

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 15 MAY 2026

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Constitutional Review Commission Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to empower the President of the Republic of Mauritius to appoint a Constitutional Review Commission which will be responsible to examine and make recommendations on constitutional reforms, including the protection of fundamental rights and the consolidation of democracy and institutions.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chair of the Prime Minister to look into pricing issues with particular emphasis on monopolistic and quasi-monopolistic markets with a view to coming up with recommendations for the protection of consumers by ensuring fair pricing practices. The Committee will comprise the following -

- (a) the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare;
- (b) the Minister of Housing and Lands;
- (c) the Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity;
- (d) the Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning;
- (e) the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade;
- (f) the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations;
- (g) the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection; and
- (h) the Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a State Partnership Program Agreement between the Mauritius Police Force and the New Mexico National Guard of the United States of America. The State Partnership Program is designed to build enduring relationships between US states and partner countries through sustained, practical and mutually beneficial cooperation.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries and the Development Bank of Mauritius Ltd to enable registered fishers eligible to the one-off grant of Rs50,000 for the replacement of their outboard motors, to avail of loan facilities at the bank.

The provision of the one-off grant of Rs50,000, by the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, to eligible fishers for the renewal of their outboard motors which are beyond economic repairs, is being made with a view to encouraging registered fishers to fish off lagoon so as to increase their catch and enhance their livelihood.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of a Framework for Aquaculture at Sea and to the promulgation of the Fisheries (Fish Farming Licence and Fees) Regulations 2026 and the Fisheries (Amendment of Schedule) Regulations 2026, to encourage and promote sustainable aquaculture practices among aquaculturists, in line with the Government's vision for the Blue Economy sector.

6. Cabinet has taken note that on 08 May 2026, the Mauritius Ports Authority notified the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change of a fuel oil spill originating from a pipeline of Engen Petroleum (Mauritius) Ltd into La Paix Stream leading to Lataniers river and ultimately leading into the port channel. The Port Louis Harbour Oil Spill Response Plan was immediately activated.

The Mauritius Ports Authority had deployed 12 metres of sorbent booms at the spillage site within the canal and approximately 60 metres of fence boom at the Mauritius Freeport Development Quay to contain the spread of oil and facilitate recovery operations. Polygreen, the contractor of Engen Petroleum (Mauritius) Ltd, started the clean-up works on 09 May 2026. As at 13 May 2026, some 1300kg of contaminated waste have been collected. The cleaning works have reached 90% and are expected to be completed by 15 May 2026.

The Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change issued a letter to Engen Petroleum (Mauritius) Ltd informing of the offence committed under section 61(2) of the Environment Act. Engen Petroleum (Mauritius) Ltd was also requested to conduct an ecological survey in line with section 65 of the Environment Act.

The Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change is monitoring the clean-up operations on a daily basis and water sampling is being conducted at the level of the National Environment Laboratory. Results of seawater samples collected on 13 May 2026 indicated that the seawater outside contained/affected area has not been contaminated by the oil spill. The *Police de l'Environnement* has initiated an enquiry into the oil spill incident in order to initiate appropriate legal actions under the Environment Act.

7. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius endorsing, on a voluntary basis, the Belem Health Action Plan for the Adaptation of the Health Sector to Climate Change which aims to strengthen surveillance systems, build capacity and implement evidence-based, climate-resilient health solutions, particularly for vulnerable populations. The Plan is underpinned by two-cross cutting principles which inform the design and implementation of all actions, namely enhancing health equity and the concept of 'climate justice' and governance with social participation.

The Belem Health Action Plan for the Adaptation of the Health Sector to Climate Change aligns with the 2028 Global Stocktake to strengthen health surveillance, capacity building, and low-carbon infrastructure.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcomes of the *Assises de l'Agriculture 2026*, which addressed the ongoing systemic challenges by proposing a comprehensive roadmap for transforming Mauritius' agri-food system into a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable sector.

Prior to the *Assises*, several pre-consultative meetings, grounded in an agri-food systems framework were held. All the perspectives gathered during the pre-*Assises* consultations were captured in a pre-*Assises* report which was ultimately discussed during the *Assises*. The report of the *Assises* is structured around the following six core pillars, emanating from the fruitful discussions during the *Assises*. The *Assises* report outlines several proposed key policy actions, namely -

