

# SHIMA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAURITIUS

OCTOBER 2025



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

Politics: Malagasy businessman Mamy Ravatomanga's activities in Mauritius under investigation

Diplomacy: British House of Commons passes Bill on Chagos Archipelago

Economy: Bank of Mauritius injects \$15 million to stabilize the Mauritian Rupee

Economic Diplomacy: Embassy of Japan donates equipment to the APPEL Training Center

Culture: 2025 Japanese Film Festival held at Hennessy Park Hotel

## POLITICS

### [DOMESTIC]

#### ● INVESTIGATION INTO MAMY RAVATOMANGA



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

In the early hours of 12 October, amidst popular uprising in Madagascar and the overthrowing of its government, a private jet made a controversial landing in Mauritius from Antananarivo. Onboard were the former Prime Minister of Madagascar, Christian Ntsay (2018–2025), alongside Maminiaina 'Mamy' Ravatomanga, a Malagasy businessman, owner of the conglomerate Sodiat group, close adviser to exiled President of Madagascar Andry Rajoelina, and named second wealthiest individual in Madagascar.

The private jet's arrival ignited dismay and consternation in both Mauritius and Madagascar. The Deputy Prime Minister and then-Acting Prime Minister, Hon. Paul Berenger, announced that he was not made aware of its arrival. An investigation was launched to determine how the landing clearance was issued.



(Photo Credit: Le Mauricien)

A highly controversial figure, Mamy Ravatomanga is cited by the press in several cases of tax evasion and financial crimes in France and Madagascar. He has been accused of embezzlement of public funds, of illegal trafficking of threatened rosewood to Asia via state-delivered-derogations and offshore companies, as well as "organized money laundering" and "tax fraud" in the acquisition of several real estate properties in Paris via opaque financial arrangements

involving offshore companies, some of which are based in Mauritius. He is also allegedly linked to the illegal transfer of five Boeing 777 aircraft to Iran's Mahan Air in July 2025, in violation of US sanctions.



(Photo Credit: News Moris)

Following a complaint by a Malagasy resident in Mauritius, the billionaire became the subject of two investigations, by the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) and the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) respectively. He is accused of fraudulent financial practices. On 15 October, the FCC issued a "Report Upon Departure" to monitor his movements. On 24 October, he was arrested for money laundering. His assets have been frozen under a Criminal Attachment Order issued by the Supreme Court. Other individuals, suspected of assisting Ravatomanga, including of attempting to influence the FCC's own investigation, have also been arrested.

Madagascar has sought cooperation with Mauritian authorities to monitor this ongoing case.

## ● ENERGY CRISIS

On 15 October, the Central Electricity Board (CEB) issued a 'red alert' warning of a critical situation regarding the energy demand. The population was called to adopt simple measures to avoid overloading the electrical grid to prevent a power outage. A national awareness and information campaign on energy efficiency was launched on the same day. In parallel, the CEB is implementing an Energy Alert Warning System, based on a color code – green, yellow, and red. This system will inform the public in real time about the grid voltage level and encourage energy saving during critical situations.

## ● REPORT OF COURT OF INVESTIGATION INTO MV WAKASHIO DISASTER RELEASED TO PUBLIC



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

The full report of the Court of Investigation into the grounding of the MV Wakashio was released to the public on 2 October. The report established that the accident was not caused by a technical failure, but by a series of breaches of maritime discipline. The captain has consumed alcohol and members of crew of the vessel were searching for an internet signal, ignoring navigational safety. Furthermore, the Court also noted failures in management and preparedness on the part of the Mauritian National Coast Guard. The report recommended increased vessel monitoring by the Mauritian authorities, better preparedness for maritime emergencies, and strict enforcement of international safety and environmental protection standards.

## ● LES ASSISES DE L'OCEAN 2025



(Photo Credit: Le Mauricien)

On 7 October, the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, Dr the Hon. Arvin Boolell, officially launched the Pre-Consultative Dialogue ahead of Les Assises de l'Océan 2025 (Ocean Forum). The ten-day series of meetings brought together representatives from the private

sector and international partners to discuss sustainable ocean development and the future of Mauritius' blue economy. Dr the Hon. Boolell highlighted the need for an inclusive, results-focused approach to strengthen Mauritius' blue economy, stressing the importance of protecting marine resources in the face of climate change.

