



**EIGHTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**PARLIAMENTARY**

**DEBATES**

**(HANSARD)**

**(UNREVISED)**

**FIRST SESSION**

**Friday 29 NOVEMBER 2024**

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**(Formed by Dr. the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam)**

Dr. the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP	Prime Minister,  Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications,  Minister of Finance,  Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands
Hon. Paul Raymond Bérenger, GCSK.	Deputy Prime Minister
Hon. Shakeel Ahmed Yousuf Abdul Razack Mohamed	Minister of Housing and Lands,
Hon. Rajesh Anand Bhagwan	Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
Dr. the Hon. Arvin Boolell, GOSK.	Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries
Hon. Govindranath Gunness	Minister of National Infrastructure
Hon. Anil Kumar Bachoo, GOSK.	Minister of Health and Wellness
Hon. Christian Harold Richard Duval	Minister of Tourism
Hon. Ashok Kumar Subron	Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity
Dr. the Hon. Mrs Jyoti Jeetun	Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning
Hon. Patrick Gervais Assirvaden	Minister of Energy and Public Utilities
Hon. Dhananjay Ramful	Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade

Hon. Darmarajen Nagalingum	Minister of Youth and Sports
Hon. Muhammad Reza Cassam Uteem	Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations
Hon. Mahomed Osman Cassam Mahomed	Minister of Land Transport
Hon. Mrs Marie Arianne Navarre-Marie	Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare
Hon. John Michaël Tzoun Sao Yeung Sik Yuen	Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection
Dr. the Hon. Kaviraj Sharma Sukon	Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research
Hon. Sayed Muhammad Aadil Ameer Meea	Minister of Industry, SMEs and Cooperatives
Dr. the Hon. Mahend Gungapersad, PDSM.	Minister of Education and Human Resource
Dr. the Hon. Avinash Ramtohil	Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation
Hon. Lutchmanah Pentiah	Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reforms
Hon. Ranjiv Woochit, OSK	Minister of Local Government
Hon. Mahendra Gondeea, OSK	Minister of Arts and Culture

**PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS**

Madam Speaker	Hon. Mrs Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra
Deputy Speaker	Hon. Vedasingam Vasudevachariar Baloomoody
Deputy Chairperson of Committees	Hon. Mohamed Ehsan Juman
Acting Clerk of the National Assembly	Gopall, Mr Navin
Clerk Assistant	Seetul, Ms Darshinee
Clerk Assistant	Naika-Cahanee, Mrs Prishnee
Clerk Assistant	Tayelamay, Mr Niteshen
Adviser, Hansard Matters	Allet, Mrs Marie-Hélène Caroline
Assistant Hansard Editor	Hurdoss, Miss Doushika
Parliamentary Librarian and Information Officer	Jeewoonarain, Ms Prittydevi
Acting Serjeant-at-Arms	Seegobin, Mr Somduth

**MAURITIUS**

**Eighth National Assembly**

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**FIRST SESSION**

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**Debate No. 01 of 2024**

**Sitting of Friday 29 November 2024**

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Port Louis, at 3.00 p.m.

**The National Anthem was played**

*(The Mace is brought into the House by the Serjeant-at-Arms and is laid under the Table).*

*The National Anthem is played.*

**The Ag. Clerk:** Please be seated. Thank you.

Proclamation opening the First Session of the Eighth National Assembly.

Hon. Ministers and hon. Members, today's Sitting is being held following the issue of Proclamation No. 50 of 2024, under the hand and seal of His Excellency, Mr Prithvirajsing Roopun, Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean, President of the Republic of Mauritius. I shall, in compliance with Standing Order 3 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly 1995, read out the Proclamation.

**Proclamation No. 50 of 2024**

**TO PROCLAIM THE OPENING OF THE  
FIRST SESSION OF THE EIGHTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**PRITHVIRAJ SING ROOPUN**

*President of the Republic of Mauritius*

PRITHVIRAJ SING ROOPUN – *By His Excellency Mr PRITHVIRAJ SING ROOPUN, Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean, President of the Republic of Mauritius*

*&c. &c. &c.*

**WHEREAS** by section 56(1) of the Constitution of Mauritius, it is provided that the sessions of the National Assembly shall be held in such place and begin at such time as the President by Proclamation may appoint;

**AND WHEREAS** it is further enacted by section 56(4) of the Constitution that a session of the National Assembly shall be appointed to commence within thirty days of the date prescribed for polling at any general election;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** in the exercise of the powers vested in me as aforesaid, I do

hereby proclaim that the First Session of the Eighth National Assembly shall begin on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of November two thousand and twenty-four, and that the first Sitting of the Eighth National Assembly in its First Session shall be held on the day aforesaid at 15 00 hours in the Chamber of the Assembly in Port Louis.

