

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 06 FEBRUARY 2026

1. Cabinet has taken note of the stand taken by the President of the United States of America following discussions he has had with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK) regarding Diego Garcia. President Trump expressed his support in favour of the UK Prime Minister's decision of proceeding with the signature of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the Chagos Archipelago including Diego Garcia.

Cabinet has further taken note that the UK is going ahead with the parliamentary process regarding the Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory Bill and that debates in the House of Lords will resume shortly.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the National Day 2026 being celebrated under the theme "In Peace, Justice and Liberty". The Flag Raising Ceremony, followed by a cultural show will be held at Champ de Mars on 12 March 2026.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare will organise a national event to celebrate International Women's Day on Sunday 08 March 2026 at the Côte d'Or National Sports Complex on the theme "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls".

The International Women's Day celebration in Mauritius will bring together around 1,500 women from diverse backgrounds and sectors. The celebration aims to reaffirm Government's commitment to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and also recognise the contribution of women and girls to national development.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Madagascar is currently on official visit in Mauritius. The Minister paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister and had meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister, the Attorney-General and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, during which issues of collaboration between the two countries, including in the Judiciary, were discussed.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Budget measure for the provision of free internet access to families registered with the Social Register of Mauritius (SRM) has now entered its operational phase. *Internet Gratis*, is a government initiative aiming to guarantee equitable access to digital technology by the most vulnerable households, both in Mauritius and Rodrigues, and to strengthen their social, educational, and economic inclusion. Rs85 million has been allocated to finance this measure annually in

spite of the economic and financial constraints. The measure will concern more than 7,000 families, covering nearly 31,000 persons.

The three Internet Service Providers have agreed to provide specific internet packages approved by the Information and Communication Technologies Authority for this scheme. The State Informatics Limited has devised a platform to allow the Internet Service Providers to verify whether the applicant is on the SRM database.

Notices have been issued by the National Empowerment Foundation to invite its beneficiaries to avail of the free internet from any one of the Internet Service Providers. Notices will also be issued to eligible persons on the SRM database by the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Waste Water (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2026. The Wastewater Management Authority subscribers consuming six cubic metres or less and listed on the Social Register of Mauritius will be exempted from the payment of wastewater charges.

7. Cabinet has taken note that on 03 February 2026, the House of Representatives of the United States of America passed the modified H.R 7148 (Consolidated Appropriations Act 2026) as approved by the US Senate. The Minibus Legislation included the extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act until 31 December 2026 with retroactive effect from 30 September 2025.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the launching of the National Cooperative Excellence Awards 2026 by the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives. The National Cooperative Excellence Awards are intended to serve as a long-term benchmark for Mauritian cooperative societies, promoting performance excellence through the adoption of internationally recognised norms, standards, and quality management systems using the Baldrige Excellence framework. The Awards constitute a national recognition framework for outstanding performance within the cooperative sector.

The competition is open to all Cooperative Societies and Federations in Mauritius and awards will be given to the best Primary Cooperative Society and best Secondary (Federation) Cooperative Society. One prize will be dedicated especially to the cooperative societies in Rodrigues. Moreover, with a spirit of promoting sound management practices, awards will be presented to the most performing cooperative society on aspects of 'good governance', 'financial sustainability', 'digitalisation', 'creativity and innovation' and 'adoption of sustainable green practices'.

The award ceremony will be held in April 2026 under the theme "Cooperatives: the power to act for a sustainable and inclusive future".

9. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of the recommendations of a project entitled “Supply Chain Analysis for Plastic Pellets”, undertaken by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change under the “Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States” (ISLANDS) Project, which is being implemented in 33 Small Island Developing States worldwide and financed by the Global Environment Facility.

To address plastic pollution through the development of a strategic framework for the progressive reduction of virgin plastic pellets within the national economy, a comprehensive supply chain analysis of plastic pellets was undertaken with a view to coming up with the formulation of a strategic framework aimed at progressively reducing the use of virgin plastic pellets within the national economy. The main recommendations of the study are as follows –

- (a) the regulation of plastic pellets as a controllable item with a registration process; and
- (b) improvement in Customs Data Access and Reporting through a collaboration with the Mauritius Revenue Authority.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the establishment of a framework of collaboration between Fairtrade Africa and the Mauritius Cane Industry Authority and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties.

