

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

1. Cabinet has taken note that following the judgment of the Supreme Court of India in the Tiger Global case, which had raised concerns among investors regarding the potential application of General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) to pre-2017 investments, the Prime Minister had raised the matter with the Indian Prime Minister during his recent visit to India. Prime Minister Modi gave the assurance of the continued stand of India of not taking any action that would undermine the benefits that Mauritius currently enjoys under the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement.

On 31 March 2026 the Central Board of Direct Taxes of India has issued the Income Tax (Amendment) Rules 2026, providing further clarification on the application of the GAAR under the Indian Income Tax Act. The new Rules specify that GAAR shall apply to arrangements made on or after 01 April 2017, while investments undertaken prior to that date will remain outside its scope, thereby providing clarity on the treatment of legacy investments.

The new Rules are expected to provide reassurance and certainty to foreign investors and private equity funds with respect to the taxation of exits from such investments.

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2. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Mauritius and the Government of India on the modalities for the implementation of projects financed under the Special Economic Package 2025 for an amount of USD655 million. The Memorandum of Understanding provides the operational and administrative modalities for the implementation of the following projects –

- (a) Grant of USD215 million for the following Projects -
  - (i) New Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam National Hospital;
  - (ii) Ayurvedic Centre of Excellence (AYUSH);
  - (iii) Veterinary School and Animal Hospital; and
  - (iv) Provision of helicopters.
- (b) Blended Finance of USD440 million, comprising a Grant of USD8 million and a Line of Credit of USD432 million, for the following projects -
  - (i) New Air Traffic Control Tower at the SSR International Airport;
  - (ii) Motorway M4;
  - (iii) Ring Road Phase II project; and
  - (iv) Port equipment by the Cargo Handling Corporation Ltd.

The Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by Dr S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India, who will be in Mauritius from 09 to 11 April 2026 in the context of the Indian Ocean Conference.

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3. Cabinet has taken note that following the setting up of the Crisis Committee on the economic and social impacts of the present conflict in the Middle East, an Inter-Ministerial Committee was chaired by the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities on 01 April 2026. The Prime Minister will chair a meeting of the Crisis Committee on Wednesday 08 April 2026 to examine the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee.

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4. Cabinet has taken note that Mr Kunal Naik has resigned as Chairperson of the National Agency for Drug Control (NADC) and has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the NADC. Ms Nadia Peerun has been appointed as new Chairperson of the agency.

Cabinet has further noted that the Prime Minister will chair a meeting of the National Drug Control Commission on Thursday 16 April 2026.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that following the recent torrential rain in Rodrigues, an amount of Rs795,000 will be provided by the National Empowerment Foundation and an amount of Rs2 million by the National Solidarity Fund to eligible families affected by the torrential rain.

An amount of Rs15,000 will be provided to 16 households each as housing support, an amount of Rs5,000 will be provided to 49 students each for school materials and an amount of Rs5,000 will be provided to 62 households each for basic needs by the National Empowerment Foundation.

The National Solidarity Fund will provide ad hoc assistance to 200 families as follows –

- (a) an amount of Rs5,000 to a household with no child;
- (b) an amount of Rs6,000 to a household with one child;
- (c) an amount of Rs7,000 to a household with two children; and
- (d) an amount of Rs8,000 to a household with three children and more.

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6. Cabinet has taken note that following the road accident which occurred on Tuesday 31 March 2026 involving a heavy vehicle and several other vehicles at the Caudan Roundabout, the Commissioner of Police will ensure compliance with General Notice No. 2670 of 2009 pertaining to prohibition for heavy vehicles from passing through the following roads between 0700 hours and 0930 hours on weekdays –

- (a) Motorway M1 – from Phoenix Roundabout to Quay D Roundabout, Northbound;
- (b) Road A1 – from St Jean Roundabout to Place d’Armes, Port Louis via Rose Hill, Beau Bassin and Coromandel; and, from Place d’Armes, Port Louis via Coromandel, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill to St Jean Roundabout;

- (c) Road A14 – Rose Hill Trianon Road from Vandermersch Roundabout to M1 at Trianon via Ebène, in both directions;
- (d) Road B1 – Julius Nyerere Avenue from Rose Hill Police Station to M1 at Réduit via Ebène in both directions; and
- (e) Road B120 – Martindale Road from University of Mauritius Roundabout to M1 passing in front of the entrance to the State House, in both directions.

