HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2026

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the following nine Bills into the National Assembly -

(a) the Constitution (Amendment) Bill;

(b) the National Crime Agency Bill;

(c) the National Crime (Interim) Agency Bill;

(d) the Secretariat of the Independent Advisory Panel Bill;

(e) the Secretariat of the Independent Advisory (Interim) Panel Bill;

(f) the Financial Crime Bill;

(g) the Asset Recovery and Unexplained Wealth Bill;

(h) the National Crime Agency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill; and

(i) the Criminal Justice (Offenders Assisting Investigations and Prosecutions) Bill.

The main purpose of the Bills is to provide for the establishment of the National Crime Agency (NCA) as the lead investigative agency in Mauritius for financial crime, cybercrime and other serious, complex and organised crime, with a view to achieving high international standards of expertise, capacity and operational effectiveness. The establishment of the NCA will entail the repeal of the Financial Crimes Commission Act. Consequently the nine Bills are being introduced to provide the necessary legislative framework for the establishment and effective functioning of the NCA. The main duties of the NCA shall be to -

(a) combat, detect and investigate into financial crime, cybercrime and other complex, serious and organised crime;

(b) gather, process and evaluate intelligence relating to financial crime, cybercrime and other complex, serious and organised crime, and exchange such intelligence with investigative bodies;

(c) recover and manage assets of financial crime, cybercrime and other complex, serious and organised crime;

(d) apprehend persons who have committed or who are reasonably suspected of having committed financial crime, cybercrime or other complex, serious or organised crime; and

(e) disrupt and dismantle the financial networks that support drug trafficking and distribution.

The NCA will have a broader investigation mandate and will be able to investigate financial crime as well as, cybercrime, complex, serious or organised crime. The NCA will also be empowered to take over an investigation from the Police when the Police is investigating a financial crime, cybercrime, complex, serious or organised crime.

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2. Cabinet has agreed to the establishment of a National Aviation Consultative Council as an independent body that would set national air-access direction and tests major aviation decisions against national interest.

The establishment of the National Aviation Consultative Council is in line with Mauritius' objective of maximising its long-term connectivity and tourism value as well as the sustainable viability of Air Mauritius.

The National Aviation Consultative Council will accordingly advise Government on the formulation, implementation and periodic review of Mauritius' national aviation and air-access policy. It will be an advisory and oversight body which will be responsible to –

(a) advise Government on a managed-open Air-Access policy;

(b) review significant air-service applications; and

(c) set strategic corridor priorities.

The Council will report directly to the Prime Minister and will be chaired by an independent person with substantial experience in international aviation. It will comprise a limited number of members with experience in aviation, finance, law and tourism fields. In the first instance, the National Aviation Consultative Council will be established administratively.

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3. Cabinet has taken note of the implementation of the National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE) Pilot Programme 2026, under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office.

The NICE project was first introduced in 2012 and 2013. It is being reintroduced to help young people develop a sense of patriotism, live peacefully with others, show respect, and become responsible and disciplined citizens. The concept has been developed by Mr Ong Boon Hwee, an international consultant from Singapore, with military background, who provided assistance for the 2012 NICE edition.

The NICE is a flagship two-week national programme scheduled to be held from Monday 16 to Saturday 28 November 2026. The programme comprises a hybrid structure which includes one-week non-residential and one-week residential activities.

The NICE Programme will cater for 200 Grade 8 students, 100 boys and 100 girls, aged 12 to 13 years. Participants will come from State and Private secondary schools across the Republic, including Rodrigues and Agalega.

The NICE Pilot Programme is structured around four content blocks, namely National Education, Character Building, Preparedness, and Community Living, cascaded in 22 modules. Its modules combine edutainment with physical activities that build endurance, grit, perseverance and responsibility.

A Train-the-Leaders workshop will be organised from 16 to 18 September 2026, whereby Mr Ong Boon Hwee and other facilitators will empower the resource persons from the Ministry of Education and Human Resource, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and other key stakeholders to prepare them to better imbibe the programme’s goals, apply its methods, and lead their teams with one shared vision.