## ● RODRIGUES - 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF AUTONOMY

On 12 October, Rodrigues commemorated the 23rd anniversary of the establishment of regional autonomy. The President of the Republic, H.E. Dharam Gokhool, traveled to Rodrigues and delivered a message during the official ceremony held at the Jean Daniel André Stadium in Camp du Roi. He reaffirmed the Mauritian Government's commitment to supporting the development of Rodrigues. Effectuated in 2002, following the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act (2001), autonomy was intended to provide Rodrigues with local governance, better suited to its realities. Since then, the Regional Assembly has managed several key areas – agriculture, fisheries, tourism, environment, education – while striving to build its own administration.

## [FOREIGN AFFAIRS / DIPLOMACY]

## ● UPRISING IN MADAGASCAR – FALLOUT IN MAURITIUS



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

The Malagasy Protests, spearheaded by the Gen-Z movement in the country, were triggered in September 2025 by frequent water and power outages and widespread corruption. After President Andry Rajoelina dissolved the government and appointed a military general as new Prime Minister, units of the Madagascar Armed Forces allied with the protesters

and carried out a coup d'état. President Andry Rajoelina has since fled the country and has been stripped of his Malagasy citizenship by the new regime.

The Mauritian Government has been closely following the crisis and has called for calm, urging the Malagasy parties to continue mediation to end the violence. Mauritius insists on respecting the constitutional framework and joined the African Union's call for concerted solutions. Mauritius also supports the AU's proposal to support Madagascar in restoring institutional normalcy, peace, and security. The Mauritian Government has also been in contact with Mauritian nationals in Madagascar.

Madagascar remains a key economic partner for Mauritius, as the latter's imports from Madagascar amounted to US\$31.8 million in 2024, according to data from the United Nations COMTRADE database on international trade. However, with tensions in Madagascar, economic observers are already anticipating repercussions for the Mauritian economy.

The Junior Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Rajen Narsinghen, acknowledged that the situation in Madagascar could have a direct impact on trade between the two islands and Mauritian companies operating there. Mr. Sunil Boodhoo, former Director of International Trade at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, emphasized that trade—both imports and exports—could experience a significant slowdown, with economic activities severely disrupted in Madagascar.

## ● AGREEMENT ON SOVEREIGNTY ON CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO

On 21 October, the British House of Commons passed the Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory Bill, formalizing a joint UK–Mauritius agreement on managing the Chagos Archipelago and Diego Garcia. The debate highlighted divisions, with Conservative critics accusing the British government of compromising sovereignty and neglecting Chagossian rights, while Labour Ministers defended the treaty's role in UK diplomacy and regional stability. Despite concerns over foreign influence and environmental issues, the Bill passed and will now proceed to the House of Lords, and subsequently the



Royal Assent. Some MPs also called for consultation with the Chagossian diaspora.

## ● SEYCHELLES-MAURITIUS BILATERAL RELATIONS

On 26 October, Prime Minister Dr the Hon. Navin Ramgoolam attended the swearing-in ceremony of the new President of the Republic of Seychelles, Dr Patrick Herminie. The visit demonstrated the Mauritian Government's desire to strengthening diplomatic and economic ties with the Seychelles, in a spirit of regional cooperation, solidarity, and shared development within the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).

On the sideline of the swearing-in ceremony, Prime Minister Ramgoolam also met with the Vice President of the Republic of India, H.E. Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan, who was also paying a courtesy call on President Herminie, following his inauguration.



(Photo Credit: L'express maurice)

## ● MAURITIUS AND THE UNITED NATIONS

The newly appointed Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Mauritius and Seychelles, Ms. Alka Bhatia, paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Hon. Ritish Ramful, on 6 October. Ms. Alka Bhatia is an Indian national with over 30 years of experience in international development, specialising in poverty alleviation, trade, and sustainable development. She has held various leadership roles within the UNDP, including serving as Resident Representative in Namibia and Seychelles.

During the election for the UN Human Rights Council held on 14 October, at the United Nations General Assembly, Mauritius obtained 181 votes out of 190, the highest score among candidate countries for the Council. The 2026–2028 term will mark Mauritius' third term on the Geneva-based UN body. The Council's mission is to defend human dignity and ensure respect for fundamental rights throughout the world. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed this election as recognition of Mauritius' active role on human rights and international justice issues. The Government pledged to continue its efforts for peace, equality, and the protection of freedoms.

