

SHIMA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAURITIUS

JULY 2025



** Main Points **

- Politics: Protests and hunger strike against reform to the Basic Retirement Pension (BRP)
- Diplomacy: Bill on Diego Garcia and Chagos Archipelago presented in UK House of Commons
Japan – Mauritius Foreign Ministers' Meeting
- Economy: Increase in Tourist Arrivals for first half of 2025
- Economic Diplomacy: Mauritius celebrates its national day at the Expo 2025 Osaka
- Sports: Kimberley Le Court wins Yellow Jersey at 2025 Tour de France Femmes

POLITICS

[DOMESTIC]

● REFORM TO BASIC RETIREMENT PENSION (BRP)



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

The 2025/26 Budget, the first of the Government of the Alliance du Changement, was voted by the National Assembly on 27 June. However, its most controversial measure, the raising of the minimum age of eligibility for the Basic Retirement Pension (BRP) from 60 to 65, continues to ignite anger and protests. The two Interministerial Committees, established by the Government to examine the issue, submitted their

recommendations to the Council of Ministers on Friday 4 July.



(Photo Credit: Le Mauricien)

On the same day, Prime Minister Dr the Hon. Navin Ramgoolam announced in Parliament that an Income Support will be implemented on a period spanning September 2025 to August 2031. During this period, a monthly allowance of Rs 10,000 will be granted to individuals who turn 60 but no longer meet the eligibility requirements for the BRP. This measure, aimed at supporting low-income households, is expected to benefit about 37,562 vulnerable individuals—including informal workers and low-income earners.

However, it sparked further criticisms from civil society and workers' unions. Critics argue the support is inadequate, given the official poverty line sits at Rs 12,378, and demand further reconsideration. On the other hand, Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, Hon. Ashok Subron, defended the measure as a compromise, stating it is temporary until the new retirement age is reached.

Meanwhile, activists, workers' unions, the political opposition and other actors of the civil society continue to protest against what they denounce as the dismantling of the welfare state in Mauritius. In addition to petitions, public demonstrations and calls for strike actions, former MMM candidate and activist Dave Kissoondoyal went on a hunger strike for 11 days to call for a reversal of this reform. More protest actions, including other demonstrations and hunger strikes, are reportedly planned.



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

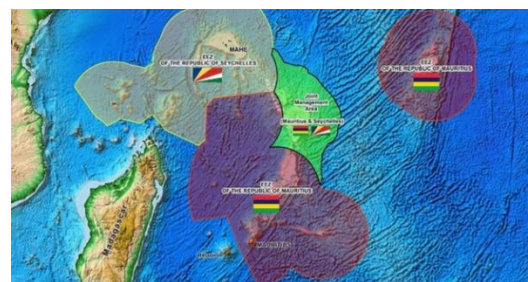
● PROPOSAL TO UNIFY POLITICAL OPPOSITION

On 17 July, Nando Bodha, leader of the extra-parliamentary opposition party Rassemblement Mauricien (RM) and a former Minister under MSM-led governments prior to his resignation in 2021, called for a unified alliance of opposition parties to face the Government of the Alliance du Changement, inviting such parties as the MSM, PMSD, Reform Party and others to join the RM in a common front. While the MSM and PMSD each stated they would consider the proposal, Roshi Bhadain, leader of the Reform Party, and Patrick Belcourt, leader of En Avant Moris, both turned down the proposal citing their opposition to being part of an alliance which includes the MSM.

● RODRIGUES ISLAND - DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

During a cultural event held by the Rodrigues Solidarity Movement at the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture at La Tour Koenig, Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam and Deputy Prime Minister Paul Berenger emphasized the need to further develop the island of Rodrigues and improve its autonomy. This includes plans to develop the port, airport and a new waste management centre. Additionally, the Rodriguan Executive Council met on 4 July under the chairmanship of Rodrigues' Chief Commissioner Franceau Grandcourt. It adopted several measures relating to land use planning, social housing, environment, education, youth, and sports.

● MAURITIUS' EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE / JOINT MANAGEMENT AREA OF MASCARENE PLATEAU



(Photo Credit: L'Express Maurice)

Mauritius wants to extend its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by 7.96%, adding 183,000 km² east of Rodrigues Island to the 2.3 million km² it already covers. From 7 July to 8 August, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), a body established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), is holding its 64th session at the United Nations headquarters in New York. This meeting will consider the submissions of several coastal states, including Mauritius' submission for the extension of its continental shelf.

