

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 03 OCTOBER 2025

1. Cabinet has taken note, with serious concern, of the findings of the report of the fact-finding inquiry set up by the National Human Rights Commission on the disturbances which occurred at Melrose Eastern High Security Prison on 17 July 2025. The report is being made public and referred to the Commissioner of Prisons and Commissioner of Police for any action deemed appropriate, including disciplinary actions against those Prison Officers and Police Officers involved in that serious incident. The report will also be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the outstanding performances of Mauritian athletes in the Para-Athletics World Championships 2025 in New Delhi, namely –

- (a) Ms Noemi Alphonse, MSK, won the gold medal in 100 m (T54) clocking her best season with an impressive time of 16.07 seconds; and
- (b) Ms Anaïs Angeline won the silver medal with a jump of 4.59 m, establishing a new African record at each of her attempts, an achievement that testifies to her remarkable talent and determination.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the report of the Committee of Inquiry, set up to look into allegations regarding the allocation of Hadj 2025 visas by the Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Fund, is being released today. The report has been referred to the Commissioner of Police and the Director of Public Prosecutions in view of alleged criminal offences highlighted in the report. It has also been referred to the Board of the Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Fund for any disciplinary action as appropriate against officers involved in the alleged malpractices.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Land Transport issuing drafting instructions to the Attorney-General's Office for the preparation of a draft Bus Services Bill, intended to reform and modernise the bus services sector. The Bus Services Bill is expected to transform the bus service network into a modern, efficient and accountable system. Key elements will include -

- (a) clear obligations on operators and crews (drivers, conductors) as well as passenger rights and behaviour expectations;
- (b) code(s) of conduct for crews;
- (c) reviewed procedures to grant and revoke operator licences;

- (d) streamlined disciplinary and appeal procedures to reduce delays;
- (e) licensing and regulation of Stand Regulators and Traffic Officers;
- (f) operationalisation of a Fleet Management System to monitor ridership, performance and compliance of operators and enhancing disbursement of subsidies;
- (g) provision of CCTV cameras in buses;
- (h) creation of an integrated Bus Information System for passengers (timetables and real-time bus tracking);
- (i) migration to a cashless fare collection system; and
- (j) access of the Ministry of Land Transport and the National Land Transport Authority to accounts of bus operators for verification and audit purposes.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the implementation of an Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency Campaign for the summer period 2025-2026 in order to manage peak power demand and avoid any power shortage. The Energy Efficiency Management Office and the Central Electricity Board developed a sustained awareness plan for demand management which comprises the following areas of thrust –

- (a) cooperation with the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation to promote responsible energy consumption among the public through engaging campaigns on the TV, radio and social media platforms;
- (b) radio and digital campaigns for social media visibility on Radio Plus, Radio 1 and Top FM;
- (c) collaboration with La Sentinelle Group to share a clip produced by the latter entitled '*Gérer l'énergie au quotidien*' on several media platforms;
- (d) partnering with PopTV to promote energy-saving practices particularly during evening peak demand periods;
- (e) collaboration with Metro Express Ltd for engagement with commuters through airing of pre-recorded audio messages across all metro trains;
- (f) outreach programmes in shopping malls meant for awareness of the general public and distribution of flyers; and
- (g) SMS notifications by Mauritius Telecom to its subscribers urging them to curtail energy consumption, in ultimate strained situations when CEB anticipates that electricity demand would exceed available supply.

The CEB has devised an Energy Alert Warning System, similar to the Cyclone Warning System, comprising a colour code (Green, Yellow, Red) based on its reserve margin. The system aims at spreading awareness and encouraging voluntary demand reduction. The alert system will be displayed on MBC TV and other communication platforms. An awareness campaign on the Colour-coded Energy Alert Warning System on all media would start in the coming weeks.

6. Cabinet has taken note that, following the proclamation of section 31, sub-sections (1) and (3), of the Animal Welfare Act, the registration and microchipping of dogs will be conducted by the Mauritius Society for Animal Welfare (MSAW) in different regions across Mauritius. The MSAW is issuing a communiqué to inform the public of the different locations where microchipping and registration services will be available.