Given at State House, Le Réduit, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of November two thousand and twenty-four.

**Administration of Oath of Allegiance to or Affirmation or Declaration by Members.**

Hon. Members, Standing Order 4(1) of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly requires that Oath of Allegiance to or Affirmation or Declaration shall be subscribed or made, as the case may be, prior to any Member taking part in the proceedings of the Assembly, other than the proceedings necessary for the purpose of this Order.

I shall, therefore, proceed in the following order: Dr. the Hon. Prime Minister, Leader of the House, will be called first, followed by the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and hon. Ministers in turn in order of precedence to come to the upper step, first to make and subscribe the Oath of Allegiance to or Affirmation or Declaration prescribed in Schedule 3 of the Constitution and sign the Roll of Membership at the Table prior to taking their respective seats.

Thereafter, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, hon. Junior Ministers, in order of precedence, followed by hon. Members in alphabetical order, shall be invited to come forward to make and subscribe the Oath of Allegiance prescribed in Schedule 3 of the Constitution and sign the Roll of Membership and to take their respective seats.

As such, we will start.

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO MEMBERS**

The following hon. Members made and subscribed before the Assembly, the Oath of Allegiance prescribed in the Third Schedule of the Constitution and signed the Roll of Membership –

Dr. the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP (Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands)

Hon. Paul Raymond Bérenger, GCSK (Deputy Prime Minister)

Hon. Shakeel Ahmed Yousuf Abdul Razack Mohamed (Minister of Housing and Lands)



Hon. Rajesh Anand Bhagwan (Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change)

Dr. the Hon. Arvin Boolell, GOSK (Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries)

Hon. Govindranath Gunness (Minister of National Infrastructure)

Hon. Anil Kumar Bachoo, GOSK (Minister of Health and Wellness)

Hon. Christian Harold Richard Duval (Minister of Tourism)

Hon. Ashok Kumar Subron (Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity)

Dr. the Hon. Mrs Jyoti Jeetun (Minister of Financial Services and Economy Planning)

Hon. Patrick Gervais Assirvaden (Minister of Energy and Public Utilities)

Hon. Dhananjay Ramful (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade)

Hon. Darmarajen Nagalingum (Minister of Youth and Sports)

Hon. Muhammad Reza Cassam Uteem (Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations)

Hon. Mahomed Osman Cassam Mahomed (Minister of Land Transport)

Hon. Mrs Marie Arianne Navarre-Marie (Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare)

Hon. John Michaël Tzoun Sao Yeung Sik Yuen (Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection)

Dr. the Hon. Kaviraj Sharma Sukon (Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research)

Hon. Sayed Muhammad Aadil Ameer Meea (Minister of Industry, SMEs and Co-operatives)

Dr. the Hon. Mahend Gungapersad, PDSM (Minister of Education and Human Resource)

Dr. the Hon. Avinash Ramtohol (Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation)

Hon. Lutchmanah Pentiah (Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reforms)

Hon. Ranjiv Woochit, OSK (Minister of Local Government)

Hon. Mahendra Gondeea, OSK (Minister of Arts and Culture)

Hon. Georges Pierre Lesjongard (Leader of the Opposition)

Hon. Dhaneshwar Damry (Junior Minister of Finance)

Hon. Ms Joanna Marie Bérenger (Junior Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change)

Hon. Gilles Fabrice David (Junior Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries)

Hon. Mrs Eileen Karen Lee Chin Foo Kune-Bacha (Junior Minister of Youth and Sports)

Hon. Jean Sydney Pierre (Junior Minister of Tourism)

Hon. Mohammad Fawzi Allymun (Junior Minister of Local Government)

Hon. Mrs Anishta Babooram (Junior Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare)

Hon. Hambyrajen Narsinghen (Junior Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade)

Hon. Kuvalayan Kugan Parapen (Junior Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity)

Hon. Mrs Marie Veronique Leu-Govind (Junior Minister of Arts and Culture)

Hon. Ms M. G. S. Anquetil

Hon. G. T. Apollon

Dr. the Hon. F. I. Aumeer

Hon. B. Babajee

Hon. C. A. Baboolall

Hon. V. V. Baloomoody

Hon. R. S. Beehook

Hon. N. S. Beejan

Hon. L. L. M. Caserne

Hon. Ms M. R. Collet

Hon. Ms R. B. Daureeawo

Hon. A. C. Duval

Hon. J. Edouard

Hon. R. Etwareea

Hon. J. F. François

Hon. Mrs D. Henriette-Manan

Hon. R. Jhummun

Hon. S. Jugurnauth

Hon. M. E. Juman

Hon. K. Lobine

Hon. C. Lukeeram

Dr. the Hon. S. Prayag

Hon. J. P. F. Quirin

Hon. A. Ramdass

Hon. C. Ramkalawon

Hon. K. Rookny

Hon. M. R. Sauntally

Hon. Mrs M. A. A. Savabaddy

Hon. M. Seeburn

Dr. the Hon. Ms B. Thannoo

Hon. P. Venkatasami

### **SPEAKER – ELECTION**

**The Ag. Clerk:** Hon. Members, in accordance with the provisions of Section 32 of the Constitution and of Standing Order 7 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly, the Assembly will now proceed with the election of a Speaker.

