

# SHIMA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAURITIUS

SEPTEMBER 2025



## \*\* Main Points \*\*

Politics: Bank of Mauritius Shaken by Internal Tensions and Series of Controversies  
Diplomacy: Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam Conducts One-Week State Visit to India  
Economy: Mauritius to Introduce New 'Tourist Fee' Tax in October 2025  
Economic Diplomacy: Mauritius Selected to Host US-Africa Business Summit 2026  
Sports: Jérémy Larraudeuse Participates in the World Athletics Championship in Tokyo

## POLITICS

### [DOMESTIC]

#### ● BANK OF MAURITIUS – INTERNAL TENSIONS



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

A major internal crisis has shaken the Bank of Mauritius, prompting actions from the Government, as well as public debate on transparency and good governance within Mauritius' banking and financial institutions.

#### Appointment of Dr Rama Sithanen raises concern

Following the November 2024 General Elections, Dr Rama Sithanen (who previously served as Minister of Finance under both MSM-led and PTR-led governments in the past), was appointed as Governor

of the Bank of Mauritius, as well as Chairman of the Financial Services Commission (FSC). This dual role raised concerns in economic circles, regarding conflicts of interest and financial transparency.

#### Arrests, Resignations and Suspensions

On 29 August, Gérard Sanspeur resigned as Second Deputy Governor of the Bank of Mauritius. In a press conference, he alleged interference in the internal affairs of the Bank of Mauritius by Tevin Sithanen, the son of Governor Rama Sithanen. This includes having access to and circulating confidential information and operational decisions, "driven by malicious personal intentions," with the aim of obtaining one or more licenses for financial institutions, as well as for personal and family benefits.

The earlier suspension of the President of the Bank's employees' union, Chidanand Rughoobar, was also linked to Tevin Sithanen's alleged interference. Furthermore, on 12 September, police officers arrested journalist Narain Jasodanand following a complaint from Tevin Sithanen, who accused him of posting a defamatory social media article against him. Later, on 17 September, Tevin Sithanen filed a

Complaint with Summons in the Supreme Court against Gérard Sanspeur, claiming Rs 50 million. He accuses the latter of making defamatory remarks against him during his press conference.



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

### Further Allegations Against Dr Rama Sithanen

Further allegations emerged that Dr Rama Sithanen and his First Deputy Governor, Rajeev Hasnah, authorized a payment of Rs 500,000 to an external legal advisor, bypassing the Board of the Bank. The legal advisors, allegedly personal friends of the Governor and his son Tevin, masterminded an 'independent' report containing accusations against Gerard Sanspeur, as well as the departure of Chidanand Rughoobar as Union President.

### Leaked Messages and Recording of WhatsApp Call

Subsequently, on 15 September, leaked messages and the recording of a WhatsApp call from the evening of election results in November 2024 revealed aggressive and derogatory language employed by Tevin Sithanen against Aditi Boolell and Stéphane Adam (both from Pulse Analytics). Sithanen spoke of impending arrests, Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC) funds, and inevitable trials. While Sithanen appears to be attacking Pulse Analytics, leaked documents also revealed that the latter had provided Dr Rama Sithanen with a survey of voting intentions in Constituency 18 (Belle Rose-Quatre Bornes), on the eve of the elections, raising further questions.

As a reminder, ahead of the November 2024 General Elections, Pulse Analytics published surveys which inaccurately predicted a large victory for the Alliance Lepep led by then-Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth. Following the landslide victory of the Alliance du Changement, a scandal broke over Pulse Analytics.

Mary Queenie Adam and Stéphane Adam, directors of Menlo Park Ltd (parent company of Pulse Analytics), were arrested and charged under a provisional charge of Conspiracy to Defraud the Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC) Limited. They were accused of having obtained funds of up to Rs 45 million (USD 1 M) from the MIC for their company, by conspiring with other suspects close to the former government.

