

# SHIMA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAURITIUS

NOVEMBER 2025



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

Politics: Internal Tensions Within the Alliance du Changement Government

Diplomacy: French President Emmanuel Macron Visits Mauritius

Economy: Mauritius to Host the 2026 U.S.-Africa Business Summit

Culture: Nathacha Appanah Awarded Prix Femina and Prix Goncourt des Lycéens

## POLITICS

### [DOMESTIC]

#### ● TENSIONS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

After weeks of political turmoil during which it was rumored he might break away from the governing Alliance du Changement, the Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the MMM, Hon. Paul Bérenger, announced that he will remain within the Government along with his party members. The decision followed a central committee meeting at Beau-Bassin/Rose-Hill Town Hall on Monday 17 November. Bérenger emphasized that the choice was made after lengthy discussions and key agreements reached with Prime Minister and Leader of the PTr, Dr the Hon. Navin Ramgoolam, which include the electoral reform, the creation of a National Crime Agency to replace the

Financial Crimes Commission, the future of the national airline Air Mauritius, and policies on drugs, prisons, and police.

#### ● PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ON ELECTORAL REFORMS

Electoral reform will be the central focus of debates for the start of the political season in January 2026. The creation of the Constitutional Review Commission has reportedly been separated from the electoral reform, as Prime Minister Dr the Hon. Navin Ramgoolam wants to launch public consultations on this matter.

The reform aims to bring about an evolution in the electoral system: abolishing the requirement for candidates in parliamentary elections to declare their ethnic affiliation; some are already talking about ending the "Best Losers" system and replacing it with a proportional representation component; more female representation in Parliament; and proposing a law on the financing of political parties. The Government has an absolute majority in Parliament (59 seats out of 66) to amend the Constitution and pass this reform.

As part of the 2025–2029 Government Programme, the Government has launched a call for proposals on 2 December to advance electoral reform. All stakeholders, including political parties, academia, the Mauritian diaspora, trade unions, NGOs and civil society organizations, as well as the general public, are invited to submit their proposals and suggestions to the Prime Minister's Office.

### ● SATTAR HAJEE ABDOULA UNDER ARREST



(Photo Credit: ION News)

Sattar Hajee Abdoula, CEO of Grant Thornton, has been arrested on 19 November, on provisional charges of money laundering following the payment of Rs 3.696 million in fees from Air Mauritius, deposited into the Grant Thornton bank account in March 2020. In April 2020, Sattar Hajee Abdoula had been appointed "joint administrator" of Air Mauritius, after the airline had been placed under voluntary administration by decision of its board of directors between April 2020 and September 2021, due to poor financial performance coupled with the paralysis brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. For his services under this plan, Sattar Hajee Abdoula had reportedly received fees amounting to Rs 141 million.

### ● APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIRMAN OF AIR MAURITIUS

On 28 November, the Board of Directors of Air Mauritius Ltd. announced the appointment of Mr. Dheerendra Kumar Dabee, G.O.S.K, S.C., as the new Chairperson of Air Mauritius with immediate effect. His appointment follows the resignation of Kishore Beegoo on 23 October 2025.

### ● ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL – NEW LAWS FOR DRIVERS

On 28 November, the Council of Ministers has approved the introduction of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly, with the main objective of reintroducing the Penalty Points System. This system is intended to strengthen the protection of road users and promote safer roads. The draft law also seeks to encourage a culture of responsible driving among motorists. In addition, it provides a framework to ensure better compliance with traffic regulations.

### [FOREIGN AFFAIRS / DIPLOMACY]

### ● FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON VISITS MAURITIUS



(Photo Credit: News Moris)

On 20–21 November, French President Emmanuel Macron conducted a 24-hour official visit to Mauritius. Upon his arrival in Mauritius, President Macron was greeted by Prime Minister Dr the Hon. Navin Ramgoolam and other dignitaries from the Mauritian Government. Following a courtesy call with the President of the Republic, H.E. Dharam Gokhool, and an exchange of honours at the State House in Reduit, President Macron headed to the Caudan Arts Centre to take part in discussions with the business community centred on Franco-Mauritian cooperation, innovation, and investment, organized by the Economic Development Board (EDB) and the French Embassy. President Macron also visited the Plastic Odyssey vessel which is conducting research on plastic pollution in the Indian Ocean.