I will, therefore, invite two hon. Members to move and to second the election of a Member present in this Assembly or otherwise, to be nominated to the office of Speaker and to take the Chair of the Assembly as such.

**The Prime Minister:** Acting Clerk, in accordance with the provisions of Section 32 of the Constitution and Standing Order 7 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly, I move that Mrs Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra be elected Speaker of the House.

Acting Clerk, Mrs Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra is a Barrister-at-Law and was called to the Bar in Mauritius in July 1974, and practiced law for about 26 years.

During her professional career, she occupied several positions of responsibility. She was elected in Constituency No. 19, Stanley and Rose Hill in 1976 and then in 1982, 1983, and 1987.

In 1982, she was appointed Attorney-General and Minister for Women's Rights and Family Welfare.

In 1987, she was elected Municipal Councillor and appointed Mayor of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill.

From 1992 to 1994, she was the Ambassador of Mauritius to the Republic of France, Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

In 2004, Mrs Aumeeruddy-Cziffra was appointed Ombudsperson for Children and remained in that position up to 2011.

From 2012 to 2021, she was Chairperson of the Public Bodies Appeal Tribunal following which, she resumed the profession of Barrister-at-Law.

Mrs Aumeeruddy-Cziffra is known at the national, regional, and international levels as being deeply committed to the promotion of human rights.

It is with pleasure that I move that Mrs Aumeeruddy-Cziffra be elected Speaker of this august Assembly.

**The Deputy Prime Minister rose and seconded.**

**The Leader of the Opposition (Mr G. Lesjongard):** Thank you, Acting Clerk. *Il est de coutume que cette motion est aussi secondée par le leader de l'opposition*, and I believe it is good for the proper functioning of this august Assembly. May I let it be recorded, Acting Clerk, that as Leader of the Opposition, I also second this motion. Allow me to seize this opportunity to wish Madam Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra all the best. Thank you, Acting Clerk.

**The Ag. Clerk:** Is there any counterproposal? There being no counterproposal, I declare Mrs Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra elected to take the Chair of the Assembly as Speaker.

I shall, therefore, invite hon. Mrs Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra to come to the upper step to make and subscribe the Oath of Allegiance to or Affirmation or Declaration in the first instance and then to sign the Roll of Membership prior to taking the Chair of the Assembly.

*(The House having called hon. Mrs Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra, to the Chair, she proceeds to the upper step of the Chair.)*

Mrs Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra then made and subscribed before the Assembly the Oath of Allegiance prescribed in the Third Schedule of the Constitution and signed the Roll of Membership.

**Madam Speaker** (*Standing on the upper step*):

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Leader of the House, thank you. Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, hon. Leader of the Opposition, hon. Ministers, hon. Junior Ministers, hon. Members, thank you for your trust and confidence.

First of all, let me congratulate each and every one of you for your personal success which has brought you to sit in the National Assembly in your various capacities.

The future of our country is now in your hands, in whatever position you may occupy. I feel deeply honoured to become Speaker at such a challenging time.

I look forward to hearing some excellent speeches, statements, and debates on burning issues for the betterment of Mauritius and its citizens who are full of hope.

I am privileged to have been a Member here at a time when the first Mauritian Speaker was in the Chair. Sir Harilal Vaghjee will be my role model, even if I must be humble and strive only to do my best.

I will, therefore, listen to you with an open mind, but without fear or favour. I know that you will express yourselves with conviction and passion, and I will naturally promote the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed by Chapter II of our Constitution, in particular the liberty of opinion and expression.

I will do my best to abide by the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly which, of course, will need to be reviewed so that we enlarge the rights of one and all.

I would like to thank the Acting Clerk and the whole staff who have done their best to ensure that this First Session of the Eighth National Assembly takes place as smoothly as possible. I count on them to continue to uphold the high standards of our august Assembly.

My motto is contained in three Rs: Rights, Respect, Responsibility. Let us together restore the dignity of this House. By so doing, let us also inspire the people who are watching us and thus promote a scrupulous democracy, not just in the National Assembly but throughout the Republic of Mauritius.

