

THE NATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION INSTITUTE BILL
(No. IV of 2026)

Explanatory Memorandum

The object of this Bill is to provide for the establishment of the National Research and Innovation Institute. Accordingly, the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council Act will be repealed and replaced by this legislation.

2. The National Research and Innovation Institute will be the national centralised body dedicated to advancing scientific discovery, research, innovation and evidence-based policymaking, conducting mission-oriented research addressing pressing national challenges, coordinating the national research ecosystem, and driving the transition of Mauritius into a resilient, competitive and knowledge-powered economy.

3. The Bill further provides for matters connected and related thereto.

DR. K. S. SUKON
*Minister of Tertiary Education, Science
and Research*

27 March 2026

THE NATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION INSTITUTE BILL
(No. IV of 2026)

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

Clause

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A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the National Research and Innovation Institute

ENACTED by the Parliament of Mauritius, as follows –

PART I – PRELIMINARY

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the National Research and Innovation Institute Act 2026.

2. Interpretation

In this Act –

“applied research” means an original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge and directed primarily towards a specific practical aim or objective;

“Board” means the Board of Governors established under section 15;

“Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Board;

“Chief Executive Officer” means the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute;

“Committee” means a committee set up under this Act;

“Coordinating Council” means the National Research Institute Coordinating Council referred to in section 23;

“Division” means a Division of the Institute;

“financial year” has the same meaning as in section 2A of the Finance and Audit Act;

“Institute” means the National Research and Innovation Institute established under section 3;

“intellectual property” includes any knowledge, know-how, technique, technology, design or trade secret invented, developed or acquired as a result of research and development and innovation activities undertaken by or on behalf of the Institute;

“member” –

- (a) means a member of the Board; and
- (b) includes the Chairperson;

“Minister” means the Minister to whom responsibility for the subject of research is assigned;

“Ministry” means the Ministry responsible for the subject of research;

“mission-oriented research” means research directed at finding practical solutions to specific national challenges, aligned with national development priorities and the National Research and Innovation Priorities;

“MRIC” means the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council established under the repealed Act;

“National Research and Innovation Priorities” means the national research and innovation priorities developed, adopted and periodically updated by the Institute in consultation with relevant stakeholders;

“officer” –

- (a) means an officer of the Institute; and
- (b) includes the Chief Executive Officer;

“repealed Act” means the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council Act repealed under section 41;

“research and development” means systematic, investigative and experimental activities which involve innovation and are carried out, wholly or partly, within Mauritius for the purpose of creating new or improved materials, products, devices, processes or services;

“Scientific Advisory Council” means the Scientific Advisory Council referred to in section 25.

PART II – ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION INSTITUTE

Sub-Part A – Establishment of Institute

3. National centralised body in applied research and innovation

- (1) There is established, for the purposes of this Act, the National

Research and Innovation Institute, which shall be the national centralised body on matters concerning applied research, innovation and other related matters.

(2) The Institute shall be a body corporate.

4. Role and responsibilities of Institute

(1) The Institute shall, on matters pertaining to applied research, innovation and other related matters, be responsible for –

- (a) strengthening evidence-based policymaking with rigorous, forward-looking analysis and strategic foresight, and by empowering public officers to conduct, commission and utilise research for the formulation of research-based policy decisions;
- (b) strengthening operational coordination across the research, development and innovation ecosystem by unifying fragmented actors, reducing duplication of effort, aligning institutional mandates and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration;
- (c) undertaking strategic research for the identification, development and growth of new economic sectors and pillars of the economy, supporting the long-term diversification and competitiveness of the national economy;
- (d) conducting and commissioning mission-oriented research to find practical, evidence-based solutions to pressing national challenges, including but not limited to climate resilience, food security, public health, digital transformation, ocean economy development, energy sustainability, energy sovereignty, gentrification, social inequality and work-life balance;
- (e) delivering high-impact applied research for public and private sectors by conducting and commissioning targeted and demand-driven research;
- (f) advancing scientific discovery to further economic growth, improving lives and strengthening national resilience;
- (g) building a stronger national knowledge base by fostering dynamic partnerships among Ministries, Government agencies, universities, research institutes and the research industry, and enabling the co-creation of solutions and accelerating technological development;

