

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 22 AUGUST 2025

1. Cabinet has taken note that the Prime Minister is currently in Japan where he participated in the 9th edition of Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). The participation of the Prime Minister in this important event has been an occasion for Mauritius to reiterate its appreciation to TICAD's vital role in Africa's transformative journey since its inception in 1993 and to reaffirm its commitment to the strengthening of partnerships between Africa and Japan through the creation of platform geared towards economic development. It was also an opportunity for reinforcement of ties between Japan and Mauritius.

During this visit, the Prime Minister inaugurated the new Embassy of Mauritius in Japan.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Consumer Protection (Consumer Goods) (Maximum Mark-Up) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 which details the implementation of the fixed quantum subsidy scheme. Government agreed to the introduction of a fixed quantum subsidy scheme under the Price Stabilisation Fund to alleviate the burden of increasing prices of five selected controlled commodities, namely milk powder, edible oil, infant milk, baby diapers and processed cheese, which will take effect as from Tuesday 26 August 2025.

The refund mechanism for five controlled commodities under the subsidy scheme will be implemented by the Mauritius Revenue Authority. The fixed subsidy will be payable to –

- (a) a wholesaler who sells the selected five commodities to a retailer or final consumer; and
- (b) a retailer who is not also a wholesaler with respect to his stock of consumer goods held as at 26 August 2025 and sold to the final consumer within three months.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the fifth Executive Board Meeting of the World Hindi Secretariat was held on 14 and 15 July 2025 in Mauritius. A five-member delegation led by the Secretary (South) of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, along with representatives from the Mauritian Government participated in the meeting which focused on the promotion of Hindi language and the strengthening of cultural and educational ties between Mauritius and India. As a follow up to the meeting, discussions are being pursued with the Indian side for the revival of the operations and activities of the Secretariat.

4. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius is preparing its forthcoming participation in the 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Brazil in November 2025. The Conference will include the 30th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP30), the 20th meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, and the seventh meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, as well as the 63rd sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.

COP30's objectives focus on the implementation of the Paris Agreement through its Action Agenda, which is structured around six key areas, namely Transitioning Energy, Industry, and Transport; Stewarding Forests, Oceans, and biodiversity; Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems; Building Resilience for cities, Infrastructure and Water; Fostering Human and Social Development; and cross-cutting enablers. The overarching goal is to foster a global effort to translate climate agreements into tangible, measurable progress and ensure that climate action connects with people's real lives.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the Government of the Republic of Mauritius signing a loan agreement with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development to co-finance the construction of the Rivière des Anguilles Dam.

The Rivière des Anguilles Dam Project comprises the construction of a rockfill dam of a storage capacity of 12.5 million cubic meters (inclusive of a mini hydro power plant), a water treatment plant of capacity of 50 thousand cubic meters per day and downstream works. The project aims to achieve sustainable water supply to meet the increasing demand for water in the southern part of Mauritius. It will contribute to promoting social, commercial, agricultural and economic development in the region.

The project is being financed mainly from external borrowings from a consortium of financing institutions from Gulf countries, namely the Saudi Fund for Development in Africa, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the setting up of the Commission of Experts to look into the reform of the pension system is being finalised. The Commission will start the review exercise shortly.

The Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity is also finalising its reform of the Invalidity Pension System.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms will issue drafting instructions to the Attorney-General's Office for the proposed Public Sector Reform Bill.

The proposed reforms under the Bill aim to address broader governance issues such as improving systems, recommending corrective measures and enhancing accountability. By benchmarking against frameworks established in other countries, the Public Sector Reform Bill will be designed according to its unique context, while incorporating global best practices to enhance good governance, transparency, and achieve a robust, agile, resilient and citizen-centric public sector.

8. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius endorsing the "New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution" adopted by the High-Level International Conference at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The New York Declaration is an action-oriented outcome document that charts a pathway towards the peaceful settlement of the Question of Palestine and the implementation of the Two-State Solution. The Declaration, inter alia, condemns the 07 October attacks by Hamas against civilians as well as the Israeli attacks and siege against civilians in Gaza that has led to a worsening humanitarian crisis and calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza. It calls on Hamas to free all hostages. As per the Declaration, Hamas must end its rule in Gaza and hand over its weapons to the Palestinian Authority. Gaza must be unified with the West Bank as together they form the State of Palestine. It reaffirms that the war in Gaza must end immediately and the implementation of the Two-State Solution is the only political solution to the conflict. The Declaration further sets out a detailed reconstruction plan for Gaza once the war ends and calls upon the international community to support it, through political and financial means.

