

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2025**

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill into the National Assembly. The main object of the Bill is to make provisions for the re-introduction of the Penalty Points System. Accordingly, with a view to establishing an effective framework to ensure compliance with traffic laws, the Bill –

- (a) aims to enhance the protection of road users;
- (b) fosters a culture of responsible driving; and
- (c) provides for matters connected and related thereto.

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2. Cabinet has taken note that the composition of the Constitutional Review Commission is being finalised and that the issue of electoral reform will be examined separately.

Cabinet has further noted that the public will be invited to submit proposals on the electoral reform through a communiqué to be issued by the Prime Minister's Office in the days to come. A dedicated desk will be set up at the Prime Minister's Office to receive all proposals.

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3. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Local Government (Fees) (Temporary Provisions) Regulations 2025 which provide for occasional fee payable by hawkers for the period 12 December 2025 to 11 January 2026; and to the plan of action to allow hawkers to operate during the festive season.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee under the chair of the Minister of Housing and Lands was set up to look into the activities undertaken by hawkers during the festive season and possible measures to allow them to operate during that period without disrupting normal economic activities and operations. The Inter-Ministerial Committee met on several occasions to analyse the proposals and after discussions, established the General Guiding Principles under which hawkers will be allowed to ply temporarily during the festive period only, that is, from 12 December 2025 to 11 January 2026, against the payment of a daily prescribed fee ranging from Rs150 to Rs500.

Only hawkers residing in the jurisdiction covered by the Local Authority will be allowed to operate therein. Appropriate and accessible locations have been identified by the Local Authorities where hawkers will operate. These areas will be equipped with the necessary facilities, including sanitation, security, safety measures against fire and electrical mishaps, and lighting. Uniform structures, namely gazebos, will have to be erected by the hawkers at their own costs to accommodate their wares. Scavenging and cleaning will be carried out on a daily basis immediately after the end of operations, by each Local Authority.

Given that Port Louis is the capital city and in view of its specificity, the Municipal City Council of Port Louis will operate a night market from 12 December 2025 to 05 January 2026 between 1800 hours and 0100 hours along Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Street. Stalls will be installed on both sides of the street and vehicles will not be allowed to park alongside the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Street. Police will monitor the traffic flow.

Communiqués will be issued by the respective Local Authorities to inform of arrangements being made for the operation of hawkers during the festive season.

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4. Cabinet has taken note that the Tripartite Technical Meeting on Additional Remuneration (Salary Compensation) 2026 was held on 26 November 2025 under the chair of the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations with representatives of Statistics Mauritius, Ministries, employers' organisations and employees' organisations.

Statistics Mauritius, inter alia, informed that the forecasted inflation rate for the year 2025 will be 3.7% and the average monthly household consumption expenditure which was Rs43,400 in 2024 is expected to increase to Rs45,000 in 2025.

Additional information sought from Statistics Mauritius at the Tripartite Technical Meeting will be submitted to representatives of employers' organisations and employees' organisations. The Tripartite Committee Meeting will be held under the chair of the Prime Minister next week.

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5. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Dheerendra Kumar Dabee, GOSK, as Chairperson of Air Mauritius Ltd.

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6. Cabinet has agreed to public consultations being held on the review of the mode of admission in secondary schools, for inclusion in the forthcoming Blueprint for the transformation of the Mauritian Education Sector. A communiqué will be issued by the Ministry of Education and Human Resource in that respect.

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7. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Financial Services and Economic Planning issuing drafting instructions to the Attorney-General's Office for the preparation of the Anti-Money Laundering, Combatting the Financing of Terrorism and Countering Proliferation Financing (AML/CFT/CPF) (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill with a view to addressing the technical compliance gaps identified following –

- (a) recent changes to the Financial Action Task Force Standards; and
- (b) the publication of the Second National AML/TF Risk Assessment Report in May 2025.

The Ministry of Financial Services and Economic Planning will carry out consultations with all competent authorities, including the Financial Services Commission, the Bank of Mauritius, the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Financial Crimes Commission, the Registrar of Companies, the Registrar of Associations and the law enforcement agencies during the drafting of the Bill.

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8. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Consumer Protection (Safety Requirements) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 which will provide that no gas-fired water heater shall be sold to a consumer unless it is accompanied by –

- (a) a gas exhaust pipe for external venting;
- (b) a carbon monoxide detector;
- (c) clear user instructions in English and French; and
- (d) a safety warning label in both languages prominently displayed on the packaging.

