

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2026

1. Cabinet has taken note that on 21 September 2026, the Prime Minister had a telephone conversation with the Rt Hon Andy Burnham, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK) who assured the Prime Minister of his commitment to work with Mauritius and the United States of America for the ratification of the Agreement on the Chagos Archipelago signed by Mauritius and the UK on 22 May 2025.

Cabinet also noted that during the meeting which the UK Prime Minister had with the US President on 22 September 2026, the latter reiterated his opposition to the Agreement on the Chagos Archipelago and that in a press statement after that meeting, the UK Prime Minister expressed his commitment to seeking a resolution to the satisfaction of all parties. According to statements made by the British authorities, the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago, which is undisputable under international law in the light of the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 25 February 2019, the Judgments of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea of 28 January 2021 and 28 April 2023 and UN General Assembly Resolution 73/295 of 22 May 2019, is not being questioned.

Cabinet further noted that Mauritius has, at no point in time, put into question the continued operation of the military base in Diego Garcia and that the May 2025 Agreement in fact guarantees the long-term, secure and effective operation of the base.

During his forthcoming visit to the UK, the Prime Minister will meet Mr Jonathan Powell, the UK Prime Minister's National Security Adviser and will discuss with him latest developments relating to the Chagos Archipelago.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the Republic of Mauritius signing a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with the Czech Republic. The DTAA will clarify the taxing rights of each country on income covered by the Agreement and will also -

- (a) provide certainty to investors in their dealings with Mauritius or the Czech Republic;
- (b) grant preferential rates on dividends, interest and royalties as compared to withholding tax rates applicable in the Czech Republic;
- (c) create a conducive environment for greater cross-border investment flows between the two countries;
- (d) establish a framework for exchange of information between the tax authorities of Mauritius and Czech Republic, with a view to combatting tax evasion and other tax malpractices; and
- (e) provide a mechanism to taxpayers for the resolution of tax disputes.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Local Government (Building and Land Use Permit Fees) Regulations 2026 which will harmonise Building and Land Use Permit Fees applicable across all Local Authorities and include a new category, namely Renewable Energy, as from 01 October 2026.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the first Proliferation Financing National Risk Assessment (PF NRA) carried out to assess the Proliferation Financing Risk in Mauritius as well as the launching of the public version of the PF NRA Report. The objectives of the PF NRA exercise were, inter alia, to -

- (a) identify and assess the PF threats to which Mauritius may be exposed;
- (b) identify and assess vulnerabilities within Mauritius which may be exploited for the financing of proliferation or for the evasion of targeted financial sanctions; and
- (c) develop recommendations based on the identified risks.

The overall national Proliferation Financing (PF) risk for Mauritius was assessed as Medium. While no PF cases or active PF groups had been identified, the threats posed by United Nations Security Council designated persons and entities, as well as indirect PF threats arising from Ship-to-Ship Transfers, Trade with High-Risk Jurisdictions, the Procurement of Dual-use Items, the Movement of Persons from Countries of Proliferation Concern and the potential exploitation of Virtual Assets were recognised.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Implementation of the Government Programme 2025-2029, chaired by the Minister of Housing and Lands, held meetings on 10 and 17 September 2026 to review progress on the measures pertaining to the Ministry of Health and Wellness and to review measures relating to drug control, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

The Committee took note that a number of measures have already been achieved, while significant progress is being made in respect of the remaining measures. The Ministry of Health and Wellness will publish regular cancer statistics to raise public awareness. Over 150,000 patients are registered on the E-Health system. The Committee also took note that –

- (a) the National Agency for Drug Control (NADC) and the Ministry of Health and Wellness will strengthen coordination and communication mechanisms to ensure that measures relating to drug control, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation are implemented in a concerted manner;
- (b) the NADC will organise a national drug prevention and awareness campaign in October 2026, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;

- (c) the NADC and the Ministry of Health and Wellness will consider appropriate communication and awareness measures to keep the public informed of the actions and initiatives being undertaken to address the drug problem, including prevention, treatment and rehabilitation;
- (d) a National Rehabilitation Centre with a capacity of 10 beds is already operational, and work is underway to increase its capacity to 25 beds. Arrangements are also being made for the establishment of a second rehabilitation centre in the southern part of the island; and
- (e) the relevant authorities will examine the factors contributing to persons apprehended for possession of drugs preferring imprisonment to rehabilitation under the Drug Users Administrative Panel, with a view to encouraging eligible persons to make use of the rehabilitation facilities and services available.

6. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius supporting the adoption of the Nairobi Convention's Regional Strategy on Plastic Pollution and Associated Chemicals in the Western Indian Ocean, 2027–2037. The Strategy will be tabled for discussion and adoption at the forthcoming 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP12) to the Nairobi Convention to be held in October 2026 in Tanzania. The Strategy is structured around five strategic pillars namely –

- (a) preventing and reducing plastic pollution at source;
- (b) transforming plastic product design and ensuring safer and circular plastics;
- (c) scaling reuse, refill and viable circular alternatives;
- (d) strengthening environmentally sound waste management and leakage prevention, including Extended Producer Responsibility; and
- (e) addressing sea-based sources of plastic pollution.

The Strategy will harmonise regional approaches and standards, facilitate access to technical assistance, capacity building and financing opportunities, as well as contribute to the protection of the marine and coastal environment.

7. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius endorsing the draft Regional Contingency Plan for Preparedness and Response to Major Marine Pollution Incidents in the Western Indian Ocean, which will be tabled for discussion and adoption at the forthcoming 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP12) to the Nairobi Convention to be held in October 2026 in Tanzania.

The Regional Contingency Plan will establish a mechanism for mutual assistance, under which the competent national authorities of the Western Indian Ocean countries will co-operate in order to co-ordinate and integrate their response to marine pollution incidents either affecting or likely to affect the territorial sea, coasts and related interests of one or more of these countries or to incidents surpassing the available response capacity of each of these countries alone.

8. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius intends to join the 'Kigali +10 Declaration to Advance Global Atmospheric Protection'. The Declaration is a non-binding statement that reviews progress under the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment over the past ten years and reaffirms shared commitments and vision for future cooperation. It calls for full implementation of the Kigali Amendment through stronger compliance, action against illegal trade mobilisation of finance and technology, stronger institutional and technical capacity, and improved monitoring and reporting. It also promotes sustainable, energy-efficient and affordable cooling, improved equipment management, innovation, measures to reduce cooling demand, and international cooperation.

Mauritius is implementing Phase I of its Kigali Implementation Plan, in line with the Declaration's objectives. Joining the Declaration will reaffirm Mauritius' commitment to protecting the ozone layer, reducing global warming, and supporting effective implementation of the Kigali Amendment.

9. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius donating USD75,000 to the African Union African Epidemic Fund, in response to the call for voluntary contributions made by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to African Heads of State and Government, in view of the serious health threat posed by the Ebola outbreaks.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the submission of the Sixth Periodic Report of the Republic of Mauritius under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a core international human rights treaty that commits State Parties to protect the basic civil and political rights of individuals. The Report covers the period October 2017 to June 2026 and highlights progress achieved in implementing the provisions of the Covenant since the last review in 2017.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the consultative workshop held on 07 and 08 September 2026 for the preparation of a Concept Paper on the proposed Public Sector Reform legislation. The workshop focused on six thematic areas guided by a number of overarching principles comprising namely good governance, transparency, accountability, reform and innovation, citizen-centric service delivery, institutional clarity and a performance and results oriented Public Service.

The views and recommendations emerging from the six thematic consultations have been consolidated and a Concept Paper has been prepared, setting out the principal policy directions and proposed features of the envisaged legislative framework, covering public sector governance, institutional accountability, human resource management, service delivery, ethics, innovation, digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence.

12. Cabinet has taken note that grants to Saint Bartholomew's College and Royal Holloway College will be stopped, in accordance with section 15(1)(c) of the Private Secondary Education Authority (PSEA) Act, as from January 2027. This decision has been taken by the Board of the PSEA, given that both colleges no longer satisfy the eligibility criterion relating to the minimum school population.

