

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 24 APRIL 2026

1. Cabinet has considered -
 - (a) the draft Constitution (Amendment) Bill which will amend the Constitution so as to provide that a person can stand as a candidate at any general election without community-based classification. In line with section 41(3) of the Constitution, the comments of the Electoral Supervisory Commission and the Electoral Commissioner have been sought and are awaited; and
 - (b) the draft Constitutional Review Commission Bill which will empower the President of the Republic of Mauritius to appoint a Constitutional Review Commission which will be responsible to examine and make recommendations on a number of constitutional reforms, including the protection of fundamental rights and the consolidation of democracy and institutions.

Both draft Bills will be given further consideration at the next Cabinet Meeting, after having received the comments of the Electoral Supervisory Commission and the Electoral Commissioner, prior to introduction into the National Assembly.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the issue of Electoral Reforms is being addressed separately. A report of the public consultations held earlier this year will be circulated at the next Cabinet Meeting.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Prime Minister in the Swearing-in Ceremony of His Excellency Denis Sassou N’Guesso, President of the Republic of Congo. The Prime Minister attended the inaugural ceremony at the invitation of the President, in view of the very close ties between Mauritius and the Republic of Congo and the excellent personal relations, and also in line with the ambition to elevate our relationship within Africa.

Heads of State and Government, including the President of Burundi, who is also the Chairperson of the African Union, the Presidents of Angola, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Rwanda and Togo, as well as several Prime Ministers and Vice Presidents, attended the event.

Cabinet noted that the support Mauritius has always benefitted from Africa, especially from President Denis Sassou N’Guesso, in our struggle to exercise full sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago cannot be overstated. Furthermore, President N’Guesso has always promoted peace and security across Africa and played a significant role to resolve conflicts in Libya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Prime Minister had the opportunity to meet President N'Guesso just after his Swearing-in Ceremony. During discussions, they highlighted the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries and agreed to an enhanced economic and trade partnership. Discussions were held on issues of mutual interest, including -

- (a) the possibility of Mauritius getting a quota of petroleum products at a preferential rate, from Pointe Noire Petroleum Hub in Congo, one of the main hubs of Central Africa;
- (b) the participation of the Mauritius private sector in the development of the agricultural hub of Oyo, in the North of the Republic of Congo, for food production, processing and exports; and
- (c) triangular cooperation between India-Mauritius-Congo, namely in the financial services sector, on the channelling of investment through the Mauritius International Finance Centre.

The Prime Minister also met the President of Gabon, HE Brice Oligui Nguema and they agreed to reinforce bilateral relations. The President of Gabon has expressed the wish of visiting Mauritius in the course of this year.

4. Cabinet has taken note that on 22 April 2026, the Prime Minister had a telephone conversation with Mr Jonathan Powell, United Kingdom (UK) National Security Adviser on the Chagos issue. The latter has reaffirmed the commitment of the UK Government to the Agreement between Mauritius and the UK. The Prime Minister made it clear that Mauritius will review the situation and take a decision on the way forward after the US-Africa Business Summit scheduled from 26 to 29 July 2026 in Mauritius.

Cabinet has further taken note that Mr Robbie Bulloch, Director, Overseas Territories and Polar Directorate, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and two other officials of the FCDO travelled to Mauritius this week, at the request of the UK Government and held talks on 22 April 2026 with the Attorney-General and officers of the Attorney-General's Office and the Prime Minister's Office with regard to the Chagos Archipelago.

The delegation also assured that the UK Government remains committed to the Agreement between Mauritius and the UK concerning the Chagos Archipelago including Diego Garcia although it had decided not to proceed further with the Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory Bill during the current session of the UK Parliament. They underscored that the signature of an updated Exchange of Notes between the UK and the United States (US) in respect of the military base in Diego Garcia was a *sine qua non* for the Bill to be taken forward in the UK Parliament. While the updated Exchange of Notes has been approved by the US agencies, the sign off of the US President has not yet been obtained. The Attorney-General was informed that the UK continues to engage regularly with the US on the matter.

Mr Bancoult and other Chagossians based in Mauritius, including one from Seychelles, propose to undertake an engagement mission to the UK in order to make known their stand on the Agreement between Mauritius and the UK on the Chagos Archipelago. The UK side welcomed the idea of such a mission and considered that it would be helpful in showing that there are different views among Chagossians on the Agreement on the Chagos Archipelago.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Washington DC during which several meetings with key United States (US) officials and representatives from the US business community were held.

The Minister met Mr Christopher Landau, US Deputy Secretary of State with whom he raised the issue of strengthening of Mauritius-US trade relations, security in the Indian Ocean region and the Chagos Archipelago.

