

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 23 January 2026**

1. Cabinet has taken note of the Judgment of the Supreme Court in the judicial review of the decision of the Local Government Service Commission to terminate the employment of officers in the Workmen's Class of the Municipal Town Council of Vacoas-Phoenix.

The stand of the Commission that the appointments were legally invalid and could accordingly be terminated has been upheld by the Supreme Court. The application for judicial review has, therefore, been dismissed.

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2. Cabinet has taken note that the Inter-Ministerial Committee under the chair of the Deputy Prime Minister to look into the Strategy for Port Development had two meetings on 21 and 22 January 2026. The first meeting was held with the members of the Committee and the representatives of the Prime Minister's Office and the Economic Development Board, while the second meeting was held with the representatives of the private sector. A third meeting with Trade Unions will be held on 26 January 2026.

The urgency to modernise the port was highlighted during the meetings. Discussions focused on key strategic themes including review of governance model, acquisition of port equipment, training and employee relations and the implementation of the Island Container Terminal Project.

Progress was also reported on accelerated workforce training, with ongoing training of Rubber Tyred Gantry operators and the anticipated delivery of a training simulator from India in March 2026. Updates were provided on the Island Container Terminal Project, which would increase container handling capacity. The development of a new Fishing Port at Fort William, for which land has already been earmarked, was also discussed as part of efforts to spearhead the development of the fishing sector.

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3. Cabinet has agreed to *Kreol Morisien* being offered as a main subject at Higher School Certificate level as from academic year 2026. The Minister of Education and Human Resource will meet the Creole Speaking Union on Saturday 24 January 2026 to discuss the modalities of implementation.

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4. Cabinet has taken note that a Special Cabinet Meeting will be held on Monday 26 January 2026 to finalise the recommendations in respect of the implementation of the Pay Research Bureau Report 2026.

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5. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives issuing drafting instructions to the Attorney-General's Office for the preparation of the Industry Bill. The objective of the Bill will be to provide for a modern legislative framework to reclaim the country's industrial and export base, thereby, repositioning Mauritius as a globally competitive manufacturing hub and export platform.

The proposed Bill formally re-anchors industrialisation as a national priority rather than a derivative outcome of investment promotion. It will provide statutory authority for industrial planning, prioritisation of strategic high-potential sectors such as advanced manufacturing, bio-industries, pharmaceuticals, precision engineering and green industries, while embedding performance benchmarks and sustainability standards. The Bill also proposes to introduce a result-oriented culture in the industrial governance, with clear strategic directions, monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

The Bill will also align with national development objectives, including achieving higher productivity, greater value addition, heightened economic resilience and smooth integration into regional and global value chains, particularly in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area and post-African Growth and Opportunity Act trade realignments.

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6. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (Jersey) (Amendment) Regulations 2026. The amendments to the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) relate to the following –

- (a) to reiterate the common intention of both countries to eliminate double taxation without creating opportunities for non-taxation or reduced taxation through tax evasion or avoidance, including through treaty shopping arrangements, in accordance with Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Action 6;
- (b) to allow a taxpayer, in case of disagreement with the tax authority of either Mauritius or Jersey regarding the application of the DTAA, to initiate a Mutual Agreement Procedure by presenting the case to the tax authority of either country; and
- (c) to allow the tax authority of either Mauritius or Jersey to deny benefit under the DTAA to an investor of the other country where there is treaty-shopping, i.e., it is found that the principal purpose of carrying out the investment is mainly to obtain the benefits of the DTAA.

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7. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Allied Health Professionals Council (Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026. The Regulations will provide a transitional mechanism for the registration of persons who were practising prior to the enactment of the Allied Health Professionals Council Act or before the Allied Health Professionals Council (Amendment of Schedules) Regulations 2024.

In accordance with the Regulations, the Allied Health Professionals will have to submit an application for consideration by an Evaluation Committee, which will make a competency-based assessment of the application.

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8. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Central Water Authority (Water Supply for Domestic Purposes) (Amendment) Regulations 2026. In view of the financial difficulties of the Central Water Authority and in line with the recommendation of the National Audit Office, only consumers listed on the Social Register of Mauritius and consuming six cubic metres or less of water monthly will be exempted from payment of meter rent and water charges.

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9. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Consumer Protection (Trade in Bunker Fuels) Regulations 2026, with a view to transforming Mauritius into the preferred bunkering hub of the region. The Regulations will encapsulate the provisions under the existing legislation and the following new requirements –

- (a) the yearly Trade in Bunker Fuel Licence fee will be reviewed to Rs200,000;
- (b) licensed traders shall ensure that their vessels are seaworthy and comply with International Maritime Organization Conventions (SOLAS, MARPOL) as applicable;
- (c) licensed traders shall maintain an adequate third-party liability insurance coverage at all times;
- (d) in accordance with international Conventions, the crew members shall be provided with the required number of hours of rest;
- (e) licensed traders shall report the quantity of bunker fuels that is being transported;
- (f) as per the obligation under the Merchant Shipping (Liability and Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage) Act 2024, licensed traders carrying bunker fuels exceeding 150,000 tons shall settle every annual outstanding claim from the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund in accordance with the 1992 Fund and the Supplementary Fund Protocol 2003;
- (g) provision of a duplicate licence to traders against a fee of Rs10,000 in case of loss, theft or destruction; and
- (h) in case of breaches of any condition of his licence or contravention of the regulation, the trader shall commit an offence and on conviction, he shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs100,000 and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years.