Subsequently, the first day of visit concluded with a working session with the Mauritian Government at the National Assembly and a state dinner. On 21 November, President Macron took part in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Pamplemousses Botanical Garden, followed by the signature of Cooperation Agreements in Port Louis and the inauguration of the new premises of the Embassy of France in Mauritius, located in Telfair, Moka. President Macron then left Mauritius to attend the G20 Summit in South Africa. His tour subsequently took him to Angola and Gabon, as well.



(Photo Credit: L'express.mu)

Key outcomes of the visit include:

- Signing of MoUs on cooperation on the blue economy with the Research Institute for Development, FEXTE partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD) and EDF for renewable energies, sustainable water management and energy transition in support of sustainable development goals, as well as a pilot project for bilingual French-language education.
- Cooperation Agreements with the French Development Agency (AFD) on sustainable water management: support for national reform with a €200 million AFD loan, a €2 million EU grant already committed, and preparation of a €120 million investment program to modernize infrastructure, strengthen governance, and integrate social, environmental, and gender considerations.
- Agreement with AFD on energy transition: support for the target of 60% renewable energy by 2035, modernization of the electricity grid with support from EDF Réunion starting in December, digitalization of the Central Electricity Board, green credit lines, and Proparco financing. A technical program of €700,000, an AFD loan of

€40 million and an EU grant of €10 million from the EU complete the package.

## ● BILL ON DIEGO GARCIA AND CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO AT HOUSE OF LORDS

On 4 November, the bill to ratify the UK-Mauritius Agreement, which provides for the transfer of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius, has been put on hold by the Labour government following a threat of defeat in the House of Lords. The government, lacking a majority in the House of Lords and fearing that the Liberal Democrats would vote with the Conservatives, preferred to temporarily withdraw the text to avoid a defeat on the issue of consultation with the Chagossian community, which remains split on the agreement and sovereignty over the Archipelago.

On 11 November, the House of Lords resumed its consideration of the Diego Garcia Bill with the motion to refer it back to Committee Review which took place on 18-25 November. The Review addressed concerns about consultation and representation of Chagossians, as well as environmental commitments, including the future marine protected area announced by Mauritius. On 14 November, Attorney General Gavin Glover travelled to London to present the Mauritian position on two sensitive points of the treaty: the resettlement of Chagossians and the management of the Trust Fund for the Chagossians. Glover also specified that Mauritius was considering including a Chagossian from the Seychelles on the Trust Fund Committee.

More than 20 speakers participated in the House of Lords debates on 90 amendments to the bill, which concluded on 25 November. The next stage of the bill is the report from the International Relations and Defence Committee, due on 18 December, and the vote scheduled for 5 January. This will be followed by a third reading on 6 January. Furthermore, an online survey has been organized by the International Relations and Defence Committee of the House of Lords with members of the Chagossian community in Mauritius, Seychelles and the United Kingdom in order to gather views and perspectives from the entire Chagossian diaspora worldwide, and address previous criticisms on the lack of consultation with the Chagossian community.



## ● MAURITIUS AT THE COP30 IN BELEM, BRAZIL



(Photo Credit: Le Mauricien)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Hon. Ritesh Ramful, led the Mauritian delegation to the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) on climate change, which was held in Belém, Brazil between 10 and 21 November.

During his address to the high-level segment on 17 November, the Minister delivered a message to the international community, recalling that a decade has passed since the Paris Agreement, a legally binding climate treaty, without the efforts made living up to the promises made. He also emphasized that the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice reinforces the legal obligation of states to protect the climate system, whether through emissions reductions or support for mitigation and adaptation. The Minister also stressed the need for strengthened global solidarity, particularly with Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

On the sidelines of the event, the Minister held bilateral meetings with Tim Hemmings, UK Special Envoy for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), followed by the delegation from Palau as Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and the Commonwealth Secretariat. Furthermore, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Mauritius and Italy for cooperation on sustainable development projects.