Meanwhile, Mauritius and the Seychelles convened the 29th Meeting of the Joint Commission of the Mascarene Plateau Joint Management Area (JMA) from 21 to 23 July in Port Louis. The participants reiterated the two SIDS's engagement and collaboration in the sustainable surveying and management of the seabed, subsoil, fishing and marine

resources in the JMA, as well as the exploration of oil and other hydrocarbon resources in the JMA. Established in 2012 under a treaty between Mauritius and the Seychelles, the JMA covers approximately 400,000 km² and constitutes a unique model of shared ocean governance.

[FOREIGN AFFAIRS / DIPLOMACY]

● MAURITIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MET WITH JAPANESE COUNTERPART IN TOKYO



(Photo Credit: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)

On 15 July, Hon. Ritish Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, held a meeting with Mr. IWAYA Takeshi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, in Tokyo. This meeting was part of the former's participation in the Mauritius National Day Event of Expo 2025 Osaka. Minister IWAYA stated that Mauritius is an important partner in promoting a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" based on the rule of law and that he would like to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries, taking advantage of the upcoming TICAD9 next month. Minister Ramful expressed his gratitude for Japan's cooperation in various fields and expressed his hope for further strengthening of the bilateral relations, particularly in the economic field.

● DIEGO GARCIA MILITARY BASE AND BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY ACT OF 2025



(Photo Credit: L'Express Maurice)

On 15 July, British Foreign Secretary David Lammy introduced the Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory Bill in the House of Commons in London. This marks the first legislative step towards implementing the sovereignty Agreement between Mauritius and the United Kingdom over the Chagos Archipelago.

According to this Bill, the entry into force of the treaty will automatically trigger the formal dissolution of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), which will no longer be recognized as a British Overseas Territory. Furthermore, the King will no longer have sovereignty over the territory of BIOT upon the entry into force of the treaty. As such, BIOT will also be removed from the list of British Overseas Territories in the Nationality Act.

Despite the dissolution of BIOT, the treaty provides for the continuation of British administration over the island of Diego Garcia, considered a strategic enclave in the Indian Ocean and host to a military base operated by the US and the UK. Current BIOT laws will continue to apply to Diego Garcia, which will benefit from a specific legal framework. The British Crown will retain the ability to legislate over Diego Garcia in order to preserve existing military arrangements with the United States.

● CITIZENSHIP FOR CHAGOSSIANS

The British Nationality Act 1981 will be amended to reflect this major change in territorial status. Thus, any person born before 23 November 2027 and a direct descendant of a British citizen born on the

Chagos will still be eligible for British citizenship by registration. Meanwhile, those still wishing to claim British Overseas Territories Citizen (BOTC) status through the BIOT will have to do so through the process established in 2022, before the treaty comes into force. Once the treaty comes into force, this BOTC status will become inaccessible to children born after 23 November 2027. The British government has reassured that no Chagossian will lose their existing British nationality.

● RESETTLEMENT IN THE CHAGOS AND MIGRATION TO THE UK

Olivier Bancoult, leader of the Chagos Refugees Group in Mauritius, announced that a plan to relocate Chagossians to certain islands in the Archipelago will be submitted to the Mauritian Government. However, in the UK, British Chagossians continue to voice their stark opposition to this Agreement and its provisions.

Meanwhile, the growing number of Chagossians migrating to the UK has led to financial and logistical challenges to local councils in England. According to the Hillingdon Council, an estimated 400 Chagossians have arrived in the area since July 2024, including 120 new arrivals in a single week in May 2025, generating costs of several hundreds of thousands of pounds towards care and housing.

● NEWLY APPOINTED BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MAURITIUS



(Photo Credit: GIS Mauritius)

H.E. Mr. Paul Brummell CMG has been appointed as High Commissioner of the United Kingdom to Mauritius. A career diplomat, he previously served as Ambassador to Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Romania

and Latvia, as well as High Commissioner to Barbados. After presenting his credentials to H.E. Dharam Gokhool, President of the Republic, H.E. Mr. Brummell paid courtesy visits on Prime Minister Dr the Hon. Navin Ramgoolam and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Ritish Ramful. Discussions focused on the “historic agreement” regarding the Chagos Archipelago, as well as the numerous initiatives under the treaty and the strategic partnership between Mauritius and the United Kingdom, particularly in the areas of maritime security, climate finance, combating illicit financial flows, and institutional building.

