

STATEMENT BY DR THE HON PRIME MINISTER
TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON
THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO

TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2024

Madam Speaker,

With your permission, I would like to make a further statement with regard to the Chagos Archipelago.

Madam Speaker,

In my statement of 29 November 2024, I had informed the House that I had asked for an independent review of the draft agreement

agreed by the former Government and the United Kingdom on the exercise of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

I wish to inform the House that the independent review has been completed and that the opinion submitted by the legal advisers has been considered by an inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by me, which included the Deputy Prime Minister, the Attorney-General and the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Madam Speaker,

Following the letter which the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom addressed to me on

12 November 2024 and the meeting which Mr Jonathan Powell, UK National Security Adviser, had with me on 25 November 2024, a delegation of senior officials from the United Kingdom came to Mauritius last week for further discussions with the Mauritian authorities. Apart from meetings which were held between senior officials from Mauritius and the United Kingdom, the Head of the UK delegation called upon me.

During the discussions, Mauritius made clear that while it is still willing to conclude an agreement with the United Kingdom, the draft agreement which was shown to us after the

general elections is one which, in our view, would not produce the benefits that the nation could expect from such an agreement.

Mauritius accordingly submitted counterproposals to the United Kingdom so that an agreement which is in the best interests of Mauritius can be concluded. The response of the United Kingdom to our counterproposals was received yesterday afternoon and is currently being considered.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.