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4. Cabinet has taken note of matters discussed during the meeting which the Attorney-General had with representatives of the UK Government on Thursday 10 September 2026 on the Chagos issue. Discussions between the two governments are being pursued with a view to concluding the deal.

Cabinet has also taken note of the publication on 07 September 2026, of an article by *Pen for Rights - Maldivians for Chagos*, by a Maldivian Civic and Advocacy Group.

The publication among others, advocates that the Government of Maldives should use the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 81) to formally place on the international record what it describes as an “antecedent territorial claim” concerning the Chagos Archipelago which is referred to as “*Folhlhavai”*. It argues that such a claim should be distinguished from the decolonisation of Mauritius and from the maritime delimitation between Mauritius and the Maldives under the law of the sea.

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius will continue to closely monitor any official statements, diplomatic communications or initiatives by the Government of Maldives during UNGA 81 concerning the Chagos Archipelago, including any attempt to formally circulate its purported claim within the United Nations system, and will take appropriate action, as may be required, to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Mauritius.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that the Prime Minister has received from the Chairperson and the Chief Executive Officer of the National Agency for Drug Control (NADC), the report of the Technical Working-Group on Cannabis Policy Reform. The Report will, in the first instance, be examined by the National Drug Commission chaired by the Prime Minister. Thereafter, it will be circulated in Cabinet for consideration.

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6. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource to celebrate the 126th Birth Anniversary of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam.

The celebration of the birth anniversary of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam provides an opportunity for learners to gain a deeper understanding of his vision, leadership and enduring contribution to nation-building, while fostering patriotism, responsible citizenship and national unity as well as a deeper understanding of Free Education enshrined during his tenure as Prime Minister.

In this context, primary school pupils both from Government and Private schools and Secondary school students including State and PSEA Schools, have been invited to participate in the following activities –

(i) Primary Schools

(a) Art Competition for Grades 4-6 on the themes, “Mauritius Before Independence” and “The Landscape of Mauritius Through Time”;

(b) Viewing of documentaries on the life and legacy of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam;

(c) Establishment of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Heritage Corners showcasing historical information, photographs, newspaper articles, research work and pupils’ creative displays; and

(d) Musical Concerts featuring patriotic songs, cultural performances, poetry and musical tribute.

(ii) Secondary Schools

(a) Elocution Competition for Grade 12 on the theme “Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam: An Inspiring Figure for Mauritian Youth”;

(b) Independence Heritage Corner Competition focusing on the struggle for independence, nation-building and the legacy of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam;

(c) Round Table Discussions for Grades 10 and 12 on “The Life and Times of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam”; and

(d) Youth Leadership Programmes in each Educational Zone for Grades 10 and 12, focusing on leadership, public service, responsible citizenship and nation-building.

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7. Cabinet has agreed to the Mauritius Vision 2050 Final Report, which sets out the long-term national strategic framework to guide the socio-economic transformation of the Republic of Mauritius over the next 25 years. Vision 2050 has been developed following extensive national consultations, comprising 13 regional consultations across Mauritius and Rodrigues, 21 thematic consultations, as well as online and written submissions. The process brought together citizens, economic operators, trade unions, academia, civil society, students, youth, public institutions, the diaspora and other stakeholders, and was complemented by macroeconomic and sectoral analysis and international benchmarking.

Vision 2050 is anchored on the three mutually reinforcing pillars of Prosperity, Sustainability and Inclusivity. At the heart of the Vision is the ambition to grow the Mauritian economy to approximately USD 50 billion by 2050 - “50 by 50” - through higher productivity and investment, the deepening of existing economic strengths, movement into higher-value activities and the development of new growth sectors. Eight strategic growth opportunities have been identified, namely financial and professional services, advanced manufacturing, tourism and hospitality, digital and ICT services, port and logistics, the broader ocean economy, high-value agriculture, and life sciences and pharmaceuticals.

