

# SHIMA MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

MAURITIUS

JANUARY 2026



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

Politics: Tensions Within the Ruling Alliance du Changement

Diplomacy: UK–Mauritius Agreement on Chagos Archipelago in Limbo

Japan in Mauritius: Prof. YAMASHITA Visits Mauritius and Delivers Lecture on Blue Economy

Economy: Mauritius Launches Vision 2050 National Consultations

Security: Two Earthquakes Detected in the Vicinity of Rodrigues Island

## POLITICS

### [DOMESTIC]

#### ● TENSIONS WITHIN THE RULING ALLIANCE DU CHANGEMENT



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

During the early weeks of January, rumours have been spreading that Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the MMM, Hon. Paul Bérenger, might withdraw from the government over a number of disagreements with Prime Minister Dr the Hon. Navin Ramgoolam. This fuelled speculations of a potential breakup of the ruling Alliance du Changement government. However, on the 17th of January, the MMM's Central Committee announced the party had decided to

remain in the Alliance du Changement. Hon. Bérenger supported staying in government as Deputy Prime Minister, but only under conditions. Earlier, Hon. Bérenger had voiced frustration with the Prime Minister over several national issues, including the electoral reform, problems at the Economic Development Board, the management of Air Mauritius, and concerns about law and order. He also highlighted the fight against drug proliferation, stressing that these matters required clear answers and concrete action because of their importance to the country. Hon. Bérenger also suggested to the Prime Minister that the Ministry of Finance, currently headed by the latter himself, be entrusted to another person as the current economic situation required a full-time Minister, exclusively dedicated to this strategic department.

#### ● PLANS TO INTRODUCE MAURITIAN CREOLE IN PARLIAMENT

At the 28th Commonwealth Speakers' Conference which was held from the 14th to the 16th January 2026 in New Delhi, Hon. Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra, Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius, reaffirmed her plans to introduce Mauritian Creole in

parliamentary debates. She stressed that a truly people-centered parliament must use the language most citizens understand, making sessions more inclusive and accessible. This initiative is part of a broader effort to modernize Parliament and strengthen citizen engagement.



(Photo Credit: Le Mauricien)

## [FOREIGN AFFAIRS / DIPLOMACY]

### ● BILL ON CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO AND DIEGO GARCIA MILITARY BASE IN LIMBO



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

On the 24th of January, it has been reported in numerous British press outlets that the British government had withdrawn the Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory Bill from the House of Lords' agenda. This development occurred two days after the House of Commons overwhelmingly rejected the House of Lords' amendments to the bill. This withdrawal also came under increasing pressure from the Conservative opposition and other members of the Anti-Chagos Deal lobby following a hardening of the American position, embodied by US President Donald Trump's Truth Social post on the 20th of

January labelling the agreement an "act of great stupidity".

Underlying this is the emergence of an argument highlighted by British Conservatives regarding the supposed inviolability of a 1966 Anglo-American agreement, which was intended to establish and maintain British sovereignty over Diego Garcia. The Anti-Chagos Deal lobby (notably from the Conservative Party, Reform UK and British Chagossians) is intensifying its campaign with the White House to secure a veto from the US President against the restoration of Mauritius's sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

In relation to the US President's comments, the Mauritian Government, through a statement from the Attorney General's office, responded by emphasizing that the statement was part of a broader geopolitical context and reiterated that the agreement, previously described as historic by the United States, was negotiated exclusively between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Mauritius. Port Louis awaits the continuation of the legislative process in the House of Commons and reaffirms that its sovereignty over the archipelago is recognized under international law.



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

On the 26th of January, faced with criticism and diplomatic tensions, Stephen Doughty, Labour Minister of State for Europe, North America and Overseas Territories, reaffirmed to the House of Commons the UK's commitment to returning the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, while guaranteeing the long-term protection of the strategic UK-US military base on Diego Garcia. "The Government is committed to the agreement that protects the joint UK-US military base on Diego Garcia. We are focused on

implementing this legislation to protect our national security.”

Meanwhile, in Mauritius, Attorney General Gavin Glover also addressed the situation to clarify the matter. “I remain cautiously optimistic,” he declared, emphasizing that the bill had not been withdrawn, contrary to what some press outlets were suggesting. “I note that some information has been misreported. The British government has decided to freeze the bill, not cancel it as some media outlets would have you believe,” Gavin Glover clarified. According to him, this is a temporary freeze on the legislative process, decided as part of a delicate diplomatic context, for a period of approximately two months.

