

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING - FRIDAY 30 JANUARY 2026

1. Cabinet has taken note of the status of discussions between Mauritius and United Kingdom (UK) on the implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the United Kingdom of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the Chagos Archipelago including Diego Garcia.

Cabinet noted that the debates on the Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory Bill in the UK, which were to resume in the House of Lords on Monday 26 January 2026, have been postponed.

Cabinet has also taken note of the statement made by the President of the United States of America on the Chagos issue and the subsequent stand taken by the UK Prime Minister on the matter, including the Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory Bill.

The Government of Mauritius is following up on the matter closely.

Cabinet has further taken note that a high-level delegation from the United States of America (USA) is proposing to visit Mauritius on 24 and 25 February 2026 for talks on a proposed USA-Mauritius Security Partnership Agreement and enhanced cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the recommendation of the standing High-Powered Committee chaired by the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service, for the payment of a Sunday allowance to officers working on shift/roster on Sundays to be restored at a reviewed rate equivalent to one day pay in addition to the normal pay derived by that category of officer.

Cabinet has, in reaching the above decision, taken note of the observations made by the High-Powered Committee, with regard to the issue of payment of allowance to officers on shift/roster working on Sundays, as follows -

(a) according to the Pay Research Bureau (PRB), Sunday has always been considered as a normal working day for public officers working in grades classified as shift/roster. This recommendation of the PRB is supported by sections 30(1) and 30(2) of the Workers' Rights Act, which provides for a distinction between Sundays and Public Holidays for the purpose of remuneration;

- (b) the PRB has always, while determining the salary of grades classified as shift/roster, granted a higher salary scale as compared to those working normal hours to compensate for the fact that those workers on shift/roster may be required to work on Sundays. This has been reflected in the PRB Report 2026;
- (c) those shift workers who are required to perform night shift are also eligible for additional payment in terms of Night Duty Allowance; and
- (d) the decision taken by the former Government in 2024 on the basis of which public officers working in grades classified as shift/roster have been benefitting from one day normal salary plus two days' additional salary with effect from January 2024, lacked a legal basis for implementation.

Cabinet has further taken note that 40,577 officers of 337 grades are concerned by this measure, and the financial implication for the restoration of the reviewed Sunday allowance is estimated at around Rs1 billion per annum. These officers on shift/roster working on a public holiday will continue to be paid at a rate equivalent to one day normal salary plus two days' additional salary.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the proposed composition of the Constitutional Review Commission chaired by former Chief Justice Y. K. J. (Bernard) Yeung Sik Yuen, GOSK and the following members -

- (a) Mrs Yanilla Moonshiram, SC;
- (b) Mr Satyajit Boolell, SC;
- (c) Dr Amar Roopanand Mahadew;
- (d) Dr Jonathan Ravat, OSK;
- (e) Dr Milan J.N. Meetarbhan, GOSK;
- (f) Dr Amenah Jahangeer Chojoo;
- (g) Mr Joël Edouard;
- (h) Mrs Anne-Sophie Jullienne;
- (i) Mrs Danisha Sornum; and
- (j) Mr Sabir Kadel (Secretary of the Constitutional Review Commission).

A Bill is currently being drafted by the Attorney-General's Office to give a legal framework to the Commission and set out its mandate, powers, functions, among others, and will be circulated to Cabinet upon finalisation for introduction into the National Assembly.

Cabinet has further taken note that the mandate of the Constitutional Review Commission will not include electoral reforms, which are being addressed separately.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the modalities for the introduction of *Kreol Morisien* as a main subject at Higher School Certificate (HSC) level as from academic year 2026.

The eligibility criterion to study *Kreol Morisien* as a main subject at HSC level pertains to students having been awarded a Cambridge School Certificate/Cambridge General Certificate of Education. For the Cambridge School Certificate, the students must have at least a pass in English and a minimum of three credits at one and the same sitting, including a credit in *Kreol Morisien* at National School Certificate (NSC) level. For the Cambridge General Certificate of Education, the students must have passed in at least five subjects with a minimum of grade C (credit) in three subjects, including a credit in *Kreol Morisien* at NSC level and at least grade E (pass) in English at one and the same sitting.

