

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 10 APRIL 2026

1. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of a series of measures to mitigate the adverse impacts of the conflict in the Middle East on the Mauritian economy and society.

A meeting of the Crisis Committee on the economic and social impacts of the present conflict in the Middle East was held, under the chair of the Prime Minister, on 08 April 2026. The Committee noted that on the same day, Iran and the United States had agreed to a conditional two-week cease-fire, during which shipping traffic will be allowed through the Strait of Hormuz. The Prime Minister pointed out that we should not be lulled into complacency as it is a fragile cease-fire.

Although the situation might improve, the Committee resolved that immediate, medium-term and long-term strategies would have to be adopted to mitigate the ripple effects of the conflict on the economy, households and vulnerable groups. In this context and keeping in mind that due to the legacy left by the previous government, with a high budget deficit and an elevated debt level, there is limited fiscal space and a balancing act is required.

Cabinet has, thus, agreed to the implementation of the following measures -

(a) **Energy Security**

- Continue with the frequent reporting on fuel and gas stocks, incoming vessels and potential shortages for better planning and proactive measures;
- Intensify the public awareness campaign on energy-saving (lights, AC, motors);
- Finalise the regulations to impose restrictions on usage of grid power for superfluous activities that are not required for safety or security such as -
 - Operating illuminated advertising boards, billboards or digital displays;
 - Illuminating building facades for aesthetic purposes and decorative/ornamental lighting; and
 - Inefficient operation of air-conditioning systems in commercial and institutional premises.
- Introduce Minimum Energy Performance Standard for refrigerators and air conditioning;

- Encourage work-from-home and flexi time arrangements;
- Encourage carpooling to maximise vehicle occupancy and reduce fuel consumption;
- Maximise the use of coal and biomass fuels to generate electricity and reduce usage of heavy fuel oil;
- Plan the maintenance schedules of power stations to make optimum use of coal and biomass generation;
- Finalise a G-to-G arrangement with the Indian Government to secure a supplier for the supply of heavy fuel oil;
- Maintain a minimum strategic fuel reserve (e.g., 30–45 days);
- Explore pooled procurement with neighbouring countries to benefit from economies of scale;
- Allow industries to swap from heavy fuel oil to marine fuel oil;
- Provide additional incentives to households and businesses for reducing peak-hour consumption;
- Encourage use of self-produced renewable energy and promote new renewable energy usage;
- Unlock the various renewable energy projects of a total of 405 MW in the pipeline;
- Fast-track approvals and grid-connection waivers for rooftop solar on public buildings, hospitals, and critical infrastructure, with upfront financing or on-bill mechanisms;
- Development Bank of Mauritius (DBM) Ltd to be requested to consider low interest loans for renewable energy scheme for households and SMEs;
- Fast track approval for projects under the CEB Agrivoltaics Scheme; and
- Increasing electricity tariffs by 15% with effect from 01 May 2026, while excluding those on the Social Register of Mauritius, consumers falling under the 110A, 215 and 315 tariff categories as well as SMEs. A total of 128,800 consumers out of 541,127 will be excluded.

Cabinet has also taken note that the Agreement with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd for the procurement of petroleum products is being finalised following discussions held during the visit of the External Affairs Minister of India, Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

(b) Food Security

- Set up a centralised database to monitor stock level of food supply, seeds, fertilizer, and meat products to enable timely corrective actions, including identification of alternative sources;
- Secure the supply of fertilizers from different sources, including India;
- Develop a calendar of production and supply of local food commodities to better plan production;
- Diversify sources of food supplies, including livestock from Madagascar, Namibia and Kenya, to avoid disruption in distribution;
- Enhance food and livestock production in Rodrigues;
- Negotiate G-to-G agreement with friendly countries (e.g., India and France) to secure supplies of food products at affordable cost;
- Intensify site inspections to prevent abusive pricing practices and artificial withholding of stocks; and
- Implement a national campaign against food wastage.

(c) Tourism

- Seat capacity has been restored through additional direct flights and temporary frequency increases (6 supplementary flights by MK for period 23 March to 29 April 2026 to Paris, and 3 additional flights per week by Turkish Airlines for a period of one year);
- Intensify destination marketing to reassure travellers;
- Support rapid redeployment of marketing efforts towards better-performing markets such as South Africa, India, Australia and Reunion Island; and
- Follow-up on the resumption of flights by air lines during the cease fire.