● NEWLY APPOINTED MAURITIAN AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS

On 11 July, new Ambassadors and High Commissioners were appointed by the Mauritian Government to lead diplomatic missions overseas. Those include Mrs. Sheila Bappoo, a former politician who served as Minister under both MSM and PTR governments, as High Commissioner to India; Mr. Joël Rault, a businessman and former advisor to PMSD leader Mr. Xavier-Luc Duval, as Ambassador to France; Mrs. Mireille Martin, a former journalist who served as Minister under PTR-led governments, as High Commissioner to South Africa; Mr. Munsoo Kurrimbaccus, a well-known figure in trade union circles and former MMM electoral candidate, as High Commissioner to Pakistan; Mr. Reza Gunny, a former teacher and activist for the MMM, as Ambassador to Egypt; and Mr. Indrajeet Babooa, a field diplomat with extensive experience in Africa, as Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union Commission.

● INDIA–MAURITIUS BILATERAL RELATIONS



(Photo Credit: Radio One)

Following an invitation from Indian Prime Minister

Narendra Modi to Prime Minister Dr the Hon. Navin Ramgoolam to conduct an official visit to India in August, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri made an official visit to Mauritius on 1–2 July. This visit allowed the Indian and Mauritian parties to assess progress made in implementing the agreements reached during PM Modi's visit to Mauritius in March 2025, while also preparing the main themes of PM Ramgoolam's upcoming visit to India. Foreign Secretary Misri paid courtesy calls on PM Ramgoolam, as well as H.E. Dharam Gokhool, President of the Republic, Hon. Paul Berenger, Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Ritish Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as Pravind Jugnauth, former PM and MSM Leader. Furthermore, the Indian government donated various counter-narcotics equipment to the Mauritian Police Force to improve its operational capacity to address drug-related challenges.

● CHINA–MAURITIUS BILATERAL RELATIONS

On 14 July, China and Mauritius reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening their partnership in the areas of training, administrative reforms, capacity building and efforts to integrate Artificial Intelligence into the public service sector. This shared commitment was expressed during a courtesy visit by the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Mauritius, H.E. Dr Huang Shifang, to the Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reforms, Hon. Raj Pentiah.

On 16–18 July, a high-level delegation from the People's Republic of China, led by H.E. Qin Boyong, Vice-Chairperson of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), visited Mauritius. The delegation met with H.E. Mr. Dharam Gokhool, President of the Republic, as well as Hon. Mrs. Shirin Aumeeruddy–Cziffra, Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius. This visit was part of efforts to broaden bilateral relations and diplomatic cooperation between China and Mauritius. The delegation introduced China's economic development and modernization, while President Gokhool stated that Mauritius regarded China as a priority partner, firmly supported the one-China principle and looked forward to deepening bilateral cooperation in such areas as economy and

trade, culture and tourism, and climate change response.



(Photo Credit: GIS Mauritius)

● PALESTINE: MAURITIAN PARTICIPATION IN MARCH TO GAZA



(Photo Credit: Le Mauricien)

The Common Front Against Genocide and for the Closure of the Military Base in Diego Garcia, an association grouping 20 organizations and led by left-wing political party Lalit, held a press conference on 11 July, at the Municipality of Port Louis. Three Mauritians who took part in the Global March to Gaza, Alain Ah Vee, Ally Hossenbokus, and Ragini Kistnasamy, denounced the ongoing genocide in Gaza, the illegal Israeli occupation, and the complicit role of several states. They expressed their regret at not being able to reach Gaza due to the numerous roadblocks encountered in Egypt. The Common Front called on the Mauritian Government to sever all ties with Israel, whether economic, political or diplomatic.

● VISIT BY NON-RESIDENT HIGH COMMISSIONER OF SINGAPORE



(Photo Credit: GIS Mauritius)

Mr. Lim Ming Yan, Non-Resident High Commissioner of Singapore to Mauritius, visited Mauritius on 7–10 July. During his visit, he paid courtesy calls on Prime Minister Dr the Hon. Navin Ramgoolam, as well as Dr the Hon. Arvin Boolell, Minister of Agro-Industry; Hon. Ajay Gunness, Minister of National Infrastructure; Hon. Aadil Ameer Meea, Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives; Hon. Avinash Ramtohul, Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation; Hon. Raj Pentiah, Minister of Public Service; and Hon. Joanna Bérenger, Junior Minister of Environment. Discussions focused on enhancing cooperation and knowledge-sharing between the two countries in each of the above fields.

