

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 15 AUGUST 2025**

1. Cabinet has taken note of the report of the Inter-Ministerial Committee set up under the chair of the Deputy Prime Minister and comprising the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection, the Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives, the Junior Minister of Finance and the Financial Secretary to look into the strategy to be adopted for the sustainable utilisation of the Price Stabilisation Fund. The members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee will hold a Press Conference on Saturday 16 August 2025 on the recommendations contained in the report.

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2. Cabinet has taken note, with concern, of an alleged case of sexual assault involving two minor children of British Nationality in a hotel in the northern part of Mauritius.

An inquiry has been initiated by the Police and the Child Development Unit, and two officers of the Child Development Unit have been interdicted in the wake of the investigation. The Commissioner of Police will appoint a special team headed by Mr Daniel Monvoisin, Adviser, to conduct the inquiry.

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3. Cabinet has taken note of the recent participation of the Mauritian athletes in the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Jeux de la Commission de la Jeunesse et des Sports de l'Océan Indien* held from 01 to 10 August 2025 in Seychelles, and commended the excellent performance of our young athletes.

Mauritius secured a total of 114 medals including 35 gold, 35 silver, and 44 bronze. Additionally, Mauritius secured one gold, one silver, and one bronze medal in Esports. The games also witnessed the setting of two national records by –

- (a) Mr Yesh Bonomally, who completed the 800-metres athletics event in one minute and 55.2 seconds; and
- (b) Mr Lucas Chan Chuen, who completed the 100-metre swimming (freestyle) event in 53.26 seconds.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is currently working on a Cash Reward Scheme for the Medallists.

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4. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation Bill into the National Assembly. The objects of the Bill are to –

- (a) provide for the establishment of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation as a national institution;
- (b) provide for continuous professional development and learning and research;
- (c) hold examinations and grant degrees, including certificates, diplomas, honorary degrees and other academic awards to Public Officers; and
- (d) ensure that every person presently employed at the Civil Service College, Mauritius shall be entitled to be transferred to the permanent and pensionable establishment of the Institute, with unbroken period of service.

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5. Cabinet has agreed to the public release of the Land Drainage Master Plan and to outline the key measures to be undertaken to address flood risks and improve the resilience of vulnerable communities and infrastructure.

The Land Drainage Master Plan was commissioned in 2022 by the Land Drainage Authority with financial and technical assistance from the *Agence Française de Développement*. The primary objective of the Land Drainage Master Plan is to reduce the vulnerability of communities and critical infrastructure to increasing flood risks arising from climate change, through an integrated and strategic approach to the management of drainage networks across Mauritius.

In February 2025, Government approved the setting up of a Technical Committee to undertake an independent review of the Land Drainage Master Plan with the aim of ensuring that the Plan is technically robust, aligned with national development priorities, and incorporates stakeholder input as well as international commitments on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction. The Technical Committee has consequently proposed that priority be given to the following measures –

- (a) enhancement of risk mapping;
- (b) social impact assessment and awareness programmes;
- (c) development and operationalisation of safety protocols;
- (d) fast-tracked land acquisition and relocation assistance; and
- (e) timely implementation of proposed drainage interventions.

The Land Drainage Authority will undertake a national dissemination and sensitisation exercise to ensure effective implementation and stakeholder buy-in.

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6. Cabinet has taken note of the list of Public Holidays for the Year 2026 as follows –

New Year	Thursday 01 January
New Year	Friday 02 January
Abolition of Slavery	Sunday 01 February
Thaipooosam Cavadee	Sunday 01 February
Maha Shivaratree	Sunday 15 February
Chinese Spring Festival	Tuesday 17 February
Independence Day and Republic Day	Thursday 12 March
Ugaadi	Thursday 19 March
Eid-UI-Fitr**	Saturday 21 March
Labour Day	Friday 01 May
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Saturday 15 August
Ganesh Chaturthi	Wednesday 16 September
Arrival of Indentured Labourers	Monday 02 November
Divali	Sunday 08 November
Christmas	Friday 25 December

**\*\*The exact date of this festival is subject to confirmation as its celebration depends on the visibility of the moon.**

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7. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Animal Diseases (Veterinary Laboratories) Regulations 2025. The aim of the Regulations is to strengthen the regulatory activities of the Division of Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries to allow the registration and monitoring of the private veterinary laboratories that are involved in the diagnosis and research of animal diseases.

The Animal Diseases (Veterinary Laboratories) Regulations 2025 will provide, inter alia, for the following -

- (a) any person who intends to operate a veterinary laboratory shall make an application for a licence;
- (b) the licence shall be valid for a period of one year and may be renewed for a further period of one year;
- (c) in case of lost, defaced or destroyed licence, the Division of Veterinary Services shall issue same marked as “DUPLICATE”, against a payment of Rs10,000;



- (d) every licensee shall keep a register to record particulars such as name of veterinary surgeon responsible for validating test results, experiment or testing carried out, amongst others;
- (e) the designated personnel responsible for a veterinary laboratory shall ensure that all employees adhere to the conditions specified in the licence and the laboratory manual approved by the Division of Veterinary Services; and
- (f) any person who contravenes these regulations shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs1,000 and to imprisonment not exceeding one year.