5. Cabinet has taken note that following the outcome of six cases entered by employees of local authorities before the Supreme Court to challenge the decision taken in May 2025 to terminate their appointment, whereby their applications for judicial review were dismissed, the Local Government Service Commission has directed all local authorities to terminate the employment of all the 1,463 workers concerned.

A fresh recruitment process has already been initiated by the Local Government Service Commission and pending the finalisation thereof, local authorities are making alternative arrangements to ensure continuity of services. The 1,463 workers whose employment has been terminated will be entitled to apply for vacant posts.

6. Cabinet has taken note that sections 3, 4, 8 to 10 and 13 to 25 of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Act 2025 have been proclaimed. The Penalty Points System will, therefore, become operational as from Saturday 31 January 2026.

Cabinet has further taken note that the Penalty Points System alongside the Super App KOREK is being launched at a Joint Press Conference by the Minister of Land Transport and the Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, today 30 January 2026. Drivers will be able to access their Penalty Points Certificates as well as their details on the Super App KOREK.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Income Tax (Amendment) Regulations 2026.

Amendments were brought to the Income Tax Act to extend the partial exemption regime of 80% to a company holding a -

- (a) Payment Intermediary Services licence;
- (b) Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services licence; or
- (c) Virtual Asset Service Provider licence.

In order to benefit from the incentive regime, a company is required to meet conditions relating to substance in Mauritius. One of the conditions is that it should carry out its core income generating activity in Mauritius. The Income Tax (Amendment) Regulations 2026 accordingly specify the core income generating activities for each licence.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the National Pensions (Amendment of Schedule) Regulations 2026 amending the Second Schedule of the National Pensions Act with a view to giving effect to the increase of 3.7% in the rates of the Basic Retirement Pension, Invalid's Basic Pension, Widow's Basic Pension and Orphan's Pension, with effect from 01 January 2026.

The increase in basic pensions concerns around 324,033 beneficiaries and payment has already been effected for the month of January 2026.

9. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius -

- (a) participating in the multinational nomination of "Chaath Mahaparv", led by the Republic of India, for inscription on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity; and
- (b) submitting the Nomination Dossier, which has been prepared by the National Heritage Fund, in consultation with the concerned communities and practitioners in Mauritius.

"Chaath Mahaparv" is a traditional Hindu festival originating in the eastern regions of India, particularly in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand and eastern Uttar Pradesh. It is observed annually during the months of October and November and is dedicated to the worship of the Sun God. Over time, the practice has spread beyond India and is now observed by communities in several countries, including Mauritius, Fiji and Suriname, where it continues to be celebrated as part of the living cultural traditions of the Indian diaspora.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the UN SIDS Partnership Award in the Economic Category has been conferred to the SIDS Pooled Procurement Program during an award ceremony held in December 2025 at the United Nations in New York.

The SIDS Pooled Procurement Program is a collaborative initiative led by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Africa regrouping SIDS of the African Region, and Madagascar, having as objective to procure quality-assured medical supplies at most economical prices, through economies of scale and collective bargaining.

Mauritius was selected as the host country for the SIDS Pooled Procurement Secretariat at the 8th Meeting of the SIDS Ministers of Health of the African Region.

11. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Financing Agreement between the Government of Mauritius and the European Union to support Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation Financing (AML/CFT/CPF) activities in Mauritius.

The European Union will provide financial assistance of EUR500,000 to ensure the effectiveness of the AML/CFT/CPF framework. Technical assistance, through *Expertise France*, will be provided over a period of 48 months, particularly to assist Mauritius in carrying out the following activities -

- (a) development of a comprehensive national strategy to combat the financing of terrorism;
- (b) strengthening risk-based supervision of financial institutions, designated non-financial businesses and professions, and virtual asset service providers;
- (c) enhancing the compilation of national AML/CFT/CPF statistics; and
- (d) reinforcing public-private sector cooperation.

