

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 03 JULY 2026**

1. Cabinet has taken note of the recent participation of the Prime Minister in the Official Ceremony of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Seychelles, at the invitation of HE Dr Patrick Herminie, President of the Republic of Seychelles. The Prime Minister attended the celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary held in the presence of HE Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India; Mr Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Special Envoys of the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, as well as the Diplomatic Corps.

In the margins of the celebrations, the Prime Minister had a meeting with President Herminie, during which they discussed the various challenges facing Small Island Developing States such as Mauritius and Seychelles, especially in terms of adverse climate change impact and our vulnerabilities as small nations. They also took note of the different cooperation projects between Mauritius and Seychelles such as the Joint Management Area of the Continental Shelf.

President Herminie informed that Seychelles had made progress in the opening of its High Commission in Mauritius. In turn, the Prime Minister informed President Herminie that Mauritius would reciprocate by opening a High Commission in Victoria, Seychelles. They also reviewed the breadth of the relations on various issues, including Blue Economy, Tourism, and Financial Services, and expressed interest in expanding cooperation in the Renewable Energy, Education and Health sectors. The issue of rising petroleum product prices and strategies for mutual support was also discussed and they agreed that Mauritius and Seychelles could collaborate to mutualise imports of fossil fuels to alleviate the pressure on the respective national economies.

The Prime Minister had a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of India. The Prime Minister thanked Prime Minister Modi for the finalisation of the Line of Credit extended by India to the tune of around Rs20.5 billion to finance several important mutually agreed projects. The Prime Minister took the opportunity to seek the support of India for the digitalisation of Government services, the enhancement of maritime security for the surveillance of the Exclusive Economic Zone and port modernisation and development. They also discussed the significance of the Mauritius-India Enhanced Strategic Partnership and the shared commitment to continue working closely for mutual growth, peace, stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean Region.

The Prime Minister also had a meeting with Dr Subramanian Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India, and Mr Ajit Doval, the National Security Adviser of India, during which they exchanged on matters pertaining to cooperation and reviewed the status and progress of projects under Indian assistance.

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2. Cabinet has taken note that the Prime Minister will chair an Economic Committee of Cabinet for the finalisation of the Finance Bill. The Committee will hold its first meeting on Wednesday 08 July 2026.

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3. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the committee co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, and the Attorney-General, set up to identify solutions with regard to the challenges arising when dealing with children with serious behavioural concerns.

After consultations with relevant stakeholders, the Committee has identified key structural gaps in terms of the absence of a dedicated facility, the absence of a mandated agency and a lack of consensus between existing institutions regarding the responsibility for children with serious behavioural concerns and consensus has been reached, inter alia, on the following –

- (a) a dedicated institution for children with serious behavioural concerns being urgently established;
- (b) the new dedicated institution will have a dual function in terms of providing residential care and education;
- (c) the new institution will be staffed with appropriate trained professionals; and
- (d) the institution will be fully autonomous and its governance will not fall under any single existing ministry without structural reform.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare will come up with an appropriate legislative framework for the setting up of such a facility.

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4. Cabinet has taken note of the composition of the Constitutional Review Commission, to be appointed by the President of the Republic of Mauritius, with Mr Vinod Boolell as Chairperson, Mrs Ah Foon Chui Yew Cheong, GOSK as Vice-Chairperson and the following Commissioners –

- (a) Mrs Yanilla Moonshiram, SC;
- (b) Mr Satyajit Boolell, SC
- (c) Dr Amar Roopanand Mahadew;
- (d) Dr Jonathan Ravat, OSK;
- (e) Dr Milan J.N. Meetarbhan, GOSK;
- (f) Dr Amenah Jahangeer Chojoo;
- (g) Mr Joel Edouard;
- (h) Mrs Anne-Sophie Julienne; and
- (i) Mrs Danisha Sornum.

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5. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Mauritius Hydrographic Services Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to provide for the establishment of the Mauritius Hydrographic Services, which will, in relation to nautical chart production, be responsible for –

- (a) the national custody and safe keeping of hydrographic data;
- (b) regulating hydrographic surveys and charting within the maritime zones of Mauritius; and
- (c) regulating hydrographic data exchange, access control and sharing.

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6. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Government-to-Government Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Kingdom of Morocco to promote cooperation in the field of water. Cooperation will be pursued, among others, in the following areas -

- (a) integrated water resources management;
- (b) water conservation and demand management strategies;
- (c) study, design, construction and operation of desalination plants;
- (d) development and promotion of non-conventional water resources;
- (e) wastewater treatment technologies;
- (f) sludge management and reuse;
- (g) exchange of experts and technical personnel; and
- (h) climate adaptation strategies and sustainable water infrastructure development.