- (a) key interventions to target strategic crop value chains such as potatoes, onions, bananas, tea, and other priority commodities through the introduction of improved and disease-tolerant varieties, expansion of cultivated areas, stronger seed and planting material systems, and upgraded storage and processing facilities;
- (b) water and soil management must be central elements of the strategy, with investments in supplementary irrigation, water harvesting, reservoirs, and portable drip systems to address climate variability. Soil health programmes combining chemical, physical, and biological assessments will help restore fertility and support sustainable intensification;
- (c) priority to food safety, sustainability, and environmental stewardship through a digital farm-to-fork ecosystem integrating pesticide monitoring, traceability, and stronger laboratory surveillance. Enhanced livestock disease control, biosecurity, and honeybee production will further support ecosystem balance and public health;
- (d) value-addition, post-harvest management, farmer support services, youth entrepreneurship, and training in climate-smart agribusiness should be given more attention. Innovation will be driven through a centre for AI and advanced technologies promoting precision agriculture, drones, Internet-of-Things, and data-driven decision-making; and
- (e) strong governance, partnerships, and financing frameworks will underpin their successful implementation.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Agricultural Marketing Board is working out modalities for the decentralisation of the National Wholesale Market at Wootton to different parts of Mauritius. Procedures are ongoing for a wholesale market to be operational in Goodlands by end of May 2026. Arrangements are also being made for the setting up of a wholesale market in the eastern region.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the Kreol Morisien versions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights were launched on 30 April 2026. The Kreol version will ensure that the rights enshrined in these key human rights instruments are comprehensible to all Mauritian citizens. This initiative reaffirms Government's unwavering commitment to inclusivity and the protection of Universal Human Rights in line with the New Social Order enunciated in the Government Programme 2025-2029.

Cabinet has further taken note of the outcome of a meeting of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade. During the meeting, Ministries and Departments reported on progress achieved and challenges faced in implementing the recommendations from regional and international human rights bodies.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the complaints relating to discrimination on grounds of creed, lodged by two employees of the law firm, ENSAfrica (Mauritius), before the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC).

Pursuant to section 33(2) of the Equal Opportunities Act, the EOC provided the parties a statutory period of 45 days from the date of submission of its Report to inform the EOC whether the complaints have been resolved. Where the complaints remain unresolved, the EOC shall, with the consent of the complainants, refer the complaints to the Equal Opportunities Tribunal.

12. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Health and Wellness effecting the final payment amounting to USD593,021.89 on the outstanding claim relating to Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccines to the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust, in respect of which the previous government had signed a Commitment Undertaking and a Participation Agreement in May 2021. The Ministry of Health and Wellness had an obligation to pay the total amount due although the vaccines were not procured.

13. Cabinet has agreed to the regulated wholesale and subsidised retail selling prices of Smatch edible oil for both Mauritius and Rodrigues being reviewed to Rs68.95 per litre, following an increase in international supply prices.

14. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of an Agreement between the Association of Mauritian Manufacturers and the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives for the implementation of the *En Route Vers l'Internationale* (ERVI) Project.

The ERVI is a support measure to assist manufacturing enterprises to broaden their outreach by making breakthroughs into export markets. The ERVI is an innovative project with the objective of developing the export capabilities of mid-market manufacturing enterprises, which are principally focused on the local market, but have the pre-requisite conditions to venture on the export front, in view of their intrinsic business strengths. In the initial stage, a group of 10 enterprises is being targeted to benefit from the ERVI Scheme.

15. Cabinet has taken note that the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) has launched a Quality of Service software application known as *KaliteNet* to assess quality of broadband internet services provided by telecom operators in Mauritius.

KaliteNet will allow internet users to get instant information about the quality of their broadband connection. Through the application, users will be able to see key details about their internet service, including download and upload speeds, connection response time, web browsing performance and video streaming quality. The results will automatically be collected by the ICTA and will help create charts showing internet coverage and connection speeds across different regions, which can be viewed by *KaliteNet* users.

A public information campaign aimed at promoting participation and building public confidence in the application has been planned by the ICTA.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised in the context of World No Tobacco Day 2026, on the theme “Unmasking the appeal - countering nicotine and tobacco addiction.” The Ministry of Health and Wellness will organise a workshop on 01 June 2026 with administrative cadres of primary and secondary schools and will focus on raising awareness on tobacco and nicotine consumption among children. The following activities will also be carried out –

- (a) mass media campaign to raise awareness on the ill effects of tobacco consumption, promote tobacco cessation services available in Mauritius;
- (b) launching of pamphlets on cigarettes and vapes to sensitise on the detrimental effects of these tobacco products;
- (c) intensified operations to enhance the enforcement of tobacco regulations, in collaboration with the *Police de l'Environnement* and the Mauritius Police Force;
- (d) increased operations for enforcing bans on retail sale of cigarettes and sale of tobacco to minors; and
- (e) sensitisation campaigns in secondary schools in collaboration with the Health Information Education and Communication Unit and the Health Promotion Unit of the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the celebration of the Dragon Boat Festival 2026 being organised by the Ministry of Arts and Culture in collaboration with the Dragon and Lion Dance Federation, the Chinese Speaking Union, and Le Caudan Development Ltd on 14 June 2026 at Le Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis.

