

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING - FRIDAY 12 JUNE 2026**

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Bill into the National Assembly. The main object of the Bill is to repeal the Protection from Domestic Violence Act and re-enact a more comprehensive legislative framework that will be more responsive to the needs of victims of acts of domestic abuse.

Considering that new and more complex forms of acts of domestic abuse continue to emerge, the Bill addresses those acts of domestic abuse in all its forms and, in particular -

- (a) widens the definition of an act of domestic abuse, including, but not limited to, economic, emotional and psychological abuse;
- (b) gives more protection and maximises the safety of persons who are victims of acts of domestic abuse, including their children;
- (c) prevents and reduces acts of domestic abuse to the greatest extent possible; and
- (d) ensures that perpetrators of acts of domestic abuse are held accountable for their actions.

The Bill accordingly makes further provisions for -

- (a) an effective and more accessible judicial system to domestic abuse orders;
- (b) the sharing of information between relevant stakeholders to assess, manage and prevent the risk of acts of domestic abuse;
- (c) the introduction of rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators of acts of domestic abuse; and
- (d) the creation of offences for contraventions of domestic abuse orders.

Cabinet has also taken note that the Attorney-General's Office is working on amendments to the Criminal Code so as to include Femicide and Marital Rape as offences under the Act.

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2. Cabinet has taken note that there is currently a misapprehension as to the ambit and purport of the provisions of the Road Traffic Act and Regulations promulgated under the Act, regarding the use of telephones and other devices whilst driving.

Cabinet has, therefore, decided that the matter be reviewed so as to clear any possible confusion and appropriate amendments be brought at the earliest to the Road Traffic Act and Regulations made thereunder, so as to ensure that the use of hand-free devices and built-in communication systems be allowed while driving.

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3. Cabinet has agreed to the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee to review the Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Scheme for Private Pre-Primary Schools, chaired by the Minister of Education and Human Resource. The Committee met on several occasions and held consultations with relevant stakeholders including private pre-primary school operators, staff representatives and the *Confédération des Travailleurs des Secteurs Public et Privé* regarding the review of the current GIA Scheme. The Committee came up with the following recommendations with a view to easing the financial burden on Government, mitigating systemic abuses under the Scheme, safeguarding staff employment and ensuring the continuity of the free pre-primary education scheme -

- (a) continuing the payment of salaries of employees of GIA schools;
- (b) introduction of a revised staffing model whereby schools with up to 20 pupils will be operated by a re-styled single Teacher/Manager replacing the Manager post. The incumbent will receive a salary equivalent to that of a teacher, as per provisions of the National Remuneration Board, with a monthly allowance of Rs5,000 to also perform as Manager;
- (c) phased qualifications upgrading of existing Managers;
- (d) gradual phasing out of the grades of Assistant Teacher and Assistant Manager;
- (e) phased adoption of a Teacher Pupil ratio of 1:20, instead of 1:15 as per existing GIA Agreement;
- (f) refund of monthly rental charges up to Rs5,000 to 33 schools having enrolment up to 20 pupils;
- (g) discontinuation of refund of rental charges to 117 schools having enrolment above 20 pupils;
- (h) 50% reduction of grant to meet operational expenses; and
- (i) strengthening governance and accountability mechanisms with a view to mitigating the inherent systemic abuse in the current management of the pre-primary schools under the GIA Scheme.

The Committee has also recommended the discontinuation of the per capita grant of Rs400 currently being paid to 106 fee-paying pre-primary schools. The review of the GIA Scheme which is expected to cost around Rs740M, will be implemented as from January 2027.

