidays.

**4. New section 7A inserted in principal Act**

The principal Act is amended by inserting, after section 7, the following new section –

**7A. Regulations**

(1) The Minister may make such regulations as he thinks fit for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Minister may, by regulations, amend the Schedules.

**5. Schedule to principal Act repealed and replaced**

The Schedule to the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the First Schedule set out in the First Schedule to this Act.

**6. Second Schedule added to principal Act**

The principal Act is amended by adding the Second Schedule set out in the Second Schedule to this Act.

**7. Commencement**

This Act shall come into operation on 1 January 2016.

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**FIRST SCHEDULE**  
[Section 5]

**FIRST SCHEDULE**  
[Section 3(1)]

**PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

1. Sundays
  2. Days of celebration of New Year 1 and 2 January
  3. Day of commemoration of Abolition of Slavery 1 February
  4. Day of celebration of Independence Day 12 March
  5. Day of celebration of Labour Day 1 May
  6. Day of commemoration of Arrival of Indentured Labourers 2 November
  7. Day of celebration of Christmas 25 December
  8. Day of celebration of Chinese Spring Festival
  9. Day of celebration of Divali
  10. Day of celebration of Eid-UI-Fitr
  11. Day of celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi
  12. Day of celebration of Maha Shivaratree
  13. Day of celebration of Ougadi
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**SECOND SCHEDULE**  
[Section 6]

**SECOND SCHEDULE**  
[Section 3(2)]

**ALTERNATE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

1. Day of celebration of Tamizh Puttaandu (Varusha Pirappu) or Thaipooam Cavadee
  2. Day of celebration of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary or All Saints Day
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