

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2026

1. Cabinet has taken note that, in recognition of their commitment and sacrifices, a one-off special allowance of Rs10,000 will be granted across the board to all Officers of the Mauritius Police Force, including the Special Mobile Force, and the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service who were on duty during the riots which occurred in several localities during the week of 12 to 18 October 2026.

Cabinet commended all Police Officers and Fire Fighters for their dedication and professionalism demonstrated throughout this critical period. Both Services remained resolute in the discharge of their duties under considerable pressure. Their collective efforts were instrumental in restoring peace and order across the country.

2. Cabinet has taken note that in the aftermath of the recent social unrest, the Prime Minister will launch a series of consultations with different stakeholders for an in-depth examination of the root causes of those incidents with a view to coming up with appropriate measures for the benefit of all citizens. The first consultative meeting will be held next week with Non-Governmental Organisations.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the chair of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare to follow up on the implementation of recommendations of the Report of the Truth and Justice Commission.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Emergency Water Situation chaired by the Prime Minister on Thursday 22 October 2026. The Committee reviewed the water supply situation and took note of the measures being taken by the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities and the Central Water Authority to address water shortages and improve water supply across Mauritius. Representatives of relevant Ministries as well as the Central Water Authority, the Water Resources Commission and the Central Electricity Board participated in the discussions to assess the situation and align efforts to address the water supply challenges.

Cabinet has further noted that Government is currently strengthening its response to the water supply emergency by prioritising urgent interventions, improving the management of available water resources and strengthening coordination among the relevant Ministries and Authorities given the declining reservoir levels. The following priority measures have been taken to improve the availability of water in the Upper Plaine-Wilhems region, thus allowing water distribution on alternate days, region-wise –

- (a) the use of 14 additional boreholes owned by Government as well as private entities;
- (b) the installation of mobile containerised pressure filters and direct abstraction of water from rivers;
- (c) the provision of water tankers to assist residents affected by supply disruptions;
- (d) the installation of 10 reservoirs of 30,000L in different localities;
- (e) the extension of the Water Tank and Water Pump Grant Scheme under the Development Bank of Mauritius to all households that are not already equipped with water tanks; and
- (f) the recruitment of 70 personnel by the Central Water Authority.

Cabinet has taken note that with the installation of a pump at Mare Longue Reservoir, some 10,000 m³ of water will be supplied to La Marie Water Treatment Plant as from next week. The following medium-term measures are also being implemented –

- (a) laying of a twin pipeline from Tamarind falls reservoir to La Marie Water Treatment Plant for additional inflow of around 20,000 m³; and
- (b) laying of an additional pipeline from Mare Longue Reservoir to La Marie Water Treatment Plant thus increasing the outflow from Mare Longue Reservoir by an additional 12,000 m³.

Cabinet has also taken note of the progress of the following long-term initiatives to improve water availability –

- (a) improvement to the water infrastructure by the implementation of the pipe replacement programme;
- (b) the conduct of a feasibility study for the setting up of a desalination plant; and
- (c) the implementation of additional waste water recycling projects by the Waste Water Management Authority.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the draft Child Adoption Bill being circulated for public consultations. The main object of the draft Bill is to provide a legal framework for the domestic adoption and intercountry adoption of children and give effect to the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation, in respect of Intercountry Adoption, concluded on 29 May 1993, to which the Republic of Mauritius is a signatory. The draft Bill, inter alia, makes provisions for –

- (a) the establishment of the Mauritius Child Adoption Authority which shall be responsible for matters relating to domestic adoption and intercountry adoption of children and act as the Central Authority for the purpose of the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption;

- (b) the principles governing the adoption of children;
- (c) monitoring the pre-adoption and post-adoption process and ensuring the protection of children prior to and after the adoption;
- (d) the prospective adoptive parent to possess a certificate of eligibility and the conditions that they should satisfy for that purpose; and
- (e) the matching of children with the prospective adoptive parent.

Cabinet has also agreed to the draft Code Civil Mauricien (Amendment) Bill being circulated for public consultations. The draft Bill will have as object to amend the Code Civil Mauricien to align the procedures for adoption with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and changes in societal norms in relations to the adoption.

Both draft Bills will be posted on the website of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the setting up of a Special Desk at the Home Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Office to fast-track requests for resumption of citizenship from Chagossians.