The Memorandum of Understanding aims at improving the resilience of small sugar cane planters through the adoption of Good Agricultural Practices in sugar cane production to boost productivity per unit area, increase planters’ revenue and ensure the subsequent sustainability as well as the compliance of Fairtrade Certified Producers in Mauritius. The scope of the Memorandum of Understanding relates to the following –

- (a) implementation of Good Agricultural Practices;
- (b) training of trainers for members of Fairtrade Cooperative Credit Societies;
- (c) interpretation of soil analysis results for planters who are opting for new plantation; and
- (d) provision of technical advice.

11. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare and the European Family Justice Center Alliance (EFJCA), which is a legal entity and the officially recognised network of Family Justice Centers and related multidisciplinary models in Europe.

As an umbrella organisation, the EFJCA facilitates the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and good practices among its members. Its core focus is the development of a multidisciplinary approach to gender-based violence, domestic violence, sexual violence, and child abuse.

The Memorandum of Understanding will be beneficial to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare in further strengthening family welfare and protection services through technical cooperation, exchange programmes, consultancy support, and the sharing of best practices. The Memorandum of Understanding will also contribute to reinforcing collaboration with European partners in areas related to the prevention of and response to gender-based and domestic violence.

12. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a Steering Committee under the chair of the Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation to facilitate the development of the Super App “KOREK”. Presently, citizens can access details of their driving licence and number of points accumulated under the Penalty Point System through the App “KOREK”.

The Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation proposes to integrate services scattered over a number of apps like Lespwar, BesafeMoris, MoRendezvous and MoKloud into one single app. The Super App will include a wide spectrum of other citizen-centric and business-oriented services, including digital driving licence, driving licence renewal, vehicle registration, civil status and mobile identity services, appointment booking at public health centres, trade fee payments, application for character certificates, student support and scholarship applications. Thus, “KOREK” will evolve into a Super App to become a single digital gateway to all public services, accessible through only one secure login.

The Super App constitutes a pivotal advancement to Government's vision of building a modern, inclusive, and citizen-centric digital state. It aims at placing citizens at the centre of service delivery, reducing administrative burdens, and rendering government services simpler, faster, and more attuned to everyday real-life requirements.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the findings and recommendations made by Dr Bernard Gruson, Honorary Director General of the *Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève*, following his visit to Mauritius from 16 December 2025 to 05 January 2026.

Dr Bernard Gruson conducted a mission with a view to establishing cooperation with the *Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève*. His assessment covered aspects including the selection of hospital managers, improvement of hospital management, assessment of healthcare risks and opportunities, and alignment with the Government's strategic objectives for hospital and ambulatory care. The Ministry of Health and Wellness will examine the recommendations made in the report and assess the feasibility of implementation, in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

14. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, in collaboration with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom (UK) and the British High

Commission in Mauritius will be organising a one-day validation workshop on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Protocol on Digital Trade in Mauritius.

The aim of the workshop will be to validate the findings of the draft Report entitled 'Implementing the AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade in Mauritius'. The Report, which undertakes an assessment and alignment requirements of Mauritius' digital trade regulatory framework in the context of the AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade, is part of the 'Supporting Investment & Trade in Africa' (SITA) programme, launched by the FCDO. The SITA programme is part of the UK's efforts to support trade, investment and development on the African continent. It further aims to support AfCFTA negotiations, assist on country implementation and undertake relevant policy analysis.

The workshop will bring together participants from different ministries as well as regulatory bodies such as the Bank of Mauritius, the Financial Services Commission and the Information and Communication Technologies Authority of Mauritius.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the recent participation of the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations in the annual Ministerial Roundtable of the Global Labor Market Conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The theme of the Ministerial Roundtable was "From Policy to Practice: Opening immediate pathways to work amid rapid change".

In his intervention, the Minister spoke about the impact of generative Artificial Intelligence on the job market and the need to skill, reskill and upskill our labour force. He highlighted some of the initiatives taken by Government to address this issue in consultation with trade unions and employers' organisations.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Optical Council of Mauritius.
