

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING - FRIDAY 04 SEPTEMBER 2026

1. Cabinet has taken note of the following Bills related to the proposed setting up of the National Crime Agency -

- (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 Bills will be examined in-depth at the next Cabinet Meeting prior to agreement being conveyed for their introduction into the National Assembly.

2. Cabinet has taken note that on 02 September 2026, President Donald J. Trump signed into law H.R. 6500, which includes a two-year extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

On 01 September 2026, the US House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the extension of AGOA until 31 December 2028. Prior to that, on 08 August 2026, the legislation had been passed by the US Senate.

Mauritius has participated in public hearings and submitted written comments regularly to the US authorities, reiterating the importance of AGOA. Mauritius made two submissions, in May and July 2026 respectively, to the Office of the US Trade Representative, emphasising the importance of the renewal of AGOA for the socio-economic welfare of Mauritius and the wider Sub-Saharan African region.

Mauritius remains committed to working closely with the United States to enhance bilateral trade and investment relations, maximise the opportunities offered by AGOA, and promote export diversification for the benefit of Mauritian businesses and workers.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the extension of the quarantine period declared under section 4 of the Quarantine Act 2020 for a further period of three months, that is, from 08 September 2026 to 07 December 2026, through the issue of a Notice under section 4(1) of the Quarantine Act 2020. The quarantine requirements will apply only to travellers who have travelled from, transited through, or been present in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan within the preceding 21 days.

Further to the meeting of the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee on the epidemic of Ebola disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the World Health Organization has recommended enhanced surveillance and precautionary public health measures.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the activities which will be organised to mark the International Day of Older Persons on 01 October 2026 in recognition of the contributions of older persons to society and to highlight the issues affecting them. To commemorate the 36th International Day of Older Persons, the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity will hold a national event at the J&J Auditorium, Phoenix, on Thursday 01 October 2026 on the theme “The Age of Longevity – Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives”, with emphasis on the launch of Intergenerational Solidarity Dialogues and Initiatives in Mauritius. The event will welcome the participation of Senior Citizens Associations, the middle aged and youth, students and Non-Governmental Organisations, among others.

Through strategic interventions in various innovative areas, the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity will foster policies towards a society where older persons age with security and younger generations inherit a stable, just, ecologically sustainable, cohesive and inclusive nation. A workshop will also be organised on 17 September 2026 with the youth and students for a more elaborative discussion of the theme.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health and Wellness of the Republic of Mauritius and the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with a view to establishing a cooperative relationship for the development and strengthening of health systems through exchange of knowledge, expertise, capacity building, research collaboration and technical cooperation in the fields of primary healthcare, health promotion and community health development.

The main areas of collaboration are, inter alia -

- (a) health policy, planning and governance;
- (b) primary healthcare strengthening and Universal Health Coverage;
- (c) prevention and management of non-communicable diseases;
- (d) pandemic preparedness and emergency health response;

- (e) digital health, artificial intelligence and health information systems;
- (f) medical devices, health technologies and donation of equipment; and
- (g) robotics surgery.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the lifting of the ban on the storage of bunker fuel in fish holds, on board foreign licensed and non-licensed fishing vessels (longliners) calling at Port Louis.

As a consequence of the prohibition on the storage of bunker fuel in fish holds, several foreign fishing vessels have shifted their operations from Port Louis to competing regional ports where the storage of bunker fuel in fish holds is possible. This has led to a substantial reduction in the number of applications and fishing licences issued by the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries.

To manage potential associated risks, strict compliance with the following enhanced controls will have to be exercised by foreign fishing vessels calling at Port Louis, including -

- (a) the vessel should hold valid statutory seaworthiness and safety certificates issued by its flag State. Documents from licensed foreign fishing vessels will be verified by the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries;
- (b) prior to the issuance of a fishing licence, the vessel should undergo inspection by officers of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries for the verification of its compliance with applicable safety and sanitary requirements;
- (c) the vessel should have a valid Protection and Indemnity Insurance with a minimum cover of USD5 million including a sub-limit of not less than USD2 million covering wreck removal, oil pollution and fire liabilities;
- (d) the vessel should comply with all applicable national legislation and international Conventions relating to marine pollution prevention, maritime safety and fisheries management; and
- (e) the fish holds would have to be emptied and thoroughly cleaned prior to storage of fish.

Any vessel operator found to have breached the above conditions or to have caused pollution through negligence will have its fishing licence cancelled and will be denied future access to Mauritius fisheries and the port. A Memorandum of Understanding is proposed to be signed by the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the Mauritius Ports Authority to ensure enforcement.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research being the National Designated Entity (focal point) for the Republic of Mauritius to the Climate Technology Centre and Network falling under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

As National Designated Entity of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research will primarily focus on the science, research and technology dimensions of climate technology-related initiatives and ensure that they are aligned with our third Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plan, National Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan and Technology Needs Assessment, among others.

A stakeholder consultation process will be established to gather project proposals from diverse stakeholders including line Ministries, the private sector, academia, and civil society.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of National Infrastructure in the sixth edition of the Sustainable Infrastructure Development Symposium South Africa (SIDSSA 2026) held in Century City, Cape Town, South Africa, on the theme “Collaborate, Integrate and Sustain: Shaping the Future of Municipal Infrastructure.”

The Symposium focused on shaping the future of infrastructure and discussions highlighted sustainable infrastructure investment, the promotion of resilient and inclusive communities, financially sustainable municipal services, housing, digital development and stronger public-private partnerships. The SIDSSA 2026 also laid emphasis on the need to promote cross-border infrastructure projects, regional integration, trade and the exploration of blended public and private capital. Discussions also focused on the need to reduce trade barriers, strengthen supply chains, and create conditions for increased regional trade and economic growth.

The Minister also attended the Leaders Forum which brought together Ministers and Political Leaders responsible for infrastructure development and the strategic dialogue provided a means to discuss strategic priorities and the most pressing infrastructure and developmental challenges facing the African continent including climate change. He also participated as main speaker in two Ministerial Panel discussions and highlighted the need for accelerating the development of Africa’s cross-border infrastructure, which lies at the very heart of Africa’s economic transformation, and the importance of developing a Digital Highway for Africa so as to boost connectivity and improve regional trade.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Licensing Board of the National Land Transport Authority with Mr Mohammad Hisham Ahmed Oozeer as part-time Chairperson and Ms Neelam Jogeea as Vice-Chairperson.