### ● MAURITIUS ON VENEZUELA



(Photo Credit: Le Mauricien)

While the Government of Mauritius has not officially reacted to the US strikes on Venezuela and the capture of President Nicolás Maduro, the Member of Parliament for Constituency No. 6 (Grand-Baie/Poudre-d’Or), Hon. Ram Etwareea, reacted to the event in a post published on his Facebook page on the 3rd of January. He stated that “the US military attack against political and military leaders in Venezuela was unacceptable.” He decried the actions of the United States as a violation of international law. He recalled that while Venezuela and its leadership were not democratic or beyond criticism, they are also not ideologically or geopolitically aligned with the United States, which he deemed within Venezuela’s sovereign rights.

Meanwhile, Mauritius has become part of the network of international jurisdictions engaged in cross-border investigations into money laundering involving ousted Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. Indeed, the

Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) obtained a Criminal Attachment Order from the Supreme Court for €3.5 million, which has been deposited in a commercial bank in Mauritius. The international financial investigation, conducted with the support of US authorities, has implicated a management company incorporated in Mauritius for its alleged role in a vast money laundering scheme linked to corruption in Venezuela. The Financial Services Commission (FSC) has suspended the company’s license, citing serious breaches of compliance and anti-money laundering obligations. The Financial Crimes Commission worked closely with Washington to freeze the €3.5 million suspected of belonging to Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. The money, allegedly the proceeds of embezzlement, was reportedly deposited into a Mauritian offshore bank and paid to the former President of Venezuela through the state-owned oil company *Petróleos de Venezuela S.A.*, or PDVSA.

### ● MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMUNIQUE ON SITUATION IN IRAN

On the 19th of January, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade released a communique addressing the protests in the Islamic Republic of Iran, advising all Mauritian nationals currently in the country to exercise vigilance and avoid potentially risky areas, while also providing a hotline number and email addresses to a crisis cell within the Ministry in case of emergencies.

### ● UNITED STATES–MAURITIUS BILATERAL RELATIONS

#### US AMBASSADOR HENRY JARDINE’S FAREWELL

The Ambassador of the United States of America to Mauritius and Seychelles, H.E. Henry V. Jardine, was one of many US career diplomats to have been recalled by the Trump administration in December 2025. During his last weeks in Mauritius, outgoing Ambassador Jardine paid farewell calls on the Prime Minister, Dr the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Hon. Ritish Ramful. He expressed his gratitude to the Mauritian

government for the cooperation and support extended during his three-year tenure of office.



(Photo Credit: GIS Mauritius)

### **WORKSHOP ON IMPROVING MARITIME SECURITY**

The Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, Dr the Hon. Arvin Boolell, met representatives of the Institute for Security Governance of the United States (US) Department of Defense, namely Ms. Jessie Evans and Mr. Jay Hall, on the 12th of January in presence of Junior Minister Hon. Fabrice David, at the seat of the Ministry in Port-Louis. The US delegation is currently in Mauritius to conduct a workshop on improving maritime security in the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), in collaboration with the Mauritius Security forces.

### **WORKSHOP ON CYBERCRIME**

A Regional Training Workshop on Cybercrime, Virtual Assets and Digital Evidence, jointly organised by the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), the US Department of Justice, Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training and the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), kickstarted on the 19th of January, at the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre in Plaine Magnien. The workshop brought together professionals from Mauritius and Seychelles, alongside the Programme Manager, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Mr. Jeffrey Rees. The five-day workshop aimed to upgrade the investigative and prosecutorial capacities of Mauritian and regional institutions. It sought to strengthen cross-border cooperation, improve the handling and admissibility of digital evidence, and build skills to effectively investigate and disrupt cyber-enabled and

transnational financial crimes. Moreover, it aimed to bolster Mauritius' position as a regional hub for combating cybercrime.

### **WORKSHOP ON PORT SAFETY AND DISASTER READINESS**

A two-day Defence Threat Reduction Agency Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) table-top exercise planning workshop was organised by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (NDRRMC) on the 20th and 21st of January. It was attended by 33 participants representing 26 stakeholder institutions, including the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service, Mauritius Police Force, Special Mobile Force, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Customs Department, Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations, Mauritius Ports Authority and other relevant agencies. The workshop formed part of an ongoing capacity-building initiative aimed at enhancing technical and operational response capabilities, strengthening inter-agency collaboration and consolidating Mauritius-United States cooperation in disaster risk reduction and emergency management.

