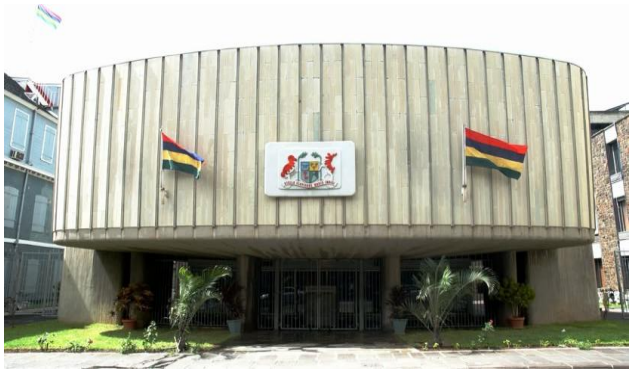
MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN MAURITIUS
SEPTEMBER 2026

EMBASSY OF JAPAN
IN MAURITIUS

DOMESTIC POLITICS



(Photo Credit: Government of Mauritius)

On 1 September, the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill was adopted by the National Assembly, toughening measures against driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, while also introducing higher penalties, digital procedures and provisions allowing for the seizure of vehicles in certain cases. The amendments came into effect on 30 September, except for the Digital Driving Licence which will be fully operational as from 1 January 2027, the seizure of vehicles and the online payment for fines.

On 4 September, the Cabinet took note of several legislative texts related to the creation of the National Crimes Agency (NCA) which will replace the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC). Several bills relating to the NCA, financial crime and asset recovery have been circulated to Members of Parliament. The proposed legislation has led to debates among opposition parties, particularly regarding the independence of the new agency, its structure and its investigative powers.

Former Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth was questioned by police as part of an investigation concerning telephone-surveillance equipment acquired during his time in office. He appeared for questioning on 1 and 17 September. The second session was adjourned at his request.

Political discussions among opposition groups continued during September. Nando Bodha, leader of the Rassemblement Mauricien, confirmed that he had held discussions with Paul Bérenger of the Fron Militan Progresis (FMP) regarding the possibility of working towards an alternative political arrangement.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DIPLOMACY



(Photo Credit: L'express)

On 21 September, PM Navin Ramgoolam held a telephone discussion with British PM Andy Burnham. They discussed the future of the Diego Garcia military base and agreed to continue working together with the United States.

Later the next day, after a bilateral meeting with PM Burnham, US President Trump criticised the deal as a terrible deal and stated that he doesn't support it. Following these developments, the UK defense

secretary told the BBC that the UK would review the agreement and suspend the planned payment linked to the lease of Diego Garcia. PM Ramgoolam reiterated that Mauritius' sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago was non-negotiable and confirmed his intention to continue discussions with the UK through diplomatic channels.

On 26 September, PM Ramgoolam went to London and will hold discussions with Jonathan Powell, National Security Adviser to the British Prime Minister on the latest developments related to the implementation of the Chagos agreement.



(Photo Credit: United Nations)

At the United Nations (UN) meeting on 25 September, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mauritius, Dhananjay (Ritish) Ramful, gave a speech where he stated that the sovereignty over the Chagos Islands is a non-negociable issue for Mauritius, and that Tromelin Island is an integral part of the Mauritian territory. He also reaffirmed Mauritius' support for an independent Palestinian state while highlighting the impact of regional instability on maritime routes. He called for greater climate finance and stronger protection for small island states against the effects of sea-level rise. Minister Ramful further called for greater representation of developing countries in international institutions, reiterated Mauritius' support for India's candidature for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council and for the positions of the G4 (Japan, India, Brazil and Germany) on Council reform. He also highlighted the importance of international cooperation on artificial intelligence, maritime security and cybercrime. He also had bilateral meetings with the UK Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband and the Assistant Secretary for African Affairs where they spoke about trade, maritime security and the upcoming U.S.-Africa Business Summit in Mauritius.

ECONOMY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION



(Photo Credit: Bank of Mauritius)

On 3 September, the Bank of Mauritius launched BOM STATS, its new statistical data platform, at the Central Bank's Aunauth Beejadhur Auditorium. According to BoM Governor Dr. Priscilla Muthoora Thakoor, BOM STATS is based on the African Development Bank's Open Data Platform. Statistical data, previously distributed in PDF or Excel files or accessible through individual downloads, can now be consulted more easily. They are also accompanied by standard-compliant descriptions.

On 1 September, the US House of Representatives approved the extension of AGOA until 31 December 2028. Thereafter, on 2 September, President Trump signed into law H.R. 6500, which includes a two-year extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Prior to that, on 8 August, the legislation had been passed by the US Senate.

On 7 September, Mr. Geerja Shankar Rajah Ramdaursingh officially took up his position as Chief Executive Officer of the Economic Development Board (EDB). He is a Fellow Chartered Accountant and holder of the distinction of Grand Officer of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (GOSK), and has approximately 40 years of experience in the fields of investment and finance, both in Mauritius and abroad.

Mauritius' international reserves have reached approximately MUR 485.92 billion at the end of August, after the decline observed in July. With a coverage of 14.4 months of imports excluding Global Business services and 10.5 months including these services, the country retains a large cushion of foreign exchange to

meet its external needs.

The Mauritian rupee has lost nearly 3% of its value in one year against the basket of currencies of our main trading partners. The Mauritian economy continues to record a structural trade deficit.

According to the latest statistics published by Statistics Mauritius for July 2026, electricity generation rose 4% year-on-year in June 2026, reaching 247.09 million kWh. Although solar power soared by 33.5%, overall renewable energy output fell by 5.4%. To make up the deficit, coal-fired generation increased by 14.7%.

SOCIETY AND SECURITY



(Photo Credit: Défi Media)

Influenza cases recorded in Mauritius' public health facilities increased significantly, from 3,564 cases between 24-30 August to 5,028 cases between 14-20 September. The Ministry of Health considers the situation normal, while doctors suggest that changing temperatures, pollution and other environmental factors may be contributing to the spread and longer-lasting symptoms. Health authorities recommend staying hydrated, practising good hygiene, avoiding unnecessary antibiotics and seeking medical attention if symptoms persist for more than seven days; flu vaccination is also available in hospitals, particularly for young children, people aged 60 and above, and those with weakened immunity or underlying health conditions.

As of 28 September, the country's main reservoir is at 37.3% capacity. The Director of the Water Resources Commission, Mr Jugoo announced that the Mare-aux-Vacoas reservoir could reach the critical 20% fill level by the end of November 2026 and called for a more judicious use of water. Stricter measures could be applied if the situation worsens.



(Photo Credit: Défi Media)

JAPAN IN MAURITIUS



(Photo Credit: Embassy of Japan in Mauritius)

On 28 September, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives and the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) of Mauritius, organised a High-Level Seminar under the JICA Chair Programme, highlighting Japan's development experience and approach to productivity improvement. Professor Izumi Ohno of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) shared insights and lessons from Japan, alongside experiences from Singapore, Thailand and Ethiopia. A further JICA Chair Conference was held on 29 September, continuing the exchange of knowledge and perspectives among government institutions, the private sector and other stakeholders.

SPORTS AND CULTURE

Jiujiteiro Ajmal Bhojul has become the third Mauritian to be crowned Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu world champion. He achieved this feat on 3 September, at the SJJIF World Championships in Tokyo, Japan. The Mauritian athlete won the gold medal following an impressive run in the brown belt open division. Other Mauritian competitors also performed well at the championship.



(Photo Credit: 5plus)

****

<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

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/

****