The Regulations will mandate that all gas-fired water heaters placed on the market shall comply with the MS EN 26 standard, which sets the technical and safety benchmarks for such appliances. This requirement will become enforceable six months after the date of publication of the Regulations, so as to provide sufficient time for stakeholders to source compliant gas-fired water heaters, obtain the necessary conformity certification, and exhaust any existing stock that does not meet the prescribed standard.

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9. Cabinet has taken note of the status of the proposed review of the Disability Pension System. The major reforms that were identified include, inter alia, –

- (a) the introduction of a hybrid assessment model to replace the 100 per cent medical based model;
- (b) the introduction of a graduated support model to replace the ‘all-or-nothing’ model; and
- (c) the introduction of multi-disciplinary assessment panels to replace the Medical Boards.

The comprehensive reform of the Disability Pension model will be implemented over two phases, namely –

- (a) Phase 1 which will include the updating of Medical Guidelines for Disability Assessment 2016 and the introduction of a graduated support model, whereby those deemed not eligible for the Invalid’s Basic Pension could qualify for an Inclusive Living Allowance. The Inclusive Living Allowance will replace the Disability Allowance and its quantum will be revised higher; and

- (b) Phase 2 which will include the introduction of a hybrid assessment model based on both medical and functional criteria, as well as, the replacement of the current Medical Boards with multi-disciplinary assessment panels.

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10. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Committee, under the chair of the Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, to be responsible to oversee, coordinate and monitor the effective implementation of the 73 recommendations made by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in its Concluding Observations within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). The Inter-Ministerial Committee will comprise, inter alia, the -

- (a) Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change;
- (b) Minister of National Infrastructure;
- (c) Minister of Health and Wellness;
- (d) Attorney-General;
- (e) Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade;
- (f) Minister of Youth and Sports;
- (g) Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations;
- (h) Minister of Land Transport;
- (i) Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare;
- (j) Minister of Education and Human Resource; and
- (k) Minister of Local Government.

The Inter-Ministerial Committee will, inter alia, ensure alignment with policies, legislations and national programmes with the framework of the UNCRPD, make recommendations as appropriate and will drive the implementation of the 73 recommendations, including –

- (i) the formulation of a National Strategy and Action Plan on Disability 2026–2030;
- (ii) recommendation of Constitutional Amendment(s); and
- (iii) adherence to the Optional Protocol(s) of the UNCRPD.

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11. Cabinet has taken note of the key outcomes of the first Inter-Ministerial Committee on Anti-Money Laundering, Combatting the Financing of Terrorism, and Combatting Proliferation Financing (AML/CFT/CPF); and the preliminary findings of the Independent Assessment of AML/CFT/CPF Framework.

The findings of the Independent Assessment will be discussed at the next meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee and consolidated with the other challenges. The Ministry of Financial Services and Economic Planning will come up with a comprehensive time-bound action plan to address the identified deficiencies and gaps.

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12. Cabinet has taken note that following a serious incident involving three minors at the shelter “L’Oiseau du Paradis” at Cap Malheureux in June 2025, an Enquiry Committee had been set up. The Committee confirmed serious lapses in supervision, and failures in emergency response protocols by the shelter staff on duty. Consequently, disciplinary actions were taken with the suspension of personnel directly responsible.

On 30 October 2025, the National Children’s Council, as the body currently managing the shelter, suspended the Council Secretary and other staff members. On 11 November 2025, an Officer-in-Charge was subsequently nominated to look into the day-to-day management of the Council. In the same vein, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare facilitated the interim placement of the children in alternative NGO-run shelters and initiated renovation works which are now nearing completion at the Cap Malheureux Shelter and provided a basic training programme for remaining shelter carers, with the support of Pedostop and officials of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare.

In order to avoid disruption in the continuity of care of the children, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare will ensure that -

- (a) the National Children’s Council continues to manage the Cap Malheureux Shelter until further review;
- (b) the shelter will be renamed as “Cap L’Espoir” and will open on 01 December 2025 for carers and on 05 December 2025 for children ;
- (c) those who had been suspended under the previous Government and who have been cleared from all charges will be requested to resume work as from 01 December 2025 as some of the caregivers have expressed their intention of not resuming their job, on the advice of their counsel; and
- (d) the shelter complies with the Residential Care Institutions for Children Regulations 2022 through its Licensing and Enforcement Section.