● KOREA-IORA SEMINAR ON MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING

On 3 July, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea (ROK) held the 6th ROK-IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association) Partnership Seminar in Seoul, under the theme of Navigating the Future: Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) for a Resilient Blue Economy. Oh Jin-hee, Deputy Director-General for Asian and Pacific Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, emphasized how MSP was a strategic tool with which to balance development and conservation, as well as a core element for a sustainable Indian Ocean. She also stated that with the ROK-Indian Ocean Cooperation Fund (KICF) established this year, Korea will pursue cooperation projects to deliver tangible benefits to IORA Member States.

ECONOMY

● BLUE ECONOMY: A NATIONAL PRIORITY

On the 14th of July, The Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, Dr the Hon. Arvin Boolell, reaffirmed the Government's commitment to developing the Blue Economy, calling it a "jewel" of Mauritius' economic strategy. With the recent expansion of the maritime zone around the Chagos Archipelago, as well as a proposal to extend Mauritius' Exclusive Economic Zone around Rodrigues Island, the Minister sees enormous potential in sectors such as fisheries, port services, ocean energy and maritime trade.

● TOURISM IN MAURITIUS IN 2025

Mauritius recorded 658,909 tourist arrivals in the first half of 2025, a 2.1% increase over the same period in 2024. The standout month was June, which saw a 30% year-on-year jump. While Europe remains the top market, growth in Asia and the US—though still small—is encouraging. The tourism sector is on track to exceed 1.4 million visitors in 2025, but seasonal volatility and dependence on traditional markets remain challenges.

Additionally, Emirates announced it will launch a third daily flight from Dubai to Mauritius as from 1 December 2025, operated by a Boeing 777-300ER. This expansion, under a codeshare with Air Mauritius, will boost capacity by over 30% and enhance connectivity from over 140 cities. The move supports rising tourism demand and deepens Emirates' long-standing economic and strategic partnership with Mauritius.



(Photo Credit: Emirates)

● FOREIGN EXCHANGE

From January to July 2025, the Mauritian rupee experienced a gradual but consistent depreciation,

both against the Euro and the US dollar. As of 31 July 2025, 1 Euro is equivalent to around MUR 53 and 1 USD is equivalent to around MUR 47.

● METRO EXPRESS LTD FACES DEFICIT OF RS 158.03 MILLION

Metro Express Ltd (MEL), operator of the Mauritius light rail system, projects a deficit of Rs 158.03 million for FY2025/26. Despite revenue projections of over Rs 574 million, the company faces overwhelming costs—loan repayments, maintenance, security, and capital investments—bringing total expenditures to over Rs 813 million.

A significant portion of MEL's burden stems from loans taken from the Exim Bank of India and the Mauritian Government, which have become difficult to service. MEL is exploring options including equity conversion of debt and renegotiations with lenders, but no agreement is yet in place.

● POST-BUDGET ANALYSIS BY SOUTH AFRICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN MAURITIUS (SACC)

On 26 June, the South African Chamber of Commerce in Mauritius (SACC), in collaboration with ABC Banking Corporation, organized a Post-Budget Analysis Session with the participation of Hon. Dhaneshwar Damry, Junior Minister for Finance. In front of an audience of investors, foreign professionals and business leaders, and in the presence of H.E. Dr Hlamalani Nelly Manzini, High Commissioner of South Africa to Mauritius, the session addressed the main orientations of the 2025–26 Budget: tax reform, evolution of residence permit regimes, investment climate and redefinition of the positioning of Mauritius as a diversified economy based on the rule of law.

ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

● MAURITIUS CELEBRATES ITS NATIONAL DAY AT THE EXPO 2025 OSAKA

On 14 July, Mauritius celebrated its National Day at the EXPO 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan with a vibrant celebration of culture, diplomacy and shared aspirations for a sustainable future. The official ceremony took place at the EXPO National Day Hall, drawing local and international attendees for a festive

tribute to the heritage and vision of the island.

The event started with a welcome by Ms. IKUINA Akiko, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and was graced by the presence of the Mauritian delegation, led by the Hon. Dhananjay Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, who participated in the flag-raising ceremony and delivered his address.



