

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 27 March 2026

1. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a Crisis Committee to look into the economic and social impacts of the present conflict in the Middle East, under the chair of the Prime Minister and comprising the following Ministers –

- (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 Energy and Public Utilities;
- (e) the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations;
- (f) the Minister of Land Transport;
- (g) the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection;
- (h) the Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research;
- (i) the Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives;
- (j) the Minister of Education and Human Resource; and
- (k) the Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reforms.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Sugar Insurance Fund (Reduced General Insurance Premium and Fire Insurance Premium) Regulations 2026 with a view to exempting sugar cane planters and métayers producing up to 60 tons of sugar from the general and fire insurance premiums payable to the Sugar Insurance Fund Board for Crop 2025.

The Regulations will provide for the general insurance premium payable under section 24 of the Sugar Insurance Fund Act and the fire insurance premium payable under section 34 of the Act, by planters and métayers who have produced total sugar accrued not exceeding 60 tons, to be reduced to nil.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries conveying drafting instructions to the Attorney-General's Office for the preparation of the Animal Health, Veterinary Public Health and Livestock Production Bill. The objectives of the Bill will be to, inter alia, -

- (a) promote and protect animal health and veterinary public health, prevent the introduction and spread of animal diseases and to provide for appropriate sanitary measures for the control of animal diseases;
- (b) regulate the trade of animals and products of animal origin; and
- (c) provide for the development of the livestock sector and traceability of livestock and products of animal origin.

4. Cabinet has agreed to regulations being made under sections 29A, 29B and 124 of the Workers' Rights Act 2019, for the registration of labour contractors and supply of migrant workers by the labour contractors in the agricultural sector.

In view of the shortage of skilled and unskilled labour which is severely impacting sugarcane and food production in Mauritius, leading to small planters abandoning their arable land and worsening food insecurity, the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries is proposing to resort to the recruitment of migrant workers, on a pilot basis, through labour contractors.

In this context, the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations has held several consultations with the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries and relevant stakeholders. The modalities and legal considerations for the recruitment of migrant workers, on a pilot basis, through labour contractors were agreed upon during a tripartite meeting held at the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the National Research and Innovation Institute Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to provide for the establishment of the National Research and Innovation Institute. Accordingly, the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council Act will be repealed and replaced by this legislation.

The National Research and Innovation Institute will be the national centralised body dedicated to advancing scientific discovery, research, innovation and evidence-based policymaking, conducting mission-oriented research addressing pressing national challenges, coordinating the national research ecosystem, and driving the transition of Mauritius into a resilient, competitive and knowledge-powered economy.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent visit of the Minister of National Infrastructure to Rodrigues to assess the situation following the torrential rain which occurred during the period from 14 to 16 March 2026.

The Minister held meetings with the Chief Commissioner of Rodrigues along with Commissioners and senior officers who made a detailed presentation of the problems encountered during the torrential rain. Over 200 millimetres of rain had been recorded in many regions, and it was reported that there had been huge impacts on the existing infrastructure and damage had been caused. Recovery operations, post torrential rain, had already started for road clearing in affected areas and clogged drains were being cleared. Damage had been identified in road networks, flooding of hydraulic structures across river courses, flooding in Morcellements and damage to individual houses and associated infrastructure, including retaining walls. The Minister effected several site visits, namely at –

- (a) Port Mathurin, where it was observed that drain project has to be implemented. The dredging and cleaning of canals had to be done as a short-term measure;
- (b) Queen Elizabeth Hospital at Crève Coeur, where there is an urgent need to re-align and enlarge the existing drain at the back of the hospital;
- (c) Quatre Vents, where a retaining wall will need to be constructed in view of soil erosion;
- (d) La Ferme;
- (e) Pistaches;
- (f) Baie Topaze;
- (g) Port Sud Est;
- (h) Cascade Victoire; and
- (i) Mourouk.

The Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity will extend appropriate support under the National Empowerment Foundation and the National Solidarity Fund to eligible families affected by the torrential rain. Modalities of the support are being looked into.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Health and Wellness initiating Alternative Dispute Proceedings with Messrs Pack and Blister Distribuciones Farmaceuticas SL and Mediterranean Healthcare Supply Network SL in the case of ventilators procured by the previous Government during the COVID-19 period in 2020, in an attempt to recover the expenses incurred by Government to the tune of EUR2.2 million (Rs118.8 million) for equipment which was never delivered as well as claim damages.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the actual cost of a 12-kg domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder averages Rs550, whilst the subsidised price is Rs190. The current deficit in the subsidy account of the State Trading Corporation stood at Rs1.9 billion for the period June 2022 - June 2025. Based on the average price structure of a 12-kg LPG cylinder in 2025, the total annual subsidy required for LPG for this financial year is expected to reach approximately Rs2.3 billion. In the wake of the geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, this amount is expected to rise in the coming months, consequently increasing the deficit incurred for subsidising LPG domestic cylinders.

Cabinet has agreed to the retail price of domestic LPG cylinders being reviewed from Rs190 to Rs250 per 12-kg cylinder, with a view to reducing the annual fiscal deficit in the subsidy account of the State Trading Corporation.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the recommendations made by the Office of Public Sector Governance (OPSG) in its Report regarding the organisational review of the Mauritius Meat Authority (MMA).

The MMA has been facing significant challenges impacting its operations and overall effectiveness over the last 10 years. The main issues relate to lack of strategic direction, ineffective management of human resources, poor financial situation, poor sales and marketing strategies, inefficient and ineffective operations over procurement and warehousing, inadequate good governance practices, amongst others.

The OPSG formulated several recommendations to review the organisational structure of the MMA comprising, inter alia, -

- (a) Organisational Set Up;
- (b) Human Resource Management;
- (c) Financial Management;
- (d) Production Department; and
- (e) Governance.