### Resignation of Dr Rama Sithanen and New Appointments

Following a meeting with Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam on 22 September, Dr Rama Sithanen confirmed he would step down as Governor of the Bank of Mauritius, as well as Chairman of the Financial Service Commission (FSC), on 30 September in the wake of the scandals.

On 25 September, President Dharam Gokhool appointed Dr Priscilla Muthoor Thakoor as Governor and Mr. Ramsamy Chinniah as Second Deputy Governor.

### ● FORMER POLICE COMMISSIONER ARRESTED

Former Police Commissioner Anil Kumar Dip was arrested on 23 September on two provisional charges of "public official using office for gratification" after a lengthy interrogation at the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) headquarters. He spent his first night in detention at the Moka Detention Center. He was questioned as part of the investigation into the controversial police "Reward Money" scheme.

Investigators extensively questioned Dip about his role and the decisions made during his time in office. He is suspected of abusing his public office as Police Commissioner to obtain an illicit advantage between May 2022 and October 2024. He allegedly approved excessive payments totalling Rs 198.39 million to informants through newly created police units.

In parallel, Police Superintendent Ashik Jagai has been arrested once again by the FCC on 10 September. He is accused of breaching his bail conditions by meeting with a witness and even influencing him. Jagai is already facing three provisional charges of "public official using his office

for gratification” since 21 August in the same Reward Money case.

### ● ELECTORAL REFORM

On 11 September, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Prime Minister Paul Bérenger outlined the core aspects of proposed electoral reform in Mauritius and Rodrigues. On possible reform models, DPM Bérenger outlined two options under consideration: 60 elected members in 20 constituencies and 20 elected members under a proportional system; or 60 elected members, 20 under the proportional system, with an additional four Best Losers. The proposals led to mixed reactions from members of Opposition parties, who also made their own suggestions for reforms.

### ● COMMEMORATION OF 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM

The 18<sup>th</sup> of September marked the 125th birth anniversary of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (SSR), known as the Father of the Nation. A series of commemorative events were organised to pay tribute. Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam (who is also SSR’s son) highlighted his father’s role in securing independence, promoting education, social justice and healthcare, as well as shaping a modern, inclusive society. His contributions to diplomacy and nation-building were also emphasized. A ceremony was held at the SSR Botanical Garden in Pamplemousses, including a tree planting and an art exhibition.



(Photo Credit: Sundaytimes)

### ● RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY – POLITICAL TENSIONS

Amidst political turbulences affecting the governing coalition in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, as well as pressure from the local Rodriguan opposition, the Chief Commissioner of Rodrigues, Franceau Grandcourt, met with Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam and Deputy Prime Minister Paul Bérenger on 2 September. He invited the latter two to visit Rodrigues as part of the celebrations of the island’s 23rd anniversary of autonomy. Grandcourt stated that his exchanges with the Prime Minister had been cordial, noting that the discussions focused on the political landscape as well as upcoming development projects for Rodrigues.

Deputy Chief Commissioner Johnson Roussety criticized the opposition party Rodrigues People’s Organization (OPR) for failing to act on their threat to resign if Chief Commissioner Franceau Grandcourt didn’t step down after talks with Prime Minister Ramgoolam to trigger Regional Elections on the autonomous island. Grandcourt refused to resign, and Roussety accused the OPR of undermining social peace and losing credibility in Rodrigues.



(Photo Credit: Government of Mauritius)

### ● REFORM TO BASIC RETIREMENT PENSION

A demonstration took place in Rose Hill on 20 September, in opposition to the Mauritian Government’s decision to raise the age of eligibility for receiving the Basic Retirement Pension from 60 to 65. Organized by the Platform Komun Syndikal (Joint Unions’ Platform), the peaceful march saw about a hundred participants, many of whom were members of the CTSP (Confederation of Public and Private Sector



Workers), expressing frustration over the pension reform and the rising cost of living. Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam insisted that this policy was essential for rebuilding the country's economy and tackling its debt crisis, emphasizing that it was not intended for political gain.



