

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2026**

1. Cabinet has taken note of the recent stand of the President of the United States of America regarding the Chagos issue and the status of the Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory Bill in the United Kingdom House of Lords. Government is following up closely on the matter.

Cabinet has also taken note that four Chagossians have landed on *Ile du Coin*, part of *Peros Banhos* atoll in the Chagos Archipelago on 16 February 2026. Subsequently, the British authorities issued a removal/eviction order. Lawyers representing the Chagossians have applied for an injunction to prevent their eviction.

Cabinet has further taken note that the delegation from the United States of America which was proposing to visit Mauritius on 24 and 25 February 2026 for the Mauritius-US partnership talks has postponed its mission.

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2. Cabinet has taken note of the current situation in South Africa with regard to the Foot and Mouth Disease affecting cattle and which has been declared a national disaster by the South African Government. In this context, Cabinet has decided that no new import permits for cattle from South Africa will be granted for the moment. Arrangements are being made for importation of cattle from other countries.

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3. Cabinet has taken note that the *Fédération Mauricienne de Cyclisme* will organise the *Tour de Maurice 2026* from 02 to 05 June 2026 with the participation of 16 international teams and four national teams. The first Meeting of the organising committee will be chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister on 27 February 2026, in the presence of the Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, the Minister of Tourism, the Minister of Youth and Sports, the Minister of Land Transport, the Minister of Local Government, the Junior Minister of Youth and Sports, the representatives of District and Municipal Councils as well as the *Fédération Mauricienne de Cyclisme*.

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4. Cabinet has taken note that tenders for the Rivière des Anguilles Dam Project have been launched and the procurement exercise is expected to be completed by August 2026, following which works are scheduled to start by October 2026.

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5. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of the Intergovernmental Body Allocation contract between UNESCO and Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund (LMHTF) regarding the allocation of USD39,850 to LMHTF for consultancy services for the revision of the Local Economic Development (LED) Plan of Le Morne Cultural Landscape World Heritage Property. The grant allocated by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre will be used to enlist an international expert, a national expert, a facilitator and field workers for the preparation of the LED Plan within a period of six months.

The project lays emphasis on the protection, conservation and sustainable valorisation of national heritage, while promoting inclusive socio-economic development at community level. The revision of the LED plan of Le Morne Cultural Landscape World Heritage Property will strengthen the integration of heritage conservation with local economic development, enhance community participation and capacity-building.

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6. Cabinet has taken note that following recommendations of the Director of Audit, the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity is enquiring into cases of female spouses having contracted a registered marriage in accordance with Muslim rites and who are entitled to the payment of a surviving spouse allowance. Payment in 15 such cases had been stopped in December 2025 and will now be restored pending the outcome of the inquiry.

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7. Cabinet has taken note that a Monitoring Committee has been set up to look into the problem of sea pollution in the region of Port Louis following the lagoonal monitoring study in respect of the quality of seawater and fish from Pointe aux Sables to Baie du Tombeau conducted during the period January 2021 to December 2024. The report on the lagoonal monitoring study in the region of Port Louis (from Baie du Tombeau to Pointe aux Sables) will be made public.

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8. Cabinet has taken note of the setting-up on an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Pig Breeding under the chair of the Minister of Housing and Lands, and comprising the Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

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9. Cabinet has taken note that following recent cases of leptospirosis in Mauritius, a Monitoring and Coordination Committee chaired by the Minister of Health and Wellness, and comprising representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, the Ministry of Local Government as well as local authorities, has been set up to ensure that adequate measures are being taken for rodent control.

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10. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations is currently enquiring into industrial relations issues reported by Trade Unions on behalf of employees of Princes Tuna (Mauritius) Ltd.

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11. Cabinet has taken note that a new Municipal Gymnasium will be inaugurated on 21 February 2026 at Ebène. The Gymnasium will provide a modern sports infrastructure to inhabitants of Quatre Bornes, whilst also serving as a hub to encourage sports for different age groups through the promotion of physical fitness, sports and community well-being. The Municipal Gymnasium will be named as “Sir Satcam Boolell Municipal Gymnasium” and the complex housing the gymnasium as “Sir Satcam Boolell Municipal Sports Complex”.

