

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING - FRIDAY 09 OCTOBER 2026

1. Cabinet has taken note that as at 08 October 2026, water storage levels in the main reservoirs stood at 57.1% compared to 87.4% in 2025, while the storage at Mare aux Vacoas Reservoir stood at 35.7%.

Cabinet has taken note of the emergency water situation in the Upper Plaine Wilhems region. The Crisis Committee under the chair of the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities met to discuss the measures to be urgently implemented.

Cabinet has agreed to the following new measures -

- (a) nine boreholes will supply the Mare aux Vacoas Water Supply Zone with some additional 30,000m³ of water before end of October 2026 to compensate for the deficit at Mare aux Vacoas Reservoir;
- (b) abstraction of around 4,000m³ of water from Rivière Pétrin and Rivière Papayes to supply La Marie Water Treatment Plant;
- (c) increase in the capacity of the existing pipeline from Mare Longue Reservoir to La Marie Water Treatment Plant from 15,000 m³ to 30,000m³ per day;
- (d) the operation of 15 containerised pressure filters which have been procured by the Central Water Authority, by end of November 2026;
- (e) enlistment of private water tanker service providers;
- (f) assistance from the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Services for provision of water in affected localities;
- (g) recruitment of a dedicated team of 10 Liaison Officers to coordinate the deployment of water tankers in affected regions; and
- (h) installation of water tanks of around 30,000L in different sub-localities.

In view of the prevailing water situation and the need for households to ensure adequate storage, Cabinet further agreed that the Water Tank and Water Pump Grant Scheme under the Development Bank of Mauritius will be extended to all households that are not already equipped with water tanks. The Scheme provides for -

- (a) the grant of two tanks one of which should be of 1000L capacity (Rs. 10,000);
- (b) a pump (Rs. 4,000); and
- (c) fittings up to Rs 1,000.

Cabinet has also agreed to the appointment of Dr P. M. K. Soonarane, as Director General, Public Utilities, on a contract basis to monitor the implementation of the immediate measures being taken and also to work out medium-term and long-term measures for the water sector.

Cabinet has further taken note that the Ministry of Finance will extend necessary financial support to mobilise resources to face the challenging water situation.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the Prime Minister met with Mr Jonathan Powell, UK's National Security Adviser on 02 October 2026 in London. During the meeting with Mr Powell, the Prime Minister stressed that the Sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, was not negotiable and that the non-ratification of the Treaty to date, rendered the present status quo untenable.

The Prime Minister made it clear to the National Security Adviser that, although Mauritius was open to dialogue and diplomacy in order to resolve the issue, it would be inevitable that Mauritius would take the legal route unless the matter was expeditiously resolved.

During his visit to London, the Prime Minister also met the legal team to finalise Government's legal strategy.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation and the Ministry of Finance, has developed the State Age Pension Estimate mobile application which is available on the KOREK! App as well as on the website of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, to enable citizens to estimate, know and plan their State Age Pension.

An online application form for State Age Pension has been developed, incorporating an explanatory note to help applicants in filling the form. A press conference was held on 06 October 2026 and the public was informed about the possibility of applying online for the State Age Pension. Applicants have to consult the State Age Pension Estimate prior to making their applications. The online application form for State Age Pension is accessible as of 07 October 2026.

Applicants who have limited digital literacy or limited access to digital facilities can call at one of the 38 Social Security Offices around the island where officers will assist them in completing and submitting the State Age Pension online application.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency Campaign 2025-2026 and the action plan for the forthcoming summer season 2026-2027 in order to manage peak power demand and avoid electricity shortages.

The campaign which spanned from October 2025 to March 2026 included, amongst others, an energy conservation awareness programme through television, radio and social media programmes, public outreach activities at 14 locations, announcements during metro trips, school sensitisation programmes, distribution of promotional materials, the introduction of a colour code alert system, and the promotion of energy-saving initiatives across Ministries, Departments and Parastatal bodies.

In view of the continuing growth in electricity demand, the challenges posed by climate change, and uncertainties on international fuel markets caused by the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, a similar Energy Saving Campaign will be launched spanning from October 2026 to April 2027. The campaign will adopt an integrated approach combining direct customer engagement, extensive mass media and digital communication to promote energy-saving practices and encourage consumers to reduce or shift electricity consumption, particularly during the evening peak period.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the Mauritius Telecom Foundation establishing a scholarship for the best-performing Higher School Certificate student, ranking immediately after the State Scholarship Laureate on the Science Side.

The initiative is intended to recognise and reward outstanding academic achievement and to provide an additional scholarship opportunity to a high-performing student on the Science Side.