Together with the Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade had a meeting with Officials of the African Bureau at the State Department focusing on strengthening the bilateral trade and promoting investments in Mauritius. The Minister highlighted the importance of expediting the ratification of the Agreement on the Chagos Archipelago between Mauritius and the United Kingdom.

The Minister discussed with a team from Broadcom on the proposal for the setting up of a National Sovereign Cloud under the Digital Transformation Blueprint 2025-2029 through the VMware Cloud Foundation that will ensure data sovereignty, jurisdictional control and adherence to local legal frameworks.

The Minister had a meeting with the President and Chief Executive Officer of Corporate Council of Africa and discussed issues pertaining to the organisation of the 18th US-Africa Business Summit to be held in Mauritius in July 2026.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives to Washington D.C., in the context of Mauritius' ongoing efforts to advance discussions with the United States (US) under the proposed Agreement on Reciprocal Trade and move towards a comprehensive bilateral trade agreement.

The Mauritian delegation met with Ambassador Jamieson Greer, United States Trade Representative and a member of President Trump's Cabinet, together with Ambassador Jeffrey Goettman, Deputy United States Trade Representative. The Minister outlined Mauritius' position, namely the need for certainty and predictability in the bilateral trade framework, with the objective of securing, first, an Agreement on Reciprocal Trade and, thereafter, a comprehensive bilateral trade agreement with the US, while preserving benefits equivalent to those under the African Growth and Opportunity Act and maintaining duty-free and quota-free access for Mauritian exports to the US market. The Minister held a number of meetings and engagements with the –

- (a) US Department of State;
- (b) US Congress and Congressional Staff;
- (c) Export-Import Bank of the United States;
- (d) US Trade and Development Agency;
- (e) World Bank Group and International Finance Corporation;
- (f) US International Development Finance Corporation;
- (g) Agricultural and Trade Support Stakeholders;
- (h) US Department of Agriculture;
- (i) US Africa Trade Desk Event;
- (j) Private Sector Engagements; and
- (k) Corporate Council on Africa

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Prime Minister chaired the first meeting of the National Drug Control Commission on 23 April 2026. The National Drug Control Master Plan 2026-2030, elaborated by the National Drug Control Commission (NADC), was presented to the Prime Minister. The Master Plan will be accessible on Government's digital platforms in the coming days.

The Prime Minister underlined that the current situation regarding synthetic drugs was central to discussions, and indicated that the NADC has enlisted the support of the Forensic Science Laboratory to strengthen its response. The Prime Minister further noted the need for the NADC to step up awareness of legal sanctions for drug-related offences in high-risk areas, such as the airport and the port.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the activities being organised by the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations from 27 April to 01 May 2026 in the context of the International Labour Day, which is celebrated globally on 01 May each year to commemorate the historic struggles and gains made by workers and the labour movement, with a view to improving the working conditions and promoting decent work. The following activities will be organised -

- (a) a job fair at Cascavelle on 27 April 2026 to share employment opportunities with job-seekers;
- (b) meetings with representatives of workers' organisations and employers' organisations on 29 April 2026 to receive feedback on services offered by the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations and on suggestions for improvement;
- (c) a one-day symposium on 30 April 2026 with some 200 tripartite stakeholders and social partners on the theme "Inclusive, safe and productive workplaces: building tomorrow's Mauritius together";

- (d) a wreath laying ceremony on 01 May 2026 at the Anjalay Coopen statue at the Children's Court, followed by a visit to a dormitory of migrant workers; and
- (e) a concert on 01 May 2026 at the City Council of Port Louis.

9. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Energy Efficiency (Control of Non-Essential Grid-Powered Activities) Regulations 2026 to impose restrictions on usage of grid power for activities that are not required for safety or security. The Regulations will address non-residential Central Electricity Board customers and will seek to prohibit certain non-essential activities that use grid-power, including -

- (a) decorative and ornamental lighting;
- (b) illumination of building façades for aesthetic purposes;
- (c) operation of illuminated advertising displays;
- (d) operation of air-conditioning in unoccupied commercial spaces;
- (e) inefficient operation of air-conditioning;
- (f) operation of decorative fountains or similar installations; and
- (g) lighting of outdoor sports facilities when not in use.

The Regulations explicitly exempt essential services such as –

- (a) hospitals, clinics and medical facilities;
- (b) emergency services including police, fire and disaster response services;
- (c) public street lighting necessary for public safety;
- (d) airport, port, air navigation and maritime safety systems;
- (e) water supply, wastewater treatment and other essential public utilities;
- (f) power generation sites; and
- (g) radio and Television Terrestrial Transmission services.