On 24 October, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Ritish Ramful, reaffirmed Mauritius's commitment to working with the UN to create a peaceful, just, and sustainable world. Speaking at a function to mark the 80th anniversary of the UN and the 50th anniversary of United Nations Association (UNA) Mauritius, he highlighted the UN's role in giving all countries an equal voice. He also praised UNA Mauritius for connecting global ideals with local needs. Minister Ramful stressed the importance of dialogue, cooperation, and solidarity to address global challenges and mentioned Mauritius's support for the 2030 Agenda and climate justice.

## ● CHINA-MAURITIUS BILATERAL RELATIONS



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

On 9 October, during a courtesy meeting by H.E. Dr Huang Shifang, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Mauritius on Hon. Aadil Ameer Meea, Minister of Industry, SMEs and Cooperatives, the latter highlighted the potential of the Jin Fei zone, noting that its infrastructure and strategic location make it ideal for manufacturing activities and international exhibition and conference events. He called for renewed efforts to attract Chinese

industries to the zone, a proposal welcomed by Ambassador Huang Shifang, who assured that the Chinese Embassy would convey the message to the relevant investors.

On 13 October, ahead of the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Mauritius and the Economic Development Board (EDB) organized a conference at the Labourdonnais Hotel aimed at encouraging Mauritian companies to seize the opportunities offered by this international trade and investment showcase. Entitled "Strengthening Mauritius-China Business Partnership through CIIE," it brought together representatives from the diplomatic corps, economic institutions, and the private sector.

### ● INDIA-MAURITIUS BILATERAL RELATIONS

The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sutlej conducted the 18th Joint Hydrographic Survey mission in Mauritian waters from 2 to 18 October. INS Sutlej covered some 9,800 nautical miles and surveyed approximately 35,000 square nautical miles using high-resolution sonar systems. The data collected during the survey will support the hydrographic needs of various Mauritian stakeholders and contribute to the preparation of updated navigational charts and hydrographic products. The successful completion of the Survey mission was celebrated with a reception hosted by the High Commissioner of India to Mauritius, H.E. Mr. Anurag Srivastava, and the Commanding Officer of the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sutlej, Commander Varun Gupta, onboard the vessel.

On 24 October, the Council of Ministers has approved the implementation of a floating solar power plant project on the Tamarind Falls reservoir, entrusted to the National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd (India), as part of a bilateral agreement between the Government of Mauritius and the Government of India. The project involves the construction of a 17.5 MW floating solar power plant on the reservoir, accompanied by a 12 MW battery energy storage system (BESS).

---

## ECONOMY

---

### ● FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET: BANK OF MAURITIUS INJECTS \$15 MILLION TO STABILIZE THE RUPEE

The Bank of Mauritius (BoM) intervened in the domestic foreign exchange market on 9 October, by selling a total amount of US\$15 million, at a rate of Rs 45.20 to the dollar. This operation is in line with the Central Bank's actions to stabilize the foreign exchange market. On October 2, the BoM had already sold US\$15 million at a rate around Rs 45.26 to the dollar. With this intervention, the total amount of foreign exchange sales by the Bank of Mauritius since the beginning of the year now stands at \$160 million.

### ● LAUNCH OF MAUSTATS: INTEGRATE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INTO WORK OF STATISTICS MAURITIUS

On 22 October, on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of Statistics Mauritius and to mark World Statistics Day, the institution organised a workshop, accompanied by the launch of its new digital platform MauStats. The Minister of Information Technology, Hon. Avinash Ramtohol, stressed that the next step is to integrate artificial intelligence into the work of Statistics Mauritius to enable more in-depth analysis and better exploitation of data. This initiative aims to support the country's economic planning and strengthen decision-making based on reliable information. The Minister also recalled that the National Budget provides for the creation of an AI Office, whose role will be to work closely with Statistics Mauritius to strengthen the use of technology and artificial intelligence in data analysis.

### ● TEXTILES: AFRICAN MINISTERS REACH KEY AGREEMENT TO BOOST ECONOMY AND CREATE JOBS ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

The 17th meeting of the Council of Ministers Responsible for Trade of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) continued by videoconference on 20 October, with the participation of the Mauritian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Ritesh Ramful. Chaired by Egypt's Minister of Investment and Foreign

Trade, Hassan El-Khatib, the session's priority was to finalise negotiations on pending rules of origin in the textiles and clothing sector, a sensitive issue that has been stalled for several years.