The Ministry of Education and Human Resource will issue drafting instructions to the Attorney-General's Office for the formulation of the necessary legislation to provide the requisite legal basis for the establishment, administration and award of scholarships under the proposed Mauritius Telecom Foundation Scheme.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the State Trading Corporation was incurring a loss of Rs5.05 per litre of mogas and Rs5.01 per litre of gas oil and the deficit in the Price Stabilisation Account presently stood at Rs3.56 Billion.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the naming of a Green Space within the Marie Charlesia Alexis Chagossian Community Centre in Baie du Tombeau after late Mr Rosemond Saminaden, MSK.

8. Cabinet has taken note of measures being taken by the Ministry of Tourism to ensure responsible dolphin and whale watching, and swimming with dolphin activities. The Ministry of Tourism has set up an Enforcement Squad led by the Tourism Authority to ensure compliance with the prevailing regulations whilst also, promoting security of visitors and operators, as well as, protecting the cetaceans and other marine species. Sensitisation sessions will be conducted with pleasure craft operators and skippers across the island on responsible behaviour to be adopted during dolphin and whale watching, and swimming with dolphin activities.

The Ministry of Tourism will bring amendments to the existing Tourism Authority (Dolphin and Whale Watching) Regulations 2012 to provide for more stringent requirements for the conduct of these activities.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the 2026 World Bank and International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (ICPEN) Consumer Protection prestigious Award, in the category “No One Left Behind”, has been conferred upon the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection.

ICPEN promotes international cooperation among consumer protection authorities, particularly in addressing cross-border fraud, deceptive marketing practices and emerging threats in digital commerce. The contest recognises innovative consumer protection initiatives which address key challenges faced by consumers and use of effective approaches to strengthen consumer protection and enforcement.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the organisation of the Divali Celebration 2026 at national level on Saturday 24 October 2026 at the Port Louis Waterfront, by the Ministry of Arts and Culture in collaboration with the High Commission of India, the Ministry of Tourism through the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority, Mauritius Telecom and Landscape Mauritius.

A cultural event featuring a live performance by renowned international Indian artists, namely Mr Udit and Mr Aditya Narayan together with their musical group, alongside performances by talented local artists will be held.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised by the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity in collaboration with the National Empowerment Foundation (NEF), to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2026, namely -

- (a) an Expo-Vente at the Victoria Urban Terminal, Port Louis, on Wednesday 14 October 2026 for 20 women entrepreneurs;

- (b) a Round Table on Poverty Alleviation on 15 October 2026 at Taher Bagh Hall, Port Louis, on the theme “Inclusive Empowerment - Leaving No One Behind in the Fight Against Poverty”;
- (c) a digital campaign on the theme “Mieux comprendre la pauvreté”;
- (d) a community-based activity combining environmental improvement, sensitisation and social interaction, at Gros Cailloux Integrated Village;
- (e) handing over of keys ceremony to 10 beneficiaries of National Housing Development Co. Ltd. houses at Henrietta, Melrose and Sebastopol; and
- (f) a one-day forum on the theme “Putting the beneficiary at the centre” at Polytechnics Rodrigues on 22 October 2026.

12 Cabinet has agreed to the adoption of a National Geographical Indication (GI) logo to be used on local products registered as GI in Mauritius, which will provide a common visual identity to products duly registered as GI with the Industrial Property Office of Mauritius.

The national GI logo for Mauritius will protect all local products registered as GI in future from imitation in both domestic and international markets. By offering an official guarantee of authenticity and origin, the logo will empower small-scale local producers, enhance consumer trust, and elevate the global profile of Mauritian expertise. The logo incorporates the “Dodo bird”, reflecting the national identity of Mauritius.

13. Cabinet has agreed to the proposed National Position and the composition of the Mauritian delegation in the context of the forthcoming 31st Session of the Conference of Parties (COP31) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held in November 2026 in Türkiye.

The COP31 National Position aims to support the preparation of the different Statements which the Head of the Delegation will deliver in the plenary sessions and Presidency events, as well as during the technical negotiations. The National Position, accordingly covers priority themes namely Mitigation, Adaptation and Climate Resilience; Climate Finance, Oceans, Agriculture and Food Security, Just Transition, Technology, and Global Stocktake 2. The tenets of the National Position include -

- (a) commitment to multilateralism and trust-building, reaffirming inclusive, rules-based multilateral climate action grounded in trust and solidarity;
- (b) advocacy for keeping 1.5°C within reach, with the pace of response guided by science;

- (c) pursuit of increased and scaled-up mitigation ambition and implementation by all Parties, particularly major emitters;
- (d) operationalisation of the Global Goal on Adaptation, with a clear link to means of implementation;
- (e) a strengthening call for predictable, accessible and scaled-up climate finance, balanced equally between mitigation and adaptation; and
- (f) replenishment of the financial mechanisms supporting the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC, and the full capitalisation of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage.

14. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius has been selected as the regional per-capita open source champion for Africa by the Global Digital Collaboration Council.

Mauritius is one of only 15 countries worldwide selected to spearhead this global initiative and has been invited to participate in the Global Digital Collaboration Council 2027. This will allow Mauritius to -

- (a) participate alongside tech giants and international bodies to work on global rules for AI, digital identity, and cross-border payments;
- (b) accelerate the implementation of the National AI Strategy by plugging local policy-makers directly into cutting-edge international regulatory frameworks;
- (c) strengthen the island's reputation as a secure and compliant digital financial centre; and
- (d) solidify Mauritius's position as a tech diplomat and digital bridge to mainland Africa, opening up new business pathways for local IT operators.

15. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius was represented by two teams, namely 'CSE Velocity' and 'Racing Vortex' at the ARAMCO STEM Racing World Finals 2026 which took place from 03 to 08 October 2026 in Singapore.

'CSE Velocity' representing College du Saint Esprit, had been recognised with the Best Newcomer Award, while 'Racing Vortex' representing Sookdeo Bissoondoyal State College also received major recognition, with nominations for -

- (a) Best Newcomer;
- (b) FIA Women in Motorsport Award; and
- (c) Chair of Judges Recognition of Achievement.

16. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Health and Wellness enabling the treatment of HIV Patients in private clinics in Mauritius through the provision of Antiretroviral Therapy. The Ministry of Health and Wellness will extend all facilities to the private clinics which have shown interest in the project on agreed terms and conditions.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the implementation of the recommendations contained in an Action Plan drawn further to the Governance Review conducted by the Office of Public Sector Governance at the University of Technology, Mauritius. The Action Plan contains 39 recommendations under the following main areas -

- (a) Establishment of Governance Structures and Committees;
- (b) Financial Management and Risk Oversight;
- (c) Board Governance and Accountability;
- (d) Capacity Building and System Upgrades;
- (e) Stakeholder Engagement and Policy Development; and
- (f) Additional Governance and Operational Issues.

18. Cabinet has agreed to the holding of a Regional Conference on the Universalisation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) from 11 to 13 November 2026 in Mauritius, in partnership with Expertise France under the European Union Partner-to-Partner Programme.

The Conference will bring together States of the Indian Ocean region to promote the universalisation and implementation of the ATT. The Conference will provide a platform for regional exchanges and sharing of experiences on the Treaty, particularly in addressing common security challenges and strengthening controls over the international transfer of conventional arms and also to -

- (a) promote the universalisation of the ATT among States of the Indian Ocean region;
- (b) present the benefits of joining the ATT in the context of the common security challenges facing the region;
- (c) share experiences and best practices on the ratification and effective implementation of the Treaty;
- (d) strengthen cooperation and dialogue between State Parties, non-State Parties and relevant regional organisations towards the universalisation and implementation of the ATT; and
- (e) exchange views on common regional security challenges.

19. Cabinet has taken note of the holding of the Second Mauritius-European Union (EU) Partnership Dialogue on 19 October 2026 in Mauritius. The Dialogue seeks to modernise the partnership to address contemporary global issues and aims at transforming the traditional donor-recipient model into a partnership of equals. The first Partnership Dialogue between Mauritius and the EU was held in April 2025.

20. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the 14th Session of the Mauritius–Seychelles Commission on Bilateral Cooperation, held from 08 to 11 September 2026 in Mauritius.

The 14th Session reviewed the implementation of the decisions of the 13th Session and deliberated on a broad range of bilateral matters, including Police, Prison, Fire Services, Legal Affairs, Financial Services, Environment and Climate Change, Maritime Connectivity and Security, the Blue Economy, Fisheries, ICT, Arts and Culture, Tourism, Health, Air Services, Transport, Energy, Port Management, Ease of Doing Business, Labour and Employment Cooperation, Youth and Sports, Consumer Protection, Pooled Procurement, and Education.