(Photo Credit: lemauricien)

### ● MINISTRY OF HEALTH – INTERNAL TENSIONS

Tensions occurred when Health Minister Anil Bachoo visited by surprise the Sir Anerood Jugnauth (SAJ) Hospital in Flacq and noticed a shortage of doctors working on night shifts. His open criticisms pushed union members, doctors and nurses to denounce a lack of human resources and harsh working conditions. Days later, he spoke on a radio show and announced that the disputes with doctors have now been resolved and his focus remains on improving public health services. He emphasized the need to recruit more medical staff and the need for better equipment and resources.

### ● FORMER MINISTER ARRESTED FOR SHOPLIFTING

Kalpna Koonjoo-Shah, former Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development, and Family Welfare under the previous MSM-led government, has been arrested on 19 September after been caught shoplifting cosmetic products, the value of which is estimated at Rs 2,140. She was granted parole. A provisional charge of theft was filed against her. She was granted parole and has to pay bail of Rs 15,000 and sign an acknowledgment of debt of Rs 50,000. Furthermore, the former minister declared: "I have informed the MSM leadership of my decision to withdraw from all party bodies and political life until this matter is resolved."

## [FOREIGN AFFAIRS / DIPLOMACY]

### ● JAPAN-MAURITIUS BILATERAL RELATIONS



(Photo Credit: L'Express Maurice)

On 2 September, the Cattleya Ace, a special ship of the 'Pure Car and Truck Carrier' type belonging to the Mitsui O.S.K. Line Group and capable of carrying up to 6,000 vehicles, called in Port Louis. Mauritian authorities welcomed the ship calling in Port Louis as a strong sign of confidence from international shipowners. Besides transshipment, the ships of Mitsui O.S.K. Lines also call at Port Louis to collect fuel, providing a logistical and economic boost for Port Louis.

The Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research, Dr Kaviraj Sharma Sukon, inaugurated the Earth and Ocean Laboratory, on 3 September, at the Université des Mascareignes (UDM) campus in Bel Air. Funded by Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL) Mauritius Ltd and developed in collaboration with the Mauritius Oceanography Institute, the laboratory is the first of its kind in Mauritius. It will map seagrass meadows and provide vital scientific data. The event also marked the launch of a Seagrass Sensitisation Campaign aimed at raising student awareness about the importance of these ecosystems. The ceremony was attended by the Managing Director of MOL Mauritius Ltd, Mr. Yasuo Suzuki. He reaffirmed MOL's commitment to supporting research and sustainability in Mauritius.

Additionally, the MOL Charitable Trust launched its fifth call for projects (CFP5). Since its creation in 2021, the Charitable Trust has supported more than 50 social and environmental initiatives across the island, making a tangible contribution to protecting ecosystems and empowering vulnerable communities. With this new call, the MOL Charitable Trust reaffirms its commitment to promoting innovative, inclusive, and

high-impact projects, in line with its ten priority objectives inspired by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Successful proposals will be eligible for funding of up to Rs 1 million per project, for a maximum duration of 12 months.

### ● **MV WAKASHIO: DPP CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION**

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) issued a statement confirming that, after reviewing the full report, it believes there is enough evidence to start a police investigation into the National Coast Guard (NCG), including the officers in charge of monitoring and tracking the MV Wakashio before its shipwreck on 25 July 2020. The relevant evidence will be forwarded to the Police Commissioner, and it is expected that the Central CID will take over the case. Officers on duty that day are expected to be summoned for questioning.

### ● **PRIME MINISTER NAVIN RAMGOOLAM'S STATE VISIT TO INDIA**



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam conducted a state visit to India on 9–16 September. He was accompanied by Hon. Ritish Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration & International Trade, Hon. Aadil Ameer Meea, Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives, Hon. Jyoti Jeetun, Minister of Financial Services and Economic Development, Hon. Patrick Assirvaden, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities, and Hon. Avinash Ramtohul, Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation.