In his speech, Minister Ramful stressed the urgency for Africa to build resilience in the face of global trade instability and exogenous factors disrupting the continent's economies. He called for the swift conclusion of negotiations to allow African exporters to fully benefit from the trade preferences offered by the AfCFTA, especially amid uncertainty surrounding the future of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

As a result of the exchanges, the Member States reached a major agreement on textile and clothing products. This agreement paves the way for their commercialization with tariff preferences within the continent. It is expected to foster the creation of regional value chains, attract investment, and support job creation across Africa. This achievement marks a strategic step in the effective operationalization of the AfCFTA and gives new impetus to African economic integration.

---

## ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

---

### ● JAPAN DONATES EQUIPMENT TO APPEL TRAINING CENTRE



(Photo Credit: Maurice Info)

On 7 October, the Embassy of Japan in Mauritius officially handed over equipment to the “ARCH Vocational Training Centre” established by the NGO, the Association Pour Personnes En Larmes (APPEL) in Roche Bois, Port Louis. These tools and equipment, funded by the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP/Kusanone) program, represent a donation of

approximately Rs 2.5 million. They will equip classrooms and workshops to train beneficiaries in baking and cooking, hairdressing, and carpentry, among other skills, as well as strengthen practical learning. This partnership between Japan and Mauritius builds on a long-standing tradition of working together to support local community development.

### ● HIGH-LEVEL WORKSHOP ON CORAL REEFS AND OCEAN WARMING SUPPORTED BY JAPAN

On 15 October, the University of Mauritius hosted a high-level workshop titled “Coral Reefs and Ocean Warming” (CROW2025), dedicated to the preservation of coral reefs against the threat of global warming. The workshop was supported by Shizuoka University, University of Mauritius, Odysseo Marine Station for Coral Conservation Research and Education (C2RE), SECORE International Ltd, Biodiversity and Environment Institute (BEI), and Mitsui O.S.K. Lines. The main objective of this scientific meeting was to present results from recent studies led in the framework of the MOL Mauritius International Fund Project. Researchers from the University of Mauritius, Shizuoka University and BEI, in partnership with experts from Stanford University and SECORE International Ltd, shared the results of their studies on Mauritian coral reefs.

### ● QATAR-MAURITIUS BILATERAL RELATIONS



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

Mauritius has launched discussions with Qatari authorities for prospective collaboration in two distinct fields. Firstly, in civil aviation, towards a strategic partnership between Air Mauritius and Qatar Airways to boost the former's financial performance and expand air connectivity to new markets through



the latter's Doha hub. Secondly, in the energy sector, the import of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and the construction of a facility in Port-Louis to receive LNG supplies, with the objective of diversifying Mauritian energy sources, in a context of transition towards more stable and sustainable resources.

---

## SECURITY

---

### ● INDIAN OCEAN WAVE 2025 (IOWAVE25)



(Photo Credit: GIS Mauritius)

On 15 October, Mauritius took part in the Indian Ocean Wave 2025 (IOWave25) Tsunami Preparedness and Simulation Exercise, organised in collaboration with the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. This regional initiative aimed to strengthen tsunami preparedness, early warning systems, and response capacities among countries bordering the Indian Ocean. Mauritius' participation was coordinated by the Prime Minister's Office, in partnership with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (NDRRMC) and the Mauritius Meteorological Services. The exercise brought together over 20 Indian Ocean countries committed to improving disaster readiness and response coordination.

### ● MAURITIUS MEMBERSHIP IN COMBINED MARITIME FORCES (CMF)

The United States congratulated Mauritius on becoming the 47<sup>th</sup> member state of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), the world's largest maritime security coalition, on 12 August. This organization, which covers nearly 3.2 million square kilometers of

international maritime zones, works for security, stability, and prosperity, particularly in the Indian Ocean and along some of the world's major shipping lanes. On this occasion, the Commander of the CMF, US Vice Admiral George Wikoff, welcomed Mauritius's entry into this coalition.

### ● NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION (IMO) MARITIME SECURITY INSTRUMENTS

The Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, Dr the Hon. Arvin Boolell, took part in the opening of the National Workshop on the Transposition of International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Instruments Related to Maritime Security into National Legislation. Organised in collaboration with the IMO, the workshop ran from 29 September until 2 October and gathered both local and international stakeholders to strengthen Mauritius' maritime security framework, ensure compliance with global standards, and promote sustainable management of its maritime zone.

---

## EDUCATION

---

### ● MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY MAURITIUS EXPANDS CAMPUS AND OVERSEAS AGREEMENTS

Middlesex University Mauritius inaugurated a new wing at its Flic-en-Flac campus in the presence of Minister of Tertiary Education, Hon. Kaviraj Sukon, in the presence of representatives from the British High Commission, Medine, and Middlesex University London. As part of its expansion strategy, Middlesex University Mauritius is also opening up internationally and has signed memoranda of understanding with Darajapan, Creatair and Wings Robotics, opening up opportunities for recruitment, applied research, internships and collaborations in Japan.