## ● MADAGASCAR–MAURITIUS BILATERAL RELATIONS

The Malagasy government has terminated the functions of Albert Camille Vital, Madagascar's Ambassador to Mauritius, following the Council of Ministers meeting held on 8 November in Antananarivo. This decision comes amid diplomatic tension and controversy surrounding the case of Mamy Ravatomanga. According to several sources, Ambassador Vital requested the medical evacuation of Mamy Ravatomanga to Réunion Island, a request that was ultimately rejected by the Malagasy authorities.

## ● PRESIDENT GOKHOOL ATTENDS EU-AU SUMMIT IN LUANDA

The President of the Republic, H.E. Dharam Gokhool, represented Mauritius at the 7th EU-AU Summit which hosted leaders of European Union (EU) and African Union (AU) member states on 24–25 November in Luanda, Angola. President Gokhool held discussions with Rui Luís Falcão Pinto de Andrade, Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Angola. He also met with Sebastien Pillay, Vice President of the Republic of Seychelles. On the first day of the summit, during the session of Heads of State and Ministers, President Gokhool spoke with Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General, João Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, and Giorgia Meloni, Italian Prime Minister, among other prominent leaders, to promote multilateral cooperation and strengthen partnerships.

## ● AMBASSADOR OF CHINA MEETS WITH THE MAURITIAN PRESS

The local press was invited on 4 November to a reception hosted by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Mauritius, under the patronage of the Ambassador, H.E. Dr Huang Shifang. The event aimed to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between China and Mauritius, while highlighting mutually beneficial development initiatives. In her address, Dr Huang Shifang praised the strong friendship between the two countries and expressed her hope that Mauritius would participate more actively in the Belt and Road Initiative.

The Ambassador also addressed China–Africa cooperation through the Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), noting that the last summit held in Beijing had elevated bilateral relations between China and Mauritius to the level of a strategic partnership. She indicated that China remains committed to strengthening its economic partnership with African countries, particularly through development agreements, the full implementation of duty-free treatment on 100% of tariff lines, and facilitating access for African products to the Chinese market.

## ECONOMY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

### ● SIGNING CEREMONY OF GGP/KUSANONE



On 3 November, the signing ceremony of the grant contract for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) was held at the Residence of the Ambassador. The grant contract was signed by H.E. KAN Masahiro, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Mr. Mohummad Shamad Ayoob Saab President of Century Welfare Association. Century Welfare Association operates a special needs school and day care centre in Port Louis since 1998, providing free support for learning, daily living, sensory integration, and independence through physiotherapy and occupational therapy to approximately 110 disabled individuals aged 5 to 39 annually.

Through “The Project for the Extension of the Rehabilitation Space at Special Needs Education

School in Cite Martial District”, with financial support amounting to €51,852, an outdoor rehabilitation space (300m²) will be added. This will be able to provide an adequate number of physical rehabilitation sessions to meet the needs of persons with disabilities attending the program including access to a therapeutic calm space that supports mental relaxation. The implementation of the project is expected to offer psychological care that enhances participants’ motivation, promotes active engagement in daily activities, and maximizes the overall effectiveness of the rehabilitation process.

### ● HANDOVER CEREMONY AT DR. A.G. JEETOO HOSPITAL



(Photo Credit: INFORMUS)

On 4 November, the Embassy of Japan in Mauritius participated in a handover ceremony at Dr A.G. Jeetoo Hospital in Port Louis, to deliver Mauritius’ first Endoscopic Ultrasound System. The new system was donated by the Government of Japan as part of its Economic and Social Development Programme (ESDP). The ceremony was held in the presence of the Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Anil Bachoo; the Ambassador of Japan in Mauritius, H.E. KAN Masahiro, along with other personalities.