Thank you.

*(Applause)*

*(Madam Speaker then takes the Chair)*

*(The Mace which was, up to that time, under the Table, is placed upon the Table by the Serjeant-at-Arms)*

### **DEPUTY SPEAKER – ELECTION**

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, in accordance with the provisions of Section 32 of the Constitution and Standing Order 7 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly, I move that hon. Vedasingam Vasudevachariar Baloomoody be elected Deputy Speaker of the House.

**The Deputy Prime Minister rose and seconded.**

**Madam Speaker:** Is there any other proposal?

There being no counterproposal, I declare hon. Vedasingam Vasudevachariar Baloomoody elected as Deputy Speaker of the Assembly.

**Mr V. Baloomoody:** Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to you on your election for this esteemed position. You can rest assured of my fruitful collaboration during your tenure of office.

My heartfelt congratulation goes also to the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, to the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and to all hon. Members for placing their trust in me. I can assure all the Members that I shall conduct the affairs of the House in all fairness and uphold the dignity of the House.

I wish all the hon. Members well. Thank you once again.

*(Applause)*

### **DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES – ELECTION**

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 7 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly, I move that the hon. Mohamed Ehsan Juman be elected Deputy Chairperson of Committees.

**The Deputy Prime Minister rose and seconded.**

**Madam Speaker:** Is there any other proposal?

There being no counterproposal, I declare the hon. Mohamed Ehsan Juman elected as Deputy Chairperson of Committees.

**Mr E. Juman:** Madam Speaker, let me first congratulate you upon your election to this high office. I am deeply honoured to be elected by this august Assembly as Deputy Chairperson of Committees. I thank the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Deputy Prime Minister. I will faithfully and diligently discharge the responsibilities conferred upon me to the best of my abilities. Thank you again, Madam Speaker. I wish all of us well. God bless!

*(Applause)*

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you.



**PAPERS LAID**

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, the Papers have been laid on the Table.

**A. Office of the President**

The Annual Report of the Ombudsperson for Children for the period September 2023 to August 2024.

**B. Office of the Speaker**

The Fourth Report of the Public Accounts Committee for the First Session of the Seventh National Assembly. (*deemed to have been presented to the National Assembly on 03 October 2024 in accordance to the provisions of Standing Order 19(4)*)

**C. Prime Minister's Office  
Ministry of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications  
Ministry for Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Ministry of Finance**

- (a) The Annual Performance Report of the Prime Minister's Office (External Communication Division) for the financial year 2023-2024.
- (b) The Annual Performance Report on performance of the Department of Civil Aviation for the financial year 2023-2024.
- (c) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Gambling Regulatory Authority for the year ended 30 June 2020.
- (d) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Treasury Foreign Currency Management Fund for the year ended 30 June 2023.
- (e) The Banking (Processing and Licence Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 131 of 2024)
- (f) The Finance and Audit (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 133 of 2024)
- (g) The Finance and Audit (Climate and Sustainability Fund) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 134 of 2024)
- (h) The Customs Tariff (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 3) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 137 of 2024)
- (i) The Excise (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 3) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 138 of 2024)

- (j) The Customs (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 139 of 2024)
- (k) The Excise (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 140 of 2024)
- (l) The Financial Crimes Commission (Extension of Time) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 179 of 2024)
- (m) The Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (Bangladesh) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 181 of 2024)
- (n) The Excise (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 4) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 218 of 2024)
- (o) The Public Procurement (Amendment No. 4) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 221 of 2024)
- (p) The Public Procurement (Electronic Bidding System) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 222 of 2024)
- (q) The Ports (Operations and Safety) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 225 of 2024)
- (r) The Ports (Security) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 226 of 2024)
- (s) The Civil Aviation (Unmanned Aircraft System) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 232 of 2024)
- (t) The National Assembly Elections (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 234 of 2024)
- (u) The National Assembly Elections Polling Stations Order, 2024. (Government Notice No. 235 of 2024)
- (v) The Transfer of Prisoners (Commonwealth Countries) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 236 of 2024)
- (w) The National Payment Systems (Authorization and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 239 of 2024)
- (x) The National Assembly Elections (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 243 of 2024)
- (y) The Customs (Export to the United Arab Emirates under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 245 of 2024)

