

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 28 AUGUST 2026

1. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Prime Minister in the 46th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) held in Durban, South Africa. The participation of Mauritius in the SADC Summit demonstrated our firm commitment to regional integration and cooperation with SADC countries with a view to exploring new trade and investment opportunities.

During his intervention in the plenary session on the theme of the Summit, the Prime Minister highlighted a particularly complex international situation, marked by several uncertainties and mounting challenges. Against this backdrop, the Prime Minister called upon SADC members to strengthen cooperation in order to build greater regional resilience. The Prime Minister emphasised that, in the broader context of geopolitical tensions, economic fragmentation and climate change, industrialisation will be central to the region's future specifically through green and smart industrialisation, which must serve as a genuine catalyst for sustainable growth. The Prime Minister also stressed that the future of SADC hinges on the consolidation of regional value chains.

The Prime Minister laid emphasis on the need to strengthen regional connectivity, particularly in the digital sphere. In this regard, he proposed the establishment of the "Digital Embassy Village," a project aligned with the strategy of Mauritius to reinforce its position as a digital and technology hub serving the region.

The Prime Minister further underlined the countless opportunities the Blue Economy offers to SADC countries in terms of growth, innovation, investment, and job creation. He also made reference to the Global Blue Belt Initiative and called on SADC nations to support the initiative and collaborate in promoting the sustainable use of ocean resources.

The Prime Minister also underlined that despite the difficult economic situation left by the previous regime, the new Government took the necessary steps, immediately upon assuming Office, to honour the obligations of Mauritius to SADC, settling a sum of over USD8.26 million by 31 January 2025. This payment allowed Mauritius to regularise its status and participate in the SADC Summit held in Madagascar in 2025, thereby marking the country's return to full and active participation within the regional organisation.

The Prime Minister also highlighted that, following his appeal to the 45th SADC Summit, a re-computation exercise was carried out on the remaining sum of USD7,663,993. Following that exercise, an amount of USD596,587 had been credited to Mauritius. This was used to part finance our annual membership contribution for financial year 2026/27. He also underscored that in view of the unsustainable pressures on the national budget, Mauritius had given notice of withdrawal from the SADC Mutual Defence Pact in March 2025. However, having taken note of the deliberations and observation of the Organ Troika Summit on the matter, the Prime Minister indicated that Mauritius would engage further with the SADC Secretariat and the Chair on the way forward.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2026 into the National Assembly. The main object of the Bill is to amend the Road Traffic Act in order to give effect to Government's decision to provide for the seizure of motor vehicles and possible disqualification of a driver from driving in cases of driving under the influence of alcohol, drug or intoxicating substance, and to provide for the offence of road rage. The Bill also provides for –

- (a) an offence of causing death whilst driving without a driving licence, a provisional driving licence or an international driving permit;
- (b) stricter penalties for offences such as –
 - (i) causing death by dangerous driving;
 - (ii) causing death by careless driving when under the influence of alcohol, drug or intoxicating substance; and
 - (iii) road racing.

The Bill further provides for other matters relating to traffic management and road safety, including the use of digital driving licence and the online payment of fines for traffic offences under Fixed Penalty Notices, excluding those carrying penalty points, and addresses the problem of excessive noise emission from exhaust pipes.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the list of Public Holidays for the Year 2027 as follows -

New Year	Friday 01 January
New Year	Saturday 02 January
Thaipooosam Cavadee	Friday 22 January
Abolition of Slavery	Monday 01 February
Chinese Spring Festival	Saturday 06 February
Maha Shivaratree	Saturday 06 March
Eid-UI-Fitr*	Wednesday 10 March
Independence Day and Republic Day	Friday 12 March
Ougadi	Wednesday 07 April
Labour Day	Saturday 01 May
Ganesh Chaturthi	Sunday 05 September <i>Monday 06 September**</i>
Divali	Friday 29 October
All Saints Day	Monday 01 November
Arrival of Indentured Labourers	Tuesday 02 November
Christmas	Saturday 25 December

* The exact date of this festival is subject to confirmation as its celebration depends on the visibility of the moon.

**** In accordance with section 3(3) of the Public Holidays Act, amended through the Economic and Financial Measures (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2026, Monday 06 September 2027 shall be a Public Holiday.**

4. Cabinet has agreed to Monday 05 October 2026, being declared a school holiday for teaching and non-teaching staff of the pre-primary, primary and secondary education sectors, as well as staff of the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development Training Centres, in the context of World Teachers' Day.