The Regulations are expected to reduce unnecessary electricity consumption, and develop a culture of energy efficiency at all levels with time. The Regulations shall come into operation as from 01 May 2026 and be valid up to 01 November 2026.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Energy Efficiency (Minimum Energy Performance Standards for Regulated Machinery) (Refrigerating Appliances) Regulations 2026 for the introduction of mandatory Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for refrigerating appliances.

The Regulations will be applicable to refrigerating appliances intended for households and light commercial use. Refrigerating appliances being used in the commercial and industrial sector will not be concerned for the time being in the absence of a harmonised MEPS for refrigerating appliances used in commercial and industrial sectors by the Southern African Development Community.

The Regulations will not apply to refrigerating appliances that have been placed in a bonded warehouse within five months from the commencement date, or that have been imported or manufactured in accordance with Regulations 20 and 21. The Energy Efficiency (Minimum Energy Performance Standards for Regulated Machinery) (Refrigerating Appliances) Regulations 2026 shall come into operation on 01 October 2026.

11. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Financial Reporting (Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants) (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2026 which will provide for the increase of the annual fee payable by Professional Accountants to the Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants from Rs2,000 to Rs3,000.

12. Cabinet has agreed to review the existing legislation for labelling with a view to bringing visibility on the subsidy and maximum mark-up measures implemented by the Government and to review the effective date of the unit pricing requirements to 01 July 2026.

Presently, there are three major measures being implemented, namely -

- (a) the Maximum Fixed Price Mechanism where the prices of 13 essential commodities are fixed;
- (b) the Maximum Mark-Up Mechanism where the retail prices of 30 commodities are determined on consignment basis; and
- (c) the Fixed-Quantum Subsidy Mechanism on 10 essential commodities under the Price Stabilisation Fund to cushion households against rising prices.

Cabinet noted that in spite of a comprehensive structured framework for price control and subsidy measures in respect of essential commodities, consumers do not necessarily identify products which are subject to Government interventions such as fixed quantum subsidy and maximum mark-up mechanism, as presently there is no visual indication to capture their attention. In order to address this gap, retailers will have to mandatorily affix clear and standardised identifiers such as "SP" for subsidised products and "MRP" for price-controlled products on the price label of relevant commodities. Such a measure will enhance transparency in the retail market, facilitate informed purchasing decisions and improve the visibility and effectiveness of Government interventions. The Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection will amend the existing legislation, accordingly.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the recommendations made by Consultant COWI-Luxconsult (Mauritius) Ltd on the poor performance of the Contractor Joint Venture SOTRAVIC/STRATA following persistent non-compliance with its core obligations under the Contract for the Vertical Expansion of the Mare Chicose landfill. In the light of the recommendations, the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change is issuing a letter of warning to the said contractor.

14. Cabinet has taken note that an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Eid-UI-Adha has been set up under the chair of the Minister of Housing and Lands and comprising –

- (a) the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries;
- (b) the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations;
- (c) the Minister of Land Transport
- (d) the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection; and
- (e) the Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the pre-consultative dialogues held in the context of *Les Assises de l'Océan 2025*. Ten pre-consultative dialogues were held on ten different themes. These ocean dialogues served as a forum for knowledge exchange and a mechanism for consensus building and strategic alignment geared towards the development of the Blue Economy. The dialogues also provided an opportunity to identify priority actions, highlighting synergies among stakeholders and innovative solutions which will set forth the agenda of *Les Assises de l'Océan*. Following the ocean dialogues, and with the support of the World Bank, a Report was drafted and validated with stakeholders.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised to mark World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2026 on the theme “Let’s Ensure a Healthy Psychosocial Working Environment”. The Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms will organise a workshop for around 120 participants on 28 April 2026 to raise awareness, share knowledge and build capacity. The workshop will be an opportunity to –

- (a) raise awareness among participants on psychosocial risks in the workplace and their impact on employee well-being, productivity, and organisational performance;
- (b) enhance knowledge of preventive strategies, policies, and good practices to manage psychosocial risks effectively;
- (c) build capacity of Chairpersons of Safety and Health Committees and officers of the Safety and Health Cadre to identify, assess, and address psychosocial hazards within their Ministries and Departments; and
- (d) promote a culture of prevention and well-being, reinforcing the principles of a healthy psychosocial working environment across the Public Service.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of the Board of the STC Petroleum Company Ltd, with Mr Tejanand Dewoo as part-time Chairperson and the reconstitution of -

- (a) the National Tripartite Council under the chair of the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations and Mrs Manisha Dookhony and Mr Mohammad Hisham Ahmed Oozeer as Vice-Chairpersons;
- (b) the Boiler and Machinery Inspectors Board, with Mr Gawtum Jawaheer as part-time Chairperson; and
- (c) the Information and Communication Technologies Advisory Council, with Mr Prabhakar Bhoyroo as part-time Chairperson.