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12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the second Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment of Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) in Mauritius.

For the purpose of the risk assessment, a dedicated working group was established comprising representatives, inter alia, from the Ministry of Financial Services and Economic Planning, the Financial Services Commission, the Registrar of Associations, the Registrar of Companies, the Registrar of Foundations, the Board of Waqf Commissioners, the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Mauritius Police Force, the Bank of Mauritius, the Mauritius Revenue Authority, the Attorney-General’s Office, the Financial Crimes Commission and NPO representatives.

A multi-sectoral approach was adopted, with the active participation of relevant competent authorities such as the NPO regulators, the Financial Services Commission, the Mauritius Police Force, the Financial Intelligence Unit, and representatives from the NPOs and the banking sector. An important goal of the risk assessment is to ensure that all relevant stakeholders fully understand the identified risks and take effective measures to mitigate them.

The Ministry of Financial Services and Economic Planning will launch and disseminate the public report of the Second Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment of Non-Profit Organisations in Mauritius during a workshop which will be facilitated by the European Union Global Facility Experts on 24 and 25 February 2026.

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13. Cabinet has agreed to the recommendations of the International Advisory Committee on Cardiovascular, Diabetes and Renal Diseases which was established in October 2025 to support the implementation of evidence-based treatment strategies tailored to the specific needs of the Mauritian healthcare system, namely -

- (a) requesting the World Health Organization at the forthcoming World Health Assembly to update global recommendations regarding screening for prediabetes and diabetes, and review of the diagnostic criteria for prediabetes and diabetes;
- (b) establishing an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Social Determinants of Health;
- (c) introducing structured health-literacy and lifestyle-education programmes across all school levels;

- (d) re-establishing the Non-Communicable Disease, Health Promotion & Research Unit under qualified medical-scientific leadership;
- (e) establishing a National Centre of Excellence for diabetes, cardiovascular and renal care;
- (f) creating a Research Trust Fund under the Ministry of Health and Wellness;
- (g) linking the national screening programme to a structured Diabetes Prevention Programme and a multidisciplinary National Diabetes Remission Programme;
- (h) developing a transparent, risk-adjusted Mauritius Scorecard for patient protection;
- (i) linking career progression at all levels to meaningful participation in clinical audit, research, and quality-improvement initiatives;
- (j) modernising the National Retinal Screening Programme with technical guidance from Professor David Owens;
- (k) implementing a National ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction and Stroke Network with a centralised hotline integrating SAMU, 24/7 Percutaneous Coronary Intervention and 24/7 thrombolysis for stroke patients; and
- (l) implementing a national chronic kidney disease prevention programme.

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14. Cabinet has agreed to the renewal of the Bilateral Agreement between the Government of Mauritius and the Government of Monaco relating to the implementation of an Exchange Programme between *the Ecole Hôtelière Sir Gaëtan Duval* and the *Lycée Technique et Hôtelier de Monaco*, now known as *Lycée Rainier III de Monaco*, with a view to improving students' skills in the hotel and restaurant sector through international exposure, and enhancing trainers' knowledge in the areas of cooking, pastry and wine service. The Exchange Programme provided in the Agreement caters for –

- (a) three Mauritian students to benefit from courses and internship in the fields of cooking, pastry and wine service for an academic year consisting of nine months;
- (b) three Monegasque students to benefit from an internship at *Ecole Hôtelière Sir Gaëtan Duval* for a period of four months per academic year;
- (c) either one lecturer from Monaco to conduct a “training of trainers” at *Ecole Hôtelière Sir Gaëtan Duval* or for a lecturer from the latter school to attend a training session in Monaco for a period of one week; and
- (d) each Government to bear the cost of airfare of their respective students and trainer, while the cost of accommodation of the latter is borne by the host countries.

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