World Teachers' Day is observed annually on 05 October in recognition of the invaluable contribution of teachers to education, human development and the advancement of society. World Teachers' Day 2026 will focus on the importance of protecting and advancing the status of the teaching profession in a rapidly changing world.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Economic Development Board and the Australia Africa Chamber of Commerce, which provides for the exchange of information on investment and trade policies, rules, regulations, procedures, incentives and opportunities, and updated statistics and business data on Mauritius and Australia, with a view to making them accessible to businesses and investors. The MoU also provides for the exchange of publications, the promotion of joint research activities, knowledge-sharing, technical expertise and training opportunities. The MoU further provides for each party to support the exchange of business delegations, investment missions and visits of experts. The objectives of the MoU are, amongst others, to –

- (a) establish a practical framework for cooperation with regard to investment and trade promotion;
- (b) strengthen institutional relations and capacity building through cooperation; and
- (c) ensure a coherent approach to identify areas of comparative advantages, competence and complementarity between Mauritius and Australia.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the extension of the application of a Government Support Agreement to the Floating Solar Photovoltaic Project at Tamarind Falls Reservoir. The project is being implemented under a Government-to-Government arrangement, in the context of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Republic of India in September 2025.

The Government Support Agreement was introduced to improve the bankability of Renewable Energy Projects. The Agreement, which is applicable to the recently launched bids for hybrid solar farms of 10MW and 30MW, will be extended to the Floating Solar Photovoltaic project at Tamarind Falls Reservoir.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the launching of the State Age Pension (SAP) Estimate Application on 27 August 2026. The application will help citizens estimate and manage their retirement benefits ahead of the introduction of the SAP on 01 January 2027. The Application is accessible through the Korek! Super App and the website of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity and aims at facilitating access to information on pension benefits without the need to visit Government Offices.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised by the Ministry of Arts and Culture in collaboration with the Mauritius Museums Council to commemorate the 126th birth anniversary of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam on 18 September 2026, to honour his enduring legacy, recall the values of unity and nation building that guided his leadership and sensitise younger generations to his role in shaping the identity and development of Mauritius. The following activities will be organised –

- (a) the re-opening of the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Memorial Centre for Culture, Plaine Verte;
- (b) a wreath laying ceremony at the statue of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Port-Louis Waterfront; and
- (c) a wreath laying ceremony at the bust of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Memorial Park, Kewal Nagar.

9. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Optical Council (Amendment of Schedule) Regulations 2026, which will provide for an increase in the number of days from 30 to 180 days, before the expiry of the term of office of the members, for the conduct of the elections of the Optical Council.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the implementation status of the *Déclaration d'Intention Relative à une Coopération en matière de Préservation du Patrimoine Architectural Mauricien* signed between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius, the Government of the French Republic, Fondation Mansart, Business Mauritius and *SOS Patrimoine en Péril* "Save our Heritage", in April 2025.

The Cooperation which is financed by the French Government aims at strengthening the preservation and valorisation of Mauritian architectural heritage and provides, inter alia, for -

- (a) the possible establishment of a dedicated public-private governance structure to oversee the rehabilitation, management and enhancement of heritage sites;
- (b) the review and development of a regulatory and fiscal incentive framework to encourage investment in heritage preservation;
- (c) the mobilisation of French legal, institutional and technical expertise to reform the National Heritage Fund; and

- (d) pilot interventions on three identified sites, namely the Old Supreme Court, the SSR Botanic Garden at Pamplémousses and the National History Museum, Mahebourg.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the development of a Digital Service Framework which will ensure that all digital services developed, procured and maintained by Ministries/Department are compliant with a set of principles and standards.

The Digital Service Framework will establish a comprehensive framework comprising guiding principles, policies, standards and implementation requirements applicable throughout the lifecycle of every Government digital service. It will provide a common approach covering project planning, enterprise architecture, solution design, service delivery, security, interoperability, accessibility, user experience, operations, monitoring and continuous improvement. The Framework will be applicable to all e-Government initiatives.

12. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius will host the 14th Session of the Mauritius–Seychelles Commission on Bilateral Cooperation (CBC) during the second week of September 2026. The Ministerial meeting will take place on 11 September 2026, preceded by a Senior Officials’ meeting on 08 and 09 September 2026.

The Mauritius–Seychelles CBC constitutes the principal institutional mechanism for structured bilateral dialogue and cooperation between the two countries. The 14th Session will provide an opportunity to –

- (a) review progress in the implementation of decisions and commitments arising from the 13th Session;
- (b) consider new and emerging areas of bilateral cooperation, including trade, investment, fisheries, tourism, environment, and education;
- (c) follow up on the implementation of bilateral agreements and other instruments already concluded between the two countries;
- (d) examine and advance draft bilateral legal instruments currently under negotiation;
- (e) identify practical measures to further strengthen economic, technical and institutional cooperation;
- (f) enhance coordination and collaboration between Mauritius and Seychelles in regional and international fora; and
- (g) review progress achieved pursuant to the outcomes and commitments arising from the State Visit of the President of Seychelles to Mauritius in March 2026 and from the official visit of the Prime Minister to Seychelles in June 2026.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the deficit in the Price Stabilisation Account has increased by around Rs100 million during the last week and now stands at Rs3.46 billion.

14. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius has been selected as a pilot country by the World Trade Organization (WTO) to participate in a needs assessment exercise for the implementation of the WTO Electronic Commerce Agreement. The Agreement is expected to enhance opportunities for cross-border electronic commerce for countries by providing a predictable and transparent regulatory framework that will enable Mauritian businesses to participate more effectively in international digital markets.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the holding of the International Academic Conference on Partial Least Square Structural Equation Modeling 2026, organised by the University of Mauritius, from 02 to 05 September 2026.

The Conference will comprise workshops, doctoral development activities, keynote sessions, parallel paper presentations, panel discussions and networking activities. It will focus principally on Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling, a widely used quantitative research methodology applied in management, marketing, information systems, hospitality, tourism, higher education, service research and other related disciplines. The main objectives of organising the international academic conference are –

- (a) positioning the University of Mauritius as a regional and international hub for advance quantitative research methods;
- (b) bringing together leading international scholars, doctoral students, academics and practitioners working in the field of Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling;
- (c) providing doctoral and early career researchers with capacity building opportunities in contemporary structural equation modeling, predictive analytics and related methodological advances;
- (d) creating opportunities for research collaboration, joint publications and development of special issues in relevant academic journals; and
- (e) strengthening the visibility of Mauritius as a destination for high level international academic conferences.

16. Cabinet has agreed to financial assistance being extended to team CSE Velocity from *Collège du St Esprit*, who won the national finals of the 2025 STEM Racing Mauritius Competition, to enable their participation in the Aramco STEM Racing World Finals 2026 in October 2026, in Singapore.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised in the context of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2026, which is observed annually on 16 September to commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The theme for this year's celebration is "Global action for a cooler planet".

To commemorate the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer and the tenth anniversary of the Kigali Amendment, the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change will organise activities to improve enforcement and detection of illegal trade, equip technicians with the skills required for the safe transition to low-GWP and natural refrigerants, enable the media to effectively communicate ozone and climate-related messages, and engage young people as future environmental ambassadors, namely -

- (a) workshop for the media and journalism students;
- (b) radio talks and television programmes;
- (c) training of refrigeration and air-conditioning technicians;
- (d) training of customs officers; and
- (e) video competition for young people.

18. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent official visit of the Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity to Rodrigues. The visit aimed at –

- (a) creating an awareness on financial assistance provided by the National Solidarity Fund;
- (b) meeting local stakeholders to enhance the effectiveness in the delivery of the social services in the different sectors falling under the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity; and
- (c) disbursing financial aid to eligible beneficiaries who were victims of the flood that occurred in March 2026.

The Minister proceeded with the official ceremony for the handing over of cheques to 283 families affected by the severe floods that hit Rodrigues in March 2026. During the ceremony, the Minister also officially launched the first National Solidarity Fund brochure on the different schemes under which the Fund provides financial assistance. The ceremony was followed by a half day workshop on creating awareness on the services and financial assistance provided by the National Solidarity Fund.

19. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations in the Moris–Mada Business Connect Summit 2026 in Antananarivo, Madagascar. The event brought together entrepreneurs, investors, government representatives, and chambers of commerce from both countries, with a view to fostering new trade and investment opportunities, strengthening bilateral cooperation, and promoting sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships.

Discussions at the Summit focused on investment opportunities across sectors such as agro-processing, textiles, renewable energy, infrastructure, tourism, and financial services, labour mobility, training, skills transfer and ethical recruitment between Mauritius and Madagascar, with emphasis on vocational training and recognition of prior experience; and the development of structured partnerships to enhance food security, industrial cooperation, and regional integration through frameworks such as AfCFTA, COMESA, SADC and IOC.

In the margins of the Summit, the Minister had a meeting with the Minister of Labour, Employment and the Civil Service of Madagascar and discussed the proposed Memorandum of Understanding on the recruitment and employment of Malagasy workers in Mauritius. The Minister also had fruitful discussions with the Regional Director of the International Labour Organization.

20. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research in the Global Smart Education Conference 2026, co-organised by the Beijing Normal University and the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education in the People’s Republic of China on the theme “Artificial Intelligence and Sustainable Development in Education”.

The Minister intervened and shared the Mauritian experiences and perspectives on the integration of AI and digital technologies in higher education and research during –

- (a) a Keynote Address at the opening ceremony of the conference on “Artificial Intelligence and Sustainable Development of Education”;
- (b) two sessions dedicated on “AI in Higher Education: From Disruption to Transformation” and on “Smart Villages and Education for Rural Transformation”;
- (c) a closed-door Senior Policy Roundtable meeting on “AI in Education and the Future of Governance”; and
- (d) a Ministerial roundtable discussion on the topic “Multi-stakeholder Dialogue for Rural Education and Sustainable Development”.

21. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Lindley Lyanasee, as part-time Chairperson of the Outer Islands Development Board.