This advanced technology, combining endoscopy and echography, allows doctors to examine with great precision internal organs and surrounding structures, while enabling less invasive interventions, which were previously only possible through open surgery. Minister Bachoo saluted the continuous collaboration between Japan and Mauritius, highlighting how the support through the Economic and Social Development Programme (ESDP) goes beyond the

simple financial aspect and is testament of a common engagement to strengthen the national healthcare system. He underlined how the donated equipment reinforced hospitals' capacities, offering medical teams the ability to offer safer and better care.

As part of the Economic and Social Development Programme (ESDP) signed in 2022, the Government of Japan has made total donations of JPY 550 million to reinforce the Mauritian healthcare system. The first batch of donations included ultrasound scanner for echocardiography, ventilators, bedside monitors, among others. The second batch included operating tables, anaesthesia machines, syringe pumps, along with the new Endoscopic Ultrasound System.

### ● WORKSHOP ON MARINE PROTECTION AT UNIVERSITY OF MASCAREIGNES



A workshop entitled “Blue Policy Strategy Forum: Science to Policy,” was organized by the University of the Mascarenes, as part of its initiative to strengthen the link between scientific research and public policy on marine sustainability and the protection of marine ecosystems. The official launch of the event took place on 13 November in the presence of Dr. the Hon. Arvin BOOLELL, the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, H.E. KAN Masahiro, Ambassador of Japan to Mauritius, and SUZUKI Yasuo, Managing Director of Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd (MOL) Mauritius, as well as stakeholders, including representatives from public bodies, the private sector, and NGOs.

Mr. SUZUKI presented MOL Mauritius' initiatives and partnerships in the field. He indicated that his

company was undertaking several voluntary initiatives to further limit environmental impacts, while collaborating closely with stakeholders and supporting international efforts to protect marine ecosystems. Furthermore, he emphasized the importance of aligning research with national priorities to ensure consistent and effective policies and decisions.

### ● FUMAKILLA LTD. INTRODUCES NEW HIGH-EFFICIENCY AEROSOL IN MAURITIUS

On 18 November, Fumakilla Limited, a global pioneer in insect control, introduced its new high-efficiency aerosol during a launch event at Lai Min Restaurant in Port Louis. The ceremony brought together key figures including Thierry Liu Man Hin, CEO of A.E.L. Man Hin & Sons Ltd, and senior representatives from Fumakilla Japan, who recalled the company's long history since its founding in 1874 and its mission to protect human life and the environment.

The product showcased is built on advanced particle control technology that ensures rapid adhesion to insects for faster action, complemented by a premium double cap design for a more comfortable grip and a gentle orange scent that contrasts with the harsh odour of traditional insecticides. The company also presented two upcoming products including an improved Fumakilla Vape blister pack now on the market and a refill liquid expected in 2026, both to be distributed locally in Mauritius, by A.E.L. Man Hin & Sons Ltd.

### ● MAURITIUS TO HOST THE U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT IN 2026



(Photo Credit: L'express.mu)



The Government of Mauritius and the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) confirmed during a joint press conference held on 1 December that the U.S.–Africa Business Summit 2026 will take place from 26 to 29 July 2026 in Mauritius, marking the first time the country will host this flagship event dedicated to strengthening U.S.–Africa economic relations.

The summit is expected to gather more than 3,000 participants ranging from government officials and private sector leaders to investors and representatives of multilateral institutions for four days of plenary sessions, high-level dialogues, sector focused discussions, and business-to-business engagements.

Prime Minister Dr the Hon. Navin Ramgoolam welcomed the announcement, reaffirming Mauritius' role as a bridge between Africa and the world and emphasizing the country's commitment to fostering strategic partnerships that promote investment and economic cooperation.

### ● PERFORMANCE OF THE MAURITIAN RUPEE

The Mauritian rupee remained broadly stable against the U.S. dollar over the period from October 2024 to October 2025, registering a slight change of 0.3%, according to data from the Bank of Mauritius, while showing varied movements against other major currencies that influence the country's import costs and overall trade dynamics.