Ms. IKUINA Akiko delivering her welcome speech



The Hon. Dhananjay Ramful delivering his speech

The Hon. Ramful delivered a speech, followed by a cultural performance which captivated the audience. A Mauritian dance group, flown in for the occasion, brought the spirit of the island to life with traditional Sega rhythms, colorful attire, and dynamic choreography that resonated with the Expo's theme: "Designing Future Society for Our Lives."



Performers from Mauritius

The Pavilion of Mauritius, located in Commons A, drew crowds with its immersive exhibits using Virtual Reality (VR) focusing on marine biodiversity, sustainable tourism and environmental conservation. A key highlight is the coral reef aquarium installation, in collaboration with Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, reflecting the commitment of Mauritius in preserving its natural heritage.



Virtual Reality experience

Following the ceremony, a luncheon was hosted in honour of the delegation and invited guests. The event provided a warm and convivial setting for networking and cultural exchange. Attendees from Mauritius included the Hon Dhananjay Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Ambassador Janmajaising Bissoondoyal, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador Mervin Chedumbarum, Commissioner General of the Mauritius Pavilion. Attendees from Japan included Ms. IKUINA Akiko, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. YAMADA Kenji, Member of the House of Representatives / Member of Japan-All Parliamentary Friendship Association, Expo Officials, diplomatic representatives, and business leaders.



Group photo of the Attendees at the Luncheon

This National Day celebration was an opportunity for visitors from both Japan and Mauritius, as well as across the world, to interact with each other and learn about the rich nature and culture of Mauritius.

● MAURITIUS AT OSAKA EXPO 2025: VISIT OF HER IMPERIAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS TAKAMADO TO THE MAURITIUS PAVILION



Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado visiting the Mauritius Pavilion

On 7 July, in a moment of cultural diplomacy, Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado of Japan visited the Mauritius Pavilion at the Osaka World Expo 2025.

● VISIT BY CEO OF MITSUI O.S.K. LINES



(Photo Credit: GIS Mauritius)

On 8 July, the Chief Executive Officer of Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd, Mr. HASHIMOTO Takeshi, paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister, Dr the Hon. Navin Ramgoolam. He was accompanied by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Mauritius, H.E. Mr. KAN Masahiro. In a statement, Mr. HASHIMOTO said the meeting was fruitful. He underlined that PM Ramgoolam expressed appreciation for the various projects Japan and Mauritius are jointly undertaking. He deemed PM Ramgoolam's determination to enhance Mauritius' relations with Japan as encouraging for Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd in their strategy to invest further in Mauritius, as well as in East African countries for which, according to Mr. HASHIMOTO, Mauritius can act as a gateway.



(Photo Credit: GIS Mauritius)

● MAURITIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MET WITH KEIZAI DOYUKAI

On 15 July, a delegation from Mauritius, led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius, the Hon. Dhananjay Ramful, paid a courtesy visit to Keizai Doyukai (Japan

Association of Corporate Executives), led by Mr. SHIBUSAWA Ken, in Japan.

The meeting aimed to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation and explore new opportunities for Japanese investment in Mauritius and Africa at large. Keizai Doyukai, known for its progressive stance on corporate governance and global business leadership, welcomed the Minister and his delegation for an open and forward-looking discussion.



● 15% TARIFFS ON MAURITIAN EXPORTS TO USA

On 31 July, US President Donald Trump signed an executive order to resume country-specific "reciprocal" tariffs. These measures are set to take effect on 7 August. As such, Mauritius benefits from a reduced tariff of 15% on its exports to the US, compared to the 40% initially announced in April. In a statement, Hon. Ritesh Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, welcomed the decision as a "sigh of relief" for Mauritian exporters and emphasized that negotiations with the United States remain open.

● VISIT BY DELEGATION FROM THE EMIRATE OF SHARJAH



(Photo Credit: Economic Development Board)

A high-level delegation from the Emirate of Sharjah, led by the Chairman of the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Abdallah Sultan Al Owais, held strategic discussions on 2 July with the Minister of Industry, SMEs and Cooperatives, Hon. Aadil Ameer Meea. This visit marked the first official United Arab Emirates (UAE) delegation to Mauritius following the implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two countries, which came into effect in April 2025 and strives to expand the scope of bilateral economic collaboration.

