

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 08 AUGUST 2025

1. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Committee to look into the strategy to be adopted for the sustainable utilisation of the Price Stabilisation Fund, which has been announced in the Budget Speech 2025-2026, to protect the purchasing power of the population. The Committee will be chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and comprise –

- (i) the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection;
- (ii) the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations;
- (iii) the Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives;
- (iv) the Junior Minister of Finance; and
- (v) the Financial Secretary.

2. Cabinet has taken note with concern of the case of the newborn baby found abandoned at Stanley, Rose-Hill. The Ministry of Health and Wellness and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare are working jointly to provide immediate assistance and care to the baby.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of a Rules-Based Work Permit System, which will be a new revamped system for the issue of work permits, as announced in the Budget Speech 2025-2026.

The Rules-Based Work Permit System will be founded on the following three prerequisites -

- (a) a Standardised Job Classification and Codification, through the establishment of a system to record job grades and all relevant details as outlined in various Remuneration Orders. The system will also generate a template contract, preventing employers from modifying job requirements or conditions of employment, with a view to ensuring equity and discouraging exploitation;
- (b) an Accredited Employer Framework for the accreditation of employers to ensure mandatory compliance with relevant legislation; and
- (c) a Labour Market Information System, which will be a single Employment Portal with advanced AI features to assist employers and job seekers. This will provide employers with a transparent mode of advertisement, whereby job seekers will be notified of job openings.

A Steering Committee chaired by the Prime Minister's Office and comprising representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations, the Passport and Immigration Office and the Economic Development Board is being set up to coordinate the active involvement of various stakeholders and ensure implementation of the System.

Once the System is operationalised, applications for work permits would transit through the National E-Licensing System. The Non-Citizens (Employment Restriction) Act will also be amended to allow the issuance of a combined Work and Residence Permit.

4. Cabinet has taken note of Government's ongoing efforts and strategy to advocate for the renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which will expire on 30 September 2025, with a view to coming up with a new form of partnership with the US Administration. These include -

- (a) holding bilateral meetings with US Authorities at the forthcoming USA-SADC Dialogue in Madagascar;
- (b) devising a continental strategy on AGOA renewal, including a meeting between interested African countries and the US Administration prior to the AGOA; and
- (c) engaging with the Bureau of African Affairs of the US State Department to follow up on the discussions regarding AGOA renewal.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the participation of Mauritius in the Call for Proposals to host a Green Climate Fund (GCF) Regional Office in Mauritius.

The GCF, headquartered in South Korea since 2013, is the world's largest climate fund dedicated to developing countries. GCF currently manages a portfolio of USD 18 billion to support the transition to low-emission and climate-resilient societies. GCF has so far financed around 300 projects, through grants, concessional financing or guarantees, across more than 140 developing countries for both public and private entities.

A GCF regional presence in Mauritius will offer significant advantages to the country by enabling faster and more effective engagement with Government and the private sector on climate finance. This proximity will better support the preparation of project proposals and improve access to finance. It will also attract green investment, promote innovation in sustainable sectors, and generate economic spillovers such as job creation and increased demand for professional services. Collectively, these benefits will support Mauritius to establish itself as a regional climate action hub, play a leading role in climate resilience and sustainable development goals, and influence regional climate finance strategies.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Financial Services and Economic Planning has submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) for Mauritius to host the Africa Credit Rating Agency (AfCRA).

This initiative follows the African Union's endorsement, at its 44th Ordinary Session in July 2024, of the establishment of AfCRA as a private sector-driven, independent, and self-sustaining credit rating agency. AfCRA is intended to provide more balanced, context-aware, and accurate financial assessments of African economies, complementing or offering an alternative to existing global agencies.

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), under the African Union, has been mandated to oversee the creation of AfCRA and all African Union Member States were invited to submit EOIs, highlighting the competitiveness of their jurisdiction in areas such as political stability, regulatory environment, infrastructure, and human capital.

Mauritius' submission showcases its robust legal and institutional frameworks, commitment to transparency, and alignment with pan-African financial integration. Mauritius stands to benefit from increased international visibility, greater investor confidence, access to affordable credit ratings for local businesses, job creation, and opportunities for skills transfer and capacity building.

In a positive development, the APRM Secretariat has confirmed that its CEO, Ambassador Marie-Antoinette Rose-Quatre, will be visiting Mauritius on 03 and 04 September 2025 to engage with Government and key financial sector stakeholders on Mauritius' candidacy and future collaboration.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the national efforts to prepare for the next Mutual Evaluation by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), scheduled for 2027. The evaluation is a critical opportunity for Mauritius to reaffirm its position as a credible and compliant international financial centre. The importance of sustained inter-agency collaboration and timely implementation of measures to ensure Mauritius maintains its international standing was also reiterated.

Since its exit from the FATF grey list in 2021, Mauritius has launched a comprehensive stock-take of its legal, regulatory, and institutional Anti-Money Laundering/Combating Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) frameworks. Key milestones include –

- (a) completion of the second National Risk Assessment and development of a new National AML/CFT Strategy and Action Plan;
- (b) ongoing risk assessments on legal persons, non-profit organisations, proliferation financing, and virtual assets;
- (c) delivery of targeted training programmes with international partners including the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) and the European Union (EU) Global Facility;

- (d) initiation of a Centralised Information Management System and new enforcement regulations to enhance supervisory powers; and
- (e) engagement of an international consultant to conduct a mid-term independent review of the national AML/CFT framework.