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13. Cabinet has taken note of action being taken by the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives following an Inquiry Report from the Registrar of Cooperative Societies on alleged malpractices at the Vacoas Popular Multi-purpose Co-operative Society Ltd.

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14. Cabinet has agreed to the refund of Arrears Pensions and Gratuity being effected to 77 employees of the Ex-Mauritius Tea Factories Company Ltd who were redeployed from Ex-Teafac in 1996 and 1998. Their offer of employment did not contain any clause stipulating that their past service at the Ex-Teafac will count for pension purposes. Hence, their length of service had not been reckoned as pensionable. In a spirit of equity and fairness, the same policy which applied to employees who were redeployed in 1992 will be applied by reckoning their length of service at the Ex-Teafac as pensionable.

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15. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, in its capacity as the Designated National Authority for carbon market, joining the Southern Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets. The Alliance will bring together Government representatives from the SADC region, regional economic block representatives, international agencies, non-governmental organisations and private sector players on a common platform with the aim of advancing a fair implementation of carbon market initiatives in the region.

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16. Cabinet has agreed to the use of non-biodegradable single use cups, bowls and trays for local packaging of food products being allowed, with conditions, as from 15 January 2026 for a period of one year.

Amendments will be brought to the Environment (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020 to cater for a Permit System with conditions for the local packaging of food products and imported food products pre-packed in non-biodegradable single use cups, bowls and trays. A Technical Committee will be set up with concerned stakeholders to work on the modalities of the Permit System.

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17. Cabinet has agreed to the submission of the updated National Implementation Plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, in the context of the Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Stockholm Convention on POPs project, in line with Articles 7 and 15 of the Convention.

In February 2025, the services of a consulting firm were enlisted to develop an inventory, as well as an Action Plan for the management of POPs in Mauritius. The inventory resulted in seven Reports, which covered several chemicals/sectors, namely Pesticides, Polychlorinated Biphenyls, Unintentional POPs, namely furans and dioxins, Short and Medium Chain Chlorinated Paraffins, Transport, Building and Construction, Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Related Wastes. Furthermore, a critical review of existing legislative and institutional framework for management of POPs was undertaken. A detailed Assessment Report on Legal, Institutional and Regulatory Framework and Socio-Economic Impacts on POPs was also formulated.

The Assessment Reports provide the foundation for devising the implementation strategy for the NIP Update Report. The key national priorities and identified areas for actions are –

- (a) Institutional and Legal Strengthening;
- (b) Management of POPs Stockpiles;
- (c) Unintentional POPs Reduction and Waste Management;
- (d) Contaminated Site Assessment;
- (e) Monitoring and Research; and
- (f) Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices for Unintentional POPs and Waste Recycling.

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18. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of a child online protection measure through mobile devices and Wi-Fi home routers. The Information and Communication Technologies Authority will issue a directive to holders of public land mobile network licence and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to implement a child protection measure in the form of features to be incorporated in the Subscriber Identity Module card.

The child protection measure will curtail access and exposure to inappropriate content to minors and will include features enabling parents to either manage, monitor or restrict a child's access to online content, applications or services. This enhanced parental control mechanism is expected to promote safer digital access for minors, reduce exposure to harmful content (including pornography, self-harm, violence and bullying), empower parents with accessible oversight tools and strengthen national resilience against emerging online risks to children. The implementation of the measure will not require any change to mobile phone numbers for existing users.

The directive will also provide that, in the medium to long term, the ISPs provide easy-to-use parental control solutions, both through mobile devices and Wi-Fi home routers. The ISPs will engage in a communication campaign to provide clear information on the measure being implemented as part of their commercial plans.

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19. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the mission undertaken by a delegation from the European Commission's Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries from 07 to 11 July 2025 in Mauritius.

In-depth discussions, as well as site visits to the various institutions which have a direct impact on the issue of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, were held over the five days. The delegation discussed and formulated recommendations on the following –

- (a) the legal framework;
- (b) the fleet management system in Mauritius;

- (c) monitoring, control and surveillance;
- (d) infringements and enforcement; and
- (e) the traceability system in Mauritius.

The Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries has initiated actions to reinforce the systems and measures have been put in place in line with these recommendations.

