

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING - FRIDAY 08 MAY 2026

1. Cabinet has agreed to the retail selling price of imported live cattle for Eid-UI-Adha 2026 being fixed at Rs186/kg as from 09 May 2026 up to 10 days following the religious ceremony of Eid-UI-Adha.

The Inter-Ministerial Committee set up for Eid-UI-Adha 2026 under the chair of the Minister of Housing and Lands held three meetings with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection and relevant stakeholders. During the exercise, the Committee examined the costing structures, invoices, proof of payments, landed costs, feed allocations and operational expenses submitted. Following detailed verification and reconciliation exercises undertaken by the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee, the retail selling price of imported live cattle for Eid-UI-Adha 2026 has been fixed.

The Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection will promulgate the relevant regulations, accordingly.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change resorting to consultancy services in respect of the coastal erosion at Tamarin public beach, which is located at the confluence and estuary of Tamarin and Rempart rivers. In the absence of a coral reef, the site is characterised by interactions between ocean waves and the river flow system, creating a dynamic river mouth with sand deposition and remobilisation.

In December 2025, an unauthorised human intervention altered the natural configuration of the site, opening the channel mouth closer to the shoreline than its usual course. An assessment was conducted by officers of the Department of Environment and the Beach Authority and a communique was issued by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change to inform the public of the proposed actions while at the same time reiterating that any unauthorised intervention on the coastline, without the required permits, is strictly prohibited and calling for a collective responsibility in preserving the fragile site.

The following urgent temporary corrective measures have been implemented as from 30 April 2026 -

- (a) desilting works at the river mouth to restore the flow of the watercourse away from the eroded shoreline;
- (b) placing of rocks along approximately 150 meters of coastline using geotextiles to prevent further shoreline erosion; and
- (c) lopping/pruning of trees.

A Standing Monitoring Committee has been set up under the chair of the Director of Environment and comprising stakeholder Ministries and Departments to maintain a continuous assessment of the situation at Tamarin public beach.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Land Transport issuing drafting instructions to the Attorney-General's Office to amend the Third Schedule to the Road Traffic Act, by way of regulations, to provide for an increase in the range of points, under the Penalty Points System, for the offence of "using hand held microphone or telephone handset whilst driving", from 3-6 points to 5-10 points.

The Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit has conducted a preliminary assessment of the Penalty Points System based on comparative statistics covering the period January 2025 to April 2026. Statistics demonstrate that, following the introduction of the Penalty Points System on 31 January 2026, there has been a stabilisation in road safety indicators. Preliminary analysis also indicates that the stabilisation and, in some instances, reduction in fatalities, together with sustained enforcement activity and increased transparency, suggest that road user behaviour is beginning to improve.

Despite the Penalty Points System, road users are frequently observed engaging in high-risk behaviours, such as texting and manual phone operation, which significantly contribute to the rising number of road fatalities. To curb this trend and foster a culture of responsible driving, more stringent measures is being implemented at this early stage of the Penalty Points System.

To effectively evaluate the impacts of the penalty points system, the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit and the Police Department will conduct a comprehensive review, on a quarterly basis.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised by the Ministry of Land Transport in observance of the UN Global Road Safety Week, scheduled from 08 to 13 May 2026, on the theme "Safe Walking and Cycling for Sustainable Healthy Cities".

The objectives of the Road Safety Week are to sensitise the general public on road safety issues specifically affecting pedestrians and cyclists, and to strengthen the existing policy and structural frameworks that safeguard these vulnerable groups within our road network.

The Ministry of Land Transport will implement a comprehensive multi-pronged strategy covering road safety strategy, enforcement, infrastructure improvement, and public sensitisation. The Police Department and the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit will conduct joint "crackdown" operations to ensure strict adherence to traffic laws. Concurrently, the Traffic Management and Road Safety

Unit Communication team will be deployed to Bambous, Mahebourg, and Flacq to engage directly with the public. Reflective jackets and helmet stickers will be distributed to cyclists and motorcyclists, providing them with the necessary tools to enhance their visibility and safety on the roads.

A one-day consultative workshop will be held on 11 May 2026, in collaboration with the University of Mauritius. The session will bring together key stakeholders and members of academia to identify systemic challenges and propose evidence-based recommendations. These insights will serve as a vital foundation for the elaboration of the 'National Road Safety Strategy 2026-2030'.

As part of its Holistic Education Programme, primary school pupils across the island will participate in educational sessions, supported by the distribution of road safety flyers on 12 May 2026. Activities will also be organised in schools across Rodrigues on 12 May 2026, and the Mobile Traffic Playground will be set up at Oyster Bay Government School, thereby offering students a practical and interactive road safety learning experience.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Mauritius Cane Industry Authority (Sale Price of Molasses) Regulations 2026. The Regulations will establish the maximum sale price of molasses for Crops 2025, 2026 and 2027, with a yearly adjustment so as to reflect the prevailing Consumer Price Index, with the possibility of reviewing if required, subject to the recommendations of the Control and Arbitration Committee, and approval of both the Mauritius Cane Industry Authority Board and the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries.

6. Cabinet has agreed to Policy A1 (Protecting Agricultural Land) of the Outline Planning Scheme under the Town and Country Planning Act being amended to allow the construction of a storage unit cum quarters for workers/watchmen on agricultural land of a maximum gross floor area of 100m² along with other specific conditions.