PM Ramgoolam visited Mumbai, Varanasi, Ayodhya, Tirupati and New Delhi, partaking in business events, spiritual events and meeting President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Leader of

the Opposition Rahul Gandhi. During the Prime Minister's state visit, several Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between India and Mauritius. These agreements cover key areas such as community development, energy, marine science, digital training, higher education, space, and hydrography.

The major outcomes of this State Visit include the following:

- the National Thermal Power Corporation of India will establish a work plan for the construction of the first floating solar photovoltaic system at Tamarind Falls to power the Henrietta substation.
- The signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the SRM Institutes for Medical Science Hospitals in Chennai is expected to strengthen specialized healthcare services in Mauritius through structured collaboration.
- The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) will contribute its expertise to the Mauritius Stock Exchange to enable it to revitalize and expand its reach to the region.
- In the field of telecommunications, discussions with Indian partners such as CERT INDIA and C-DOT, an Indian government-owned company, focused on developing partnerships on topics such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and data transfer.

### ● **CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO – SOVEREIGNTY AGREEMENT AND VISIT BY MAURITIAN DELEGATION**

A major milestone in the Chagos Deal was reached on 9 September as the House of Commons in London approved the Bill confirming the return of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius by a vote of 330 to 174. The Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory Bill is now on the agenda for the sitting of the House of Commons with the Committee of the Whole House on 20 October, before being debated in the House of Lords. The Bill continues to be the target of criticism from British Chagossians and the Conservative-led political opposition in the United Kingdom.

Furthermore, Mauritius is actively preparing for its high-level visit to the Chagos Archipelago in early November. Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam confirmed that the trip will indeed take place and that he had requested India's assistance for this mission. Indian PM Narendra Modi agreed that India would provide a boat to Mauritius for the visit, strengthening regional cooperation between the two countries in the Indian Ocean region.

### ● MAURITIUS' POSITION ON PALESTINE

According to the Council of Ministers of Friday 5 September, Mauritius supports the outcome document of the Conference on the Two-State Solution presented to the United Nations General Assembly. Mauritius participated in the Conference which resumed on 22 September in New York and made an oral statement.

### ● FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON TO VISIT MAURITIUS IN NOVEMBER 2025

French President Emmanuel Macron will make an official visit to Mauritius on 21 and 22 November. This trip will take place just before his participation in the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, scheduled for 22 and 23 November. A first visit by the French President was initially scheduled for 24-25 April but had to be postponed owing to the funeral of Pope Francis.

### ● MAURITIUS-UNITED STATES BILATERAL RELATIONS

Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam announced, on 20 September, the appointment of Gajjaluxmi Mootoosamy as Ambassador of Mauritius to the United States. A career diplomat, she was recently appointed Deputy Chief of Mission in Washington D.C.. The Former Head of the Bilateral Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she also served as First Secretary at the same ministry before joining the Mauritius Mission in Washington, D.C. as Minister Counsellor.

In parallel, Hon. Ritish Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, began an official visit to the United States on 23 September. Two main tenets underline his visit: firstly,

discussions on customs tariffs, with the renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) as a pressing issue, as Mauritian textile exports to the American market depend on it; and secondly, active participation in the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

On 30 September, the day of the expiry of the AGOA, President Donald Trump's administration reportedly expressed support for a one-year extension of the preferential trade program with sub-Saharan Africa. Minister Ramful stated that if the AGOA is to be renewed, it could happen within two months. The Minister stated: "We don't know when that will happen. The United States has until November to make a decision. There is talk of a one-year extension, but that remains uncertain. Mauritius is interested in entering into negotiations for a bilateral agreement with the United States. The Office of the United States Trade Representative has contacted us in this regard. A bilateral agreement could prove more advantageous for us than a simple renewal of AGOA."

### ● MINISTER RAMFUL'S SPEECH AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



(Photo Credit: L'Express Maurice)

Hon. Ritish Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, spoke on Friday 26 September at the General Debate of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Addressing world leaders, the Minister notably:

- praised the merits of regional cooperation between the Indian Ocean islands at the United Nations.
- reiterated Mauritius' support for Security Council reform, denouncing the lack of African

representation among the permanent members and calling for two permanent seats to be allocated to Africa and India.

