

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 24 JULY 2026

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of The Finance Bill 2026 and The Economic and Financial Measures (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2026, into the National Assembly.

The objects of The Finance Bill 2026 and The Economic and Financial Measures (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2026 are to bring amendments to 25 and 58 enactments respectively in connection with measures announced in the Budget Speech 2026-2027 and its Annex relating to taxation and national finance, as well as to economic and financial measures and for matters connected, consequential or incidental thereto.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of the Island Container Terminal project under a public-private partnership, as part of the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Republic of India for the restructuring, redevelopment and modernisation of the port.

A Steering Committee will be set up under the chair of the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service to oversee the implementation of the project to ensure that the project is implemented in accordance with the highest standards of transparency, accountability and good governance.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the chair of the Prime Minister to look into the allocation of land for renewable energy projects, while striking a balance between energy security and food security. The Committee will comprise –

- (a) the Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change;
- (b) the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries;
- (c) the Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity;
- (d) the Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning; and
- (e) the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Household Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic Grant Scheme under which eligible households will benefit from 25% of the cost of a Solar PV System up to maximum of Rs75,000, will be launched on 25 July 2026. The Grant Scheme will be funded from the Climate Sustainability Fund to the tune of Rs270M provided in Budget 2026/2027.

The purpose of the scheme is to enable the acquisition of a Solar PV system of either up to 3.5kW with or without battery or greater than 3.5kW with battery, by households, under the CEB Solar Photovoltaic Scheme (Households) 2026. The Household Rooftop Solar PV Grant Scheme will be operated by the Development Bank of Mauritius Ltd on behalf of the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the Republic of Mauritius, jointly with the Republic of Seychelles, signing the Multi-Client Geotechnical Seismic Survey Agreement with *Viridien/Compagnie Générale de Géophysique Services SAS*, for the conduct of a multi-client seismic survey within the Joint Management Area (JMA) of the Extended Continental Shelf in the Mascarene Plateau Region.

The Agreement provides for the conduct of a multi-client seismic survey which constitutes one of the preliminary stages for petroleum exploration. The survey will acquire and process geological and geophysical data to determine whether subsurface conditions may be favourable for the occurrence of hydrocarbons. The survey is expected to generate significant strategic benefits for Mauritius and Seychelles by -

- (a) improving the geological and geophysical knowledge base of the JMA;
- (b) supporting evidence-based decision making regarding the management of seabed and subsoil resources;
- (c) strengthening long-term energy security assessments and economic diversification opportunities;
- (d) promoting technology transfer and institutional capacity building; and
- (e) providing scientific information to assess whether any future resource development could be undertaken consistently with environmental protection and sustainable development obligations.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the following Regulations in connection with review of the tariff and fees charged by the Central Water Authority and the Wastewater Management Authority (WMA) for non-domestic purposes -

- (a) the Central Water Authority (Water supply for Non-domestic Purposes) (Amendment) Regulations 2026;
- (b) the Ground Water (Amendment) Regulations 2026;
- (c) the Waste Water (Fees) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2026; and
- (d) the Waste Water (Application and Processing Fee and Waste Water Connection Fee) Regulations 2026.

Taking into consideration the increase in operational cost and consumer price index over the last 12-year period, the Central Water Board has approved an increase in water tariff for non-domestic purposes in the range of 10% to 25%, except for supply to premium customers of Smart City/Integrated Resort Scheme/Real Estate Scheme/Property Development Scheme (increase of around 75%) and abstraction of raw water for business consumers (increase of around 65%).

The WMA Board has approved an increase in tariff for non-domestic customers in the range of 10% to 25% except for premium customers of Smart City/Integrated Resort Scheme/Real Estate Scheme/Property Development Scheme where the increase would be around 75%. In addition, it has also approved the introduction of an application and processing fee as well as a waste water connection fee for non-domestic customers.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change signing a *Protocole d'Accord de Subvention* with the *Institut de La Francophonie pour Le Développement Durable*, a subsidiary body of the *Organisation Internationale de La Francophonie*, for the development of a Carbon Market Framework and Regulations for Mauritius.

As Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Mauritius is committed to aligning its operations with the Paris Agreement and ensuring that all carbon market activities meet rigorous international standards. This commitment underscores the initiative for the development of a robust National Carbon Market Framework, which will establish the following –

- (a) institutional arrangements for Article 6 of the Paris Agreement participation;
- (b) regulations for carbon market trading;
- (c) procedures for project approval and authorisation of mitigation outcomes;
- (d) a national registry system aligned with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and requirements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- (e) robust safeguards to prevent double counting, including corresponding adjustment protocols;
- (f) regulatory oversight mechanisms to ensure environmental integrity, transparency and alignment with national priorities; and
- (g) capacity building programme on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement participation and the implementation of the Carbon Market Framework.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the launching of the preparatory process in respect of the 31st Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP31) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will be held in November 2026 in Türkiye.