To move Vision 2050 from strategy to implementation, measures contained therein will be operationalised through the National Development Plan 2035, sector strategies, medium-term planning and annual budgets (FY27-30), supported by appropriate monitoring and delivery mechanisms. A National Economic and Social Transformation Council (NEST Council) will be established to promote national dialogue, review progress and help preserve the country's long-term development direction. A draft Ten-Point Implementation Plan for 2027–2030 will be further developed in consultation with the respective line Ministries and relevant stakeholders, including assessment of implementation costs, financing requirements and fiscal implications. A National Delivery and Transformation Unit will be set up to coordinate implementation across Ministries and public agencies and monitor agreed milestones and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

8. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Tourism Employees Welfare Fund (Collection of Contribution) (Amendment) Regulations 2026.

In accordance with section 16(1) of the Tourism Employees Welfare Fund Act, all employers and employees of a tourism enterprise are required to make a monthly contribution to the Fund at rates prescribed in the Tourism Employees Welfare Fund (Collection of Contribution) Regulations 2003. The Tourism Employees Welfare Fund (Collection of Contribution) (Amendment) Regulations 2026 provide for a revision in the monthly contributions as follows -

(i) Employers from Rs60 to Rs80;

(ii) Employees from Rs20 to Rs40; and

(iii) Any self-employed singer, musician or performer from Rs80 to Rs120.

Following an amendment made in 2021 to the Taxi Operators Welfare Fund Act, all hotel-based and airport-based taxi operators are now contributing to the Taxi Operators Welfare Fund with effect from January 2022, and hence no longer contribute to the Tourism Employees Welfare Fund.

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9. Cabinet has agreed to a change in the scope of works of the Flic-en-Flac Bypass project through the replacement of the “Avenue du Radar” component by the “Avenue Crecerelle” component.

The proposed “Avenue Crecerelle” component will achieve the strategic objective of providing a secondary access to Flic-en-Flac whilst avoiding the social and environmental constraints associated with “Avenue du Radar”. The “Avenue Crecerelle” component is expected to be completed by end October 2026.

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10. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of the following Agreements in the sidelines of the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly –

(a) General Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Angola; and

(b) Agreement on the Establishment of a Bilateral Commission between the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Angola.

The General Cooperation Agreement creates the general framework under which bilateral cooperation between Mauritius and Angola will be pursued. The Agreement on the Establishment of a Bilateral Commission specifically identifies areas of cooperation as well as the mechanism in the form of a joint commission responsible for, inter alia, promoting and coordinating cooperation between Mauritius and Angola in different sectors, following up on the implementation of instruments concluded or to be concluded between the two countries, and evaluating the progress of bilateral cooperation between Mauritius and Angola.

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11. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Health and Wellness and Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital, Chennai, India. Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital is one of the largest networks of Eye Hospitals in India and has been at the forefront in the advancement of ophthalmic care by offering world class eye care in India and expanding rapidly into other countries. With more than 14 hospitals in nine countries in Africa, the hospital has been a pioneer in the field of Ophthalmology.

The aim of the proposed MoU is to strengthen specialised ophthalmology healthcare services through structured collaboration. It will also provide for capacity building of Mauritian healthcare professionals, technical assistance for upgrading local facilities and access to advanced treatments not available in Mauritius. Moreover, it will promote cooperation, while ensuring continuous medical education and streamlined referral services for Mauritian patients.

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12. Cabinet has taken note of the proposed signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of the Republic of Mauritius and the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) of the Republic of Rwanda.

The objective of the MoU is to facilitate the exchange of financial intelligence relating to suspected money laundering, associated predicate offences and terrorism financing and proliferation financing between Mauritius and Rwanda. The MoU sets out the arrangements, inter alia, for the FIU (Mauritius) and the FIC (Rwanda) to –

(a) develop, expand and enhance the framework of cooperation between the two entities for the creation of a mutually beneficial relationship that will assist each Authority in the performance of its respective roles in ensuring, inter alia, effective compliance with their respective obligations;

(b) provide spontaneous or upon-request information from each Authority that may be relevant to investigations into financial transactions related to money laundering, and associated predicate offences, terrorist financing and financing proliferation of weapons of mass destructions or related criminal activities; and

(c) improve the effectiveness of both Authorities by encouraging and supporting the exchange of technical expertise, knowledge and training opportunities for staff of both entities.