- urged developed countries to meet their financial and technical obligations under the Paris Agreement, stressing that small island developing states need concrete means to adapt and build resilience against climate change.
- welcomed the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and the support received from UN member states for the recognition of Mauritian sovereignty on the Chagos. He announced the ongoing creation of a marine protected area around the archipelago, reconciling environmental protection and resettlement prospects for the Chagossians.
- reaffirmed Mauritius' expectations regarding the recognition of its sovereignty over Tromelin, being disputed with France.
- recalled Mauritius' historical support for the Palestinian cause and advocated for the implementation of the two-state solution.
- warned of the risks of artificial intelligence and called for global governance that guarantees the safe, ethical, and inclusive use of digital technologies.
- reaffirmed that Mauritius will continue to place people at the heart of its development, particularly women, youth and vulnerable groups.
- stressed the importance of regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean, recalling the role of Mauritius as headquarters of the Indian Ocean Commission and the Indian Ocean Rim Association.

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## ECONOMY

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### ● LOCAL DEBT: THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS PLANS TO BORROW RS34.3 BILLION BY DECEMBER 2025

The Bank of Mauritius published, on Monday, September 1, its "Issuance Plan of Government Securities" for the period from September to December 2025. As a government agent, it plans to raise about Rs 34.3 billion through the issuance of government securities: treasury bills, treasury bonds and government bonds (Government of Mauritius Bonds). This funding program aims to meet short- and medium-term budgetary needs. It is therefore to be

expected that the local debt will increase by an equivalent amount in the coming months.

### ● FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET: THE BANK OF MAURITIUS CROSSES THE \$100 MILLION INJECTION MARK

The Bank of Mauritius (BoM) sold US\$15 million on the domestic foreign exchange market on September 10, at a rate around Rs 45.50 per dollar. This operation brings to \$115 million the total amount injected by the central bank since January 2025. These interventions remain lower than the \$235 million sold between January and August 2024.

### ● TOURIST FEE MAKES ITS DEBUT IN MAURITIUS

As of 1 October 2025, Mauritius will introduce a new tourist tax, called the "Tourist Fee", following the amendments made to the Tourism Authority Act. This measure provides that each tourist must pay an amount of EUR 3 per night spent in tourist accommodation, with the exception of children under 12 years of age. The collection of this tax will be carried out by the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), which will be responsible for strengthening tax revenues related to the tourism sector while supporting the development of infrastructure and services for visitors. According to the 2025-2026 Budget, this initiative could generate about Rs 775 million for the State in the next financial year.

### ● THE 2026-2029 STRATEGIC PLAN UNDER PREPARATION

The preparation of the Economic Development Board's (EDB) Strategic Plan 2026-2029 has been launched. An online call for proposals was launched on 17 September, inviting local and international consultants to submit their bids to contribute to the development of this plan.

This approach is part of the EDB's efforts to plan and guide the country's economic development for the coming years by relying on the expertise of specialists to define strategic priorities and concrete actions to be implemented.

It should be recalled that in the 2025-26 Budget, the government had planned a measure to strengthen



institutional capacity for the promotion and facilitation of investment. This initiative foresees the restructuring of the EDB to better support the vision of an innovative Mauritius, streamlining processes, improving transparency and promoting investment across sectors. The EDB is also responsible for implementing the government's strategy to boost growth through exports.

### ● REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PAUL BÉRENGER WANTS SYNERGY BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMIC OPERATORS

Create synergy between the government and economic operators to exploit opportunities in regional development and the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area. This is the objective of the Deputy Prime Minister, Paul Bérenger. He was speaking at the official launch of the Regional Council for Cooperation and Integration on the afternoon of Tuesday, September 23 in Port-Louis. It is a high-level forum bringing together the public and private sectors, after a first initiative in 1996. According to Paul Bérenger, the region has enormous investment potential.