The MMA is preparing an Action Plan to implement the recommendations of the Report of the OPSG, focusing on operational efficiency and compliance with law.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of an Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Republic of India.

The objective of the Agreement is to provide a framework for both customs administrations to strengthen, promote and develop cooperation, communication and mutual assistance in customs matters. The Agreement provides for mutual assistance for –

- (a) the facilitation of trade and proper application of customs legislation;
- (b) the prevention, investigation and combating of customs offences;
- (c) the exchange of best practices pertaining to customs, including research, development and application of new customs procedures;
- (d) the simplification and harmonisation of customs procedures to facilitate legitimate trade;
- (e) ensuring the security of the international trade supply chain; and
- (f) mutual capacity building in customs matters, such as training and exchange of personnel.

11. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of an Agreement between the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Economic Development Board (EDB) for the provision of technical assistance on the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D) which is a

landmark European Union law that introduces the obligation for large companies to conduct appropriate human rights and environmental due diligence with respect to their operations, operations of their subsidiaries, and operations of their business partners in the companies' chains of activities.

Mauritian exporters, particularly small and medium enterprises, will have to prepare themselves to meet the requirements under the CS3D. The EDB has engaged with the ITC for technical assistance to be provided to these enterprises to assess their levels of preparedness relative to the CS3D requirements, in the context of the EU-funded project entitled 'Global Public Goods: Providing Trade and Market Intelligence for Informed Trade Decisions'. This will allow the enterprises to take appropriate measures to be in line with the Directives. The technical assistance will cover the following –

- (a) building capacity of EDB on CS3D;
- (b) piloting an ITC-developed online self-assessment diagnostic questionnaire related to CS3D;
- (c) collecting data from participating small enterprises;
- (d) generating basic Gap Analysis based on responses of participating enterprises;
- (e) producing technical guidance notes and lessons learned in relation to levels of preparedness; and
- (f) systematising the most important challenges, opportunities and support measures needed in regard to human rights and environmental rights due diligence.

12. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities supporting and signing an In-Principle Memorandum of Understanding for Procurement under the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Platform, a joint initiative of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the World Bank Group, to facilitate aggregated and efficient large scale solar deployment.

The SIDS Platform, led by ISA in partnership with the World Bank Group, is a global initiative aimed at supporting SIDS in accelerating the deployment of solar PV and battery storage through aggregated demand, standardised procurement, and coordinated financial and technical support. The Platform seeks to address structural challenges faced by island economies by creating scale, reducing risk, and enabling timely project execution. By joining the SIDS Platform, Mauritius will benefit from –

- (a) cost optimisation through competitive, aggregated e-procurement;
- (b) fiscal stability through the deployment of renewables to lower cost and increased competition between Renewable Energy vendors;
- (c) reduced diesel dependency and exposure to fuel price volatility;
- (d) contribution to Sustainable Development Goals and climate commitments;

- (e) capacity building through knowledge and toolkits embedded in the Platform; and
- (f) improved data-driven energy planning.

13. Cabinet has agreed to the University of Mauritius signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Pretoria, South Africa, for collaboration in the following areas –

- (a) training of undergraduate and postgraduate students in the health sciences;
- (b) teaching and learning through capacity building, encompassing knowledge and skills transfer as well as structured workplace experience;
- (c) joint promotion and marketing of programmes to be delivered under the MoU, both domestically and internationally;
- (d) development of supplementary agreements by both institutions to give effect to specific collaborative activities;
- (e) joint applications for research and development funding;
- (f) exchange of academic and non-academic staff and students; and
- (g) appointment of local and international extraordinary lecturers to support quality assurance in respect of programme content and delivery.

The MoU will promote and advance collaborative projects between the two institutions, including joint research initiatives and the delivery of programmes at all levels; deepen collaborative ties in areas of shared interest and mutual benefit, notably through the exchange of students and academic staff; and establish a framework for addressing other matters of common concern as they arise.

14. Cabinet has taken note that the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) will field a mission to Mauritius from 21 to 23 April 2026 in pursuance of its ongoing initiative to sensitise users in its Member States to the e-filing system launched in 2015. The objective of the mission is to enhance uptake of the e-filing system with a view to facilitating online filing of Intellectual Property titles, online payment of fees and online tracking of applications.

The e-filing service sensitisation workshop will target Intellectual Property agents, attorneys and other potential users of the ARIPO system. The Member States module capacity-building session will be held at the Intellectual Property Office for the benefit of the technical staff of the Office.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the programme of activities being organised to mark Earth Day, which is celebrated annually on 22 April. The theme retained for Earth Day 2026 is “Our Power, Our Planet”. The following activities will be organised by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change in collaboration with relevant stakeholders –

- (a) a workshop, focused on clean air and air quality, at the *Université des Mascareignes*, to raise awareness and strengthen stakeholder engagement on air quality monitoring, regulatory compliance, vehicular emissions, and industrial enforcement in Mauritius, while identifying actions to improve air quality in line with environmental priorities;
- (b) a one-day exhibition at the *Université des Mascareignes* to showcase practical demonstrations of air quality monitoring equipment, vehicular smoke emission testing, stack emission monitoring devices, and cleaner production technologies;
- (c) TV broadcast of a special magazine on the theme of Earth Day 2026; and
- (d) extension of wastepaper collection for local recycling to primary and secondary schools across the island in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Human Resource, the Private Secondary Education Authority and the *Service Diocésain de l'Éducation Catholique*.

Sensitisation of the public on the theme of Earth Day 2026 will be carried out through talks, radio programmes, and dissemination of a message via the website of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change and the Government Email Services.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the setting up of the Workfare Programme Fund Committee, with Mr Osman Mahmad Badat as part-time Chairperson.
