

SHIMA NEWS DIGEST

EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN MAURITIUS
AUGUST 2026



DOMESTIC POLITICS



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

On 6 August, following a letter to President Gokhool from the Front Militant Progresis (FMP), currently the largest opposition party by number of MPs, Joe Lesjongard (MSM) has resigned as the Leader of the Opposition, while Chetan Baboolall (FMP) was appointed as the new Leader of the Opposition. Meanwhile, Adrien Duval (PMSD) also resigned as the Whip of the Opposition and was succeeded by Joanna Berenger (FMP).

On 4 August, Junior Minister of Arts and Culture, Véronique Leu-Govind (ND), resigned amidst an investigation opened into her husband's suspected involvement in a drug trafficking case. Subsequently, a reshuffle took place among Junior Ministers, with Tony Appolon (MMM) appointed as Junior Minister for Youth & Sports, Anabelle Savabaddy (PTr) for Tourism, and Karen Foo Kune-Bacha (MMM) for the Environment portfolio.

On 31 July, the Finance Bill 2026 and the Economic and Financial Measures (Miscellaneous

Provisions) Bill 2026 were both adopted in the National Assembly with 55 out of 66 MPs voting in favour. Six MPs voted against the adoption of the Bills, including five from the Opposition and the sixth being Sydney Pierre (PTr), Junior Minister of Tourism, who was dismissed from this position by Prime Minister Ramgoolam for voting against the government. The Finance Bill provides further prominence to the government's economic and fiscal agenda, and generated intense debate and popular protest actions over the impact of its policies on the population.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DIPLOMACY



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

On 17 August, Prime Minister Ramgoolam took part in the 46th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) held in Durban, South Africa. The participation of Mauritius in the SADC Summit demonstrated the country's commitment to regional integration and cooperation with SADC countries with a view to exploring new trade and investment opportunities.

Regarding negotiations between Mauritius and the United Kingdom on sovereignty on the Chagos

Archipelago, a virtual high-level meeting between the two countries has been scheduled for September to discuss progress on the issue of the retrocession of the islands. Representatives from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) will discuss with Attorney General Gavin Glover and his colleagues.



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

On 27 August, the Ambassador of the French Republic to Mauritius, Mr Frédéric Bontems, paid a farewell courtesy call on Prime Minister Ramgoolam, as he concluded his three-year tenure in Mauritius. Mr Bontems left Mauritius on Saturday 29 August. Meanwhile, Heinrich Giovanni April, South Africa's newly appointed High Commissioner to Mauritius, presented his credentials to President Gokhool on 18 August.

ECONOMY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The feasibility study report for a liquefied natural gas (LNG) power plant at Fort William is set to be finalized by December 2026. According to sources within the Ministry of Energy and Utilities, the Indian government will be responsible for conducting the study. Both Japan and Qatar have also shown keen interest in this 500-megawatt gas power plant.

The U.S. Senate has passed Bill H.R. 6500 by a vote of 90 to 6, extending the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) preferential trade regime granted to sub-Saharan African countries until 31 December 2028, without altering current conditions. For Mauritius, this vote points to a continued extension of preferential access to the US market, a crucial development as the Mauritian textile and apparel sector operates within an increasingly

competitive international environment. However, the bill must now be considered by the House of Representatives; as the House is currently in recess, it is expected to resume its work in early September.



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

The Prime Minister Ramgoolam, informed the National Assembly that the Economic Development Board (EDB) has on record some 523 private investment projects for a total amount of Rs 649.7 billion. These figures are reported in the EDB's latest Newsletter published in August 2026.

The Central Bank of Mauritius unanimously decided to leave its key repo rate steady at 4.75% on August 12, 2026.

SOCIETY AND SECURITY



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

On 7 August, due to the ongoing outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Cabinet of Ministers has agreed to the extension of the quarantine period for a further period of one month, from 8 August 2026 to 7 September 2026.

On 7 August, the Cabinet of Ministers has agreed to the promulgation of the Central Water Authority (Dry Season) Regulations 2026 which makes provision for

the sustainable management of the scarce water resources in light of acute rainfall deficits and seek to control the use of potable water for domestic and essential purposes mainly. This includes restrictions on water usage other than for domestic purpose such as washing of vehicles; cleaning of buildings, driveways and pavements; watering of lawn, garden and hedges; filling or refilling of swimming pools; and irrigation of sugarcane. The Regulations became effective as from 10 August 2026 and are expected to remain valid up to 30 November 2026.



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

On 4 August, a seaplane operating aerial tours of the south coast of Mauritius for leisure and tourists crashed into the lagoon at La Prairie near Le Morne. The crash killed the passenger, a tourist from Poland, and left the pilot severely injured and hospitalized. An investigation has been launched into the causes of the crash.

JAPAN IN MAURITIUS



The MOL Charitable Trust, in collaboration with the Grand Port District Council, donated two new children's playgrounds on 6 August. They are located at the Résidence La Chaix Social Centre and the Mahébourg Waterfront.

A half-day Masterclass on "Kaizen for Resilient Growth in Mauritius: Building Productivity, Competitiveness and Innovation" was organised by the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC), in collaboration with the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC), on 27 August at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation, Côte d'Or. The Masterclass aimed at equipping participants with practical Kaizen tools and methodologies to address key challenges facing organisations, including labour shortages, rising operating costs, supply chain disruptions and intensifying global competition.

SPORTS AND CULTURE



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

On 6 August, Mauritian professional cyclist Kimberley Le Court finished in 9th position overall and won Stage 6 of the 2026 Tour de France Femmes. As such, she became the first African cyclist to win two career stages at the Tour de France Femmes. She later came out victorious in the UK by winning the overall general classification at the 2026 Lloyds Tour of Britain Women on Sunday 23 August.

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