(d) SMEs

- Introduce an SME Resilience, and Import & Export Continuity Support Scheme to provide targeted and time-bound support to affected SMEs, including maintenance of the existing Freight Rebate Scheme;
- Implement measures to ease liquidity constraints and support business continuity, including provision of a moratorium period or rescheduling of loans extended by the DBM Ltd and other relevant financial institutions;
- A Working Capital Loan Scheme by the DBM Ltd to enable SMEs to meet short-term working capital requirements will be considered; and

- Fast-track the operationalisation of the VOSTRO Account arrangements with India to facilitate settlement of trade transactions in local currencies.

(e) Vulnerable Groups

- Extension of the list of eligible commodities under the Price Stabilisation Fund to include other essential products whose prices have increased significantly.

Cabinet has further taken note that the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity in consultation with the Ministry of Finance is looking into the review of the income threshold to determine the eligibility of a household to be placed on the Social Register of Mauritius.

(f) Opportunities

- Introduce a Golden Visa Scheme to attract investors and high-net-worth individuals to immediately relocate to Mauritius;
- Establish a Fast-Track Concierge Service within the Economic Development Board to facilitate and accelerate the process for incoming high-net-worth individuals;
- Broaden the current Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions VAT Exemption Scheme to include international sports events and international television/film awards events, in addition to current qualifying activities, i.e., business meetings, exhibitions, conferences and weddings;
- Accelerate the relocation of service providers in the Financial Services Sector through fast-track licensing by the Regulatory Bodies in Mauritius (Financial Services Commission and Registrar of Companies), with no compromise on due diligence; and
- Provide fast-track clearance for licences to existing freeport operators in the Middle East to operate in the Mauritius Freeport (without going through the process of new application).

Ministries and public bodies will work out the appropriate modalities for the effective implementation of the above measures, in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

The Crisis Committee will continue to monitor developments with regard to the conflict and its impacts on the Mauritian economy and society. The Committee will consider other medium-term and long-term measures identified in the Report in order to enhance the resilience of the economy and society to such shocks.

Cabinet has further agreed to the setting up of a Crisis Solidarity Fund to ensure social justice.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection and has agreed to –

- (a) the subsidy schemes to bakeries and the price of scheduled bread being revised; and
- (b) the introduction of targeted financial support to mitigate any impact on vulnerable households.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chair of the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection and comprising the Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity and the Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives was set up in February 2026 to examine the price of bread. After due deliberations, the Inter-Ministerial Committee recommended that the price of scheduled bread be increased from Rs2.60 to Rs3.90 per 100g.

The quantum of subsidy on bag of flour to bakeries will be reviewed from Rs541.15 to Rs432.50 per bag of 25kg and the subsidy of Rs0.24 per bread of 100g, currently disbursed through the Mauritius Revenue Authority, to bakeries will be removed. Nevertheless, the State Trading Corporation will still provide subsidised flour of 25kg at Rs217.50 representing 66.5% of the real cost of flour.

An increase of Rs1.30 per 100g of bread for bakeries will be provided to cover all increase in operating costs and also ensure their sustainability over the longer term, taking into consideration that no increase will be considered further in the price of bread over the coming short to medium term.

A monthly relief of Rs121 will be allocated to beneficiaries registered under the Social Register of Mauritius to mitigate the impact of the price adjustment on vulnerable households. An estimated sum of Rs87.1M will be required annually for some 60,000 beneficiaries.

3. Cabinet has taken note of a set of strategic measures proposed by the Ministry of Financial Services and Economic Planning to proactively position Mauritius to capture emerging opportunities in the global financial landscape. In a context of heightened uncertainty, investors, financial institutions and high-net-worth individuals are increasingly seeking stable and well-regulated jurisdictions, while competing international financial centres have already intensified their outreach efforts.

Mauritius is well placed to attract global companies, fund structures, financial services professionals and ultra-high net worth individuals. In this regard, a coordinated and results-driven approach has been adopted, in collaboration with key stakeholders, including the Bank of Mauritius, the Financial Services Commission, the Economic Development Board and the Corporate and Business Registration Department, to facilitate relocation and redomiciliation. The proposed measures emphasise accelerated processing timelines, streamlined regulatory procedures and enhanced institutional coordination, while upholding the highest international standards.

A dedicated workshop will be organised to engage the operators and a high-level fast-track monitoring mechanism, chaired by the Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning, will be established to drive implementation and resolve bottlenecks. These initiatives signal a decisive step towards reinforcing Mauritius' competitiveness and agility as an International Financial Centre in a rapidly evolving global environment.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the progress and key outcomes of the Financial Services Consultative Council (FSCC), which serves as a think-tank platform to provide strategic guidance on the development of the financial services and global business sectors. Reconstituted in November 2025, the FSCC has since held four meetings and established five Sub-Committees aligned with the strategic pillars of the Strategy Report 2025–2030: Rethinking the Future of the Financial Services Industry.