The MoU provides for the parties to exchange information, data and documentation, undertake joint studies and research projects, organise seminars and technical visits, implementation of pilot projects and institutional collaboration between relevant agencies of both countries. A Joint Technical Committee will be established to coordinate and monitor activities. The MoU will also provide Mauritius with an opportunity to benefit from Morocco's extensive expertise in desalination technologies, wastewater treatment and water resources management. It will facilitate capacity building and the transfer of knowledge and technologies necessary to enhance the resilience and sustainability of Mauritius' water sector.

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7. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a project document entitled "Plastic circular economy knowledge exchange for Japan-Mauritius business collaboration" between the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The project started in April 2026 and is aligned with both the Circular Economy Roadmap and the Roadmap for a Plastic Pollution-Free Mauritius. It will be implemented through a gender-inclusive, business-oriented knowledge exchange initiative aimed at fostering collaboration between key Mauritian stakeholders engaged in advancing the adoption of plastic circular economy practices with Japanese private sector entities possessing relevant technical and technological expertise. The signature of the project document will enable Mauritius to benefit from a Government of Japan-funded UNIDO business collaboration to the tune of USD166,666 (around Rs8 million).

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8. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2026 with a view to allowing the importation of used or second-hand motor vehicle, including left-hand drive motor vehicles solely for exhibition purposes for a restricted period.

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9. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) (Amendment No. 4) Regulations 2026 with a view to allowing the importation of second-hand motorcycles and second-hand autocycles for the purposes of exhibition and display only by a company holding a Premium Investor Certificate issued by the Economic Development Board.

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10. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of two Memoranda of Understanding between the Ministry of Health and Wellness and CK Birla Healthcare Private Ltd (CK Birla Hospital), Gurgaon, India, and the Calcutta Medical Research Institute (CMRI), Kolkata, India respectively.

The aim of the Memoranda of Understanding with CK Birla Hospital and CMRI will be to strengthen specialised healthcare services through structured collaboration, provide for capacity building to Mauritian healthcare professionals, technical assistance for upgrading local facilities and access to advanced treatments not available in Mauritius. Moreover, they will promote cooperation in high-specialty fields such as onco-surgery, neurosurgery, nephrology, cardiac electrophysiology, critical care, advanced laparoscopy, among others, while ensuring continuous medical education and streamlined referral services for Mauritian patients.

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11. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Letter of Cooperation between the Higher Education Commission and the University of London, United Kingdom, to establish a framework for collaboration between the Higher Education Commission and the University of London in the areas of transnational education and international micro-credentials. The collaboration seeks to support lifelong learning, upskilling and reskilling, enhance employability, promote the internationalisation of the Mauritian higher education sector and facilitate access to globally recognised learning opportunities.

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12. Cabinet has agreed to the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Co-operative College of Mauritius and the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management of India to pursue the strengthening of collaboration in the fields of training, education, research, consultancy and other knowledge-based activities on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit. The Memorandum of Understanding will provide for the inclusion of new strategic areas of collaboration in emerging and priority sectors relevant to cooperative development.

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13. Cabinet has taken note of the conclusion of negotiations of the Deepened Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between four Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA-4) States, namely the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Madagascar, the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles, and the European Union (EU).

A ceremony marking the conclusion of the negotiations was held on 10 June 2026 in Mauritius and a Joint Announcement was signed confirming the successful conclusion of the negotiations between the ESA-4 States and the EU, thereby bringing the negotiating phase to a close. The Deepened EPA modernises the existing agreement by introducing new disciplines in areas such as services, investment, digital trade, sustainable development, competition policy, customs and trade facilitation, agriculture, and intellectual property, while strengthening provisions on goods and rules of origin, fisheries, and economic and development.

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14. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives will celebrate the International Day of Cooperatives 2026 on the theme “Cooperatives for a Peaceful World” to raise awareness of how cooperatives drive sustainable development, promote social justice, and strengthen stakeholder collaboration. The following activities will be organised -

- (a) a wreath laying ceremony at Les Jardins de la Compagnie, Port Louis, in collaboration with the Mauritius Cooperative Alliance Ltd, on Saturday 04 July 2026;
- (b) a message by the Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives on social media platforms;
- (c) a workshop to devise a strategic plan for cooperatives on food security (agriculture and fisheries), finance, handicraft, export tapping for cooperative products, digitalisation and energy sector; and
- (d) an international webinar on the theme “Cooperatives for a Sustainable and Inclusive Future: Lessons from Mauritius, Malaysia and India” by the National Co-operative College in collaboration with the Cooperative Institute of Malaysia, and the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management of India.