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## ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

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### ● INDIA-AFRICA BUSINESS CONCLAVE

Hon. Jyoti Jeetun, Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning, participated in the 20th CII India Africa Business Conclave, held on 27-29 August in New Delhi. Hon. Michael Sik Yuen, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection, was also in attendance alongside a delegation from the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI). During the meeting, Mauritius was presented as a key platform for Indo-African investments. Upon her return to Mauritius on 1 September, Minister Jeetun confirmed that the protocol for the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with India was currently being refined so as to allow Mauritius to reinforce its status as a leading source of Foreign Direct Investment into India.

### ● MAURITIUS TO HOST US-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT 2026

Mauritius has been chosen to host the US-Africa Business Summit 2026. Organized by the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), this Summit will gather policymakers, investors and high-level CEOs, and will help position Mauritius as a strategic hub for trade and investment opportunities between American companies and African countries. This decision follows an invitation from Hon. Aadil Ameer Meea, Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives, during the previous edition of the same Summit held this year in Luanda, Angola, where he campaigned for Mauritius to host the 2026 edition.

### ● EU TO FUND NGOs IN MAURITIUS, RODRIGUES AND SEYCHELLES

With Rs 120 million, the European Union has launched a call for projects to fund non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating in Mauritius, Rodrigues, and the Seychelles. The official presentation of this initiative took place 9 September at the headquarters of the Delegation of the European Union in Port-Louis. Three priority areas have been defined: the fight against drugs; the prevention of violence against women and children; and environmental protection.

### ● EDB AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

The African Development Bank (AfDB) is seeking to strengthen its ties with the Mauritius Economic Development Board (EDB) to boost investment in Africa and strengthen private sector engagement. This commitment was demonstrated during a visit to Mauritius by Bleming Nekati, Head of Private Sector Operations for Southern Africa, and Nontle Kabanyane, Country Program Officer. Bleming Nekati



expressed the AfDB's interest in better understanding the priorities and needs of Mauritian economic stakeholders. The bank expresses its readiness to support local businesses wishing to expand on the continent, particularly through direct financing, technical assistance, and regional partnerships.

### ● AFRICAN CREDIT RATING AGENCY – NEW HQ IN MAURITIUS

Mauritius has been officially designated as the lead jurisdiction for the new headquarters of the African Credit Rating Agency (AfCRA) by the African Peer Review Mechanism. This initiative stems from a decision by the African Union Executive Council to establish an independent and autonomous African credit rating agency, which will provide credit assessments that more accurately reflect African economic realities.

The designation of Mauritius as host country reinforces Mauritius' position as a continental leader in financial governance and innovation. It reaffirms Mauritius' credibility as a trusted international financial center, committed to advancing African priorities through transparency, regulatory soundness, and professional excellence. The AfCRA headquarters will allow the Mauritian jurisdiction to serve as a focal point for promoting investor confidence, facilitating intra-African financial flows, and deepening local capital markets across the African continent.

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## SECURITY

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### ● INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION – HANDOVER OF EQUIPMENT TO BOOST MARITIME SECURITY

During the 12th Meeting of the Working Group of National Observer Program Managers, held by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) in Ebene on 5 September, equipment worth €90,000, or nearly Rs. 4.8 million, was handed over to member states of the Indian Ocean Commission. This equipment included security, navigation, and IT tools. They will assist member states in strengthening data collection at sea and support patrols, as part of joint efforts against such transnational maritime threats as illegal fishing.

### ● SAFE SEAS AFRICA – INTERPOL TRAINING



(Photo Credit: Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation)

The European Union is providing €25 million to fund the new Safe Seas Africa program, coordinated by the Indian Ocean Commission. As part of this effort, INTERPOL concluded a high-level National Training on Maritime Investigation course for Mauritian law enforcement officers in Port Louis on 8 September. This training focused on tackling transnational criminality in the region, including drug trafficking amongst others. The Safe Seas Africa program aims at strengthening the regional maritime security architecture in the Southwestern Indian Ocean region, notably by boosting the efficacy of the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) in Antananarivo and the Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC) in the Seychelles, as well as operational cooperation with external partners.