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20. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Arts and Culture submitting nomination forms for the possible inscription of the Mauritius World War Records (1914-2018) and Records of Chinese Presence in Mauritius (1826-2022), on the Memory of the World International Register of the Memory of the World Programme of UNESCO. The two proposed collections represent the next logical step in showcasing the breadth and diversity of our documentary legacy. Both collections illuminate major historical processes that shaped the island and contributed to global historical narratives.

The Mauritius World War Records (1914-2018) collection contains a wide range of archival materials including 582 manuscripts, official correspondences with the War Office and the Secretary of the State, military despatches, ordinances, speeches, maps, photographs and publications. These document the participation of Mauritius and its people during the First and Second World Wars, as well as events thereafter. The records capture personal experiences, military organisation, local mobilisation and the societal impacts of the global conflicts on Mauritius.

The Records of Chinese Presence in Mauritius (1826-2022) collection consists of 170 manuscripts, printed documents, maps and plans, one lithograph, and other historical materials that trace the migration, settlement, cultural evolution and socioeconomic role of the Chinese Community in Mauritius. The documents highlight trade activities, community structures, integration processes, cross-cultural exchanges and the long-term contribution of the Chinese diaspora to the island's multicultural identity.

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21. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised by the Ministry of Health and Wellness in the context of World AIDS Day 2025, which is observed on 01 December to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS and provide an opportunity for people living with HIV to share experiences and challenges faced in their daily lives. The theme chosen by the United Nations for this year is "Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response".

To mark World AIDS Day, the Ministry of Health and Wellness will officially launch a booklet of 'Frequently Asked Questions' on the HIV Self-Test and Directly Assisted HIV Self-Test on 01 December 2025 and the following activities -

- (a) a Beach Testing at Flic en Flac Beach on 30 November 2025;



- (b) a march in Mahebourg organised by the J. Nehru Day Care Centre for Immunosuppressed in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Mahebourg, including talks and awareness activities at the Mahebourg Social Welfare Centre, on 06 December 2025;
- (c) a customer care training for staff dealing with people infected with or affected by HIV to equip them with the skills to provide respectful, stigma-free, and person-centred services that build trust and improve health outcomes for people living with HIV;
- (d) awareness/testing sessions in different regions around the island, targeting vulnerable women and street children and those in shelters; and
- (e) communication campaigns on HIV/AIDS.

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22. Cabinet has taken note of the outbreak of Marburg Virus Disease reported in Ethiopia and the national preparedness and surveillance measures being implemented by the Ministry of Health and Wellness to mitigate the risk of importation and ensure timely response capability.

Surveillance activities have been strengthened through the dissemination of updated case definitions to all health facilities, both public and private, including Rodrigues. The National Hotline “8924” service has been sensitised to flag any unusual health events. At ports of entry, enhanced screening of travellers from Ethiopia has been implemented and a 21-day follow-up mechanism has been activated.

In addition, laboratory preparedness is being consolidated through verification of PCR reagent availability, inactivation kits and specimen transport pathways. Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) preparedness is being reinforced through the review of isolation rooms, confirmation of Personal Protective Equipment stock levels and the circulation of IPC guidance to regional hospitals.

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23. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised by the Ministry of Arts and Culture in collaboration with the *Conservatoire National de Musique François Mitterand* (CNMFM), the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture (NMCAC), and Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund (LMHTF), to celebrate Christmas at national level. The following activities will be organised during the month of December 2025 –

- (a) two-week Christmas Programme by the *Centre de Lecture Publique et D’Animation Culturelle* from 15 to 23 December 2025 in the 14 *Centres de Lecture et D’Animation Culturelle* including “Do-It-Yourself Workshops”, Christmas tree decoration, and gift distribution to children and young people aged between 5 to 20;

- (b) “Symphony of Stars - Christmas in Song (*Enn Sinfoni Zetwal*)” by the NMCAC on 13 December 2025 as from 1900 hours at the Caudan Waterfront. The event will feature five renowned Mauritian artists and children aged 7 to 17 in an intergenerational cultural concert blending Christmas carols and creole rhythms;
- (c) an introduction to Apiculture and a visit to a beehive for some 20 pupils of Grade 5 by LMHTF on 15 December 2025;
- (d) visit to Odysseo Oceanarium Mauritius for pupils of Grades 4 and 5 on 19 December 2025 followed by a picnic at Wolmar public beach and distribution of educational materials and gifts to the children by LMHTF;
- (e) open-air cinema screening on 20 December 2025 for under-privileged children of Le Morne Village by LMHTF;
- (f) a mini concert for 360 under-privileged children on 20 December 2025 at the Caudan Arts Centre; and
- (g) ‘28<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Songs of the Season 2025’ by the CNMFM on 20 and 21 December 2025 at the Caudan Arts Centre.