### **● VIN D'HONNEUR HOSTED BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**



(Photo Credit: GIS Mauritius)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Hon. Ritish Ramful, delivered a speech at a Vin d'honneur hosted on the 15th January at the Maritim Resort & Spa Mauritius in Balaclava. Organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, the event was an occasion to reflect on the past achievements and contributions of the diplomatic

community as well as to chart the way forward through constructive diplomacy and enhanced regional and global engagement. Minister Ramful stated that Mauritius's foreign policy will focus on buttressing economic diplomacy, sustainable growth, climate resilience, strategic partnerships, and regional integration, in line with the Government Programme 2025–2029 and the long-term goals of Vision 2050.

Among key developments, he spoke about Mauritius hosting the 9th Indian Ocean Conference in April 2026 and the 18th United States–Africa Business Summit in July 2026, as well as Mauritius' participation in the World Expo 2025 in Osaka and the Mauritius–European Union Partnership Dialogue, the ongoing resolution of the Chagos Archipelago sovereignty dispute, working closely with regional blocs and partners and the election of Mauritius at the United Nations Human Rights Council for the 2026–2028 term.

### ● EMBASSY OF CHINA IN MAURITIUS HOSTS SPRING FESTIVAL RECEPTION



(Photo Credit: GIS Mauritius)

In the context of the upcoming Spring Festival, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to Mauritius, H.E. Dr Huang Shifang, hosted a reception, on the 21st of January, at the Trianon Convention Centre. During the event, Hon. Ritesh Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, underlined that diplomatic relations between Mauritius and the PRC were formally established in 1972, but that ties between the two countries date back much earlier, with the presence of a Chinese community in Mauritius since the 1800s. The Minister further referred to PRC's continued support to Mauritius

through several initiatives, including cultural, language, and infrastructure projects and reaffirmed the commitment of both sides to deepen cooperation, with regard to the Free Trade Agreement between the two countries. On her part, Ambassador Shifang reaffirmed her country's support for multilateralism and South–South cooperation. She expressed confidence that bilateral relations would continue to deepen through enhanced economic integration, cultural exchanges and closer collaboration at regional and international levels.

### ● WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA VISITS MAURITIUS



(Photo Credit: GIS Mauritius)

The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa, Dr Mohamed Janabi, undertook an official visit to Mauritius from the 20th to the 23rd of January. During his stay, Dr Janabi participated in courtesy calls on Dr the Hon. Navin Ramgoolam, Prime Minister, and Hon. Anil Bachoo, Minister of Health and Wellness, as well as a series of official meetings, events, and field visits to strengthen the existing collaboration between Mauritius and the WHO. Dr Janabi pointed out that Mauritius recently successfully secured a pooled procurement award with seven other Small Island States, for the purchase of essential medicines, leading to lower procurement costs. He also lauded Mauritius for its low maternal mortality rate and robust tobacco control measures aimed at curbing consumption. He further urged Mauritians to adopt regular physical activity, such as walking and cycling, and to embrace balanced and healthier dietary habits. Lastly, he participated in the Charles Telfair Symposium on Health, conducted field

visits to several health facilities, including the Cardiac Centre at SSRN Hospital and the Triolet Mediclinic.

## ● GREENPEACE AFRICA ESTABLISHES OFFICE IN MAURITIUS



(Photo Credit: GIS Mauritius)

Greenpeace Africa has established an office in Mauritius. The official inauguration was held on the 14th of January at the Hennessy Park Hotel in Ebene, in the presence of the Junior Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, Hon. Joanna Bérenger, and the Executive Director of Greenpeace Africa, Dr Oulie Keita. The establishment of a Greenpeace Africa office in Mauritius marks a major step in advancing regional cooperation on environmental and climate action, while consolidating the country's position as a key hub for dialogue and leadership on ocean and climate issues across the Indian Ocean and Africa, said the Junior Minister.

## ● 9<sup>TH</sup> INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE

“The Collective Stewardship for Indian Ocean Governance” will serve as the central theme of the 9th Indian Ocean Conference, scheduled to take place in Mauritius from the 10th to the 12th of April 2026. Organized in collaboration with the India Foundation, the conference aims to provide a high-level dialogue platform and promote collaboration among Indian Ocean states as well as international partners on matters of common interest such as maritime security, trade, climate change adaptation, and sustainable ocean governance while reinforcing Mauritius's position as a regional hub for maritime cooperation. The program will include an opening session, thematic panels and plenary discussions focused on three main

themes: 1. freedom of navigation, 2. maritime law and governance, and 3. maritime security.

