

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 17 APRIL 2026

The Cabinet met today under the chairmanship of the Acting Prime Minister, the Hon. Shakeel Ahmed Yousuf Abdul Razack Mohamed, G.C.S.K. The highlights of the deliberations are as follows:

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Electronic Transactions (Amendment) Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to amend the Electronic Transactions Act to modernise and expand the legal framework governing electronic transactions in Mauritius.

The Bill updates the provisions relating to electronic signatures by adopting a reliability-based and technology-neutral standard, recognises the validity of contracts formed or performed through automated message systems and introduces a framework for the legal recognition and use of electronic transferable records.

The provisions relating to electronic transferable records are based on internationally recognised principles of functional equivalence and reliability and are intended to facilitate the secure dematerialisation of transferable documents and instruments traditionally issued in paper form.

These amendments aim to enhance legal certainty, facilitate paperless trade and cross-border electronic transactions and promote business facilitation in the digital economy.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Environment (Standards for Ambient Air Quality and Stack Emission) Regulations 2026 which provide for the following three environmental air standards:

- (a) Environmental Standards for Ambient Air Quality

These standards will be used as benchmark on the maximum allowable limits of pollutants in the ambient air quality to safeguard public health and the environment;

- (b) Environmental Standards for Stack Emissions

New parameters such as dioxins and furans, heavy metals, volatile organic compounds and mercury will be regulated in addition to the existing parameters. The Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change will be empowered to request a factory to take any air pollution abatement measures deemed appropriate, where the limit of any pollutant is being exceeded; and

- (c) Environmental Standards for Incinerator Stack Emissions

New provision is being made to regulate emissions from incinerators burning solid wastes, medical wastes and dead body (at crematoria). Incinerators will be required to operate at an optimum temperature of 1,100 degrees Celsius to prevent the release of dioxins and furans which are extremely hazardous for public health and

which can cause reproductive and developmental problems, damage the immune system, interfere with hormones and also cause cancer.

The Regulations make provision for a moratorium to be extended to any public department to be in compliance with the environmental standards, where it is in the national interest to do so. The Regulations also make provision to grant industries a six-month's compliance period to meet the new air standards.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of the National Strategy Plan (NSP)/Roadmap for a Plastic Pollution-Free Mauritius. The NSP defines a ten-year Roadmap to shift from a linear to a circular economy model and propels Mauritius towards a plastic pollution-free country. It outlines national priorities, measurable targets and concrete actions rooted in international best practices and adapted to the country's socio-economic realities.

The plan encompasses policies and strategies as well as 60 short, medium and long term activities revolving around 11 targets falling under six thematic areas, namely Knowledge, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse/Repurpose, Recycle and End-of-Life Management and four Cross-Cutting Actions. The NSP includes a five-year costed Action Plan for implementation. The main recommendations of the NSP are to:

- (a) develop a robust inventory database of plastic and plastic waste;
 - (b) introduce a new Plastic Governance and Control Act to strengthen governance and enforcement mechanism;
 - (c) undertake phase-wise reduction of non-essential and problematic single use plastics;
 - (d) achieve at least 80% phase-wise collection of plastic waste by 2035;
 - (e) set phase-wise reduction of plastic packaging consumption by 2035;
 - (f) reduce importation of virgin plastic pellets;
 - (g) formalise producer accountability through Extended Producer Responsibility Schemes by 2035;
 - (h) adopt a phased approach towards building plastic waste recycling capacity;
 - (i) manage end-of-life non-recyclables and contaminated plastic wastes in an environmentally sound manner;
 - (j) encourage research and development; and
 - (k) conduct education and awareness campaigns to promote behavioural change across all segments of society to curb down plastic pollution.
4. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) (Amendment of Schedule) Regulations 2026 to prohibit the importation of any toy or device which can be operated with explosive caps containing a mixture of potassium chlorate and red phosphorus due to the potential risks associated with their use.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Competition Commission (Trade Association and Cooperatives Amnesty Programme) Regulations 2026, to allow trade associations and cooperatives to voluntarily disclose anti-competitive practices in return for immunity from penalties.