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4. Cabinet has taken note that the number of foreign workers of Bangladeshi origin, currently employed in Mauritius in specific scarcity areas is 8,975. Other main source countries from which foreign workers are recruited are India, Nepal and Madagascar and the number of workers currently in Mauritius from each of these countries is as follows -

India	-	15,840 workers
Nepal	-	14,821 workers
Madagascar	-	9,995 workers

Cabinet has further taken note that with a view to addressing the issue of illegal recruitment of foreign workers, the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations is currently reviewing the mechanism for recruitment. In this context, during his recent participation in the 114<sup>th</sup> Annual International Labour Conference in Geneva, the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations held discussions with his counterpart from Bangladesh, following which it has been decided that a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between the two Governments providing, inter alia, for the setting up by the Bangladeshi authorities of a Government body which will act as central recruitment agency through which all recruitment exercises in specific scarcity areas will be undertaken.

Cabinet has also taken note that such an arrangement already exists with the Government of India under the India-Mauritius Government-to-Government Mobility Partnership which provides, inter alia, for a modern, transparent and ethical framework for recruitment of foreign labour from India through the Indian National Skills Development Corporation.

Cabinet has taken note that the Passport and Immigration Office has been requested to step up measures to track down missing foreign workers.

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5. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Occupational Safety and Health (Refuse Collection) Regulations 2026, with a view to enhancing the safety and health of workers involved in refuse collection.

The Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations held consultations with relevant stakeholders, including private contractors operating in the sector. The draft Regulations have been examined and agreed upon by the tripartite constituents at the Advisory Council for Occupational Safety and Health. The salient features of the Regulations include the following -

- (a) Risk Assessment;
- (b) Personal Protective Equipment;
- (c) Health Surveillance;
- (d) Separate cabin for refuse collectors;
- (e) First Aid Facilities; and
- (f) Safety and Health for new or expectant mother.

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6. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Beach Authority (Management of Public Beach) Regulations 2026, which will provide that the Beach Authority may, in respect of the management of public beaches, delegate the implementation of projects on public beaches to any person or body.

The terms and conditions of such delegation shall be set out in a written agreement between the Beach Authority and the person or body to whom such delegation is granted. The Beach Authority (Management of Public Beach) Regulations 2026 shall come into operation on 20 July 2026.

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7. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Waste Management and Resource Recovery (Registration of Recycler and Exporter of Waste) Regulations 2026 to provide a legal framework to regulate the recyclers and exporters involved in recycling and exportation of solid and some hazardous wastes (such as E-waste, used batteries).

The Waste Management and Resource Recovery (Registration of Recycler and Exporter of Waste) Regulations 2026 shall come into operation on 20 July 2026. The Local Government (Registration of Recycler and Exporter) Regulations 2013 will be revoked. A transitional period of 90 days will be provided, during which the Certificate of registration issued under the Local Government (Registration of Recycler and Exporter) Regulations 2013 shall remain valid.

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8. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Occupational Safety and Health (Centralised Lodging Accommodation) Regulations 2026, which will provide for the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations to issue a centralised lodging accommodation permit for centralised lodging accommodations in the name of the owner of the building. The salient features of the Regulations include -

- (a) the owner of the building should obtain a Building and Land Use Permit and a Centralised Lodging Accommodation Building Permit prior to constructing a centralised lodging accommodation or modifying or structurally adapting an existing building to be used as a centralised lodging accommodation. Prior to using a building as a centralised lodging accommodation, the owner should obtain a Centralised Lodging Accommodation Permit;
- (b) part of a licensed building can be leased by several employers as lodging accommodation for their employees without the need to individually obtain a Lodging Accommodation Permit themselves. Furthermore, resident permit holders, that is, non-citizens holding a valid occupation permit or permanent residence permit, may also rent rooms in a licensed building;

- (c) the centralised lodging accommodation can have rooms with centralised amenities or rooms with attached amenities as prescribed in the Regulations;
- (d) the centralised lodging accommodation needs to have a valid Health Clearance issued by the Ministry of Health and Wellness and a valid Fire Certificate issued by the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service; and
- (e) specific responsibilities have been imposed on owners, employers and lodgers of centralised lodging accommodations to ensure decent living conditions for migrant workers in Mauritius.