7. Cabinet has taken note of a fire outbreak at La Chaumière Transfer Station in the evening of 30 September 2025. The Mauritius Fire and Rescue Services was mobilised on site and by midnight, the fire was subdued and one team stayed on site overnight to monitor the situation. The Technical Enforcement Unit of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change and the *Police de l'Environnement* were mobilised as well. The situation is being closely monitored by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of consultations held with representatives of major bus companies and the Mauritius Bus Owners Cooperative Federation in relation to the implementation of measures announced in the Budget 2025-2026 to ensure the sustainability of the Bus Companies Recovery Account.

The Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations, the Minister of Land Transport, the Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives and the Junior Minister of Finance, met the representatives of the five major bus companies and the representatives of the Mauritius Bus Owners Cooperative Federation to discuss the issues pertaining to the implementation of the Budget measures.

9. Cabinet has agreed to the SME Mauritius Ltd signing with the Small and Medium Enterprises Corporation Malaysia a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of micro, small and medium enterprises.

The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is to enable both countries to strengthen, promote and develop cooperation in the field of micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) development through the -

- (a) sharing of policies, expertise and information for improving the competitiveness of Mauritian and Malaysian MSMEs in global markets;
- (b) exchange of information especially in the areas of digitalisation and market access;
- (c) implementation of promotional activities such as business fora, workshops, trainings, seminars, conferences and study visits to facilitate the development of MSMEs;
- (d) provision of facilities for holding of conferences and seminars in the respective countries; and
- (e) participation in business fairs, conferences, seminars and other events in Mauritius and Malaysia, where MSMEs would have an opportunity to establish business relations.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the State Department of the United States of America has released the 25th edition of the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, which provides an annual status update on the state of global anti-trafficking efforts. Each country is graded through a tier system on the strength and effectiveness of its efforts to end human trafficking within its borders.

The grading of Mauritius has been maintained to Tier 2, categorised as a country that does not meet the US minimum standards but is implementing substantial efforts to align and comply with them. The 2025 TIP Report covers Government's efforts undertaken from 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 to the extent concurrent reporting data is available.

Mauritius demonstrated overall increasing efforts to combat trafficking in persons through a series of measures, which include, inter alia, –

- (a) the operationalisation of the specialised Trafficking in Persons Unit in the Mauritius Police Force; and
- (b) the review of all employment contracts and conduct induction sessions with foreign workers upon their arrival.

11. Cabinet has agreed to the Information and Communication Technologies Authority issuing a national framework for the phasing out of 3G services; and actively monitoring the phasing out by enforcing obligations on the Mobile Network Operators (MNOs).

The Information and Communication Technologies Authority will adopt a regulatory approach to ensure that MNOs adhere to their respective phasing out plans while upholding their responsibilities towards consumers throughout the transition period. As part of the regulatory approach, MNOs would be required to provide continuity for voice services via 2G and provide trade-in programmes to encourage customers using only 3G handsets to upgrade to 4G/5G-capable devices. Moreover, MNOs would have to guarantee 4G and 5G network coverage or rely on 2G network coverage to prevent any degradation in service quality or coverage as 3G is phased out.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the status of implementation of the Foundation Programme in Literacy, Numeracy and Skills (FPLNS) for students who have not met the minimum requirements to be awarded the Primary School Achievement Certificate.

The FPLNS was introduced as a new three-year Foundation Programme in replacement of the Extended Programme, which failed to achieve the desired results. The FPLNS blends academic and vocational components, creating clearer pathways toward the Technical and Vocational Education and Training stream. The structure of the programme places emphasis on basic literacy, numeracy, and practical skills with a view to reducing the dropout rate. The overarching aim of the FPLNS is to provide a supportive learning environment that enhances students' self-esteem, confidence and skills through a curriculum adapted to their needs and aspirations.

The FPLNS uses a competency-based approach for curriculum and instructional materials. It sets realistic and achievable learning outcomes tailored to students' individual learning pace and ability. Students will be continuously evaluated using rubrics that define performance at Basic, Intermediate, or Proficient level. These performance levels describe specific actions and evidence that demonstrate mastery of learning outcomes. All subjects will be graded according to these levels.