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10. Cabinet has agreed to amendments being brought to the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017 to enable the importation of used tyres for the purpose of re-treading for export only, with a view to promoting a circular economy by encouraging recycling and re-use of products.

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11. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of a National Data Strategy (2025-2029) which will be the national plan guiding the Government, people and businesses on how to handle/process data safely and smartly, turning it into helpful tools for better lives and stronger growth, while at the same time protecting privacy. The National Data Strategy is supported by four key implementation tools, namely –

- (a) Data Governance Framework Template which provides a comprehensive model for data governance, including rules, processes, roles, and pillars to ensure data integrity, security, compliance, and effective management;
- (b) Data Sharing Policy Template which outlines guidelines and legal requirements for responsible data sharing;
- (c) Data Sharing Protocol Template which details procedures, principles, and responsibilities for secure, lawful information sharing across organisations, including consent and security measures; and
- (d) Data Retention Policy which outlines guidelines for the storage, retention, and secure disposal of personal data, ensuring lawful processing, privacy protection, and compliance with the Data Protection Act 2017.

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12. Cabinet has taken note of the holding of the *Assises de l'Agriculture* by the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries under the theme “SMART agriculture for a resilient Mauritius”, on 27 and 28 January 2026. The main objectives of the *Assises*, are to develop, inter alia, strategies to –

- (a) strengthen food sovereignty and resilient domestic production;
- (b) promote inclusive and competitive value chains;
- (c) foster innovation, knowledge systems and youth engagement;
- (d) ensure sustainable natural resource management and eco-system health;
- (e) enhance nutritional security, food safety and public health linkages; and
- (f) strengthen governance, coordination and financing mechanisms.

The Assises will also be used as a forum to encourage a national shift towards the principle of “Eat what we produce and produce what we eat”. Moreover, the Assises will highlight the necessity to adopt water-efficient irrigation technologies, the cultivation of climate-resilient food crops, the deployment of early warning systems for extreme weather events, the modernisation of the agricultural sector and the sustainable use of land.

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13. Cabinet has taken note of the launching by the Central Electricity Board (CEB) of a new Renewable Energy (RE) Scheme for Major Commercial Customers with Battery Energy Storage System and an option for Time-of-Use Tariff.

The CEB has revisited its RE Scheme applicable to large commercial customers under Electricity Tariff Codes 225 and 225A, by allowing them to generate RE to offset their energy consumption. These customers, which include shopping malls, banks and hotels, would be given the choice between either Gross-Metering or Quasi-Net-Metering. Under the quasi-net-metering option, an unbundled Time-of-Use tariff structure would apply. It will be mandatory for subscribers to the new Scheme to install a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

The installation of BESS (onsite or offsite) will be mandatory and will be used to manage and offset peak energy demand as well as enable participation of these consumers in Demand-Side Management initiatives. For the initial phase of the Scheme, the CEB intends to accommodate 70 MW capacity of solar photovoltaic projects with at least 11.5MW battery energy storage systems from the Commercial Customers registered under the Electricity Tariff Codes 225 and 225A.

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14. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius has scored 0.944 in the GovTech Maturity Index 2025 of the World Bank which offers a comprehensive assessment of public sector digital transformation in 197 economies across four key dimensions through 48 indicators.

The score of Mauritius has improved considerably over the years, from 0.574 in 2020, 0.864 in 2022 to 0.944 in 2025. Mauritius is in Group A as an “Extensive GovTech Maturity” economy.

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15. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a Special Committee to look into the overall aspects and mechanisms for effective handling of cases of Children with Serious Behavioural Concerns (CSBC) under the chair of Mrs S. Ganoo-Arekion, Magistrate and comprising Mrs K. Ah Nien-Kotadoo and Mr Vincent Mandrou as Assessors.

The objects of the Special Committee will be to –

- (a) assess the overall functioning of existing institutional mechanism, in terms of, their set-up; profile of children and the procedures entailed prior to their placement/admission, in an institution under the Probation of Offenders Act and the Reform Institutions Act; human resources; rehabilitation and re-integration programmes;

- (b) look into provisions of existing legislation, namely the Children's Act 2020; the Probation of Offenders Act; the Reform Institutions Act, including existing regulations made, and whether these are responsive to the needs, care and protection of CSBC;
- (c) make recommendations in relation to the above on the basis of its findings, including specific amendments to be brought to the legislation; and the appropriate intervention pathways and facilities to cater for CSBC; and
- (d) provide policy-makers with future orientations for better service delivery to CSBC and those with psychiatric problems.