- (z) The Finance and Audit (Solidarity Fund) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 247 of 2024)
- (aa) Virement Warrant – Quarter 4 (April – June 2024): Nos. 28, 49, 62, 63, 65 to 152, 154 to 184 and 186 to 229. (In Original)
- (ab) Retrospective Virement Warrant – Quarter 4 (April – June 2024): Nos. 230 to 233. (In Original)
- (ac) Virement (Contingencies) Warrant – Quarter 4 (April – June 2024): Nos. 19 to 24. (In Original)
- (ad) Virement Certificate - Quarter 4 (April – June 2024): Vote/Sub-Head (Certificates Nos.): 1-1(8,11,15), 1-3(1, 3-16), 1-5(5A,6,7,9-13, 15,16A), 1-7(8-13), 1-8(7,9-11), 1-9(5), 1-10(3-7), 1-11(4-9), 1-12(4-6), 1-13(4), 1-16(3-10), 1-19(1-4), 2-1(8,9,11,13,17,20), 2-106(4), 2-107(2-5), 2-108(4-6), 2-2(2), 2-3(5,6), 2-5(13-36), 2-6(8,13), 2-7(9,12,19), 2-8(7,11,17), 2-9(6), 2-10(5-8), 3-1(8-18), 3-2(3-6), 3-3( 6-10), 4-1(6-8), 5-1(17-22), 5-3(7), 5-4(6-8), 6-1(4-6, 10-17), 6-2(5,6), 6-3(3-5), 7-1(11-18), 7-2(12), 7-3(7-14), 7-4(3-5), 7-5(3,4A,5,6), 8-1(18,20,22,24,26), 9-2(15-35), 10-101(3-7), 10-102(4-6), 10-104(3-6), 11-2(3-10), 12-1(5,6), 13-1(3,4,6), 13-2(7,8), 13-3(1), 13-4(5-8), 14-1(9), 15-1(6-21), 15-2(7-14), 16-1(13,14), 16-102(12,15,16,18,19,21-23), 16-103(4-7), 17-1(8,9), 17-2(8,12,14,15,17), 18-1(19,20), 20-1(8-13,17), 20-2(15,16,18), 21-1(6,9,12), 22-1(3-9) and 23-1(10-13). (In Original)
- (ae) Virement Warrant – Quarter 1 (July – September 2024): Nos. 1 to 5. (In Original)
- (af) Virement (Contingencies) Warrant – Quarter 1 (July – September 2024): Nos. 1 and 2. (In Original)
- (ag) Virement Certificate - Quarter 1 (July – September 2024): Vote/Sub-Head (Certificates Nos.): 1-1(1), 1-2(3), 1-3(1,2), 1-5(1), 1-7(1), 1-8(1), 1-9(1), 1-10(1), 1-11(1-3), 1-12(1), 1-13(1), 1-15(1), 1-18(1), 2-1(1-2), 2-106(1), 2-107(1), 2-108(1), 2-109(1), 2-2(1), 2-3(1), 2-5(1), 2-6(1), 2-7(2), 2-8(3), 2-9(4), 2-10(1), 3-1(1), 3-2(1), 3-3(1), 5-1(1), 5-3(1), 5-4(1), 6-101 & 6-102(1-2), 6-103(1), 7-1(1-4), 7-2(1), 7-3(1), 7-4(1), 7-5(1), 7-6(1), 8-1(1), 9-2(2), 10-1(1), 11-1(1), 11-2(1), 12-1(1), 13-1(1-2), 13-2(1), 13-3(1), 13-4(1), 13-5(1-2), 14-1(1), 15-1(1-2), 15-2(1), 16-1(1,3-5), 16-103(1), 19-1(1), 21-103(1,3), 22-1(1), 23-1(1), 24-101(1-2), 24-102(1) and 25-1(1-3). (In Original)

**D. Ministry of Housing and Lands**

The State Lands (Payment Facility) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 244 of 2024)

**E. Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change**

The Forests and Reserves (Protection of Protected Plants) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 238 of 2024)

**F. Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries**

- (a) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Mauritius Cane Industry Authority for the year ended 30 June 2023.
- (b) The Annual Reports and Audited Financial Statements of the Sugar Investment Trust for the years ended 30 June, 2021, 2022 and 2023.
- (c) The Annual Reports and Reports of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical Garden Trust for the years ended 30 June, 2019 and 2020.
- (d) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Small Farmers Welfare Fund for the year ended 30 June 2019.
- (e) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Agricultural Marketing Board for the year ended 30 June 2023. (In Original)
- (f) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute for the year ended 30 June 2018.
- (g) The Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2024.
- (h) The Fisheries (Extension of Net Fishing Season) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 228 of 2024)
- (i) The Fisheries (Electronic Reporting Systems) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 229 of 2024)
- (j) The Fisheries (Vessel Monitoring System) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 230 of 2024)
- (k) The Fisheries (Automatic Identification System) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 231 of 2024)

**G. Ministry of National Infrastructure**

- (a) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Road Development Authority for the year ended 30 June 2023.