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## JAPAN IN MAURITIUS

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### ● LECTURE ON BLUE ECONOMY BY PROFESSOR YAMASHITA



On the 14th of January, the Embassy of Japan in Mauritius, in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), hosted a lecture on ‘Promotion of “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” through the Advancement of Fishery Blue Economy’ by Professor YAMASHITA Haruko of Daito Bunka University, Japan, an expert in fisheries economics. The event, held at the Caudan Arts Centre, was attended by officials of the Government of Mauritius, members of the diplomatic corps and UN agencies, university representatives, think tanks, NGOs, students, and the media. In her lecture, Professor Yamashita introduced concepts of the blue economy within Japanese fisheries, such as “Umi-gyō” (Marine Industry) and “Satoumi” (Beautiful Coastal Home Town), initiatives in Japanese fishing villages, as well as insights into the importance of further advancing the blue economy in Mauritius.

### ● INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF ODYSSEO MARINE STATION

On the 15th of January, an inauguration ceremony was held for the Odysseo Marine Station, a research facility established jointly by the University of Mauritius and the Odysseo Foundation. The station promotes a regenerative blue economy and aims to

restore and strengthen the ocean economy without compromising marine ecosystems. This research facility is supported by the MOL Charitable Trust, founded by the Japanese company Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd., and includes research collaboration with Shizuoka University. Through this cooperation, Japanese knowledge and expertise contribute to sustainable research, monitoring, and conservation of the coral reef environment in Mauritius. The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of Dr the Hon. Kaviraj Sukon, Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research and Ambassador KAN Masahiro.



**● FIFTH ROUND OF MOL CHARITABLE TRUST GRANT AWARD CEREMONY**



On the 27th of January, the grant award ceremony was held for NGOs selected under the fifth round of the MOL Charitable Trust, established by Mitsui O.S.K. Lines. The ceremony was held in the presence of the Hon. Ritish Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, as well as Members of Parliament. Ambassador KAN praised the efforts of the 13 selected NGOs and highlighted the continued commitment of MOL (Mauritius) Ltd to

environmental conservation and community development, noting that the company’s activities have further strengthened the bonds of friendship between the peoples of Japan and Mauritius. Minister Ramful also emphasized the important role played by local NGOs in environmental protection and sustainable development, as well as the significance of international cooperation. The initiatives have contributed to the restoration of fragile coastlines, the protection of marine ecosystems, raising environmental awareness among young people, and strengthening community resilience.

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**ECONOMY**

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**● MAURITIUS CROSSES 1.4 MILLION TOURIST ARRIVALS IN 2025**

Mauritius welcomed 1,436,250 tourists in 2025, up 3.9 % compared with 2024 (1,382,177 arrivals), based on data from Statistics Mauritius. December alone recorded 161,440 arrivals, up 4.7 % compared with December 2024, confirming strong year-end momentum for the tourism sector.

**● VISION 2050: A DEFINING TEST FOR THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF MAURITIUS.**

Following its launch in December 2025, Mauritius started its Vision 2050 national consultation process on the 15th of January with a first strategic dialogue in Ebène. It brought together key industry stakeholders to shape the country’s long-term development roadmap. While the initiative reflects bold ambition, experts caution that its success will depend on governance reform, fiscal discipline, and the nation’s ability to navigate global uncertainty.

Dr (Mrs.) Jyoti Jeetun, Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning, highlighted the importance of stakeholder engagement in co-constructing the national vision. She stressed that the long-term plan seeks to transform Mauritius into a high-income, resilient economy, calling on private sector partners, civil society, and citizens to contribute ideas that will guide policy and investment decisions for decades to come. A dedicated website has been launched to enable public submissions of views and proposals. Minister Dr Jeetun noted that consultations will be

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\*The content of the monthly is based on media reports in Mauritius.

conducted both thematically and regionally, with the exercise scheduled to conclude by early April 2026.

### ● WORLD BANK FORECASTS 3.4% ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR MAURITIUS IN 2026

On the 20th of January, the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects projected that Mauritius will achieve approximately 3.4% economic growth in 2026, despite ongoing global uncertainties. The forecast, released in the Bank's early 2026 outlook, was highlighted in local media coverage as part of broader reporting on the country's economic trajectory.