The revised Policy A1 will provide for a storage unit cum quarters of a maximum gross floor area of 100 m² to be constructed on agricultural plots of a minimum size of 0A50p, subject to the following conditions -

- (a) the maximum ground floor coverage, inclusive of staircase facility, shall not exceed 50 m²;
- (b) space allocation for workers/ watchmen shall not exceed 12 m²;
- (c) the revised Policy A1 shall apply to all agricultural activities including sheltered farming or open-field farming; and
- (d) the conversion shall require a Land Conversion Permit, followed by a Building and Land Use Permit.

Necessary amendments will be brought to the relevant legislation.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Africa Finance Corporation (Privileges and Immunities) (Amendment) Regulations 2026 to incorporate tax exemptions to the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) as stipulated under the Establishment Agreement between the Government of Mauritius and the AFC, signed in May 2007.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the request of the Government of the United Arab Emirates to establish an Embassy in Port Louis and to the appointment of Mr Ahmed Naser Ali Al Dahmani as its first Resident Ambassador.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Information and Communication Technologies Authority has been elected as Chair of the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organisation for a period of one year.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the submission of the Initial Report and the Combined First, Second and Third Periodic (2019-2025) Reports of Mauritius on the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' rights under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The reports highlight the following -

- (a) increased women's representation in leadership and decision-making positions;
- (b) availability of legal aid and equal access to courts for women;
- (c) legal framework addressing domestic violence, trafficking, and abuse;
- (d) skills training and entrepreneurship initiatives for women;
- (e) health and reproductive rights of women; and
- (f) gender mainstreaming across all sectors.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) will co-host the -

- (a) 22nd Meeting of the Automatic Exchange of Information Peer Review Group (APRG) Meeting from 15 to 18 June 2026; and
- (b) 23rd Annual Administrative Meeting for National Contact Points for the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for the East and Southern Africa from 25 to 27 August 2026.

The 22nd Meeting of the APRG of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes is being jointly organised by the MRA and the OECD Global Forum. APRG's primary role is to assess the legal frameworks of Global Forum members that have committed to the implementation of the standard and to the evaluation of the effectiveness of their implementation. The meeting will be attended by around 90 participants from 30 member countries from the Automatic Exchange of Information Peers.

The 23rd Annual Administrative Meeting for National Contact Points for the World Customs Organisation (WCO) Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) for the East and Southern Africa will be jointly organised by the MRA and WCO. RILO for East Southern Africa is a Regional Centre responsible for collecting and analysing custom data, with the aim of strengthening global information and intelligence exchange among Customs administrations to combat transnational crime. The meeting will be attended by around 35 participants from 20 member countries of the RILO.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the holding of a National Workshop on the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) of Agenda 2063 of the African Union on 14 May 2026.

The African Union's Agenda 2063: *The Africa We Want* is the continent's long-term blueprint for socio-economic transformation and is being operationalised through five successive 10-year implementation plans. The STYIP (2024–2033) is the second such plan and builds on the achievements and lessons of the First Ten Year Implementation Plan and sets out continental priorities, flagship projects, and targets for the current decade.

The workshop will comprise panel discussions on economic integration, trade and the AfCFTA, digital transformation, innovation and human capital development, as well as senior official dialogues on the domestication of Agenda 2063. The organisation of a national workshop with panel discussions is being held for the following strategic reasons -

- (a) strengthening national ownership and domestication of Agenda 2063;
- (b) aligning national priorities with continental flagship projects;
- (c) positioning Mauritius as a proactive AU Member State;
- (d) building institutional knowledge and capacity; and
- (e) visibility and public engagement.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade in collaboration with the Economic Development Board and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) will hold a Validation Workshop on 14 May 2026 on the report entitled 'Developing Green Value Chains in Southern Africa in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): A Case Study of Mauritius'.

The main objective of the workshop will be to validate, through structured multi-stakeholder engagement, the findings, and policy recommendations of the study which has been drafted by the consultant appointed by UNECA. The study is framed within the broader goal of advancing sustainable, climate-resilient, and green value chains in Southern Africa under the AfCFTA. Specifically, it seeks to -

- (a) analyse the trade-environment nexus, with particular focus on the circular economy;
- (b) undertake a case study of Mauritius to map value chains, regional trade linkages, and circular economy opportunities, providing insights into the development of a regional policy roadmap; and
- (c) develop a strategic roadmap and policy recommendations to support the effective implementation of the AfCFTA in the context of green value chains.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the 3rd Joint Committee Meeting under the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Mauritius and the European Union (EU) and the 1st Round of Negotiations for a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its Implementing Protocol held in Brussels.

The 3rd Joint Committee Meeting under the 2022–2026 Protocol provided an opportunity to take stock of its implementation in the final year. The strong transparency and cooperation between the EU and Mauritius were commended, particularly with regard to the allocation and utilisation of sectoral support funds across the fisheries sector.

Mauritius presented the activities implemented under Year 2 of sectoral support, with an execution rate of 94% as at the date of the Joint Committee Meeting. Mauritius also presented the proposed work programme for the remaining two instalments, to be implemented following approval by the Joint Committee Meeting and integration into the national budget to be voted in early June 2026. The plan builds on existing activities being implemented under the first two instalments. The Joint Committee Meeting agreed to the new activities proposed.

During the 1st Round of Negotiations for the new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement, both parties reaffirmed the importance of the EU–Mauritius strategic partnership at both bilateral and regional levels.