The Trade Associations and Cooperatives Amnesty Programme will be implemented as a one-off and time-bound measure, initially for a period of six months and will be open to trade associations, professional bodies and cooperatives operating in Mauritius.

Under the programme, eligible entities will be granted full immunity from financial penalties where they voluntarily disclose their involvement in specified anti-competitive conduct. Access to the programme will be subject to strict procedural and substantive conditions through undertakings.

The programme is expected to improve the detection of anti-competitive practices, reduce enforcement costs, and increase compliance with competition law across sectors. It will also contribute to more competitive markets, better pricing outcomes for consumers, and stronger governance within trade associations and cooperatives.

6. Cabinet has taken note of representations made by taxi operators regarding the recent coming into operation of the Ala-lila platform powered by Uber. The Minister of National Infrastructure, the Minister of Health and Wellness and the Minister of Land Transport will examine the representations received and hold consultative meetings with taxi operators and other stakeholders.
7. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Mauritius and the Centennial College of Applied Arts and Technology, Toronto, Canada. The Memorandum of Understanding establishes a formal framework for academic co-operation across strategically significant areas, including:
 - (a) academic collaboration in research, teaching and learning;
 - (b) exchange of educational resource materials;
 - (c) the assessment of units for credit for prior learning;
 - (d) student and staff mobility programmes; and
 - (e) design and delivery of special short-term academic programmes and projects of mutual benefit.
8. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Technology, Mauritius and Bursa Uludağ University, Türkiye, which provides for the following avenues of collaboration:
 - (a) student and staff exchanges;

- (b) faculty exchange on equal and reciprocal terms, with visiting academics serving for an academic semester or shorter period;
 - (c) the exchange of teaching tools, textbooks, and monographs;
 - (d) organisation of lectures, joint meetings, seminars, and webinars to develop the pedagogical competencies of faculty members; and
 - (e) the applied academic training of students on the basis of mutual exchange.
9. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Higher Education Commission and the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education, which provides for the following avenues of collaboration:
- (a) the assessment and accreditation of Higher Education Institutions, their internal systems of quality and courses and/or programmes assurance;
 - (b) the enhancement of understanding of each institution's approach to ensuring quality in higher education and the respective processes in place;
 - (c) the exchange of information, including capacity building; and
 - (d) sharing of best practices in the execution of the functions of the Parties that will help them become more efficient and effective towards achieving their objects and potentially, mutual recognition of qualifications and standards.
10. Cabinet has taken note of the salient features and key findings of the 2024 Report on "Statistics in Mauritius - A Gender Approach", prepared by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare in collaboration with Statistics Mauritius. The Report is compiled on annual basis and provides a comprehensive statistical overview of gender-related indicators in the Republic of Mauritius.

The Report is based on the most recent sex-disaggregated data from administrative records, household surveys, and national censuses. It provides insights into key areas, namely population, health, education, employment, decision-making, poverty and social welfare, and gender-based violence.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the organisation of the International Indentured Labour Route Project Academic Conference and the Indian Ocean Workshop on Indenture by the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund, scheduled from 13 to 15 May 2026 and 27 to 29 May 2026 respectively, under the Indentured Labour Route Project.

The International Conference will bring together scholars, researchers and members of the International Scientific Committee from countries including Australia, India, Fiji, Reunion Island, Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname. The Conference will provide a platform for dissemination of current research, interdisciplinary exchanges and the strengthening of international academic collaboration, and is expected to yield key outputs including

recommendations, an updated three-year action plan and a strategic research roadmap for the Indentured Labour Route Project.

The Indian Ocean Workshop on Indenture will on its part assemble representatives and experts from eight countries, namely India, Tanzania, South Africa, Kenya, Reunion Island, Malaysia, Mozambique and Seychelles.

- 12 Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Mohammad Djouneid Fatemamode as new Chairperson of the Mauritius Sports Council, following the resignation of Mr Iqbal Calcatea.

Note: *Cabinet decisions are available on the internet. The address is <http://pmo.govmu.org>*

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