7. Cabinet has taken note that Mr Gerard Bussier, Deputy Financial Secretary will be appointed Chief Secretary for Resource Mobilisation and Strategic Delivery, with a view to ensuring prompt delivery in the implementation of capital projects. Mr Bussier will report directly to the Prime Minister on project implementation and optimisation of resources.

8. Cabinet has taken note that following the cancellation of the School Certificate (SC) and Higher School Certificate (HSC) Examination papers due to social unrest on Tuesday 13 October 2026, the Ministry of Education and Human Resource had discussions with the Cambridge International Education (CIE) regarding the rescheduling of the SC and HSC Examination papers.

The Ministry of Education and Human Resource requested CIE to provide a contingency paper in respect of those subjects. However, CIE maintained its position that it intends to award results using assessed grades. Assessed marks will put the candidates in the same rank order position for the component (s) for which they did not sit based on the combined marks for the components they sat for. This process ensures that no candidate is systematically advantaged or disadvantaged. CIE maintained that, under the Cambridge Handbook, individual examination papers are generally not rescheduled, in order to preserve examination security and comply with international examination requirements. The Mauritius Examination Syndicate has issued a communiqué, accordingly.

The Ministry of Education and Human Resource will approach CIE for a review of the Collaboration Agreement to include specific provisions for such situations.

9. Cabinet has agreed to the transfer, at no cost, of 27 plots of land on the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Housing Estates to the current occupiers.

In the early 1960s, the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund acquired land in various parts of the island to construct houses and flats for sugar and dock workers. Some of the remaining land was used for community centres, playgrounds, green spaces and children's parks, or allocated to socio-cultural organisations. Over the years, some unutilised plots were occupied without authorisation for residential, agricultural, commercial or religious purposes.

The transfer will regularise the occupation of the plots concerned and address a longstanding matter. The Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund will undertake the necessary verification and procedures before effecting the transfers.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the revised Guidelines and the Funding Agreement for the One-Off Cash Grant Scheme to registered Child Day Care Centres. The One-Off Cash Grant Scheme seeks to address one of the barriers to women joining the labour force by enhancing access to childcare and making workplaces more inclusive. The aim is to provide safe, appropriate and quality childcare facilities and services for children aged between 14 weeks and three years who attend Child Day Care Centres.

The eligibility criteria for the Scheme and the Funding Agreement have been reviewed by the National Children's Council in order to facilitate the disbursement process. The guidelines require the Child Day Care Centres to submit relevant documentation.

11. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Finance and Audit (Rodrigues Subsidy Account) (Amendment) Regulations 2026, which will provide for amendments to the definition of petroleum products in line with the intended objectives of the Rodrigues Subsidy Account as follows –

“petroleum products” means –

- (a) Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) of 5, 6, or 12 kilogrammes for domestic use only; and
- (b) Mogas, Gas Oil, and Dual Purpose Kerosene (DPK).

In accordance with the Finance and Audit (Rodrigues Subsidy Account) Regulations 2018, the objects of the Rodrigues Subsidy Account are to subsidise, inter alia, all costs involved in transporting, storing and distributing petroleum products supplied by the State Trading Corporation, so that the retail prices in Rodrigues are kept at par with their respective prices prevailing in Mauritius.

12. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Fair Trading (Conciliation and Mediation) Regulations 2026, which will establish statutory alternative dispute resolution framework, enabling consumers and traders to resolve disputes efficiently outside the formal judicial system.

The Regulations will prescribe the operational process for a structured conciliation and mediation mechanism, and will establish a Mediation Committee to assist consumers and traders in reaching mutually amicable, cost-free settlements. The mechanism will provide an expediated, simple and effective avenue for resolving disputes, lowering barriers to justice while fully preserving the constitutional rights to judicial review.

13. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) (Amendment No. 5) Regulations 2026 and the Consumer Protection (Importation and Sale of Second-hand Motor Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations 2026, which will provide for conditions governing the importation of second-hand motor vehicles and the regulatory framework for authorised dealers of second-hand motor vehicles.

The Regulations will provide for the age criteria for import of second-hand motorcars being maintained to between 18 months and four years, from the date of first registration, at the date of shipment. In respect of used motor vehicles being temporarily exported for repairs and re-imported, no import permit or clearance would be required. However, the motor vehicle will be subject to its original chassis being maintained, and under such terms and conditions as the Mauritius Revenue Authority may approve.

14. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius acceding to the following International Civil Aviation instruments, without reservation –

- (a) Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation;
- (b) Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft; and
- (c) Protocol to Amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft.