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13. Cabinet has taken note of the situation concerning the intended cessation of activities of Concentrix CVG (Mauritius) Ltd in Mauritius. The cessation of activities is due to the gradual loss of several clients and the lack of sufficient new business to compensate for these departures, which had led to a significant decrease in activities and affected the competitiveness and commercial attractiveness of operations in Mauritius. Following a preliminary investigation, it has been noted that –

(a) some 303 workers are concerned with the closure tentatively scheduled for 20 November 2026;

(b) the company is presently still operating as usual, and the workers are still in employment; and

(c) no notification for the intended closure has been sent to the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations or the Redundancy Board.

The Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations intends to convene a meeting with all parties concerned to provide a conciliation service to assist them in the negotiation to reach an amicable agreement.

Cabinet has further taken note that an Inter-Ministerial Committee comprising the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations, the Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives and the Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation will look into issues currently being faced by operators in the BPO sector.

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14. Cabinet has taken note that the RESIsland Project will be launched on 25 September 2026 at the United Docks, Port Louis. RESIsland project is designed to strengthen the capacity of African island states to manage climate risks, build resilience and improve access to international climate finance. African island countries, including Mauritius are highly exposed to the economic and environmental consequences of climate change, including sea-level rise, coastal erosion, extreme weather events, changing rainfall patterns, water stress and risks to marine and coastal ecosystems.

The RESIsland, which is being implemented by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), in partnership with the African Island States Climate Commission (AISCC), covers the nine AISCC Member States, including Mauritius. In March 2024, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved a grant of approximately USD4.95 million for the readiness project. The share of grant for Mauritius is USD250,000.

The RESIsland project will be implemented during the period 2026/2027 and is expected to contribute to –

(a) better institutional coordination between climate adaptation and disaster-risk management;

(b) improved climate and disaster-risk information, including standardised and centralised risk data;

(c) stronger national technical capacity to assess and manage climate risks;

(d) improved early-warning and risk-management systems;

(e) a pipeline of bankable climate-resilience projects suitable for GCF and other climate-finance sources; and

(f) stronger regional cooperation among the nine African Island States through AISCC.

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15. Cabinet has agreed to the African Regional Labour Administration Centre (ARLAC) holding its 30th Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials in Mauritius from 12 to 16 October 2026.

The ARLAC is an international organisation which was set up jointly by the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Development Programme in 1974 for the development of labour administration in Africa. The mandate of ARLAC is to strengthen labour administration systems in member countries through –

(a) provision of training to officials at all levels of the labour administration system;

(b) provision of consultancy and advisory services related to labour administration;

(c) studies and research in all aspects of labour administration; and

(d) dissemination of information services to member countries.

The meeting will be followed by a two-day High-Level Symposium on encouraging the adoption of the International Labour Organization “C193 – Decent Work in the Platform Economy Convention, 2026 (No. 193)”. This Convention, which was adopted at the 114th International Labour Conference, established the first international labour standards governing digital labour platforms, covering issues such as employment status, social protection, occupational safety and health, collective rights and algorithmic management.

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16. Cabinet has taken note of the recent participation of the Attorney-General in the Chief Legal Advisors Forum ("CLAF 2026") in Singapore. CLAF 2026 saw the attendance of Chief Legal Advisers from 39 nations, including the United States of America, Members of the European Union, Switzerland, Commonwealth countries, ASEAN countries and Latin American countries.

The work of the CLAF 2026 was centred around reflecting upon the existing investor-state dispute resolution mechanism (which predominantly takes the form of investor-state arbitration) and the need for its evolution into a Multilateral Investment Court, in line with the work of Working Group III of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

CLAF 2026 was held in the margins of the Singapore Convention Week 2026. Mauritius was acclaimed as the 23rd State Party ratifying the Singapore Convention on Mediation in August 2026. This was an opportunity to showcase Mauritius as a jurisdiction of choice for alternative dispute resolution in the various side and networking.