### ● CONSUMER SPENDING EXPECTED TO SLOW DOWN IN EARLY 2026

Mauritian households were expected to adopt a cautious approach to consumption in January 2026, prioritizing essential categories such as food, housing, transport, and services. Representatives from consumer and retail associations note that this restraint is largely driven by post-holiday budget pressures and heightened price sensitivity, even as inflation is projected to remain moderate.

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## ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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### ● AFRICA EMERGING AS STRATEGIC PILLAR OF MAURITIAN EXPORTS

According to the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Export Insights 2025 report, the share of exports to the African continent has increased from 19% in 2015 to 28% in 2024, representing an estimated value of Rs 23 billion. This growth is largely due to Mauritius' preferential access to 54 African countries. Thanks to regional agreements with SADC, COMESA, and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), 98% of Mauritian exports to Africa are duty-free, strengthening the competitiveness of local products in these markets. Trade remains highly concentrated. South Africa, Madagascar, and Kenya alone account for 88% of Mauritian exports to Africa. South Africa remains the leading African market, receiving 40% of exports to the continent, followed by Madagascar (36.5%) and Kenya (10.3%).

### ● AGOA EXTENSION ACT



(Photo Credit: Top FM Mauritius)

On the 12th of January, the US House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the AGOA Extension Act, which aims to extend and adjust certain key provisions of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The new legislation primarily extends the preferential treatment period by three years, pushing back the current deadline from the 30th September 2025 to 31st December 2028.

In Mauritius, the decision has been met with great satisfaction. Hon. Ritish Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, spoke of a real "breath of fresh air" for local exporters. According to the Minister, some twenty Mauritian companies are directly export-oriented under AGOA and employ approximately 21,000 workers.

"But in the meantime, Mauritius is one of the countries that will reach what is called High Income Status. And in five years, we will no longer be eligible for AGOA," he warns. This prospect is already prompting the government to prepare for the post-AGOA era. Hon. Adil Ameer Meea, Minister of Industry and SMEs, indicated that negotiations are underway with the United States with a view to concluding a more structured and sustainable bilateral agreement.

**● EARTHQUAKES IN RODRIGUES**

(Photo Credit: L' Express Maurice)

On the 6th of January, a magnitude 5.4 earthquake has been recorded at 2:09 p.m. in the area of Rodrigues. According to information released by the Mauritius Meteorological Services, the epicentre was located approximately 77 kilometres northeast of Rodrigues, at coordinates 19.2° south and 63.9° east, with an estimated depth of 10 kilometres. It resulted in no casualties or serious material damage.

The Chief Commissioner of Rodrigues, Hon. Franceau Grandcourt, G.O.S.K., appealed for calm in a press conference, emphasizing this was the first time an earthquake of this magnitude had been felt on the island and that there was no material damage following the tremors. He also reassured that the possibility of a tsunami remained very low. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (NDRRMC), the Rodrigues Emergency Operations Command and the Vacoas Meteorological Station were monitoring the situation very closely.

Thereafter, on the 10th of January, a second earthquake of magnitude 5.5 was recorded east of Rodrigues, but was not felt on the island. According to information released by the Mauritius Meteorological Services, the quake occurred at 7:22 a.m., approximately 302 km east of Rodrigues. The earthquake's epicenter was located at an estimated depth of 10 km. No vibrations were felt in Rodrigues, and no damage has been reported.

**● CHIKUNGUNYA CASES IN MAURITIUS**

(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

A local outbreak of chikungunya remains under close surveillance in Mauritius. Cases have been reported in Rose Hill, Beau Bassin, Roches-Brunes and Camp Levieux and Petite-Rivière. Since the beginning of the year, 16 cases of chikungunya have been recorded. The elderly and those with underlying health conditions remain more vulnerable to mosquito-borne diseases.

Current climatic conditions create a favourable environment for the proliferation of mosquitoes, the main vectors of chikungunya. The Ministry of Health is therefore calling on the public to be extra vigilant and to adopt preventative measures.

**● MPOX CASES IN REUNION AND MADAGASCAR**

(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

In response to the increasing number of Mpox (monkeypox) cases in Madagascar and the first reported case in Réunion, Mauritius is intensifying controls at its port and airport to protect its borders from any contamination. Madagascar now has 133 confirmed cases, while the first case has been detected in Réunion. Given this concerning regional situation, the Mauritian Ministry of Health has strengthened surveillance. A coordination meeting

was held with the various health departments to implement a reinforced security protocol at both the port and the airport to prevent any introduction of the virus into Mauritian territory.