The three instruments constitute a comprehensive and coherent framework for the protection of international civil aviation against both terrorism and in-flight disorder. The incorporation of the instruments into our domestic law will ensure that Mauritius meets its full obligations under International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards and takes its rightful place among the community of States committed to the safety and security of the global aviation system. Accession to the international aviation instruments will align Mauritius with the latest international legal framework governing the security and safety of civil aviation. It will ensure that the country's treaty obligations remain consistent with evolving international standards and recommended practices developed by the ICAO.

15. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of the National Health Infrastructure Ltd, a Government-owned private company which will be responsible for the planning, design, implementation, management, operation and maintenance of health infrastructure, medical equipment and vehicles.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness manages five Regional Hospitals, six Specialised Hospitals, two District Hospitals, two Community Hospitals, 12 Mediclinics, 105 Area/Community Health Centres, seven Health Offices and one Warehouse at Plaine Lauzun. Besides providing quality healthcare to the population, the Ministry of Health and Wellness also has the responsibility to ensure that these infrastructure and equipment are kept in optimum conditions, through constant upgrading, renovation, replacement and maintenance.

16. Cabinet has agreed to the establishment of a Visiting Doctor Scheme, under which the Ministry of Health and Wellness may engage, on a temporary basis, medical Consultants/Specialists, healthcare professionals and multidisciplinary healthcare teams to provide specialised clinical services and undertake complex procedures which cannot adequately be provided locally.

The Scheme will apply only where the required treatment is unavailable in public hospitals due to the absence or insufficient availability of suitably qualified Consultants/Specialists or the requisite expertise locally. Visiting Teams will comprise doctors, nurses and paramedical professionals, as required. Visiting Teams will provide specialised clinical services and contribute to the training and mentoring of local healthcare personnel.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the elaboration of a strategy paper and action plan for the tourism sector following the submission in April 2026, of the Ten-Year Blueprint for the tourism sector 2026–2035 by the World Bank. The Blueprint provides the overarching strategic framework for the long-term development and transformation of the Mauritian tourism sector. It sets out a shared vision and the strategic direction aimed at promoting sustainable, inclusive and resilient growth, while strengthening the contribution of tourism to economic diversification, employment creation, local value generation and national prosperity.

The Ministry of Tourism is currently elaborating a strategy paper for the tourism sector structured around seven strategic pillars, namely destination marketing and promotion, diversification of the tourism product portfolio, management of the accommodation offering, institutional review and strengthening, addressing skills shortages and mismatches, sustainable tourism development and strengthening the local value chain. The strategy paper will also comprise a detailed Action Plan to operationalise the strategic priorities identified through specific actions and initiatives to be undertaken with expected outcomes.

18. Cabinet has taken note of the measures initiated by the Ministry of Education and Human Resource in collaboration with the Mauritius Telecom Foundation, to empower blind and visually impaired learners by removing barriers to teaching and learning and ensuring a level playing field that enables them to access educational opportunities on an equitable basis with their peers.

Laptops along with complementary specialised equipment, namely the Perkins keyboards, external hard drives of two TB each will be provided to blind and visually impaired learners of Grades 9 to 13 enrolled in State Secondary Schools and Grant-Aided Schools to support the effective use of the laptops and storage of accessible educational materials and a Smart Braille. The laptops will facilitate access to digital educational resources and appropriate assistive technology will complement the existing provision of Braille materials.

19. Cabinet has taken note that major international concerns have been raised following the identification of PHP security vulnerabilities, a programming language which powers almost 70% of websites and web applications worldwide. The vulnerabilities could enable attackers to gain unauthorised access to affected systems, steal information, compromise websites and disrupt online services.

The Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius has issued a security advisory alert urging all organisations using PHP-based applications to assess their exposure and apply necessary security updates without delay to minimise the risk of cyber-attacks. The Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation issued a communiqué on 22 October 2026.

20. Cabinet has taken note of the setting up of a dedicated branch of the Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency (MDPA) in Rodrigues, in view of the need for sustained, year-round engagement to improve awareness and uptake of e-Government initiatives for citizens in Rodrigues. In August 2026, a team of the MDPA carried out an awareness session in Rodrigues to onboard citizens on MauPass and KOREK! application to enable them to access e-Government services. Some 500 citizens were successfully onboarded.