- (b) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Land Drainage Authority for the year ended 30 June 2023. (In Original)

**H. Ministry of Health and Wellness**

- (a) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Mauritius Institute of Health for the year ended 30 June 2023.
- (b) The Allied Health Professionals Council (Amendment of Schedule) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 129 of 2024)
- (c) The Food Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 142 of 2024)
- (d) The Central Medical Procurement Authority (Oath of Allegiance) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 180 of 2024)
- (e) The Dental Council (Additional Qualifications) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 246 of 2024)

**I. Ministry of Tourism**

- (a) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Tourism Authority for the year ended 30 June 2023. (In Original)
- (b) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority for the year ended 30 June 2023. (In Original)

**J. Ministry of Financial Services and Economic Planning**

- (a) The Financial Services (Consolidated Licensing and Fees) (Amendment No. 5) Rules 2024. (Government Notice No. 135 of 2024)
- (b) The Insurance (General Insurance Business Solvency) Rules 2024. (Government Notice No. 143 of 2024)
- (c) The Insurance (Long-Term Insurance Business Solvency) Rules 2024. (Government Notice No. 144 of 2024)
- (d) The Insurance (Returns) Rules 2024. (Government Notice No. 177 of 2024)
- (e) The Financial Services (Determination of Application) Rules 2024. (Government Notice No. 219 of 2024)
- (f) The Financial Services (Consolidated Licensing and Fees) (Amendment No. 6) Rules 2024. (Government Notice No. 220 of 2024)

**K. Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities**

- (a) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Central Water Authority for the year ended 30 June 2022.
- (b) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Central Electricity Board for the year ended 30 June 2023.
- (c) The Central Water Authority (Dry Season) (Amendment No. 7) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 141 of 2024)
- (d) The Central Water Authority (Dry Season) (Amendment No. 8) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 184 of 2024)
- (e) The Central Water Authority (Dry Season) (Amendment No. 9) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 237 of 2024)

**L. Ministry of Labour & Industrial Relations**

- (a) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Manufacturing Sector Workers Welfare Fund for the year ended 30 June 2023.
- (b) The Attorneys' and Notaries' Workers (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 145 of 2024)
- (c) The Baking Industry (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 146 of 2024)
- (d) The Banks Fishermen and Frigo-workers (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 147 of 2024)
- (e) The Blockmaking, Construction, Stone Crushing and Related Industries (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 148 of 2024)
- (f) The Catering and Tourism Industries (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 149 of 2024)
- (g) The Cinema Employees (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 150 of 2024)
- (h) The Cleaning Enterprises (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 151 of 2024)
- (i) The Distributive Trades (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 152 of 2024)

- (j) The Domestic Workers (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 153 of 2024)
- (k) The Electrical, Engineering and Mechanical Workshops (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 154 of 2024)
- (l) The Export Enterprises (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 155 of 2024)
- (m) The Factory Employees (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 156 of 2024)
- (n) The Field-Crop and Orchard Workers (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 157 of 2024)
- (o) The Information and Communication Technologies and other Related Services (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 158 of 2024)
- (p) The Light Metal and Wooden Furniture Workshops (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 159 of 2024)
- (q) The Livestock Workers (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 160 of 2024)
- (r) The Media Employees (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 161 of 2024)
- (s) The Office Attendants (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 162 of 2024)
- (t) The Pre-Primary School Employees (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 163 of 2024)
- (u) The Printing Industry (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 164 of 2024)
- (v) The Private Hospitals and Other Related Health Services (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 165 of 2024)
- (w) The Private Secondary Schools Employees (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 166 of 2024)
- (x) The Private Security Services Employees (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 167 of 2024)
- (y) The Public Transport (Buses) Workers (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 168 of 2024)

- (z) The Road Haulage Industry (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 169 of 2024)
- (aa) The Salt Manufacturing Industry (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 170 of 2024)
- (ab) The Special Education Needs Institutions Employees (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 171 of 2024)
- (ac) The Sugar Industry (Agricultural Workers) (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 172 of 2024)
- (ad) The Sugar Industry (Non - Agricultural Workers) (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 173 of 2024)
- (ae) The Tailoring Trade (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 174 of 2024)
- (af) The Tea Industry Workers (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 175 of 2024)
- (ag) The Travel Agents and Tour Operators Workers (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 176 of 2024)
- (ah) The Attorneys' and Notaries' Workers (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 185 of 2024)
- (ai) The Baking Industry (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 186 of 2024)
- (aj) The Banks Fishermen and Frigo-workers (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 187 of 2024)
- (ak) The Blockmaking, Construction, Stone Crushing and Related Industries (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 188 of 2024)
- (al) The Catering and Tourism Industries (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 189 of 2024)
- (am) The Cinema Employees (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 190 of 2024)
- (an) The Cleaning Enterprises (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 191 of 2024)
- (ao) The Distributive Trades (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 192 of 2024)