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17. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning in the 26th Council of Ministers Meeting of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) and the 9th Public-Private Sector Dialogue, held in Kigali, Rwanda. The delegation comprised senior officials of all Competent Authorities in Mauritius who attended the 52nd Task Force of Senior Officials. The meetings considered, inter alia, developments in the FATF Standards, ongoing Mutual Evaluations within the region and emerging AML/CFT/CPF risks.

Cabinet has also noted that, following an intervention by Mauritius on a proposed amendment to the Mutual Evaluation Universal Procedures, it was agreed to extend from 24 hours to 72 hours the period afforded to an assessed country to undertake the factual accuracy check of its draft Mutual Evaluation Report.

Bilateral meetings were also held with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance of Madagascar, the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of Rwanda, the Vice President and Minister of Finance of Botswana and the Minister of Homeland Security and Civil Affairs of Seychelles, with discussions focusing on strengthening regional AML/CFT/CPF cooperation, capacity-building and financial services.

Cabinet has further taken note of the Minister's meeting with the Executive Secretary of ESAAMLG where it was emphasised that Mauritius is intensifying preparations for its forthcoming ESAAMLG Mutual Evaluation. It was noted that an ESAAMLG Pre-Mutual Evaluation Mission will be held in Mauritius from 14 to 18 December 2026. The need for a collective and coordinated national effort involving both the public and private sectors to ensure Mauritius' preparedness for the forthcoming Mutual Evaluation, was highlighted.

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18. Cabinet has taken note that the second meeting of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2024–2028), will be held in Mauritius from 30 September to 01 October 2026. The JSC will be

followed by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Retreat for Mauritius and Seychelles, on 02 October 2026.

The UNSDCF 2024–2028, which was signed in November 2023, is the overarching framework for cooperation between the Government of Mauritius and the UNCT. It aligns UN support with national priorities and international commitments, including the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063, and promotes resilience, inclusion and sustainable growth.

The JSC provides strategic oversight, ensures alignment with national priorities, guides resource mobilisation and monitors overall progress. The three Results Groups—People, Prosperity and Planet—identify challenges in resource mobilisation, implementation, data, coordination and alignment.

The JSC, will allow Government and the UN to jointly review progress, address implementation challenges and provide strategic guidance and direction for the remainder of the Cooperation Framework.

The UNCT Retreat, under the theme “Acting as One: Driving Collective Impact in Mauritius and Seychelles”, will see the participation, both in-person and virtual, of Heads of UN Agencies to raise and present any strategic issue, priority, proposal or request for support considered appropriate, including matters relating to financing, technical assistance, capacity building and implementation of national priorities. The Retreat will also focus on strengthening collective UN action, including joint programming and financing, UN80 and UN 2.0, strategic foresight, data and digital transformation, regional and South-South partnerships, communication and operational efficiency.

The Retreat also provides Mauritius with an opportunity to engage directly with senior UN decision-makers and advocate for strengthened and better-targeted UN support.

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19. Cabinet has taken note of the recent participation of the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection in the *Salon International de l’Alimentation* (SIAL) Guangzhou 2026, People’s Republic of China. The SIAL is an established international business-to-business network for the food and beverage industry. SIAL Guangzhou brings together producers, exporters, importers, distributors, retailers and other food-sector professionals. The 2026 edition featured some 1,500 exhibitors and thousands of professionals from approximately 50 countries and regions.

In the margins of the exhibition, the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection had bilateral exchanges with representatives of several participating countries, including Egypt, India, Poland, Argentina and Türkiye, and a few trade-promotion bodies. The discussions provided an opportunity to present Mauritius’ food-supply diversification agenda and explore trade and market-access possibilities, among others.

The Minister also met the Head of SIAL China and senior members of the organising team. The possibility of a structured Mauritian presence at a forthcoming SIAL event was discussed, through which Mauritian producers and exporters could showcase their products and engage with Chinese importers, distributors and retailers. Discussions also covered the potential for an Africa-focused market-access initiative through Mauritius.

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