

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 21 AUGUST 2026

1. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding about the Coordination of Search and Rescue Services between the Republic of Mauritius and Australia. The parties to the Memorandum of Understanding will be the Department of Civil Aviation, the Shipping Division and the National Coast Guard on the Mauritian side and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority on the other side. These agencies are responsible for aeronautical and maritime search and rescue activities in both countries and will collaborate, inter alia, in the following fields –

- (a) exchange of information on actual or potential distress situations;
- (b) assistance in Search and Rescue (SAR) missions;
- (c) use of facilities in SAR regions;
- (d) exchange of information on SAR resources and capabilities;
- (e) regular communication checks; and
- (f) periodic joint SAR exercises.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Fisheries (Electronic Reporting Systems) (Amendment) Regulations 2026 which will improve the operational effectiveness of the Electronic Reporting System in place and the quality of fisheries data and catch reporting. The Regulations will strengthen compliance of licensed fishing vessels with regard to fishing and fishing-related activities, and thus support the sustainable management of the fisheries resources of Mauritius. The Regulations will also deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing in our national waters and the Indian Ocean region.

Amendments being brought to the existing Regulations will -

- (a) require the operator of a licensed fishing vessel to have the Electronic Reporting System unit repaired, at a port to be approved by the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, within a period of 30 days as from the date that any irregularity or malfunctioning is detected. Furthermore, the operator will not be allowed to start or pursue any fishing trip until the unit is replaced or repaired, and thereafter verified by the Ministry. These will help to reduce the risks of operators tampering with or misusing the unit, and improve data integrity and recording;
- (b) allow a licensed fishing vessel to continue a fishing trip where the Electronic Reporting System unit becomes inoperative, provided that the Fisheries Monitoring Centre is notified, manual logbooks are kept and daily fishing data is transmitted by email to the Ministry until the repair or replacement of the Unit. This contingency provision will ensure the continuity of reporting by fishing vessels;

- (c) remove provisions regarding penalties for offences to ensure consistency with the Fisheries Act which provide more stringent penalties, including higher fines and longer terms of imprisonment; and
- (d) authorise the use of the same equipment to transmit both Electronic Reporting System and Vessel Monitoring System positional data, with a view to bringing greater technological flexibility while maintaining the required reporting and monitoring obligations.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Fund (Pilgrimage) (Amendment) Regulations 2026, on the recommendations made by the Board of the Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Fund. The Regulations will provide for –

- (a) an increase in the current minimum number of Hajj pilgrims from 50 to 100 per operator; and
- (b) appropriate provisions for security deposits to be provided by operators for the issue of respective permits by the Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Fund.

The Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Fund (Pilgrimage) (Amendment) Regulations 2026 will be effective as from 22 August 2026.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the initiative to modernise and transform the Government Portal and the websites of Government into an intelligent and citizen-centric Digital Government Platform. The modernised Platform is expected to significantly enhance the digital experience of citizens and businesses by –

- (a) strengthening citizen engagement with Government;
- (b) providing a single, consistent and personalised digital gateway to Government services;
- (c) making Government information and services easier to access;
- (d) reducing the need to navigate multiple Government websites;
- (e) providing a more intuitive and personalised digital experience;
- (f) improving accessibility and inclusion; and
- (g) facilitating access to Government services through mobile devices.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the implementation of an e-Scheme of Service (e-SoS) platform, which comprises a single integrated electronic workflow capturing, among others, the drafting, submission, consultations and review of schemes of service before final approval and prescription. It also provides a centralised, up to date digital repository of all schemes of service in the Public Service. Moreover, the e-SoS platform is a core component of the broader e-Human Resource System already in place that will link schemes of service directly with human resource management practices and recruitment frameworks in the Public Service. The platform will go live by end of September 2026 and will thereafter be implemented across all Ministries/Departments in a phased manner.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Financial Services Commission (FSC) has issued a communiqué on its website to caution the public against the activities related to cryptocurrency being carried out by an entity under the name “DistributeX” in Mauritius.

Information gathered by the FSC indicated that DistributeX is maintaining an online presence through websites and mobile applications and was also operating from multiple locations in Mauritius, with members of the public being invited to recurrent in-person gatherings described as “official employee meetings”. The entity also appeared to recruit members by requiring an upfront financial contribution of approximately Rs7,000, following which members are being promised returns for undertaking relatively simple online activities involving clicking on cryptocurrencies that are shown on its website or application. Members are also being encouraged to recruit new participants through referral-based commissions within a structured membership programme.

The FSC has also reported the case to the Mauritius Police Force for investigation as there is a possibility that DistributeX is operating a Ponzi or Pyramid Scheme.

7. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius will host the Africa Credit Rating Conference on 05 and 06 October 2026, under the theme “Towards Developing African Capital Markets: Rechannelling Africa’s Capital”, followed by the official launch of the Africa Credit Rating Agency (AfCRA) on 07 October 2026, AfCRA which is a continental initiative spearheaded by the African Peer Review Mechanism. Following a competitive evaluation process involving several African Union Member States, Mauritius emerged as the top candidate to host the Headquarters of AfCRA, reflecting the confidence placed in our jurisdiction as a stable, well-regulated and credible International Financial Centre.

The hosting of the Conference and establishment of AfCRA in Mauritius are expected to further strengthen the country’s positioning within Africa’s evolving financial architecture and reinforce its role as a platform for African financial policy dialogue, capital mobilisation and development financing.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives in the Bilateral Engagement Programme on Policies and Programmes of Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperatives Sectors in India. In the margins of the programme, the Minister held bilateral meetings with officials of the National Cooperative Union of India, the National Cooperative Development Corporation of India and the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research.

The Minister visited *i*-Hub Gujarat with a view to establishing a mutual innovation and startup hub in Mauritius and bringing a startup revolution by creating a strong ecosystem. The Minister also visited the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, which specialises in salt-affected soils, water quality, drainage, reclamation and salt-tolerant production systems.

The Minister also met with the Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications wherein discussions focused on enhancing the working collaboration of the African-Asian Rural Development Organization and its subsequent benefits to member States.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of former Puisne Judge Joseph Gérard Angoh, GOSK, as Chairperson of the Law Practitioners Complaints Commission, in accordance with section 5(3)(a) of the Law Practitioners (Disciplinary Proceedings) Act 2025.