The rupee strengthened against several currencies, including the Australian dollar (+1.7%), the Indian rupee (+1.9%), and the New Zealand dollar (+3.8%), easing the cost of some imported goods for consumers. However, it depreciated against the euro (–2.3%), the pound sterling (–2.6%), the Japanese yen (–2.6%), and the Swiss franc (–5.1%), a trend that may lead to higher prices for certain imports.

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## SECURITY

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### ● 8<sup>TH</sup> HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE DJIBOUTI CODE OF CONDUCT / JEDDAH AMENDMENT IN MAURITIUS

The 8th High-Level Meeting on the implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct, a key forum on maritime security, was held on 12–14 November at the Hilton Mauritius Resort and Spa in Flic-en-Flac. The Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, Dr the Hon. Arvin Boolell; the Junior Minister of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, Hon. Fabrice Gilles David; attended the opening ceremony in the presence of all delegates.

The Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) was launched in 2009 with the support of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as a response to the threat of Somali piracy. In 2017, the Jeddah Amendment expanded the scope of the DCoC to address a wider range of transnational maritime crimes including human trafficking; illicit smuggling; illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; and environmental violations. The High-Level Meeting reaffirmed the need for alignment in the collective efforts among Member States and Donor Partners, the latter includes Japan, on maritime security strategies.

### ● RECORD DRUG SEIZURE ON ALPHA BRAVERY



(Photo Credit: ION News)

On 7 November, in an unprecedented operation and record seizure, an estimated 400 kilos of cocaine, with an estimated street value of over Rs 4.5 billion, were discovered aboard the Greek-flagged vessel Alpha Bravery, intercepted in Mauritian waters en route from Brazil to Singapore. The drugs, concealed in life

jackets, were discovered by crew members in the ship's engine room, and were removed and transported to Central Police Station for official weighing. The ship was able to leave the port area on 14 November with its cargo of iron ore, bound for Singapore, before heading to the port of Qingdao, China. The Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) is conducting an investigation to determine whether any of the 24 crew members were involved in concealing the 15 bags found in the ship's engine room.

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## SPORTS

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### ● 2025 IBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: FOUR MAURITIAN BOXERS IN DUBAI



(Photo Credit: Le Mauricien)

Four Mauritian boxers travelled to Dubai to compete in the International Boxing Association World Championships, which are being held from 2 to 13 December. Fabrice Valérie (-51 kg), Francis Guillaume (-54 kg), Niven Chemben (-57 kg) and Mervén Clair (-75 kg) will compete in these 2025 World Championships. They will be coached by Richard Sunee, who will be making his second international appearance as national coach.

### ● CYCLING – AFRICAN CYCLING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2025: KIMBERLEY LE COURT DE BILLOT-PIENAAR CROWNED QUEEN OF AFRICA



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

On 3 December, Mauritian cyclist Kimberley Le Court de Billot-Pienaar, was crowned Queen of Africa in the women's elite category for her season. The professional cyclist was nominated for two individual awards. She was selected as one of the ten finalists for the Women's Vélo d'Or award and for the 2025 African Cycling Excellence Awards in the 'Best Elite Female Cyclist' category. The first continental cycling awards, organized by the African Cycling Confederation (CAC), were held on 28 and 29 November in Kigali, Rwanda. Unable to attend the ceremony (due to professional commitments), the national champion was represented by the president of the Mauritian Cycling Federation (FMC), Michel Mayer.

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## CULTURE

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### ● DOUBLE WIN FOR NATHACHA APPANAH – PRIX FEMINA AND THE GONCOURT DES LYCÉENS



(Source: lanouvellerepublique.fr)

Nathacha Appanah, the Mauritian journalist and writer now residing in France, was awarded the Prix Femina on 3 November and later received the Goncourt des Lycéens on 27 November, the latter being presented by French President Emmanuel Macron at the Élysée Palace in Paris. Her acclaimed novel, "La nuit au cœur", explores the lives of three women, including the author herself, subjected to domestic violence.



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