### ● INS SHARDUL VISITS MAURITIUS



(Photo Credit: High Commission of India, Mauritius)

The Indian warship INS Shardul, part of the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron, visited Port Louis on

8–11 September for training and surveillance operations. This visit included joint surveillance of the Mauritian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) with ships and aircraft of the National Coast Guard (NCG) and is associated with India's cooperation in maritime security and the fight against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

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## SPORTS

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### ● WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS OF TOKYO: JEREMIE LARARAUDEUSE CLOKED A TIME OF 13.70 SECONDS



(Photo Credit: L'express.mu)

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, Mauritian athlete Jérémie Lararaudeuse took part in the fifth heat of the 110m hurdles. His time: 13.70 seconds and thus no semi-finals for the Mauritian hurdler, who ended an exceptional season on the Japanese track. Competing against Grant Holloway, the reigning world and Olympic champion in the same heat, the Mauritian ran in 13.70 seconds (wind  $-0.3$  m/s), finishing in 8th place. The adventure has therefore come to an end for our compatriot, who holds the Mauritian record of 13.31 seconds in the 110m hurdles.

### ● KITE SURF: OSCAR JALON IN FOURTH POSITION



(Source: ttnworldwide.com)

Oscar Jalon represented Mauritius in the World Freestyle and Big Air Kitesurfing Championship for under 19, in Tarifa, southern Spain. At just 17 years old, he came fourth in the only youth competition of its kind, the TwinTip Freestyle, held from 1 to 5 September, where he was also the only Mauritian competitor.

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## CULTURE

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### ● TEXAS-BASED GENETICS COMPANY CLOSE TO RECREATING EXTINCT DODO BIRD



(Source: MSN)

A Texas genetics company working to bring back the woolly mammoth says it's a step closer to reviving another famed extinct species: the dodo. Dallas-based Colossal Biosciences Inc. said Wednesday it developed a method to culture primordial germ cells of a close relative of the large, flightless dodo that disappeared in the 1660s. Colossal is also pursuing de-extinction projects for mammals including the woolly mammoth and Tasmanian tiger. In April, the company announced the birth of three dire wolves, modern canids engineered to resemble the long-extinct species. Critics counter that true resurrection isn't possible. Without intact genomes, they say, the best outcome is a genetically modified proxy or hybrid.

## ● MAURITIUS WINS REGIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



(Source: zinfos974)

As part of European Heritage Days, the award ceremony for the regional photography competition 'Monuments of Beauty in the Indian Ocean – Season 2' was held on Saturday 20 September in Reunion island. This artistic and educational competition is organised by the Indian Ocean Historical Image Library (IHOI), in partnership with the Indian Ocean Commission and the Académie de La Réunion. Launched in 2022, every year, this competition invites secondary school pupils aged 11 to 15 to explore and promote the architectural heritage of their region through photography. For this edition, entries poured in from schools in Réunion, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mayotte, the Comoros, the Seychelles and Mozambique. The first prize went to a refined shot of the Île aux Fouquets lighthouse in Mauritius, revealing the splendour of a monument lost in the heart of the ocean.

## ● ONE&ONLY LE SAINT GERAN TRIUMPHS IN NATIONAL FINAL OF BOCUSE D'OR



(Source: L'express)

The national final of Bocuse d'Or Mauritius 2025 was held at the Sir Gaëtan Duval Hotel School on Tuesday 9 September with the ambitious theme of 'new Mauritian cuisine.' The One&Only Le Saint G eran emerged as the overall winner, beating teams from N'Joy and Heritage Telfair and preparing to proudly represent Mauritius in the regional selection. The jury, composed of renowned Mauritian and international chefs, evaluated each dish according to rigorous criteria, paying particular attention to innovation, balance of flavors, presentation and, above all, the use of local ingredients.

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