Arrangements will be made for students of the two schools to be transferred to other educational institutions located near their places of residence. In addition, in line with the current policy on staff redeployment, eligible permanent teaching and non-teaching staff of the two private secondary schools will be absorbed by the Mauritius Education Development Company (MEDCO) Ltd and subsequently placed in other MEDCO schools, State secondary schools or other sectors where their services may be required.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised to mark World Heart Day, which is observed annually on 29 September as a global campaign to raise awareness of cardiovascular diseases. The theme for World Heart Day 2026, "Don't Miss a Beat," continues the theme featured in 2025 and calls on individuals to recognise the early warning signs of cardiovascular disease, maintain continuous access to appropriate care, and make heart health a daily priority.

To commemorate World Heart Day 2026, the Ministry of Health and Wellness in collaboration with Mauritius Telecom will organise a series of activities whereby screening for Non-Communicable Diseases, Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer will be carried out from 29 September to 02 October 2026. The following activities will also be organised during the month of October 2026 –

- (a) radio talks and TV programmes;
- (b) talks and sensitisation campaigns at Community Health Centres, Women Centres, Social Welfare Centres, schools and urban/rural community settings on the risk factors of heart diseases and preventive measures to be taken;
- (c) distribution of pamphlets to raise awareness of heart disease and its risk factors; and
- (d) an exhibition to raise awareness on healthy lifestyles and healthy diets, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the holding of the second meeting of the Mauritius-India High Powered Joint Trade Committee in Mauritius from 07 to 09 October 2026 to, inter alia, –

- (a) oversee the implementation of the provisions contained in the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement;
- (b) address any non-tariff measures encountered by the Parties; and

- (c) consider possible improvement to the Agreement with a view to fostering market access and economic cooperation.

The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement between Mauritius and India, signed in February 2021 contains three key elements, namely Trade in Goods, Trade in Services and Economic Cooperation.

15. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius hosting the African Harbour Masters Committee Conference 2027 on 06 and 07 April 2027. The Conference will be organised by the African Harbour Masters Committee in collaboration with the Port Management Association for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Ports Management Association of West and Central Africa and the Mauritius Ports Authority.

The Conference aims, inter alia, to promote collaboration among African Harbour Masters, sharing of international best practices in harbour and marine operations, strengthen safety and environmental protection within African ports, promote sustainable bunkering and ship-to-ship operations, advance digital transformation through Maritime Single Window and Port Community Systems, and strengthen Search and Rescue capabilities.

16. Cabinet has taken note that the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation will hold the first International Conference on Public Sector Management, Administration, Policy and Public Finance, from 28 to 30 October 2026, in Mauritius.

The Conference aims to bring together academics, researchers, policymakers, public officers and doctoral students from Mauritius, Africa, India and other international regions to share research, exchange knowledge and explore innovative approaches to strengthen public sector management and service delivery. The Conference is being organised in collaboration with key public higher education institutions, including the University of Mauritius, the University of Technology, Mauritius and the Open University of Mauritius.

The Conference will focus on several thematic areas, namely public sector innovation and reforms, change management, governance and compliance, leadership, human resource management, public sector economics, digital transformation, Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies, sustainable development, procurement and supply chain management, crisis management, local government and citizen service delivery.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Tourism in the International French Travel Market Top Resa, a leading annual event for the international travel and tourism industry, held at the Paris Expo Porte de Versailles in Paris.

The Mauritius Pavillion, accommodated local tourism stakeholders who showcased the destination offerings, providing an excellent platform for networking sessions, whilst reinforcing the visibility of Mauritius on the French market and strengthening relationships with key industry partners.

The Minister attended the opening ceremony of the Top Resa and had the opportunity to meet the *Ministre des Petites et Moyennes entreprises, du Commerce, de l'Artisanat, du Tourisme et du Pouvoir d'achat* and exchanged with him on the strong bilateral ties between Mauritius and France and on the strategic importance of the French tourism market for our country. He also attended a business lunch hosted by the First Vice-President of Réunion Island, Delegate for Economic Affairs, Finance and Tourism, and President of the Réunion Tourism Committee. He also had a fruitful meeting with the Director of Corsair, who emphasised the importance of the Mauritius destination for the Company.

18. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reforms to India. The Minister had high level Ministerial meetings with the Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, the Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana and the Minister of Industries and Commerce of Telangana. He also held discussions with the University Grants Commission of India, the Jawaharlal Nehru University and seven public sector capacity building institutions with a view to enlarging and strengthening the training spectrum of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation.