---

## SPORTS

---

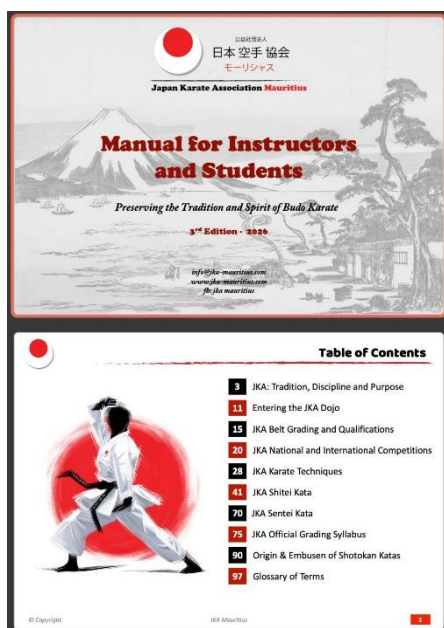
### ● ADIL DOOKEE QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025 JIU-JITSU WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN THAILAND

Adil Dookee is the only Mauritian selected this year for the prestigious World Jiu-Jitsu Championship to be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 1-7 November. He was chosen thanks to his world ranking in his category, as well as his title of African champion in 2024. His achievements also include a bronze medal at the 2024 World Championships in Greece and an African championship title in full-contact Jiu-Jitsu in 2023, among other accomplishments. This year, he will compete in several disciplines, such as Brazilian jiu-jitsu, no-gi jiu-jitsu and full-contact jiu-jitsu.



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

### ● JKA MAURITIUS: THIRD EDITION OF INSTRUCTION MANUAL LAUNCHED



(Source: L'Express)

On 23 October, the Japan Karate Association (JKA) Mauritius announced it was launching the third edition of its instructional manual for shotokan karate. This manual illustrates techniques of karate, as shown by the Senseis of the JKA. It will be distributed in around 20 dojos in Mauritius and one in Rodrigues.

---

## CULTURE

---

### ● 2025 JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL

On 12 October, the latest edition of the Japanese Film Festival, organized by the Embassy of Japan and Hennessy Park Hotel, was held at the latter's premises in Ebene. For the occasion, two films were screened – the 2022 drama film 'The Zen Diary' and the 2011 anime fantasy film 'A Letter to Momo'. The screenings were followed by exchanges by participants, where Dorayaki and matcha ice cream were introduced. On this occasion of the film festival, a buffet of Japanese cuisine was offered at the hotel's SushiMe Restaurant.





## ● CHINATOWN FOOD AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL 2025

The Chinatown Food & Cultural Festival 2025 took place in Port Louis, Mauritius on 25–26 October. The 18th edition of the event featured traditional Chinese cuisine, live music and dance, lion and dragon parades, and arts and crafts. This year's festival also introduced the Lion Dance Academy where visitors could learn the art of lion dance for free.



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

## ● NATHACHA APPANAH TOP CONTENDER FOR PRIX GONCOURT

Mauritian author Nathacha Appanah has been selected by the Académie Française as one of the ten contenders of its Grand Prix du Roman for her latest novel “La nuit au cœur” (Night at Heart). Additionally,

she is nominated for the Renaudot, Médicis and Femina prizes, and is one of the four contenders for the prestigious Prix Goncourt for the same novel. “La nuit au cœur” was published in August 2025 by Éditions Gallimard to critical acclaim. It recounts the true stories of three women — including that of the author herself — who are victims of abuse, manipulation, violence and murder at the hands of their partners.



(Source: Lemauricien.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

**<Embassy Information>**

Contact Us

Office Address:

Embassy of Japan in Mauritius, Level 6, Tower C, 1 Exchange Square, Wall Street, Ebene, 72201, Mauritius

Tel : (230) 460 2200, Fax : (230) 468 6612, Email: japanembassy@mx.mofa.go.jp

Website: [https://www.mu.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop\\_en/index.html](https://www.mu.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/index.html)

**Please visit us on Facebook!**

We usually post articles on our activities and events information on Facebook. Please follow us!

<https://www.facebook.com/JapanEmb.Mauritius/>

\*\*\*\*\*