21. Cabinet has agreed to the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC) signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation (FONSTI) of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, which will provide for cooperation in the following areas -

- (a) exchanging information on scientific and technical matters such as technology transfer and Intellectual Property mechanisms;
- (b) organising bilateral seminars and workshops;
- (c) undertaking joint identification and formulation of applied research, development and innovation projects and activities;
- (d) co-funding calls for projects in the fields of Blue and Green Innovation, Health and Wellness, and Tourism, involving research partnerships between Mauritian and Ivorian researchers, innovators and enterprises/ companies;
- (e) sharing of research best practices, development and innovation facilities, as may be mutually agreed upon; and
- (f) adopting other forms of cooperation as may be mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

22. Cabinet has agreed to the Université des Mascareignes signing a Framework Cooperation Agreement with the Université ACEEM Madagascar. The Framework Cooperation Agreement, inter alia, provides for cooperation between the two institutions in the following main areas -

- (a) developing joint education and training programmes, with a view to enhancing the attractiveness and internationalisation of higher education programmes;
- (b) developing joint research programmes focusing on areas of mutual interest, with priority given to innovation, sustainable development, and in the longer term, economic and social development programmes related to combating climate change and protecting the environment;
- (c) strengthening inclusive student mobility with a view to promoting students' exposure to international standards, enhancing their employability, and developing their intercultural and linguistic skills;
- (d) facilitating the exchange of teaching staff and teacher-researchers to promote the sharing of expertise and enrich the pedagogical and scientific approaches of both institutions; and
- (e) jointly exploring and analysing international challenges, including economic, environmental and socio-cultural issues, with a view to adapting training programmes and promoting pedagogical innovation to better prepare future professionals for emerging and innovative fields of employment.

23. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Municipal City Council of Port Louis and the Government of St Petersburg, Russian Federation. The main objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding are to develop mutually beneficial cooperation as follows -

- (a) stimulate contact of business circles and interested organisations registered in the territory of Port Louis and St Petersburg;
- (b) hold consultations, seminars, conferences and other joint events in areas of mutual interest;
- (c) exchange of information in areas of interest in accordance with legislation prevailing in both jurisdictions in order to develop international and foreign economic relations; and
- (d) conclude possible agreements on cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

24. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade in the High-Level Segment of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly held in New York.

The meetings provided an opportunity to advance Mauritius' national interests, particularly on the Chagos Archipelago, climate finance, trade and investment, maritime security and ocean governance. Mauritius reaffirmed its commitment to multilateralism, international law and United Nations reform and advocated greater recognition of the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States and the development priorities of Africa.

The Minister addressed the General Assembly on 25 September 2026 and reiterated that Mauritius' sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago is non-negotiable and that Tromelin forms an integral part of its territory. The Minister called for Security Council reform, including the Common African Position, greater access to climate finance and implementation of the International Court of Justice advisory opinion on climate change and the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement). He also reaffirmed support for Palestinian self-determination, social protection and women's rights.

The Minister also had several bilateral meetings with, inter alia, the United Kingdom Foreign Secretary, the Moroccan Foreign Minister, the US Assistant Secretary for African Affairs and the United Arab Emirates Minister of State.

25. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives in the launch of the Trans-Atlantic Cotton Partnership (TACP), a new programme initiated by the US-Africa Trade Desk (USATD), held in New York.

Under the TACP, traceable cotton grown in the United States is shipped directly to manufacturers in Mauritius, Lesotho and Kenya, transformed into yarn, fabric and garments, and exported to the United States as finished products, with each garment traceable to the American farm and the African factory.

In his address, the Minister underlined that American cotton transformed by the African industry and returned to the American market as finished garments creates value on both sides of the Atlantic. The Minister had a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition of the Republic of South Africa, focused on sugar and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

26. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent visit of the Minister of Tourism to Rodrigues. The Minister attended an Award of Certificate/Prize Giving Ceremony organised by the Tourism Employees Welfare Fund following a training programme, and a Pastry Chef Competition.

The Minister had a meeting with the Chief Commissioner and the Commissioner for Tourism of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly during which several key issues of strategic importance for the development of the tourism sector in Rodrigues were discussed.

27. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Junior Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to the 26th Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council and the 21st Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) held in Luanda, Angola, under the theme “Strengthening Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa.”

The Sessions underscored the need to strengthen the implementation of existing AU peace and security mechanisms, with emphasis on conflict prevention, early warning and early response, preventive diplomacy, mediation, peacebuilding and greater African ownership.

The Assembly endorsed a more preventive and politically led approach to peace and security, including strengthened early warning, preventive diplomacy, mediation and the Peace and Security Council, as well as enhanced efforts on democratic governance, counter-terrorism, post-conflict reconstruction and the implementation of Silencing the Guns initiative by 2030. The Assembly also adopted the Luanda Plan of Action and its Implementation Matrix as the framework for implementation. The Junior Minister engaged in bilateral discussions with Angola, Mozambique and Tunisia.

28. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS) Advisory Council, with Dr Abdel Anwar Hossen Khoodaruth as part-time Chairperson.