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## SPORTS

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### ● PARA-ATHLETICS: NOEMI ALPHONSE SETS NEW CONTINENTAL RECORD, OOZEER REACHES THIRD PLACE

Mauritian para-athlete Noemi Alphonse has set a new African record in the 10 km wheelchair race on the 26th of January in Sydney, during the race organised to mark Australia Day. The Mauritian sprinter and long-distance runner took the second place behind Australian Paralympic champion Madison de Rozario. She completed the 10 kilometres in 27 minutes 22 seconds, a time that sets a new continental record and brings the number of African records to her name to eight. Also, at the end of January, during the Summer Down Under Series, another Australian para-athletics competition, Mehfooz Oozeer of Mauritius reached third place in the final of the 1500 metres wheelchair race (T54). He completed the distance with a time of 3:46.47, winning the bronze medal.

### ● VOLLEY-BALL: THE TOWN OF BEAU-BASSIN/ROSE-HILL (BBRH) IS TRIUMPHANT

The BBRH team won the Inter-City Games tournament which resumed on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January with the volleyball competition. Organised by The Association of Urban Authorities (AUA), the event was held at the James Burty David Gymnasium in Curepipe and brought together five women's teams from five cities, namely Beau-Bassin/Rose-Hill (BBRH), Port Louis, Curepipe, Quatre Bornes and Vacoas-Phoenix.

### ● KAGAMI BIRAKI CEREMONY BY THE RED TIGER AND SHOBUKAN KARATE SCHOOL

On the 25th of January, Ambassador KAN Masahiro attended the Kagami Biraki ceremony organized by the Red Tiger and Shobukan Karate School at the Shobukan dojo in Le Bouchon. During the ceremony, a commemorative tree planting and the unveiling of a

commemorative plate were conducted. In addition, a karate demonstration was performed by students under the founding master, Mr. Kooram Venkamah, followed by the awarding of black belts to those who had been promoted.



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## CULTURE

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### ● JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL: JANUARY 2026 – PERFECT DAYS



(Photo Credit: Le Mauricien)

On the 24th of January, the Japanese Film Festival (JFF) – Mauritian Public's Choice was held at the MCine cinema theatre in Trianon, featuring the screening of the film 'Perfect Days'. This event, which was organized by the Embassy of Japan, brought the Japanese German co-produced movie to the screen, to the delight of the Mauritian audience who have made the request for this film during the past editions of the festival. The film is described as an ode to the beauty of ordinary gestures, conveyed through a contemplative gaze and an exceptional actor. 'Perfect Days' was directed by internationally renowned director Wim Wenders. It made its world premiere on 23 May 2023 at the 76th Cannes Film Festival, where it competed for the Palme d'Or. The film won the Best Actor Award, which went to Kōji Yakusho, praised for the subtlety and restraint of his performance.

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**Please visit us on Facebook!**

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**<Announcement from Cultural PR Section>**

We have started the application process for JET Programme 2026, which is an excellent opportunity to live and work in Japan.

**\*WHAT IS JAPAN EXCHANGE AND TEACHING (JET) PROGRAMME?**

The JET Programme seeks to enhance internationalization in Japan by encouraging mutual understanding between the people of Japan and those of other nations including Mauritius through the enrichment of foreign language education and promotion of international exchange at the local level. The Programme achieves its objectives by offering JET Programme participants the opportunity to serve in public and private elementary, junior high, and senior high schools in Japan as Assistant Language Teachers (ALT). The Embassy has dispatched one Mauritian national every year as ALT since 2021.

For the first time in Mauritius, there are 4 ALT slots available for Mauritian nationals in three cities of Japan at once, namely:

- Akita City, Akita Prefecture
- Shizuoka City, Shizuoka Prefecture
- Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture (2 slots)

For more details, please see below more information – the deadline for the submission of application documents to the Embassy is Friday 13th March 2026:

[https://www.mu.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_ja/11\\_000001\\_00659.html](https://www.mu.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00659.html)

You can check JET Participant’s experience from our Facebook page from below.

We will post a series of introduction of the above three cities and another participant’s experience soon.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16qqApYiPx/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1CUzVsdBYi/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1K9fEtvK7m/>

If you have any questions on JET Programme, please send an email to [japanembassy@mx.mofa.go.jp](mailto:japanembassy@mx.mofa.go.jp).

We are looking forward to receiving your application.

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