21. Cabinet has taken note of the holding of a stakeholders' engagement workshop by the Mauritius Meteorological Services on the implementation of Impact-Based Forecasting in Mauritius through financial support of the UK-funded Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa, from 28 to 30 October 2026, in Mauritius. The main objectives of the workshop are, inter alia, to –

- (a) identify priority weather and climate-related hazards affecting Mauritius;
- (b) understand how different sectors currently use weather and climate information, and identify gaps that limit the effectiveness of early warning systems;

- (c) explore how weather and climate services can better support decision-making across sectors such as disaster management, water resources, infrastructure, agriculture, and coastal management;
- (d) facilitate discussions and group exercises, stakeholders will identify user needs, communication challenges, and opportunities for improving the accessibility and usability of forecasts and warnings; and
- (e) incorporate user feedback and sectoral perspectives to ensure that future Impact Based Forecasting services are demand-driven.

22. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Wellness, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund, will organise a National Youth Consultative Workshop on 05 and 06 November 2026, with a view to undertaking a consultative review of the National Adolescent Health Strategy 2024-2029. The review of the Strategy has become necessary in light of Mauritius' evolving demographic and social landscape, characterised by declining fertility rates, an ageing population, changing family structures, rapid digital transformation and emerging health challenges affecting adolescents and young people.

The workshop will adopt a youth-led and participatory approach, aimed at ensuring meaningful involvement of adolescents and young people in the review of the National Adolescent Health Strategy 2024-2029. The main objectives of the workshop will be to –

- (a) review the existing Strategy and assess the relevance of its priorities and proposed interventions in addressing the evolving health needs of adolescents and young people;
- (b) identify emerging adolescent health issues, challenges and priorities, taking into account the experiences, perspectives and aspirations of young people;
- (c) formulate recommendations to strengthen the Strategy's interventions and implementation arrangements, with a view to improving its effectiveness and responsiveness; and
- (d) promote meaningful youth participation in the review and implementation of the Strategy, ensuring that the views and recommendations of adolescents and young people are adequately reflected in national adolescent health policies and programmes.

23. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries in the *Sagarmathan* - The Great Oceans Dialogue 2026 held in New Delhi, India. The Dialogue revolved around three main areas, namely "The oceans, if governed wisely, can bridge a fractured world; Cooperation at sea may yet outpace conflict on land; and the blue economy, if designed with foresight, can anchor a more stable, sustainable and inclusive global future."

The Minister participated in the Ministerial High-Level Segment where he intervened as a panellist in the Plenary session “Ocean Nations: Reimagining Blue Prosperity”. The Minister also participated in the Studio Session “The Island Advantage: Mauritius and the Blue Economy”. During the Conference, the Minister intervened in the Ministerial Business Dinner “From Ambition to Action: Building the Next Generation of Maritime Economies” and highlighted Mauritius’ strategic position in the Indian Ocean posing itself between South Africa, Brazil and Australia.

24. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Junior Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, in the 12th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP12) to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Western Indian Ocean, held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania. COP12 was held under the theme “Towards Sustainable Blue Economy in the Western Indian Ocean region for people and nature: A journey of Forty Years.” At the meeting of the COP12, the Contracting Parties to the Convention unanimously agreed to the new composition of the Bureau for 2026-2028 with Mauritius as Chair. The Bureau 2026-2028 will exercise decision-making powers on issues relating to the Convention and its Protocols. The Contracting Parties to the Convention agreed to Mauritius hosting the 13th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP13) in 2028.

The Ministerial Declaration of COP12, as adopted with amendments, establishes key priorities for the Contracting Parties, including improving regulatory frameworks to attract sustainable private investment, expanding innovative ocean financing, strengthening regional cooperation on Marine Spatial Planning, enhancing maritime security, combating pollution, supporting Small Island Developing States and improving institutional coordination to implement global ocean treaties, particularly the Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement. In the margins of COP12, the Junior Minister participated in numerous events and had several bilateral meetings.

25. Cabinet has taken note of the –

- (a) appointment of Dr Ahmad Jameel Khadaroo, as part-time Chairperson of the Board of the National Housing Development Company Ltd;
- (b) appointment of Mr Nadeem Ahmadkhan Hyderkhan, as part-time Chairperson of the Sports Arbitration Tribunal; and
- (c) proposed appointment of Mrs Ranjeeta Dussoye-Sookha as Chief Executive Officer and Mr Deepaksing Ramjeet as Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Sugar Investment Trust.