12. Cabinet has agreed to a strategic collaboration with the Government of the United Kingdom under its Growth Gateway Programme to provide technical assistance for Vision 2050 for Mauritius. The UK support under the Growth Gateway Programme is within the UK–Mauritius Strategic Partnership Framework, which provides the overarching structure for bilateral cooperation. As part of this initiative, the UK will provide technical expertise, *inter alia*, for the following -

- (a) strengthening economic planning and coordination functions;
- (b) supporting evidence-based policymaking and long-term planning;
- (c) enhancing institutional capacity to deliver inclusive and sustainable growth;
- (d) improving coherence across financial services, economic planning and development policy;
- (e) supporting reforms that promote resilience, opportunity and shared prosperity;
- (f) co-designing, facilitation, analysis and insights report from over 35 regional and sectoral consultations to be conducted between January and April 2026;
- (g) conducting baseline economic diagnostic and assist in drafting of Vision 2050 ambitions; and
- (h) prioritising engines of growth.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the implementation of a project, undertaken in line with provisions of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The project relates to energy efficiency by aiming to further reduce the use of refrigerants with high ozone depleting potential in the air conditioning sector. The project involves the development and adoption of Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS), for air conditioning equipment of capacity beyond 12kW. The activities include -

- (a) provision of guidance in developing the MEPS regulations;
- (b) conceptualising a draft monitoring and reporting system and enforcement plan; and
- (c) developing green procurement guidelines.

The Multilateral Fund will provide funding to the tune of USD135,600 and the German implementing agency, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) will technically support implementation.

14. Cabinet has agreed to the Climate Change Reporting Guidelines for Mauritius and the Report on the structure for monitoring, compliance and supervision; and to the implementation thereof.

The Climate Change Reporting Guidelines align the climate reporting framework for Mauritius with the International Financial Reporting Standards. The Guidelines will ensure a structured approach to transparent and consistent disclosures, including progress towards any climate-related targets which an organisation has set, and any targets it is required to meet by law. To ensure an effective implementation of the standards, the Climate Reporting Framework will adopt a phased approach targeting organisations based on their size and listing status, which comprise large listed companies, large non-listed companies, listed SMEs and non-listed SMEs.

The Report on the structure for monitoring, compliance and supervision, makes use of the current institutional mechanism, namely through the creation of a Climate Reporting Sub-Committee under the Climate Change Committee. The Climate Reporting Sub-Committee will comprise representatives from the public and private sectors, regulators, technical experts, and the civil society to ensure compliance with the Climate Change Reporting Guidelines. The Climate Reporting Sub-Committee will work closely with the Financial Reporting Council to ensure coherence with the broader requirements of sustainability reporting as per its mandate.

15. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of an Agreement “Amending the Charter establishing the Centre for Coordination of Agriculture Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA)”, which is a subsidiary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Its goal is to contribute to the sustainable reduction in food insecurity and poverty in the SADC Region.

At the Joint meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food Security, and Fisheries and Aquaculture, held in May 2024, Member States approved the amendments to the Charter establishing the CCARDESA.

16. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Open University of Mauritius and the African Regional Labour Administration Centre to foster working relationships geared towards conducting capacity building and talent development activities for the upgrading of skills through the development and dissemination of up-to-date, relevant, flexible and high-quality academic/training programmes. The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is to facilitate collaboration in the following areas -

- (a) collaborative supervision of dissertations and projects;
- (b) creation and/or sharing of academic information, materials and resources;
- (c) publication of academic research in areas of mutual interest;
- (d) delivery of training and capacity development on agreed areas of collaboration;
- (e) promotion of collaboration in fields of mutual interest; and
- (f) promotion of other academic cooperation as mutually agreed.

17. Cabinet has agreed to the submission of Mauritius' First Country-Level Report and Data Matrix on the implementation of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan of the African Union Agenda 2063 (2024-2033) to the African Union Secretariat.

18. Cabinet has taken note of the proposed appointment of Mr Georget Mandehatsara as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Madagascar to the Republic of Mauritius.

19. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the -

- (a) Mental Health Board with Dr Mridula Naga, as part-time Chairperson;
- (b) Board of Directors of the Financial Services Institute Co. Ltd with Dr Vimal Thakoor, as part-time Chairperson; and
- (c) Board of the National Property Fund Ltd, with Mr Dhanraj Conhye, Permanent Secretary, as part-time Chairperson.
