

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 31 JULY 2026

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Wetlands Bill into the National Assembly. The main object of the Bill is to provide for the protection, conservation and enhancement of wetlands and wetland ecosystem services. The Bill makes provisions, inter alia, for –

- (a) the establishment of a mechanism for the creation, conservation, protection and enhancement of the ecological character of all wetlands on both State lands and private-owned lands in the Republic of Mauritius;
- (b) the identification and establishment of management goals for wetlands for the protection and conservation of their ecosystem services and biodiversity;
- (c) providing a framework for the listing of wetlands under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance such as Ramsar Convention and the protection, conservation and enhancement of any other wetland on both State lands and private-owned lands;
- (d) the integration of ecosystem-based approaches to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into the management of wetlands;
- (e) providing a framework for making consistent, equitable and informed decisions with regard to wetlands; and
- (f) monitoring and reporting on the condition of all wetlands in the Republic of Mauritius.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare conveying instructions to the Attorney-General's Office for the drafting of an appropriate legislation for the effective handling of cases of Children with Serious Behavioural Concerns and amendments to be brought to relevant legislation. The proposed legislation will establish a statutory framework for, inter alia, -

- (a) early and structured intervention in cases of Children with Serious Behavioural Concerns;
- (b) application for Parenting Support Interventions;
- (c) judicial determination and oversight by the Children's Court;
- (d) community-based intervention where appropriate;
- (e) placement in a specialised institution where necessary;
- (f) provision of residential care and education;
- (g) submission of periodic reporting and review; and
- (h) reintegration within the family setting/society and aftercare.

In addition, the legislative framework will also provide for the establishment of an autonomous statutory body which will, inter alia, manage and administer the specialised institution. The framework will consider amendments to the Children's Act 2020 and consequential amendments to other related legislation. It will also cater for regulations to be made for governing the dedicated institution and other operational issues.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Government-to-Government Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to promote cooperation in the field of energy.

The MoU aims to establish a general framework for collaboration between the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities of Mauritius and the Ministry of Energy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The MoU will facilitate the exchange of information, expertise and best practices, whilst promoting strategic partnerships in the energy sector. The areas of cooperation under the MoU will include, inter alia, the following -

- (a) energy sectors, including petroleum and its derivatives, gas and its derivatives, refining, petrochemicals, electricity, clean hydrogen and its derivatives, renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy storage;
- (b) policies, technologies and solutions related to climate change, including Circular Carbon Economy and Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage technologies;
- (c) digital transformation and cybersecurity, in the fields of energy; and
- (d) development of appropriate infrastructure for energy access.

4. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius ratifying and domesticating the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation. The Convention was approved in June 2018 by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and signed by Mauritius in August 2019.

The Convention requires contracting States to recognise international settlement agreements resulting from mediation in commercial disputes, in a similar manner as foreign arbitral awards are recognised under the New York Convention.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation notifying Meta of Government's opposition to the rolling out of the WhatsApp username feature in Mauritius. This feature as announced by WhatsApp in June 2026, is meant to allow users of the social media platform worldwide to communicate using usernames instead of phone numbers.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the renewal of the Agreement signed between the Ministry of Education and Human Resource and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Port Louis for the financial years 2025-2026, 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 for the payment of grants to the 46 primary schools operating under the aegis of the Roman Catholic Education Authority (RCEA).

In line with the policy of free primary education, Government provides grants to the RCEA based on an approved grant formula for the running of the 46 primary schools falling under its purview. The approved grant consists of the components as set out below –

- (a) provision for the operational costs of the 46 RCEA primary schools;
- (b) compensation for use of private buildings under the control of the RCEA;
- (c) provision for minor renovation and maintenance of infrastructure to cater for maintenance of toilets and classrooms;
- (d) a management grant to meet the costs incurred at central administration of the 46 RCEA schools; and
- (e) grants for pedagogical programmes.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Health and Wellness lodging a case against Messrs Pack and Blister Distribuciones Farmaceuticas SL and Mediterranean Healthcare Supply Network SL before the Spanish Court, in light of the preliminary findings of the Spanish Law firm, appointed by the Ministry of Health and Wellness for that purpose, on the possibility of recouping the expenses amounting to around Rs103 million incurred up to now regarding procurement of ventilators during the COVID-19 period in 2020, which were never delivered.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation in the Digital NEXT: Protecting Liberties in the AI Era Programme, held in San Francisco, California.

The Minister engaged in thematic sessions, high-level panel and roundtables discussions on digital policy issues and effected site visits to leading technology companies, providing practical insights into technology deployment and innovation.

During bilateral engagements with senior representatives of major technology companies and social media platforms, including Meta and Google, discussions focused on the evolving global governance framework for AI and its implications for human rights and digital regulation. Moreover, the Minister had several bilateral and multilateral engagements with the United States Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs; Her Excellency, Ambassador Lavina Rao (Ramkissoon) for African Union-Sixth Region and Economic Community of Africa Sixth Region; Google and YouTube; Meta; Adobe and Broadcom.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reforms in the 61st Session of the African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development Governing Board and the 17th Pan-African Ministerial Forum on the Modernisation of Public Administration and State Institutions held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco.

The Minister attended the proceedings of the Governing Board as observer and participated and intervened in the Ministerial Forum under the theme “Leadership as a key catalyst for steering public action in a *“Volatil, Incertain, Complexe, Ambigu, Paradoxal et Dangereux”* context.

As Mauritius was ranked the top African country for good governance in the 2026 Chandler Good Government Index and recorded an improvement in its overall score, the Forum provided an excellent opportunity to engage actively in multilateral discussions, foster stronger ties of cooperation and share innovative best practices in public administration and governance. During his intervention, the Minister discussed issues relating to human capital development with various dignitaries present. He also took the opportunity to showcase the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation as a leading centre of excellence in the African region as well as to promote its mission and strategic directions.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of the following persons as members on the Loïs Lagesse Trust Fund Board –

- (a) Ms Devikah Lubah;
- (b) Mr Mohammad Mustapha Nadeem Jathoonia; and
- (c) Ms Kishavi Ramen.