COP31 will include a dedicated high-level session focused on the climate finance needs of Small Island Developing States.

COP31 aims to strengthen trust in multilateralism, advance implementation and narrow the gap between commitments and real-world delivery. COP31 will thus galvanise global attention on –

- (a) measurable climate actions;
- (b) continued discussions on financing with regard to the tripling of adaptation finance;
- (c) proposing a Work Programme on finance; and
- (d) advancing a Global Implementation Accelerator Programme to enhance international cooperation for the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions.

With a view to preparing for the participation of Mauritius at COP 31, the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change will launch consultations at national level in August 2026 with the public and private sectors, including members of the Climate Change Committee, the Economic Development Board, Business Mauritius, banking institutions as well as the civil society.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the status of the implementation of the 73 recommendations made by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities following the review of the combined second and third periodic reports of Mauritius.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee was set up in November 2026, under the chair of the Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity to oversee, coordinate and monitor the effective implementation of the 73 recommendations, including –

- (a) the formulation of a National Strategy and Action Plan on Disability 2026-2030;
- (b) recommendation of Constitutional Amendments; and
- (c) adherence to the Optional Protocol(s) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

A Steering Committee was also set up in accordance with Article 33 of the UNCRPD, and it was decided to establish 10 Thematic Sub-Committees under the leadership of relevant Ministries/Departments to facilitate focused technical discussions, coordinate actions among stakeholders and monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the UNCRPD.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Arts and Culture signing the “Executive Programme on Cultural Cooperation” with the Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to promote cooperation between the two countries in the field of culture.

The Executive Programme on Cultural Cooperation is based on the General Framework Agreement signed between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in September 2015. The programme includes cooperation in, inter alia, the following fields –

- (a) enhancing cooperation and exchange between the Parties in the cultural fields, including those related to the fields of heritage, music, literature and visual arts;
- (b) coordination of efforts between the Parties in the field of culture with the relevant international organisations;
- (c) facilitation of procedures that would allow experts, public and private specialised institutions to foster exchange of information, knowledge and expertise;
- (d) heritage preservation; and
- (e) prevention of illegal import, export and trafficking in works of art and agreeing to take adequate measures in this respect.

11. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Health and Wellness signing an Agreement with the *Agence Française d’Expertise Technique Internationale* (AFETI) for the provision of consultancy services for “Support for the implementation of the three Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveys among key populations in Mauritius”.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness has sought technical assistance from *L’Initiative*, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, France’s second means of contribution to the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The latter has agreed to enlist the services of AFETI to provide critical support to the Ministry of Health and Wellness in areas such as respondent-driven sampling methodologies, harmonisation of survey tools and protocols, quality assurance, data management, analysis, report writing, and capacity building of national teams.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between Mauritius and the Principality of Monaco, which will be effected through the signing of a Joint Communiqué by the respective Permanent Missions to the United Nations, in New York.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research in collaboration with the EU–China Higher Education Research Center at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the LEAD Academic Network, Zhejiang University, and the UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network, will host the International Symposium on

Higher Education Leadership, Innovation and Capacity Development in Mauritius from 27 to 29 July 2026.

The Symposium will bring together senior university leaders, policymakers and distinguished academics from Europe, China, Africa and other partner regions to deliberate on contemporary issues relating to higher education leadership, institutional capacity development, entrepreneurship education, innovation and international collaboration. The event will serve as a platform for fostering strategic partnerships, sharing good practices and promoting international cooperation in higher education. Around 68 international participants and 131 local participants are expected to participate in the Symposium.

14. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of the addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Corporate Council on Africa on the co-organisation of the 18th U.S.-Africa Business Summit, which outlines the new dates of the Summit and the major milestones leading to the event.

The 18th U.S.-Africa Business Summit, initially slated from 26 to 29 July 2026 has been postponed to 06 to 09 December 2026. The decision to postpone the Summit was taken due to concerns about the Ebola outbreak in Central Africa.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Housing and Lands in the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in New York.

The Meeting adopted a Political Declaration reaffirming Member States' commitment to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the promotion of sustainable urban development. The Declaration places particular emphasis on accelerating action in key areas, inter alia, the provision of affordable and adequate housing, sustainable urban planning and land use management, climate resilience and disaster risk reduction, as well as digital transformation and innovation.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade in the 121st Session of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Council of Ministers, held in Brussels, Belgium.

During the Council, the Minister reaffirmed Mauritius' commitment to the OACPS and to the implementation of the Malabo Declaration, particularly in the areas of trade, climate change, agri-food systems, sustainability, digitalisation and the sustainable use of ocean and mineral resources. He reiterated the need for international financial institutions to better recognise the structural vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States when determining access to concessional financing.

On the margins of the Council, the Minister held a bilateral meeting with the European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency, during which they reviewed key aspects of the Mauritius–European Union partnership and discussed avenues for deepening economic and trade cooperation.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Executive Council of the Sanskrit-Speaking Union, with Mr Girish Persand as President.