The Dragon Boat Festival is a traditional Chinese Cultural festival celebrated annually which commemorates the life and patriotism of the ancient Chinese poet and statesman Qu Yuan and symbolises values of unity, solidarity, perseverance and cultural harmony. Dragon Boat races constitute the central feature of the festival and have, over the years, become an internationally recognised cultural and sporting activity bringing together communities through teamwork and cultural exchange.

The Dragon Boat Festival 2026 will comprise a dragon boat race involving 10 teams, including one from Rodrigues. The programme will also include a traditional *défilé* of lions and dragons by the Dragon and Lion Dance Federation starting from the Port Louis Waterfront to Le Caudan Waterfront as well as a cultural programme featuring local artists.

18. Cabinet has taken note of the recent participation of the Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning in the Harvard Ministerial Leadership Program held in Massachusetts, United States of America. The Forum focused extensively on strategic priority-setting, case studies on transformational leadership, problem-solving methodologies, outcome measurement, and delivery systems.

During the Forum, the Minister was invited by the Harvard Centre for International Development to participate as a keynote speaker on the theme “Financing African Ambition”, alongside the Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning of Tanzania and Namibia. She highlighted the significant growth potential and investment opportunities across Africa, including its rich natural resource base and strong demographic dividend. She further emphasised that Mauritius, as an established International Financial Centre and an African nation, is well positioned to play a strategic role in mobilising investment flows into Africa and facilitating regional economic integration and development being given that 15 out of the 25 fastest growing economies in the world are in Africa. The discussions and exchanges held during the Forum will also provide useful insights in the context of the ongoing Vision 2050 and national economic transformation agenda.

19. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade in the 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue in New Delhi, India. The Dialogue was held under the theme ‘Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World’.

The Minister delivered a special address during the inaugural session of the Dialogue. He reaffirmed Mauritius’ longstanding commitment to peace, stability, security and sustainable development in the Indian Ocean region. He highlighted Mauritius’ active engagement within regional and multilateral frameworks. He further emphasised that

the Indian Ocean has become an increasingly strategic and contested geopolitical space, requiring enhanced regional cooperation to preserve maritime security, freedom of navigation, and adherence to international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

In the margins of the Dialogue, the Minister held bilateral meetings with the Minister of Labour and Employment, India, the Minister of State of Yemen and the Managing Director of the Central Warehousing Corporation of India.

20. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations in the High-Level Bilateral Dialogue on the Future of Work in Africa: A Pragmatic Approach to the Platform Economy, organised by the African Regional Labour Administration Centre (ARLAC) in Sandton, South Africa.

The Dialogue which regrouped members of the ARLAC Governing Council, comprising Ministers of Labour and Employment of ARLAC member states had three main objectives, namely -

- (a) to demystify the Platform Economy through a collective understanding of platform work models across the African continent;
- (b) to foster consensus among ARLAC member countries on pragmatic approaches towards the Platform Economy that balance flexibility with protection; and
- (c) to ensure that the African regional perspectives and priorities are coherently articulated during discussions on Decent Work on the Platform Economy at the 114th International Labour Conference in June 2026.

21. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the official visit of the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations to Rodrigues, in the context of the celebrations of International Labour Day 2026. The purpose of the official visit was to engage with key stakeholders on labour and employment matters; assess legislative and operational challenges affecting labour administration and occupational safety and health in Rodrigues; identify priority areas for consultation, cooperation and training; review the impact of employment of migrant workers on major development projects, notably the Plaine Corail Airport Project; and reinforce social dialogue in line with international labour standards.

The visit revealed significant institutional and legal constraints impacting on effective enforcement of labour legislation in Rodrigues. Shortcomings were also noted in occupational safety and health administration in Rodrigues. Furthermore, several labour market and social inclusion challenges were noted, including high unemployment among youth and women, limited awareness and use of employment platforms impeding

job matching, restricted employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, weak enforcement of relevant legislation, and insufficient data on informal and precarious employment. Trade unions also raised concerns relating to job insecurity, staffing shortages, delay in appointments and promotions, occupational safety, and access to dispute resolution mechanisms.

In the light of the discussions held, a series of measures were agreed upon aiming at strengthening the institutional and legislative framework in Rodrigues. The Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations will work in close collaboration with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the Commission to ensure implementation of the proposed measures.

22. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Sandeeren Colandavaloo as the new Chairperson of the Management Committee of the Trust Fund for Excellence in Sports.