The Sub-Committees have adopted a coordinated and results-oriented approach to address both immediate operational challenges and longer-term strategic objectives. Key initiatives include –

- (a) reforms to improve ease of doing business;
- (b) enhancement of product offerings;
- (c) strengthening of brand visibility;
- (d) expansion into new target markets; and
- (e) measures to address skills shortages.

Several actions have already been initiated to further strengthen the positioning of Mauritius as a competitive International Financial Centre through enhanced market outreach, product innovation and institutional coordination, including the following –

- (a) operationalisation of the “Known-To-Commission” system by the Financial Services Commission;
- (b) development of a centralised KYC framework;
- (c) advancement of sustainable finance initiatives; and
- (d) proposals to attract specialised talent.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the arrangements being made by the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity for the yearly anti-influenza vaccination exercise intended for the –

- (a) elderly persons aged 55 and above;
- (b) residents of charitable institutions and private residential care homes; and
- (c) children with disabilities attending specialised schools.

The vaccination campaign 2026 will be launched on 20 April 2026 and will last approximately one month. Details of the vaccination calendar, indicating the places, timing and dates will be communicated to the public through the press and a communiqué will be posted on the Ministry's website and affixed in the various Social Security Offices, Social Welfare Centres, Community Centres and Elderly Day Care Centres.

Residents of charitable institutions, private residential care homes and children attending specialised schools will be vaccinated at their respective institutions. Persons who are entitled to domiciliary visits will be vaccinated at their place of residence by their respective visiting medical practitioners.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and the Directorate of Forensic Science Services (DFSS) of the Republic of India, aimed at strengthening cooperation in the field of forensic science.

The aim of the MoU is to create a framework of collaboration between the FSL and the DFSS with a view to optimising forensic capabilities and enhancing technical capacity in forensic science. The MoU provides for cooperation in the following areas –

- (a) joint research on forensic activity in theory, law, organisation, and methodology;
- (b) development of new methods and techniques of expert examination;
- (c) training, retraining, and professional development of Mauritian forensic specialists;
- (d) conduct of joint workshops and courses;
- (e) exchange of expert practice experience, methodological and scientific literature;
- (f) data exchange in information and reference activity, subject to national interest safeguards; and
- (g) provision of scientific, methodological, and practical support in forensic activity.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Economic Development Board and the African Economic Research Consortium. The objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding are, amongst others, to -

- (a) promote the use of economic policy research by policymakers and relevant stakeholders;
- (b) generate ideas for policy analysis and research, as well as, conduct various policy engagement activities geared towards influencing public policy and practices in Government and private sector;
- (c) develop and implement capacity building and specialised short technical training programmes targeted at African students, analysts, researchers, policy makers, Government officials and others;
- (d) participate in joint symposia, seminars, workshops and conferences related to mutual research areas;
- (e) conduct joint-cross disciplinary research, outreach and capacity strengthening activities; and
- (f) leverage opportunities for joint research and publications.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation in the field of tourism between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Republic of South Africa. The Memorandum of Understanding provides for -

- (a) boosting tourism flows between the two countries;
- (b) promoting co-operation for sustainable development of tourism;
- (c) expanding knowledge on cultural tourism;
- (d) promoting value-based tourism, medical tourism, adventure and nature tourism, and sports tourism, amongst others;
- (e) facilitating entry formalities and procedures for tourists;
- (f) exchanging tourism information; and
- (g) training and technical assistance in tourism.

9. Cabinet has agreed to the elaboration of an Industrial Sector Strategic Plan for the period 2026 to 2030, in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); and the signature of a Trust Fund Agreement between the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives and UNIDO for that purpose. The objective of the Industrial Sector Strategic Plan will be to –

- (a) assess the past and current industrial performance, covering production, value chains, value addition, international trade, digitalisation, environmental sustainability, social dimensions such as employment and incomes; and
- (b) come up with a unified action plan including recommendations to support Mauritius' industrial transformation over the medium term.

This strategic document, which will be aligned with Government's Vision 2050, is of vital importance to re-orient the manufacturing sector on a sustainable growth trajectory, after a decade of industrial regression, that has undermined its prominent role as a driving force to attract foreign direct investment, create gainful jobs and generate foreign exchange earnings.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Committee, chaired by the Minister of Housing and Lands and comprising the Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, the Minister of National Infrastructure, the Minister of Health and Wellness and the Minister of Local Government to look into all issues pertaining to Ex-CHA/EDC houses containing asbestos.