- (ap) The Domestic Workers (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 193 of 2024)
- (aq) The Electrical, Engineering and Mechanical Workshops (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 194 of 2024)
- (ar) The Export Enterprises (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 195 of 2024)
- (as) The Factory Employees (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 196 of 2024)
- (at) The Field-Crop and Orchard Workers (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 197 of 2024)
- (au) The Information and Communication Technologies and other Related Services (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 198 of 2024)
- (av) The Light Metal and Wooden Furniture Workshops (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 199 of 2024)
- (aw) The Livestock Workers (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 200 of 2024)
- (ax) The Media Employees (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 201 of 2024)
- (ay) The Office Attendants (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 202 of 2024)
- (az) The Pre-Primary School Employees (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 203 of 2024)
- (ba) The Printing Industry (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 204 of 2024)
- (bb) The Private Hospitals and Other Related Health Services (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 205 of 2024)
- (bc) The Private Secondary Schools Employees (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 206 of 2024)
- (bd) The Private Security Services Employees (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 207 of 2024)
- (be) The Public Transport (Buses) Workers (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 208 of 2024)

- (bf) The Road Haulage Industry (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 209 of 2024)
- (bg) The Salt Manufacturing Industry (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 210 of 2024)
- (bh) The Special Education Needs Institutions Employees (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 211 of 2024)
- (bi) The Sugar Industry (Agricultural Workers) (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 212 of 2024)
- (bj) The Sugar Industry (Non - Agricultural Workers) (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 213 of 2024)
- (bk) The Tailoring Trade (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 214 of 2024)
- (bl) The Tea Industry Workers (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 215 of 2024)
- (bm) The Travel Agents and Tour Operators Workers (Remuneration) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 216 of 2024)
- (bn) The Private Recruitment Agencies Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 240 of 2024).

**M. Ministry of Land Transport**

- (a) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the National Transport Corporation for the year ended 31 December 2015. (In Original)
- (b) The Road Traffic (Renewal of Public Service Vehicle, Road Service and Carrier's Licence) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 217 of 2024)
- (c) The Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicles) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 227 of 2024)

**N. Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare**

- (a) The consolidated Annual Reports of the National Adoption Council for the period 01 July 2009 to 30 June 2024 and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the National Adoption Council for:
  - (i) 18-months period ended 31 December 2010;
  - (ii) years ended 31 December 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015;
  - (iii) 18-months period ended 30 June 2017;
  - (iv) financial years ended 30 June, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. (In Original)

- (b) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the National Children’s Council for the year ended 30 June 2023.
- (c) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the National Women Entrepreneur Council for the year ended 30 June 2023.

**O. Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection**

- (a) The Rodrigues Consumer Protection (Control of Price of Taxable and Non-taxable Goods) (Amendment No. 18) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 127 of 2024)
- (b) The Rodrigues Consumer Protection (Control of Price of Taxable and Non-taxable Goods) (Amendment No. 19) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 128 of 2024)
- (c) The Rodrigues Consumer Protection (Control of Price of Taxable and Non-taxable Goods) (Amendment No. 20) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 130 of 2024)
- (d) The Consumer Protection (Consumer Goods) (Maximum Mark-Up) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 132 of 2024)
- (e) The Rodrigues Consumer Protection (Control of Price of Taxable and Non-taxable Goods) (Amendment No. 21) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 136 of 2024)
- (f) The Rodrigues Consumer Protection (Control of Price of Taxable and Non-taxable Goods) (Amendment No. 22) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 178 of 2024)
- (g) The Consumer Protection (Importation and Sale of Second-hand Motor Vehicles) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 183 of 2024)
- (h) The Consumer Protection (Price and Supplies Control) (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 2) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 223 of 2024)
- (i) The Consumer Protection (Consumer Goods) (Maximum Mark-Up) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 224 of 2024)
- (j) The Rodrigues Consumer Protection (Control of Price of Taxable and Non-taxable Goods) (Amendment No. 23) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 233 of 2024)

**P. Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science & Research**

The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Higher Education Commission for the year ended 30 June 2023.

**Q. Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation**

The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency (ex-National Computer Board) for the year ended 30 June 2022.

