

HIGHLIGHTS OF SPECIAL CABINET MEETING – WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2026

Cabinet has taken note of the report submitted by the Commissioner of Police on the situation following the Curfew Order issued on Tuesday 13 October 2026 restraining the movement of individuals in specific regions from 2030 hours until 0600 hours on 14 October 2026. Incidents have been reported in several regions across the island. The incidents were related to looting, possession of explosive substances, breach of curfew order, rogue and vagabond, arson, damaging police stations, traffic lights and CCTV.

According to the Police, 84 individuals have been arrested throughout the island on 13 October 2026, making a total of 94 arrests since the beginning of the riots. These include 16 minors and one police officer. Seven police officers were injured.

Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of, inter alia, the following measures -

- (a) a new Curfew Order will be issued from 2030 hours today, Wednesday 14 October 2026 up to 0500 hours tomorrow, Thursday 15 October 2026 and from 2030 hours tomorrow and up to 0500 hours on Friday 16 October 2026;
- (b) the Police Force will reinforce deployment of all components of the Force at strategic points, especially in areas where acts of violence have been reported, as well as other parts of the country;
- (c) Police will step up measures and will act firmly, as appropriate, to contain further escalation of violence;
- (d) Police will reinforce road blocks and vehicles checkpoints will be strengthened;
- (e) persons arrested will be charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, where applicable;
- (f) the Cybercrime Unit of the Police is conducting constant monitoring of social media platforms and will conduct immediate investigations on authors of posts relating to, inter alia, hate speech and incitement to violence;
- (g) following consultations with the Chief Justice, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Commissioner of Police, a mechanism has been put in place to fast-track lodging and hearing of cases against perpetrators;
- (h) regulations are being promulgated under the Consumer Protection (Price and Supplies Control) Act to prohibit the sale of petrol 'au détail'; and
- (i) in view of the number of minors involved in the riots, amendments to the Children's Act will be considered to bring down the age from 14 years to 12 years for the detention and prosecution of minors.
