

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING - FRIDAY 14 AUGUST 2026

1. Cabinet has taken note that on 30 July 2026, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) conveyed its approval to the Submission of the Republic of Mauritius lodged on 06 May 2009 in respect of the Extended Continental Shelf in the region of Rodrigues Island.

The submission to the CLCS was in respect of an extended continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles in the region of Rodrigues. The Submission was based on extensive geological, geophysical and geochemical evidence intended to establish the required geological relationship and appurtenance of the area to Mauritius.

In March 2014, a Sub-Commission of the CLCS was established to examine the Submission. In 2016, Mauritius requested that the examination be temporarily paused to allow for the acquisition of additional scientific data and the strengthening of the submission. Following the completion of the technical examination, a final presentation was made by a Mauritian delegation in February 2026 to the CLCS. After considering the recommendations of the Sub-Commission and the explanations provided by Mauritius, the Commission approved the Recommendations on 30 July 2026.

The Recommendations recognise the entitlement of Mauritius to an extended continental shelf in the Rodrigues region, with outer limits extending over an area of approximately 147,000 km² and represent a major national milestone in the administration of Mauritius' maritime zones.

This decision has important long-term implications for the country's marine scientific research, ocean governance, marine spatial planning and the exploration and sustainable use of the natural resources of the continental shelf, in accordance with international law.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the Prime Minister will travel to the Republic of South Africa on Sunday 16 August 2026 to attend the 46th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), to be hosted and chaired by His Excellency Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa on 17 August 2026. The theme of the Summit is "Resilient, sustainable and inclusive industrialisation through Infrastructure Development, Agricultural and Critical Minerals Transformation in Pursuit of a Just World".

The proceedings of the 46th Summit will focus, among other priorities, on accelerating regional integration and development through enhanced infrastructure development, agricultural transformation and the beneficiation of critical minerals.

Particular emphasis will be placed on strengthening a more competitive, climate-resilient and inclusive region, capable of creating the conditions for sustainable development and a fairer and more prosperous future for its people.

Mauritius maintains close relations with SADC since it joined the organisation in 1995 and its membership contributes to strengthening regional economic integration while broadening opportunities for cooperation, trade and investment with countries across Southern Africa. In this context, Mauritius' engagement within SADC serves a dual purpose: to expand regional opportunities for Mauritian businesses and to further strengthen the country's positioning as a platform for investment, services and connectivity between Africa and the Indian Ocean.

The Prime Minister's participation in the Summit underscores the importance Mauritius attaches to strengthening regional cooperation, deepening economic integration and consolidating relations with SADC Member States.

In the margins of the Summit, the Prime Minister will get the opportunity to meet with other Heads of State and Government of the SADC Region to discuss issues of common interest and strategic priorities for the region.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the State Trading Corporation signing a Sales and Purchase Agreement (SPA) with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd for the long-term supply of White Oil products. The Agreement will be concluded under the Government-to-Government cooperation framework provided for in the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Oil and Gas Sector, to be signed between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Republic of India. The Agreement will enable Mauritius to ensure the security of supply of White Oil products for the coming years.

4. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius adopting and signing the Amended Protocol on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity and Protected Areas in the Western Indian Ocean Region, commonly known as Biodiversity Protocol under the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern Indian Ocean region.

The Nairobi Convention adopted the Protocol concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region, in 1985 and Mauritius acceded to the Protocol in July 2000. The Protocol establishes a framework for protecting and sustainably managing the Region's living resources, namely habitats, species and ecosystems, thereby recognising their economic and social importance.

Since the adoption of the Protocol, new global and regional frameworks have emerged and environmental pressures have intensified. The Amended Protocol, now known as the Biodiversity Protocol, aims at strengthening its legal provisions for biodiversity conservation, aligning with existing instruments as well as addressing modern challenges like climate change, ocean acidification, marine pollution and invasive species.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the naming of the Stanley Government School after Late Mr Jaya Krishna (Jayen) Cuttaree, GCSK.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Fisheries (Vessel Monitoring System) (Amendment) Regulations 2026 to improve the operational effectiveness of the Vessel Monitoring System as well as the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities. The Regulations will strengthen fisheries compliance and enforcement, in particular, efforts to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing in our national waters and the Indian Ocean region.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Wellness proposes to come up with appropriate regulations under the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act 2023 for the management, treatment and resource recovery of healthcare waste in Mauritius.