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7. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the *Fonds de Solidarité Africain* (Privileges and Immunities) Regulations 2026 to give effect to the privileges and immunities to which the *Fonds de Solidarité Africain* is entitled.

The *Fonds de Solidarité Africain* contributes to the economic development and social progress of African Member States by facilitating its intervention techniques, access to the financial resources necessary for the implementation of investment projects and other income-generating activities.

An *Accord de Siège* was signed in January 2023 between the Ministry of Finance and the *Fonds de Solidarité Africain*, providing the legal framework for the presence and operations of the *Fonds de Solidarité Africain* Resident Mission in Mauritius.

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8. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Grant Fund Agreement between the Mauritius Meteorological Services and the Met Office, United Kingdom. The Grant Fund Agreement is an initiative of Weather and Climate Information Services (WISER) for Africa supported by the World Meteorological Organization. The objective of the initiative is to enable countries to work together to co-produce data/information for better weather/climate forecasting.

Financial support to the tune of GBP1,880,000 (approx. Rs117 million) has been granted for the WISER Programme for Africa, out of which Mauritius will benefit GBP80,000 (approx. Rs5 million) to implement WISER Action preliminary activities, namely co-production of climate services, capacity building of meteorologists in advance forecasting techniques and to improve the early warning system.

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9. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of a Government Support Agreement (GSA) to improve the bankability of Renewable Energy Projects thereby contributing towards accelerating the green energy transition.

The GSA is a risk-mitigation instrument intended to facilitate mobilisation of private and multilateral capital in respect of a major Renewable Energy (RE) project, meant to supply energy to the Central Electricity Board (CEB) under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). It is a contract between Government, represented by the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities, the CEB and a project developer/Seller where the Government provides comfort to investors on the bankability of the approved project under the PPA. The objectives of the GSA are to -

- (a) improve bankability of the RE projects;

- (b) attract private and foreign investment;
- (c) protect investors and lenders against specific political and regulatory risks;
- (d) secure more competitive electricity tariffs; and
- (e) ensure continuity of power supply and enhanced long term viability of RE project.

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10. Cabinet has agreed to the Higher Education Commission (HEC) signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the University Grants Commission (UGC) of the Republic of India. The Memorandum of Understanding establishes the following key areas of collaboration –

- (a) UGC sharing comprehensive information on the quality assurance, accreditation, and regulation of higher education institutions in India, enabling HEC to make well-informed and reliable decisions on Indian qualifications and institutions operating in Mauritius;
- (b) UGC facilitating HEC's engagement with other key sector bodies in India;
- (c) UGC and HEC working together to strengthen quality assurance in Transnational Education, supporting the growth of Mauritius as a credible, high-quality regional higher education hub;
- (d) exchange of best practices in quality assurance, accreditation processes, quality culture, and regulatory frameworks; and
- (e) staff development, training programmes, workshops, and professional exchange to build institutional capacity on both sides.

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11. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of a new regulatory framework for authorised dealers of second-hand motor vehicles to ensure compliance with enhanced service standards to consumers and uphold fair and transparent trade practices.

A Ministerial Committee was set up to review the conditions governing the issuance of licences to authorised dealers and to propose a revised framework that promotes fair competition, strengthens consumer safeguards, and supports a sustainable business environment. The Committee recommended the following –

- (a) Introduction of a Licensing Board/ Committee;
- (b) Revised Conditions for Authorised Dealer's Licences;
- (c) Revised Age Criteria for Importation of Second-Hand Motor Vehicles;
- (d) Importation of Special Purpose Vehicles;
- (e) Restriction on Transfer of Licences; and
- (f) Handling of Non-Compliant Vehicles Imports.

The Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection will come up with new regulations, accordingly.

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12. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius submitting its National Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) for the period 2019–2024 to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

The BPfA provides a comprehensive global policy framework for the advancement of women and the achievement of gender equality across 12 critical areas of concern, namely women and poverty; education and training of women; women and health; violence against women; women and the economy; women in power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; human rights of women; women and the media; women and the environment; women and armed conflict; and the girl-child.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare held a national review process for Mauritius to assess progress achieved and challenges encountered in consultation with relevant Ministries, Departments, civil society organisations and the private sector. The national review reflects progress made in strengthening legal and policy frameworks, reinforcing institutional mechanisms for gender equality, addressing discriminatory social norms and stereotypes, enhancing investment to address resource gaps, strengthening accountability mechanisms, improving capacity-building and monitoring systems, and fostering cooperation and partnerships at national and international levels. Progress made in the legal and policy environment, including the enactment and implementation of key legislative and policy instruments, has also been highlighted. The National Report will be made public.

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13. Cabinet has taken note of an incident which occurred at St Pierre Roman Catholic Aided Primary School where two pupils of Grades 4 and 5 displayed serious disruptive behaviour and a clear disregard of the school's authority. The pupils have subsequently been temporarily suspended by the Minister of Education and Human Resource.

Given that such cases of pupils' misbehaviour are recurrent across schools, the Ministry of Education and Human Resource will re-examine the current legislative provisions in order to set up inter-institutional protocols to provide the necessary support to schools, families and pupils indulging in unsafe and inappropriate behaviours. In this context, a committee will be set up at the level of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource, comprising representatives of, inter alia, -

- (a) the Ministry of Health and Wellness;
- (b) the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity;
- (c) the Attorney-General's Office;
- (d) the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare;
- (e) the Ombudsperson for Children;
- (f) the Mauritius Police Force; and
- (g) the Probation and After Care Service.

The Committee will examine proposals to amend the Children’s Act, the Education Act and other relevant legislation, with a view to addressing cases involving pupils beyond control, including those related to extreme violence, sexual abuse, misuse of social media platforms, substance abuse, bullying and other related issues and will also consider setting up the relevant mechanisms for managing these pupils.

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14. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised in the context of World Health Day 2026, which is observed annually on 07 April. The theme for this year is “Together for health. Stand with science.”

To commemorate World Health Day 2026, the Ministry of Health and Wellness will launch the *Prévention Nationale pour Maladies Non-Transmissibles Programme* across communities throughout the island on 11 April 2026 at the Mediclinic, Bel Air Rivière Sèche. The activities will include non-communicable disease screening, such as diabetes testing, blood pressure monitoring, BMI and vision tests, and medical consultations. They will also comprise breast and cervical cancer screening, the display of healthy food plate models and health education sessions. The activities aim to bring essential health services closer to the population, promote early diagnosis, and encourage individuals to take proactive steps towards better health.

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15. Cabinet has agreed to the holding of the Mauritius Climate Investment Forum on 06 and 07 May 2026 in Mauritius. The Forum will play an instrumental role in –

- (a) showcasing high-impact climate-related projects and enhance visibility on concrete actions being taken by Government to achieve the relevant sector targets and objectives as spelt out in the Government Programme 2025-2029 and the Nationally Determined Contributions 3.0;
- (b) connecting Government and private sector entities with development partners as well as multilateral and commercial banks to attract co-financing on a concessional basis, grants for blending and technical assistance for improving project implementation and adoption of appropriate technology; and
- (c) leveraging on private sector investment in public goods, which will be critical in view of the constrained fiscal situation.