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9. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Road Traffic (Crop Season) Regulations 2026 for the Crop Season 2026, which is expected to run from 15 June 2026 to 14 December 2026.

The Regulations provide that a licence may be taken out in respect of any vehicle for which the issue of a carrier's licence for the transport of sugar cane and sugar cane crop requisites has been approved by the National Land Transport Authority, for any specified period.

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10. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Data Protection (Designation, Tasks and Position of Data Protection Officers) Regulations 2026 to formalise the roles and responsibilities of Data Protection Officers (DPOs). The Regulations will establish a framework for the designation, duties, qualifications, independence and reporting obligations of DPOs in the public and private sector. The duties of DPOs will include -

- (a) monitoring compliance with the Data Protection Act 2017;
- (b) ensuring that appropriate security measures for data protection are implemented;
- (c) promoting awareness and staff training on data protection matters; and
- (d) acting as the liaison officer with the Data Protection Office.

A moratorium period of six months will be given to all controllers to allow organisations sufficient time to comply with the Regulations. The Data Protection (Designation, Tasks and Position of Data Protection Officers) Regulations 2026 will come into operation on 01 January 2027.

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11. Cabinet has taken note of the promulgation of the Town Planners' Council (Continuing Professional Development Programme) Regulations 2026 which will, inter alia, -

- (a) require every registered town planner to earn a minimum of 12 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points each CPD year (01 July to 30 June);
- (b) make provision for a transitional period for the first CPD year;
- (c) empower the Council to recommend and approve suitable CPD programmes;
- (d) allow registered town planners to carry forward up to six excess CPD points to the next year, with the Council's approval;
- (e) require registered town planners to keep a log of their CPD activities and submit it annually to the Council for validation; and
- (f) allow the Council to grant exemptions from the CPD requirement on valid grounds such as health, family reasons, or study leave.

The Regulations will come into operation on 27 June 2026 and will provide the Town Planners' Council with a structured and enforceable framework to ensure that registered town planners maintain and continuously upgrade their professional knowledge and skills, thereby enhancing the overall quality and standards of town planning practice in Mauritius.

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12. Cabinet has agreed to the suspension of Light Rail Vehicle operations by Metro Express Ltd on public holidays along Line 2 (Rose Hill Central to Mahatma Gandhi, Réduit), as from the upcoming public holiday on Saturday 15 August 2026.

Cabinet has also taken note that the number of Light Rail Vehicles plying along Line 2 on Saturday early mornings and late afternoons will be reduced. A direct Light Rail Vehicle service from Curepipe Central Light Rail Station to Mahatma Gandhi Light Rail Station at Réduit will be introduced on a pilot basis of one month during peak hours by end of August/beginning of September 2026.

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13. Cabinet has agreed to the amalgamation of the Mauritius International Arbitration Centre (MIAC) with the MCCI Arbitration and Mediation Center (MARC).

MIAC has operated as an independent arbitration centre since 2018, drawing on the significant expertise gained during the initial phase of its development and with the assistance of the Permanent Court of Arbitration under a Cooperation Agreement. MARC was established in 1996 as an initiative of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry to provide the business community with quick, efficient, flexible and confidential means of resolving disputes, through mediation or arbitration, as alternatives to litigation before state courts.

In view of the small size of our jurisdiction, an amalgamation of both arbitral institutions would lead to a rationalisation of their respective resources with the common goal of advancing the Mauritius international arbitration project.

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14. Cabinet has agreed to the findings and recommendations of the final report titled 'Implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Protocol on Digital Trade in Mauritius' and to the setting up of a technical committee comprising relevant Ministries and institutions to work on the recommendations contained therein.

The report examines the readiness of Mauritius to implement the AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade, identifies key gaps and sets out priority actions required to move from policy alignment to implementing the Protocol. The study recommends that Mauritius' priority reforms should focus on making existing strengths 'AfCFTA-Ready' by improving interoperability, enforceability and coordination across institutions. The report further presents a phased implementation roadmap that provides a practical route to work towards the implementation of the AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade at the national level.