At the end of the three-year Foundation Programme, students will be awarded the National Foundation Certificate of Education, as approved by the Mauritius Qualifications Authority. Teaching and learning materials, including students' worksheets and teacher guides for all subjects are available on the website of the Mauritius Institute of Education. These materials are printed and distributed to students by their respective schools.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the holding of a Regional Training for Trainers Course for Radiation Protection Officers from 27 to 31 October 2025 in Mauritius. The training course is being organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency under its Technical Cooperation Project "RAF 9070: Enhancing the Radiation Safety Infrastructure".

The objective of the course is to train potential trainers and to provide them with the necessary knowledge and materials that may be used for the training of Radiation Protection Officers. The training will contribute in upgrading their national radiation safety infrastructure and enhancing safety culture.

The Regional Training Course will bring together participants from 21 French-speaking African Member States namely Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Mauritius.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of National Infrastructure in the Global Infrastructure Cooperation Conference 2025 held in Seoul, South Korea. The main objectives of the Conference were to –

- (a) strengthen cooperation in the field of infrastructure development between South Korea and the participating countries;
- (b) share experiences, best practices, innovative ideas and latest trends in sustainable infrastructure development projects; and
- (c) facilitate networking between participating countries and financing agencies that could fund infrastructure projects.

The Minister participated in a session on Railways and Roads Infrastructure including the use of Artificial Intelligence. He also participated in a high-level multilateral meeting which involved representatives of the South Korean government, several foreign Ministers and other eminent personalities. Discussions focused on government-to-government cooperation and strategies to advance collaboration for infrastructure development.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade in the High-Level Segment of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York under the theme “Better Together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights”.

In his statement during the High-Level General Debate, the Minister welcomed the International Court of Justice’s advisory opinion on the Chagos Archipelago, which paved the way for an agreement with the United Kingdom. The Minister participated in the following meetings –

- (a) High-level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine;
- (b) 1st Biennial Summit for a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Global Economy;
- (c) Special High-Level Event on Climate Action Convened by the UN Secretary-General; and
- (d) High-Level Meeting of like-minded Global South Countries hosted by India.

The Minister also held meetings with the UN Secretary General, the US Deputy Secretary, the Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco, the *Ministre Délégué pour les Partenariats Internationaux* of France, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany, and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

The Minister signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Cooperate Council of Africa to formally announce that Mauritius will host the 18th US-Africa Business Summit in August 2026. The US Africa Business Summit will bring together African Heads of State and Government, Ministers, senior US and African government officials, and top executives from leading American and African companies to explore and expand trade and investment opportunities.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the official visit of the Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare to Rodrigues in the context of the handing over of the Gender Policy for Rodrigues to the Commissioner for Women's Affairs and Others.

The Gender Policy for Rodrigues, which was developed by a Consultant from the European Union in 2024, marks a significant milestone in promoting gender equality and guiding policy formulation in Rodrigues. In her address during the handing over ceremony, the Minister emphasised that the Policy will be instrumental in, inter alia, shaping future actions to improve women's socio-economic empowerment and in the combat against gender-based violence. The Minister further highlighted that accelerating efforts towards gender equality will ultimately enhance family welfare and benefit the community at large.

In the margins of the ceremony, the Minister paid courtesy visits on the Chief Commissioner and the Commissioner for Women's Affairs and Others, where they engaged in fruitful discussions on strategic actions to promote gender equality, children's rights and family welfare in the local Rodrigues context. They also shared experiences on reporting and monitoring of gender-based violence cases and discussed areas of collaboration to improve service delivery.

The Minister attended a consultative meeting with representatives of the Commission for Women's Affairs and Others and the Police Department on Child Day Care Centres in Rodrigues. Moreover, a working session on the draft Domestic Abuse Bill and draft Adoption Bill was held with representatives of the Commission for Women's Affairs and Others and the Police Department. The Minister participated in an interactive session organised by the National Women Entrepreneur Council with women entrepreneurs in Rodrigues.