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8. Cabinet has taken note that with a view to safeguarding the long-term viability of the Mauritian tea industry and to revitalise the tea sector, an increase in the quantum of the winter allowance from Rs4.50/kg of tea leaves to Rs6/kg will be applicable. This increase will help address a number of challenges being faced by the sector, such as -

- (a) rising production costs resulting from an increase in the cost of fertilizers, labour and fuel;
- (b) a decrease in the volume of tea leaves plucked due to seasonal yield constraints, a situation which is exacerbated by climatic changes; and
- (c) the abandonment of tea plots or their conversion to alternate crops.

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9. Cabinet has agreed to the Government of Mauritius signing the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime which aims at strengthening international cooperation for combating certain crimes committed by means of information and communications technology systems and for the sharing of evidence in electronic form of serious crimes. The purposes of the Convention are to –

- (a) promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat cybercrime more efficiently and effectively;
- (b) promote, facilitate and strengthen international cooperation in preventing and combating cybercrime; and
- (c) promote, facilitate and support technical assistance and capacity-building to prevent and combat cybercrime, in particular for the benefit of developing countries.

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10. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation submitting the candidature of Mauritius in the Plenipotentiary Conference to be held in Qatar, in November 2026, for re-election for the term 2027-2030 as member of the Governing Council of the International Telecommunication Union Council.

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11. Cabinet has taken note of the strategic directions underlying the Blueprint for the Transformation of the Mauritian Education Sector, which is currently under preparation, following recommendations made during *Les Assises de l'Éducation 2025*.

The national consultations brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including educators, learners, parents, members of the civil society, employers, academia as well as international development partners. These exchanges yielded deep insights into the strengths, weaknesses, and aspirations of the education sector in the Republic of Mauritius. During the consultations, there was broad consensus that a fundamental transformation of the education system is necessary in order to meet the global evolving demands of a knowledge-driven and human-centred society, as indicated in the Sustainable Development Goal 4 for the education sector.

The transformation proposed in the Blueprint is geared towards a twenty-first century education system that fosters lifelong learning, inclusive development, and active citizenship. The document is intended to serve as a national reference document and implementation tool to guide policy, planning, and investment in the education sector over the next five years and beyond.

The document will more specifically outline a comprehensive set of reforms aimed at modernising and strengthening the education system through a holistic approach across the relevant sub-sectors, that is the pre-primary, primary and secondary levels. The proposed reforms will mainly revolve around the three core pillars of the Mauritian education sector, namely -

- (a) curriculum reform;
- (b) reinforcement of support systems; and
- (c) improvement of the legal framework governing education.

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12. Cabinet has agreed to the hosting of the 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH) in Mauritius on 11 and 12 September 2025. The Steering Committee Meeting will pursue the following objectives in line with the agreed Terms of Reference -



- (a) review achievements, progress, challenges and opportunities for accelerating the scale and impact of the CCFAH;
- (b) consider and agree on key operational changes for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the CCFAH and its alignment to the 2025-20230 Commonwealth Secretariat Strategy;
- (c) discuss proposals for enhancing the sustainability of the CCFAH into the future; and
- (d) celebrate the 10th anniversary of the CCFAH and assert its place as an important vehicle of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

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13. Cabinet has agreed to the organisation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Intergenerational Dialogue Forum in Mauritius by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports from 01 to 03 September 2025.

The Forum aims at bringing together the youth and the older generation from the four island member states, namely Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles. The theme for this year's edition is 'Bridging Generations: Fostering Solidarity, Innovation and Inclusion in Small Island States'.

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14. Cabinet has taken note that a delegation from the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change led by the Junior Minister of Environment is currently participating in the Second Part of the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution of the United Nations Environment Programme, in Geneva. This Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee is mandated to develop an international legally binding instrument on Plastic Pollution. In the wake of the negotiations, the delegation led by the Junior Minister of Environment has participated actively in meetings of the Alliance of Small Island States for the adoption of a unified stand during the negotiations, emphasising the need for a treaty that addresses the unique challenges faced by Small Island Developing States. The Mauritian delegation also held a bilateral meeting with the Seychelles delegation.

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15. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the Agricultural Marketing Board, with Mrs Meela Devi Ramlochun-Bunwaree as part-time Chairperson.

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16. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of the following 10 members to the Environment and Land Use Appeal Tribunal–

- (a) Mr Cheung Kwet Fa Cheung Kai Suet;
- (b) Mr Raj Kumar Jugroo;
- (c) Mr Akash Issur;
- (d) Mr Shardhanand Beehuspoteea;
- (e) Mr Gowntamsingh Chekhor;
- (f) Mr Vishwanath Bissessur;
- (g) Ms Ruwaydah Ruhomutally;
- (h) Ms Yushreen Shakila Bibi Uteene;
- (i) Mrs M. L. Fabiola Monty; and
- (j) Mrs Marie Darlane Utile.

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