Mauritius remains committed to its longstanding and principled position in favour of just and sustainable peace in the Middle East based on a Two-State Solution, with an independent and viable Palestinian State existing side by side and at peace with the State of Israel.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Digital Elevation Model utilised for the Land Drainage Masterplan to identify flood-prone areas, would be made public. The Land Drainage Authority will disseminate same.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the establishment and forthcoming launching of the National Insurance Claims Database (NICD) platform by the Financial Services Commission in September 2025. The NICD will serve as a centralised online platform to record and track all motor vehicle insurance claims in Mauritius.

To operationalise the NICD, the Financial Services Commission which will be hosting and administering the platform, will introduce Rules and Guidelines under the Insurance Act, supplemented by the safeguards of the Data Protection Act to ensure confidentiality and proper use of data.

The NICD forms part of the strategy of the Ministry of Financial Services and Economic Planning as outlined in the Strategy Report 2025–2030 – “Rethinking the Future of Financial Services Industry”, to improve the ease and cost of doing business. It will strengthen transparency and accountability within the motor insurance ecosystem and will reinforce the reputation of Mauritius as a jurisdiction committed to sound financial regulation and innovation.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade intervened on the issue of geopolitical development at the last SADC Council of Ministers held from 12 to 14 August 2025 in Madagascar. He highlighted the need for the SADC region to act collectively and press for a short-term renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) till a long-term trade and investment relationship is worked out with the United States (US). The Council took note of the request of Mauritius that the SADC countries should speak together with one voice through the African Diplomatic Corps in Washington and seize all available opportunities to advocate for the US to come up with a solution in anticipation of the need of AGOA by September 2025.

In the sidelines of the SADC meetings, the Minister also had the opportunity to meet Ms M. Higgins, US Deputy Assistant Secretary for Africa Matters to discuss trade related issues. Ms Higgins noted that Mauritius has taken all the measures warranted by the situation, namely engaging with the US administration for consultations and to correct the trade imbalance.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the actions being undertaken by the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service and the Local Authorities for the Ganesh Chaturthi celebration, the Père Laval Pilgrimage, and the Shri Venkateshwara Pooja 2025, to ensure that these events proceed smoothly.

Local Authorities have mobilised their resources and initiated a series of measures, including the cleaning of roads, drains, rivers, riverbanks and immersion sites, coupled with scavenging services throughout the festive and pilgrimage periods. Road patching, resurfacing, and the maintenance of pavements and footpaths are also being undertaken across towns and villages, together with the installation, repair and upgrading of street lighting and the provision of additional floodlights at strategic sites.

13. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Education and Human Resource engaging discussions/consultations with concerned stakeholders on the proposed guidelines to control the use of smart mobile devices within school premises. Wide and constructive consultations will be held with, inter alia, associations of educators, rectors, managers, Parent-Teacher's Associations, Student Councils and Information Technology experts from the relevant authorities to discuss fine-tuning of these measures and their eventual implementation at school level.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the holding of the *Convention Nationale sur les Arts et la Culture* as from 01 September 2025, over a period of one month at the Municipal City Council of Port Louis. The objectives of the *Convention Nationale sur Les Arts et La Culture* are, inter alia, to -

- (a) provide a consultative platform where all stakeholders can voice their proposals, expectations, challenges and aspirations;
- (b) align sectoral objectives with the overarching vision of Government for the creative economy;
- (c) encourage cross-sector collaboration between artists, academia, civil society and the private sector;
- (d) identify strategic priorities and concrete measures for the development of the creative economy; and
- (e) support the work of the National Open Arts Commission in developing a Strategic Plan that will guide policy, funding and infrastructure support for the arts and culture sector.

All stakeholders including artists will have the opportunity to voice out their expectations and make recommendations with a view to developing a Strategic Plan for the arts and culture sector. Nine key sectoral areas in the field of creative industries have been identified, namely Visual Arts, Audiovisual, Performing Arts–Theatre, Performing Arts–Dance, Book and Publishing, Music, Event Organisation, Heritage and Cultural Tourism and Creative Industry.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Financial Services Consultative Council, which acts as an advisory body, comprising public and private stakeholders providing strategic guidance on policy and regulatory frameworks for the development of the Financial Services Industry. The Council is mandated to –

- (a) advise on policy, regulatory, and institutional matters affecting the financial services sector;
- (b) foster collaboration between public institutions and private operators; and

- (c) facilitate dialogue and consultation on major reforms, innovation, and emerging risks.

Five sub-committees will be set up for the implementation of each of the five strategic pillars in the Strategy Report 2025-2030 on “Rethinking the Future of the Financial Services Industry” that will serve as the foundation for strengthening the attractiveness and competitiveness of the Mauritius International Financial Centre.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Executive Council of the Bhojpuri Speaking Union, with Dr (Mrs) Varsharanee Bissessur-Doolooa as President.