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16. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mauritius Revenue Authority and the International Trade Centre regarding the exchange of information, specifically customs data. The Memorandum of Understanding provides for the establishment of a framework for collaboration and cooperation for the exchange of information, specifically customs data, on an anonymised basis for trade analysis, capacity building and reporting.

The International Trade Centre has, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, developed an online platform, namely the African Trade Observatory. The objective of the Observatory is to compile datasets from across African countries and regions in order to provide timely and reliable trade information to policy-makers and businesses. This will allow them to -

- (a) compare trade opportunities and requirements to identify promising markets in Africa;
- (b) explore latest trends, market conditions and potential partners across the continent; and
- (c) monitor trade, market access, border performance and the impact of the African Continental Free Trade Area through some 20 indicators.

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17. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius signing a Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) with the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in respect of Curaçao. The DTAC complies with the commitments to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting tax treaty related measures.

The DTAC will clarify the taxing rights of each country on income covered by the Convention and will also –

- (a) provide certainty to investors in their dealings with Mauritius or Curaçao, as the case may be;

- (b) create a conducive environment for greater cross-border investment flows between our two countries;
- (c) establish a framework for exchange of information between the tax authorities of Mauritius and Curaçao, with a view to combatting tax evasion and other tax malpractices; and
- (d) provide a mechanism to taxpayers for the resolution of tax disputes.

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18. Cabinet has taken note of a ruling of the Supreme Court of India, Civil Appellate Jurisdiction in the case of The Authority for Advance Rulings (Income Tax and Others) versus Tiger Global International II Holdings, Tiger Global International III Holdings and Tiger Global International IV Holdings which are global companies incorporated in Mauritius.

The Supreme Court of India has, on 15 January 2026, set aside the judgment of the High Court of Delhi delivered in August 2024 on grounds that the Tax Residency Certificate issued by Mauritian Tax authorities is not sufficient evidence to demonstrate the eligibility of a company to apply the provisions of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between Mauritius and India where an interposed entity is alleged to be a conduit for tax avoidance.

Given the systemic importance of the global business sector to the Mauritian economy, Cabinet was apprised of measures under consideration to provide comfort to investors and preserve the credibility of the Mauritius International Financial Centre.

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19. Cabinet has taken note that a professional music group from Chennai, comprising seven musicians will be travelling to Mauritius to perform during the Thaipoosam Cavadee 2026.

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20. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised in the context of World Cancer Day 2026 under the theme “United by Unique”. World Cancer Day is observed on 04 February every year in order to raise awareness on cancer and to encourage its prevention, early detection and treatment.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness will hold a series of activities during the month of February 2026, namely –

- (a) a sensitisation march under the theme “United by Unique”, in collaboration with the University of Mauritius;
- (b) the launching of the National Cancer Registry Report;
- (c) the launching of a mass Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Campaign targeting working women aged between 25 to 65 years across Mauritius;
- (d) radio talks and social media awareness campaign;

- (e) screening activities and sensitisation campaigns at Community Health Centres, Women Centres, Social Welfare Centres, schools, urban and rural communities, and workplace settings on cancer risk factors and preventive measures; and
- (f) distribution of pamphlets and posters.

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21. Cabinet has taken note that HE Ms Veronique Laporte, Minister of Transport, Ports and Civil Aviation of the Republic of Seychelles, will lead a fact-finding mission to Mauritius from 26 to 28 January 2026. The objective of the mission is to allow the Seychelles authorities to engage with relevant Mauritian authorities and stakeholders to gain first-hand insights into Mauritius' successful implementation of electric buses in public transport, as well as into safety requirements for artisanal and semi-industrial fishing vessels, with particular emphasis on Very High Frequency radio carriage and operational requirements and the potential use and regulation of personal location beacons for fishing vessels.

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22. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Junior Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries in the Peer-to-Peer Learning Exchange Visit on blue financing in Cabo Verde. The Junior Minister led the Mauritian delegation, comprising representatives of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, the Ministry of Finance, the Bank of Mauritius and the Stock Exchange of Mauritius to participate in the Peer-to-Peer Learning Exchange on blue financing in Cabo Verde.

The Mauritian delegation had courtesy meetings with representatives of key Ministries and Institutions, namely the Minister for Agriculture and Environment, the Minister of Sea and the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Stock Exchange. The Junior Minister visited key Government bodies and institutions in the blue economy sector, namely the Baixo Water Desalination Plant, the Institute of the Sea and the Cruise Port.

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23. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Board of Governors of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation, with Dr Nicolas Ragodoo, as part-time Chairperson; and
- (b) Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund Board, with Mrs Marie Diana Isobelle Bablee, as part-time Chairperson.

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