**POLICE COMMUNIQUE**

On 25 July 2020, the motor vessel *Wakashio* of Panama flag ran aground off Pointe d’Esny and has currently developed cracks which has resulted in an oil spill.

On 7 August 2020, an Environmental Emergency Declaration under the Environment Protection Act has been published.

 By virtue of General Notice 1148 of 2020 issued on 10 August 2020, the lagoons from Bois des Amourettes Jetty along the shore line up to Le Chaland and the regions of Pointe d’Esny, Pointe Vacoas, Pointe Jérome, Blue Bay Marine Park, Blue Bay Public Beach, La Cambuse Public Beach, Pointe Brocus, Falaise Rouge up to Mahebourg Waterfront, Rivière des Creoles Public Beach, Anse Jonchée, Bambous Virieux, Pointe du Diable, Grand Sable, Pointe aux Feuilles, Quatre Soeurs, Deux Freres, Grand River South East, Ile aux Cerfs, Ilot Mangenie and Trou D’Eau Douce have been declared as restricted areas in the interest of public safety and security.

 Due to the polluted waters and strong smell of fuel oil spreading in the abovementioned lagoons, members of the public including mariners, fishers, sea-goers are strongly advised not to venture at these places.

 Access to the above places is prohibited to the public except for authorised persons only.

The Police wish to reassure the public that all necessary measures are being taken by authorities concerned to effectively contain and mitigate the oil spill with a view to protecting the marine flora and fauna.

 The understanding and collaboration of the public is much relied upon for the smooth unfolding of the environmental response operations by the competent authorities.

  **Office of the Commissioner of Police**

 **Police Headquarters**

 **Line Barracks**

 **11 August 2020 Port Louis**