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24. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised by the Ministry of Arts and Culture in collaboration with Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund, the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture (NMCAC), the Intercontinental Slavery Museum Mauritius Ltd, the National Heritage Fund (NHF) and the National Art Gallery (NAG) to commemorate the 191<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery.

The abolition of slavery is commemorated every year on 01 February to acknowledge the sufferings endured by enslaved Africans and their descendants and pay tribute to the enduring legacy of slavery while recognising the fight of maroons for freedom. The theme “Justice for Africans and Peoples of African descent through reparations” has been retained. To commemorate this symbolic event, the following activities will be organised -

- (a) a wreath laying ceremony on 31 January 2026 at ‘Bassin des Esclaves’, Pamplemousses;
- (b) a wreath laying ceremony on 31 January 2026 at ‘Monument aux Esclaves’, Pointe Canon, Mahebourg;
- (c) a wreath laying ceremony on 31 January 2026 at Frederik Hendrik Historical Site, Vieux Grand Port;
- (d) a wreath laying ceremony on 01 February 2026 at the International Slave Route Monument, followed by a cultural programme at Le Morne Public Beach;
- (e) an exhibition titled “Esclavage: Réparations et Restitution” by the NMCAC in collaboration with the NAG from February to March 2026 and a painting contest as well as a slam competition on this theme at *Lespas Lar*, Pointe aux Sables;

- (f) the launching of a book written by Nicholas Couronne namely “Le Regard de l’Ancêtre Esclave” on 02 February 2026, a dual exhibition from 02 to 13 February 2026 on Furcy Madeleine and Constance Couronne; and
- (g) an educational exhibition on the abolition of slavery in schools and regional centres for the whole month of February 2026 by the NHF.

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25. Cabinet has taken note that the University of Mauritius will organise the 3<sup>rd</sup> Emerging Countries International Conference on Business, Finance and Economics 2025 in collaboration with the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences of the Stellenbosch University, South Africa and the University of Ghana Business School on 03 and 04 December 2025 in Mauritius.

The International Conference aims at providing a platform for research dissemination to obtain constructive feedback and creating opportunities for international collaboration and networking among peers in emerging countries and globally. The Conference is expected to enhance the visibility of Mauritius in terms of research at regional level. It is also aligned with the country’s vision with regard to internationalisation and the research agenda.

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26. Cabinet has taken note that the International Labour Organization in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations will hold a Ministerial Roundtable in Mauritius on 17 and 18 December 2025 with a view to reinforcing the cooperation and exchange experience in addressing labour and employment challenges among Seychelles, Madagascar, Comoros and Mauritius (including Rodrigues).

The aim of the Ministerial Roundtable is to encourage those countries to work together to promote decent work on themes such as recycling of waste, climate change and just transition, digital transformation and Artificial Intelligence and job creation, particularly for the youth.

Some 125 participants comprising Ministers of Labour and Employment, together with their senior officers and the representatives of employers and employees from their respective countries are expected to participate in the Roundtable.

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27. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research to the United Kingdom (UK) where he participated in the Going Global 2025 Conference in Westminster, London.

The conference was hosted under the theme “Volatility and Change: A New Era for Global Higher Education”. A series of high-level meetings were convened during the mission to strengthen Mauritius’ partnerships with leading UK universities and institutions, with a view to advancing national priorities in higher education, research, and innovation.

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28. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent missions of the Junior Minister of Finance to the United Kingdom (UK) for investment promotion and to Washington, D.C. to participate in the 2025 International Monetary Fund/World Bank Group Annual Meetings. The Junior Minister had meetings with various leading companies in UK with the objective of strengthening existing relationships and attracting new players in the financial services landscape.

In Washington, the Junior Minister participated in the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group, and various meetings organised in the margins of the Annual Meetings. The Junior Minister participated in the 2025 Annual Meetings Plenary and the African Caucus meeting. The African Caucus reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding macroeconomic and financial stability while advancing policies that enhance living standards through improved access to social services, job creation, and the promotion of sustainable growth. The Junior Minister also attended the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Annual Meeting. He had fruitful discussions with, inter alia, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Officials.

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