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15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the tenth Inter-Ministerial Committee meeting on the implementation of projects under the Digital Transformation Blueprint 2025-2029. The Committee took note of the progress made in respect of the -

- (a) Fleet Management System;
- (b) Cashless Electronic Ticketing System;
- (c) Online Payment of Fines and Digital Driving Licence;
- (d) Renewal of Motor Vehicle Licence;
- (e) Mobile App for Parking System;
- (f) Open Education Management Information System;
- (g) Services at the Registrar General Department;
- (h) E-Social Security Project;
- (i) Free Internet Connection;
- (j) E-Health System;
- (k) Online Data Repository;
- (l) E-Scheme of Service Project; and
- (m) Super App KOREK!.

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16. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities in the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Dialogue which was held in Bali, Indonesia. The ISA SIDS Dialogue was envisioned by ISA in partnership with the World Bank Group as a region-focused engagement platform under the SIDS Platform powered by ISA's Multi-Donor Trust Fund to address the persistent gap between high-level commitments and on-the-ground implementation in Small Island Developing States.

The Minister was invited by the World Bank to deliver a keynote address on the expansion of affordable solar energy and to share the experience of Mauritius in commissioning solar projects with SIDS countries of the Pacific region. The Minister had a bilateral meeting with the World Bank team and discussed a proposed financing package to support Mauritius' energy transition. The Minister also had a meeting with the Director General of the International Solar Alliance and discussed areas of collaboration in the field of renewable energy.

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17. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations in the 114<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference, held in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Minister addressed the plenary session of the conference and during his intervention emphasised that skilling, reskilling and upskilling are essential to meet the challenges and opportunities of AI on decent work and encouraged every Government to enhance social dialogue for the right policy decisions so that no worker is left behind. He highlighted that cooperation among member states and transfer of technology are essential for AI not to be a source of digital divide and inequality, and that mutual assistance will be necessary to implement and enforce decent work in the platform economy.

In the margins of the conference, the Minister had several meetings with key stakeholders, including the Director General of the International Labour Conference, the Minister of State for Labour and Employment of India, the Deputy Minister of International Affairs of Saudi Arabia, the Minister of Employment, Morocco, and Ministers responsible for labour and employment matters from Nepal, Madagascar, Bangladesh, Ghana, Rwanda and Botswana.

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18. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the official visit of the Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives to Rodrigues. The Minister had meetings with the Chief Commissioner of Rodrigues and the Commissioner for Agriculture & Ors, with the objective to reaffirm his Ministry's commitment to the development of SMEs, cooperatives and industry in Rodrigues, in partnership with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. During the meetings, they discussed the challenges which SMEs and cooperatives faced in Rodrigues with a view to solving them.

The Minister attended an Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme, organised by SME Mauritius Ltd, with the aim to provide specific groups, such as women and youth with the necessary information and assistance to channel their skills and competencies into business ventures for self-employment and economic independence. He also had an open and interactive session with Rodriguan entrepreneurs who were informed of the benefits, schemes/grants to which they are entitled, as a registered SME. The Minister also attended the launching of the AML/CFT framework for Cooperative Credit Unions and the award of certificates ceremony of the National Cooperative College.

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19. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the meetings of the SADC Ministerial Task Force on Regional Integration and the Committee of Ministers of Trade which were held virtually. The Junior Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade attended the Meetings.

During the SADC Ministerial Task Force on Regional Integration, all SADC Member States signed the SADC Protocol on Industry with only eight ratifications, including Mauritius. A review of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Road Map (SISR) 2015–2063 was conducted. The Ministerial Task Force endorsed a harmonised reporting template for monitoring the implementation of the SADC SME Development and Competitiveness Strategy 2025–2029.

The SADC Committee of Ministers of Trade discussed the comprehensive Review of Annex VII of the SADC Protocol on Trade (Trade in Sugar) and directed the Technical Committee on Sugar to conclude the review by April 2027. The Committee also discussed issues pertaining to Non-Tariff Barriers and rules of origin for wheat flour.

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20. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Junior Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade in the 40<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Commission which was held in Moroni, Union of Comoros.

In his intervention during the inaugural session, the Junior Minister highlighted the challenges facing the Island States of the Indian Ocean, namely energy security, maritime security, geopolitical instability, food security and connectivity. He emphasised that regional cooperation could boost economic development more effectively through accrued partnership, which itself was highly dependent on maritime and air connectivity.

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21. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of -

- (a) Mr Jean Daniel Philippe Labonne, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare as the new Chairperson of the Board of the National Adoption Council; and
- (b) Mr Gilbert Daniel Mervin Louise as the new Chairperson of the Board of the National Children's Council.

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