The theme of the Forum is “Unlocking Finance for Climate Related Projects in Mauritius”. Roundtable and boardroom discussions will be organised into thematic cells, namely –

- (a) Renewable Energy and Water Management Cell;
- (b) Food Security and Blue Economy Cell;
- (c) Transport Sector Cell;
- (d) Environment and Disaster Risk Management Cell;

- (e) Innovative Financing Cell;
- (f) Mitigation and adaptation for climate-related victims; and
- (g) Digital Sustainability.

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16. Cabinet has taken note that the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Union of Comoros recently led a delegation of 13 members for a technical mission in Mauritius.

The objectives of the mission were to assess the status of ongoing bilateral cooperation between Mauritius and Comoros; review pending bilateral agreements and explore new avenues of collaboration in sectors of mutual interest. The Comoros delegation engaged in meetings and working sessions with various Ministries, Departments and Institutions, namely the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Attorney-General's Office, the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection, the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research, the Ministry of Education and Human Resource, the Mauritius Ports Authority, the Mauritius Revenue Authority, Airport Holdings Ltd and Air Mauritius. A Joint Communiqué on the outcomes of the technical mission was issued on 30 March 2026.

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17. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister for Finance, Economic Planning, Trade and Investment of the Republic of Seychelles led a delegation to Mauritius from 23 to 26 March 2026, comprising representatives of the Seychelles Pension Fund and the Seychelles Trading Company.

The ministerial delegation held meetings with the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection, the Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity as well as representatives of public institutions, namely, the Agricultural Marketing Board and the State Trading Corporation and private stakeholders.

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18. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities in the Bharat Electricity Summit in India on the theme 'Electrifying Growth, Empowering Sustainability and Connecting Globally'.

The Summit brought together policymakers, global experts, utilities, innovators, investors, and technology leaders to shape the future of India's electricity ecosystem. The Minister actively participated in discussions which centered mainly around clean energy transition, power infrastructure modernisation, smart grids and digital utilities and global energy cooperation and power sector policy.

In the margins of the Summit, the Minister had a meeting with the Minister of New and Renewable Energy during which he made a request for assistance from the Indian Government for the large-scale deployment of hybrid solar photovoltaic systems for 100,000 households in Mauritius. The Minister also had a meeting with the Minister of Power, during which he requested the support of the Indian government for the setting up of a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Liquefied Natural Gas Power Station of capacity 450-500 MW, with a view to decarbonising the electricity mix and safeguarding our energy supply for the future.

The Minister also had the opportunity to review progress on implementation of the 17.5 MW Floating Solar PV Project with a 12 MW Battery Energy Storage System at Tamarind Falls, being executed by National Thermal Power Corporation Limited under a Government-to-Government agreement. The Minister had a meeting with the Director General of the International Solar Alliance in the course of which they reviewed collaboration under a Country Partnership Framework.

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19. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent visit of the Minister of Youth and Sports to Rodrigues, following an invitation from the Commission for Youth and Sports, and Others of Rodrigues, in the context of the National Day celebrations. The Minister participated in several events, including the –

- (a) march against drugs on the theme “Choose Your Future, Not Drugs” and a pledge ceremony;
- (b) official ceremony marking the 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Independence of Mauritius; and
- (c) final of the Republic Cup 2026.

The Minister also had meetings with the Commissioner for Youth and Sports, and Others, sports cadres, including coaches, advisers, presidents of regional sports committees, and representatives of the *Mouvement Solidarité Rodrigues* to discuss several issues, such as the Rod Trail, and homologation of the Camp du Roi Stadium, the challenges Rodriguan athletes face in participating in competitions in Mauritius, and the need for specialised equipment, amongst others. Sports and recreation equipment were donated to the Commission for Youth and Sports to support local communities.

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20. Cabinet has taken note of the –

- (a) appointment of Mrs Dooroovamanee Moher as the new Chairperson of the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund, following the resignation of the former Chairperson;
- (b) reconstitution of the Board of the Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency, with Mr Shashi Kumar Koonja as part-time Chairperson; and
- (c) reconstitution of the Board of the Mauritius Emerging Technologies Council, with Dr Harris Neeliah as part-time Chairperson.

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