SECURITY

● MASEPOLREX25 HELD IN MOMBASA, KENYA



(Photo Credit: Indian Ocean Commission)

The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), in collaboration with the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA), organized a Field Training Exercise (MASEPOLREX25) between 7 and 11 July in Mombasa, Kenya on response to a shipping pollution incident. This Exercise was conducted in the context of the operationalization of the Regional Maritime Security Architecture (RMSA), including a regional cooperation mechanism to support combating marine pollution. MASEPOLREX25 follows the Regional Forum on Regional Cooperation in the Case of Major Marine Pollution Incidents, organized in Mauritius from 16 to 18 September 2024, which provided a general overview of oil spill risks in the Western Indian Ocean region and proposed tools and way-forwards to improve cooperation mechanisms.

● EU-MAURITIUS DIALOGUE ON IUU FISHING

An Informal Dialogue on combating Illegal, Unreported

and Unregulated (IUU) fishing was held between the European Union Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (EU-DG MARE) and the Mauritian Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, from 7 to 11 July in Port Louis. During the Dialogue, Mauritius reiterated its strong commitment to combating IUU fishing with the renewed support of the European Union. The Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, Dr the Hon. Arvin Boolell, along with the EU Ambassador to Mauritius, H.E. Mr. Oskar Benedikt, were present.

● MAURITIUS COAST GUARD PARTICIPATION IN SEARCH AND RESCUE IN MADAGASCAR



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

On 3 July, Madagascar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested Mauritius' assistance regarding the disappearance of the vessel MV Azfardath & Windio, which was sailing from Mahajanga, Madagascar to Anjouan, Comoros with 19 crew members on 16 June. Upon Government approval, the National Coast Guard (NCG), in coordination with the Mauritius Police Force, deployed two Dornier aircraft as part of an international Search and Rescue (SAR) Operation coordinated by the Mauritius Coast Guard Operations Centre (MRCC), in collaboration with the Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC) in the Seychelles. However, the Operation was unfruitful and the vessel remains missing.

SPORTS

● KIMBERLEY LE COURT MAKES HISTORY AT THE TOUR DE FRANCE



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

This 30th of July, Mauritian professional cyclist Kimberley Le Court-Pienaar, became the first female African and local rider to win a stage, and wear the yellow jersey twice, at the Tour de France Femmes. She first wore it at the end of the second stage, where she finished third before losing it the following day. She would go on to wear it again after her fifth-stage victory, winning it in a sprint finish and relegating her rival to 33 seconds behind. The yellow jersey is awarded to the best lowest cumulative time across all stages. The Tour de France Femmes is taking place from 26 July to 3 August 2025.

● MAURITIUS BADMINTON TEAM IS SUCCESSFUL AT THE AFRICA AIR BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025



(Source: Mauritius Olympic Committee)

Mauritian badminton players achieved significant success at the Africa Air Badminton Championships 2025 held in Accra, Ghana. The team secured a bronze medal in the team event and won gold medals in Men's Triples and Men's Doubles. They also earned a silver medal in Women's Doubles.

● HORSERACING – FIVE MORE TRAINERS OFFICIALLY ACCREDITED BY THE GRA



(Source: Mauritius Turf Club)

A major turning point for horseracing in Mauritius. The Mauritius Turf Club Jockey Club (MTCJC) welcomed the latest announcement from the Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA), which has officially granted trainer licenses to five trainers. Thus, a total of eleven trainers has now been accredited by the GRA in view of the 2025 Racing Season. The main objectives are to ensure fair competition that maintains the sport's integrity, as well as create a thrilling experience for fans, trainers, jockeys and owners as horseracing resumes in Mauritius.

CULTURE

● STORYTELLING FESTIVAL IN MAURITIUS – CULTURAL HERITAGE CELEBRATION



(Source: Enn Zour dan Enn Pei)

From 29 July to 2 August, the Caudan Arts Centre became the main stage of the second edition of the Enn Zour Dan Enn Pei Festival, a vibrant event dedicated to the art of storytelling from the collective "Enn zour dan enn pei" (*translation*: "Once upon a time in a country"). It featured new artists from Mauritius and La Réunion. The general theme was "L'art du détour" (the art of the detour), because

“zistwar ”(stories) take us back in time and often describe imaginary characters and places to better chronicle our lives and our condition. Masterclasses at various venues were followed by the lecture-show, where 6 to 8 speakers switched between presenting an idea and telling a story, as well as storytelling readings for children.

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