The mandate of the Committee will be to determine the feasibility and modalities for the phasing out of asbestos in Ex-CHA Housing Estates as a cross-sectoral policy decision is required. The nationwide survey currently being undertaken by Statistics Mauritius will provide the additional data needed to underpin the decisions to look into all issues pertaining to Ex-CHA/EDC houses containing asbestos.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the formulation of the Second National Voluntary Review on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration for submission to the International Migration Review Forum.

The Second National Voluntary Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration categorises recent advancements in Mauritius in achieving the 23 objectives of the Global Compact for Migration into four strategic pillars –

- (a) Pillar 1: Migration Data which documents the institutionalisation of the collection of emigration statistics in the Housing and Population Census;

- (b) Pillar 2: Ethical Recruitment which focuses on the “Employer Pays Principle”, and the revised “Know-Your-Rights” 2025 Pamphlet for migrant workers;
- (c) Pillar 3: Combatting Human Trafficking which highlights recent developments to combat human trafficking and offer protection to victims; and
- (d) Pillar 4: Sustainable Development which outlines efforts to address structural labour shortages and mainstreaming climate change in development through the Third Nationally Determined Contribution Report 2025.

The Second National Voluntary Review also highlights legislative and administrative reforms that have positively impacted migration including the Immigration Act 2022, as amended in 2025, and the National Income Support Scheme 2025.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the organisation of the Mauritius Ocean Week by the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries from 04 to 09 May 2026 on the theme “The Bridge to the Blue Future: Uniting Stakeholders for a Sustainable Ocean Economy”. The Mauritius Ocean Week will consist of the following activities -

- (a) *Les Assises de l’Océan* from 04 to 06 May 2026, which will bring together stakeholders, including experts in the field of ocean sciences, the civil society, academics, ocean scientists, researchers, students, non-governmental organisations, private sector and fishers, to reflect on the existing challenges and new opportunities in the blue economy sector; and
- (b) Different side events to promote ocean literacy among the population, including the youth and women, will be organised as follows –
 - (i) visit onboard MV Mauritius Trochetia, Open Day at the Albion Fisheries Research Centre, the Mauritius Oceanography Institute and the Mauritius Maritime Training Academy;
 - (ii) fashion and musical shows on the theme “Ocean”, in collaboration with NGOs and the fishermen community, to reconnect with the old mauritian traditions;
 - (iii) diving and snorkeling initiations at the Blue Bay Marine Park;
 - (iv) radio programmes;
 - (v) training/sensitisation sessions on the use of fish nets and traditional fishing techniques and ocean literacy; and
 - (vi) exhibitions, involving paintings and seafood festival titled “Taste of the Ocean”.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the meeting, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade had with HE Ms Maria Benvinda Levy, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mozambique, during her private visit to Mauritius. The excellent bilateral ties between Mauritius and Mozambique were highlighted and a *tour d'horizon* of the bilateral and regional matters for both countries as well as the geopolitical crisis in the Gulf region was made.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the 9th Extraordinary Council of Ministers of the Common Market for the Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) held virtually. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade participated in the Council of Ministers which was preceded by the 9th Extraordinary Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee. The main issues discussed at the meeting are as follows -

- (a) The Council of Ministers adopted the new draft Medium Term Strategic Plan 2026-2030 which guides the implementation of COMESA projects and programmes. The Strategic Plan is based on the five pillars, namely Consolidation of the Regional Market; Boosting Infrastructure and Connectivity; Enhancing Productive Integration; Promoting Gender, Youth and Social Affairs; and Establishing an Effective and Efficient Secretariat; and
- (b) The COMESA African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) implementation strategy which aims to provide policymakers and stakeholders with the necessary framework to successfully leverage AfCFTA to further COMESA's regional integration agenda was adopted. The strategy highlights the implications of the AfCFTA Agreement on the COMESA agenda, and the obligations and commitments for COMESA Member States in areas such as Trade in goods/services, investment, competition, and intellectual property rights.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the –

- (a) reconstitution of the Stamp Advisory Committee, with Mr Archadkhan Dewkunkhan as part-time Chairperson;
- (b) composition of the National Cybersecurity Committee, with Prof. (Dr) Vinay Armoogun as part-time Chairperson; and
- (c) reconstitution of the Fishermen Welfare Fund, with Mr France José Lafleur as part-time Chairperson.