Cabinet has also taken note that Mauritius remains actively engaged with ESAAMLG and FATF processes and is committed to implementing required reforms. A support package of EUR500,000 has also been secured from the EU to assist national authorities.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation initiating action for the preparation of a new legislation, namely the Electronic Identity Management Bill, to provide for an appropriate legal framework and facilitate electronic identity management by regulating electronic identification, identity credentials and the reliability thereof.

The proposed legislation will govern the use of the National Authentication Framework, commonly known as “MauPass”, which provides citizens and eligible users a secure and user-friendly single sign-on platform to access many Government digital services and has become a critical infrastructure for digital government.

The key elements of the proposed Bill are, inter alia, voluntary use of Identity Management services and its legal recognition, the obligations of Identity Management Service Providers including rules for credential lifecycle management, authentication mechanisms, and system reliability, data breach response and obligations of subscribers, amongst others.

9. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Cybersecurity and Cybercrime (Critical Information Infrastructure Designation) Regulations 2025.

The Regulations aim to establish a regulatory framework for designating and managing critical information infrastructure within identified key sectors, namely –

- (a) Financial Services (Banking and Non-Banking);
- (b) Government Services;
- (c) Information, Communication and Technology & Broadcasting;
- (d) Energy and Water Supply; and
- (e) Transport Industry.

By effectively designating and managing critical information infrastructure, Government will be better placed to –

- (a) support dependency on key digital services through strong cybersecurity resilience, regulatory frameworks, and coordinated national policies to ensure the continuous availability and security of these essential digital services; and
- (b) provide the necessary protective framework against terrorist attacks through assessment of risks, having in place appropriate intelligence, physical and cyber safeguards as well as emergency planning.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of Sustainable Development between the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change and the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security of the Italian Republic.

The Memorandum of Understanding aims at strengthening bilateral cooperation for sustainable development in the aftermath of the MV Wakashio oil spill, as well as international cooperation to contribute to the mitigation and removal of the damage on the marine and coastal environment. It also aims to restore and rehabilitate the ecosystems and livelihoods affected by oil pollution as well as set up, strengthen and maintain an appropriate array of measures and procedures to monitor, prevent and mitigate major accidents of marine oil pollution and hazards such as chemicals and plastic pollution.

The joint initiatives that will be undertaken under the Memorandum of Understanding, include the following -

- (a) development of effective mitigation and adaptation measures, by enhancing resilience to climate change and supporting the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Nationally Determined Contributions;
- (b) protection of biodiversity and reduction of environmental degradation;
- (c) development of circular economy in order to promote sustainable production and consumption and solid waste management;
- (d) development of public education and awareness campaigns on global climate change and sustainable development;
- (e) training and capacity building for all actors involved in the management of crisis; and
- (f) improvement of monitoring systems, risk assessment and disaster management, and prompt intervention with adequate means and equipment.

11. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC), under the auspices of UNESCO Kuala Lumpur.

The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is to foster collaboration between the Ministry and ISTIC and formalise a strategic partnership rooted in mutual interests in advancing science, technology and innovation. The overarching objective is to foster capacity building, promote innovation-driven development and support knowledge transfer in a manner that aligns with the global agenda for sustainable development and the aspirations of the global south. Avenues of cooperation to be explored include –

- (i) promoting interest in utilisation of research and innovation knowledge activities in their respective organisations;
- (ii) encouraging and conducting capacity building, including joint research supervision and training;
- (iii) organising symposia, conferences, short courses, and meetings on science, technology and innovation issues;
- (iv) exchanging expert, scientific knowledge and information; and
- (v) issuing joint publications pertaining to developments in research at each institution.

12. Cabinet has agreed to the submission of the Ninth Periodic Report of the Republic of Mauritius under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), to the CEDAW Committee in Geneva for consideration. The Report addresses the Concluding Observations and Recommendations issued by the CEDAW Committee following Mauritius' last review in 2018 and provides an update on progress made and challenges faced in implementing the Convention.

The main areas covered in the Report include –

- (a) General: Updated demographic and labour statistics disaggregated by gender and progress on gender-sensitive data systems;
- (b) Awareness & Legal Mechanisms: Training of law enforcement authorities and awareness on women's rights and CEDAW;
- (c) Legislative Reform: Review of discriminatory provisions;
- (d) Access to Justice: Legal aid and support for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) survivors and establishment of a GBV Observatory;
- (e) Institutional Framework: Progress on the implementation of the National Gender Policy (2022–2030) and gender-responsive budgeting;

- (f) Gender Stereotypes & Harmful Practices: Campaigns and legal reforms to address harmful practices;
- (g) Gender-Based Violence: Strengthening services and legal frameworks, including through the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Bill;
- (h) Political Participation: Initiatives to boost women's representation in political and public life;
- (i) Education: Access to free education and gender-mainstreaming in curricula;
- (j) Economic Empowerment: Programmes to promote women's employment, entrepreneurship, and close the wage gap; and
- (k) Health: Expanded maternal health services and provision of sanitary products to vulnerable groups.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation will chair an Inter-Ministerial Committee to monitor progress regarding the implementation of the Digital Transformation Blueprint 2025-2029.

The Committee will comprise the following Ministers –

- (i) the Minister of Health and Wellness;
- (ii) the Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity;
- (iii) the Minister of Land Transport;
- (iv) the Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare;
- (iv) the Minister of Education and Human Resource; and
- (vi) the Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reforms.

The Inter-Ministerial Committee which has been mandated to monitor, coordinate, and guide the implementation of the Blueprint, will serve as a critical governance mechanism and ensure that stakeholders move forward efficiently, transparently, and with accountability across the different sectors involved.