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15. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research and the Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italian Republic.

The main objective of the collaboration is to enhance the mobility and exchange of students and academics and to further research in designated areas of mutual interest including, but not limited to Teacher Education, Nursing, Paramedicine, Hospitality and Tourism so that students are empowered to contribute to these professional areas of activity. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding is expected to generate multiple strategic benefits for all local public higher education institutions and for Mauritius.

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16. Cabinet has taken note of the findings of the Office of Public Sector Governance (OPSG) in its Report on the Review of Operational Efficiency at the Department of Operations Support Services (DOSS) of the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

The OPSG had been requested to conduct a review and make an assessment on the current fleet operations at the DOSS with a view to improving management and maintenance of the fleet of vehicles. The Report identified several shortcomings related to the operationalisation of the DOSS and made a series of recommendations aiming to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the DOSS to deliver a high-quality support service. The Ministry of Health and Wellness is closely monitoring the implementation of an Action Plan to address the recommendations made.

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17. Cabinet has taken note of the findings of the Independent Technical Committee to assess the infrastructural integrity of the building of Alpha College. The Committee was set up in view of numerous complaints received on the infrastructure of the college, which could constitute a serious safety hazard for the students and staff.

Based on visual inspections conducted, the building was found to be generally safe for continued occupation by students and staff. However, recommendations have been made for remedial works in connection with certain deficiencies observed.

Notwithstanding the conclusion of the Report, Alpha College is provisionally registered by the Private Secondary Education Authority (PSEA) for academic year 2026 in view of the low student population, namely 139 students during the current academic year. Thus, as from academic year 2027, grants towards the college from the PSEA would be stopped. The students and staff members would be redeployed in other colleges.

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18. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries in the Monaco Blue Initiative and the Blue Economy and Finance Forum in the Principality of Monaco. The Monaco Blue Initiative served as a high-level platform for dialogue among Governments' representatives, scientists, conservation organisations, development partners and international institutions on the future of ocean governance.

During the Conference, the Minister opened a panel discussion on the theme "Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction and High Seas MPAs-looking ahead". The Minister participated in the Blue Economy and Finance Forum which brought together major financial institutions, sovereign wealth funds, development banks, impact investors and philanthropic organisations to explore mechanisms for mobilising capital towards sustainable ocean development.

The Minister had a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of Monaco Explorations. He also effected a visit to the Monaco Thalassothermie Facilities which is a system that utilises deep seawater for cooling and heating buildings through a district energy network.

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19. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent official visit of the Minister of Education and Human Resource to Rodrigues to take stock of progress achieved by different departments falling under the purview of the Education Sector.

The Minister held discussions with the Deputy Chief Commissioner of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, along with the Departmental Head (Education) and their staff on the advancement of the issues which were previously highlighted during his last visit.

The Minister also had a meeting with all Rectors, Deputy Rectors and Head Masters of the Secondary and Primary Schools in Rodrigues. The Minister also participated in a Policy Dialogue Meeting with all Head Boys, Head Girls and Student Councils of all the eight Secondary Schools in Rodrigues.

The Minister attended a Certificate Presentation Ceremony of the 'School Placement Programme' organised by the Human Resource Development Council as well as an Award of Certificates Ceremony organised by the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development.

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20. Cabinet has taken note that, in accordance with section 10(1) of the Financial Crimes Commission Act, the Prime Minister has advised the President of the Republic to appoint Mr Titrudeo Dawoodarry as Director-General of the Financial Crimes Commission.

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21. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of -

- (a) Mr Geerja Shankar Rajah Ramdaursingh, GOSK as Chief Executive Officer of the Economic Development Board; and
- (b) Mr Balraj Naroo, MSK as Chairperson of the Board of the Central Water Authority.

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