**R. Ministry of Public Service, and Administrative Reforms**

- (a) The Civil Establishment Order 2024. (Government Notice No. 241 of 2024)
- (b) The Civil Establishment (Rodrigues Regional Assembly) Order 2024. (Government Notice No. 242 of 2024)

**S. Ministry of Local Government**

- (a) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Municipal Council of Vacoas-Phoenix for the year ended 30 June 2023. (In Original)
- (b) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the District Council of Moka for the year ended 30 June 2023. (In Original)
- (c) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Statutory Bodies Family Protection Fund for the year ended 30 June 2023.
- (d) The Local Government (Exemption of Municipal Tax on Family Home) (Amendment) Regulations 2024. (Government Notice No. 182 of 2024)
- (e) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the District Council of Flacq for the year ended 30 June 2023. (In Original)
- (f) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Municipal City Council of Port Louis for the year ended 30 June 2022. (In Original)
- (g) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill for the year ended 30 June 2022. (In Original)

**T. Ministry of Arts and Culture**

- (a) The Annual Report and Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Bhojpuri Speaking Union for the year ended 30 June 2022.
- (b) The Annual Reports and Reports of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the President's Fund for Creative Writing for the years ended 31 December, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

- (c) The Annual Reports and Reports of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Creole Speaking Union for the years ended 30 June, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.
- (d) The Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2024

## STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(4.12 p.m.)

### CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO – SOVEREIGNTY – DRAFT AGREEMENT

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, as the House is aware, on 03 October 2024, on the eve of the dissolution of Parliament, Mauritius and the United Kingdom issued a joint statement confirming that after 13 rounds of negotiations, the Prime Ministers of the two countries had reached a political agreement on the exercise on the sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

Since the progress made in and the contents of the negotiations between Mauritius and the United Kingdom during the past two years were unknown to the new Government, I have had discussions with local officials and external legal advisers since my assumption of office regarding the status of the negotiations.

The British Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir Keir Starmer, sent his political envoy, Mr Jonathan Powell to meet with me on 25 November last and he has briefed me on what has been proposed in the draft agreement.

I wish to inform the House that I have asked for an independent review of the confidential draft agreement agreed so far.

I will keep the House informed of the next steps in the negotiations after Cabinet will have had the opportunity to consider the outcome of the review exercise and any related discussions thereupon with the local and external officials and advisers.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Prime Minister.

Hon. Minister, you may!

(4.14 p.m.)

### MARE CHICOSE LANDFILL - FIRE OUTBREAK - 05 NOVEMBER 2024

**The Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Mr R. Bhagwan):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. With your permission, I would like to make a statement on the fire outbreak at Mare Chicose Landfill which occurred on the night of 05 November 2024.

Following my swearing in as Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, I carried out a visit at the site on Saturday 23 November 2024 together with Junior Ministers and other MPs of the constituency to take cognizance of the situation and to look into ways and means of scaling up the rate of extinguishing fire.

I was informed that immediately after the fire outbreak, fire fighters from the Mauritius Fire Rescue Service were deployed on the site to combat the fire, and are still there. The fire spread over an extent of around 42,300 m<sup>2</sup>, owing to the dry nature of the waste and the prevailing windy weather. Every effort is being made to contain the fire. The advice of the experts from the Reunion Fire Authorities was sought, and they were agreeable on the methodology adopted by the Mauritius Fire Rescue Service, that is, breaking of the waste mass by means of excavators, cooling by application of water, and finally, covering the extinguished waste with soil.

A Coordination Committee chaired by the Solid Waste Management Division of my Ministry with representatives of the main stakeholders such as the Mauritius Fire Rescue Service, Police, Special Mobile Force, the National Environmental Laboratory, the local authorities, the Ministry of Health and Wellness, as well as the contractor and consultant meet on a daily basis to coordinate the actions, interventions required to combat the fire.

We have sought the collaboration of the private sector, NGOs and the community at large. The fire has been subdued to around 50% as at today. With the current rate of progress, it is expected that the fire will be completely extinguished by mid-December 2024.

The National Environmental Laboratory of my Ministry is and will continue monitoring the air quality of the surrounding regions of the landfill on a daily basis. Test results show no toxic gases.

Moreover, the Ministry of Health and Wellness has provided ambulances and extended its services to assist and intervene in any case of sickness or minor casualty on site and neighbouring localities.

I wish to place on record my appreciation for the valuable support of the fire fighters, the private sector, NGOs, various public authorities, the different Units of my Ministry, the Police, the *Police de l'environnement*, the Special Mobile Force, health authorities, the civil society, as well as my colleague, the Minister of Local Government, and the MPs of the constituency.

Madam Speaker, I shall come up with a more comprehensive statement on the issue and the whole solid waste management system. Thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Minister.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Friday 06 December 2024 at 3 p.m.

**The Deputy Prime Minister rose and seconded.**

*Question put and agreed to.*

**Madam Speaker:** The House stands adjourned.

*At 4.18 p.m., the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Friday 06 December 2024 at 3 p.m.*