The proposed regulations will apply to healthcare establishments and other entities involved in the generation, handling, collection, transportation, treatment, recovery or disposal of healthcare waste, including public and private hospitals, clinics, laboratories, veterinary institutions and relevant service providers.

Expired or unused pharmaceutical products classified as hazardous waste will also be covered, as appropriate. The regulations will be based on the principles of prevention of secondary pollution, including atmospheric, soil and water contamination; maximisation of material and energy recovery where technically and economically feasible; minimisation of landfill disposal; and promotion of circular economy models and sustainable waste treatment technologies.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness will also undertake a national scoping exercise and its findings will guide the implementation strategy and the development of the proposed regulatory requirements.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Land Transport will introduce guidelines for determining applications regarding the use of tinted glass on motor vehicles, pursuant to the Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicles)

Regulations 2010, further to consultations held with the National Land Transport Authority and the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

In accordance with the Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicles) Regulations 2010, the glass of the front windscreen and front windows of motor vehicles shall have a visual transmission of light of not less than 75% when measured perpendicular to the surface in accordance with the prescribed operating manual. A 5% light transmittance tolerance is allowed for any motor vehicle.

Provisions are made for exemption from these requirements. Accordingly, a person shall be exempted if he produces a medical certificate certifying a disease or disorder for which a medical practitioner determines that a motor vehicle driven by that person should be exempted.

The guidelines for determining applications for the use of tinted glass in motor vehicles will provide, inter alia, for -

- (a) a definitive list of qualifying medical conditions;
- (b) mandatory certification of applications by a recognised medical specialist relevant to the condition;
- (c) a robust record-keeping process to track applications and prevent duplication; and
- (d) a systematic verification mechanism for all supporting documents.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the second report on the Penalty Points System covering the period 31 January to 31 July 2026. The following five principal offences were recorded during the reporting period as follows -

- (a) 7,570 offences relating to exceeding speed limit - fixed speed cameras and handheld speed detectors;
- (b) 3,607 offences relating to failure to wear seat belt;
- (c) 2,362 offences relating to use of handheld microphone/telephone while driving;
- (d) 1,692 offences relating to vehicle equipped with unauthorised lamps; and
- (e) 768 offences relating to failure to comply with traffic sign whilst driving by crossing a continuous white line on a road.

Following the review of the range of penalty points for the offence of “using handheld microphone or telephone handset whilst driving” effective 06 June 2026, the compiled number of defaults witnessed a downward trend from 1,305 for the first quarter compared to 1,057 for the quarter ending 31 July 2026. Moreover, several high-risk traffic offences also exhibited encouraging downward trends during the reporting period. Seat-belt offences totalled 3,607, with monthly detections decreasing from 799 in March to 456 in July. Traffic-light violations decreased from 168 in February to 71 in July, while continuous white-line and traffic-sign violations declined from 137 in February to 99 in July.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Education and Human Resource entering into an International Data Transfer Agreement with the University of Bath, United Kingdom to establish the legal framework governing the transfer of academic reports containing students’ personal data to the Ministry, in the context of the State of Mauritius Laureate Scheme.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Land Transport in the Fifth International Transport Summit held in Moscow, Russia. The Summit revolved around 13 thematic tracks spanning the full breadth of urban mobility, from strategic master-planning and metro engineering through to surface transport, road safety, intelligent transport systems, ticketing and passenger services, and the management of the transport workforce.

The Summit offered several practical avenues for cooperation, including participation in the Urban Transport Data platform for comparative benchmarking, city-to-city knowledge exchange on intelligent transport systems and road safety, and access to technical training and study visits.

The Summit confirmed that the direction of the Ministry of Land Transport’s existing programme in adaptive traffic control system, evidence-based road safety, public-transport integration, and fleet modernisation and electrification is broadly consistent with international practice, whilst simultaneously pointing to ways in which that programme might be further strengthened.