- (h) mobilising and diversifying resources for research and innovation, including public, private, philanthropic and international sources;
 - (i) developing, attracting and retaining high-level research and innovation talent, and building a critical mass of researchers and scientists to support the knowledge-based economy;
 - (j) promoting the technological advancement of the public and private sectors in Mauritius through focus on innovation, and creating an environment which is conducive to the commercialisation of new processes and product technologies; and
 - (k) enhancing Mauritius's regional and international positioning as a trusted research and innovation partner.
- (2) The Institute shall, in the discharge of its functions under subsection (1) –
- (a) ensure that the national research and innovation system is –
 - (i) coherent;
 - (ii) mission-driven;
 - (iii) strategically aligned with national development priorities;
 - (iv) efficiently coordinated; and
 - (v) capable of generating high-impact solutions to national challenges;
 - (b) develop and maintain adequate policies, strategies and plans; and
 - (c) comply with internationally accepted norms, standards and quality management systems.

5. Research capacity within Ministries

(1) The Institute shall, in collaboration with the Ministry and other Ministries and Government agencies, develop and implement programmes to build the research capacity of public officers with a view to enabling them to –

- (a) conduct, commission and interpret applied research relevant to their policy domains;
- (b) formulate research-based policy decisions grounded in evidence and rigorous analysis;
- (c) commission and manage research projects, including the development of terms of reference, the evaluation of research proposals and the assessment of research outputs; and
- (d) integrate research findings into policy formulation, programme design and regulatory development.

(2) The Institute may, at the request of any Ministry or Government agency, second research officers or provide technical assistance to support the conduct of research and the preparation of evidence-based policy briefs, analytical reports and impact assessments.

(3) The Institute shall design and deliver structured training programmes, workshops and continuing professional development courses for public officers in research methodologies, data analysis, policy development evaluation and innovation management.

6. Research for new economic sectors

(1) The Institute shall, in collaboration with relevant Ministries, Government agencies, the private sector and international partners, conduct strategic research for the identification, development and growth of new economic sectors and pillars of the economy.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), such research may include –

- (a) feasibility studies and market analyses for emerging industries and economic activities;
- (b) technology scanning and foresight exercises to identify opportunities for economic diversification;
- (c) research into the development of the ocean economy, the green economy, the digital economy, the creative industries, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing and other sectors of strategic national interest; and
- (d) the preparation of evidence-based recommendations and roadmaps for the development of new economic sectors, for submission to Ministries and Government agencies.

7. Powers of Institute

The Institute shall have such powers as may be necessary to attain its objectives in applied research, innovation and other related matters most effectively and may, in particular –

- (a) enter into any contract or other arrangement, in conformity with good governance practices;
- (b) receive grants-in-aid, gifts, donations or legacies and raise funds;
- (c) operate in partnership with other institutions, both domestic and at international level;
- (d) open and operate bank accounts;
- (e) appoint, on a contractual basis or otherwise, visiting professors, consultants, fellows, scholars, industrial and academic experts, innovators, holders of patent, course writers and other persons, from within and outside Mauritius, who may contribute to the advancement of the objects of the Institute;
- (f) manage, in such manner as the Board may determine, any property vested in the Institute;
- (g) establish and operate research facilities, laboratories, innovation hubs and incubation centres; and
- (h) do all such other acts and things as may be necessary or desirable for the attainment of its objects.

Sub-Part B – Organisational Structure of Institute

8. Divisions of Institute

There shall be, within the Institute, the following Divisions –

- (a) the Administration and Support Division;
- (b) the Strategy Division;
- (c) the Applied Research and Commissioned Studies Division;
- (d) the Partnerships and Innovation Division; and
- (e) the Capacity Building and Talent Development Division.

9. Administration and Support Division

The Administration and Support Division, which shall comprise such units as the Board may determine, including units for information and communications technology, library services, finance, human resources, internal audit, procurement, stores, maintenance and publishing, shall be responsible to –

- (a) ensure that the Institute operates efficiently;
- (b) provide administrative, financial, human resource, legal, information and communication technologies, funding, audit and compliance support to the Institute;
- (c) publish the Annual Research Funding Report;
- (d) coordinate periodic independent evaluations of the performance of the Institute;
- (e) develop, manage and operate a National Research Information System to map projects, track outputs and monitor funding flows, with a view to reducing duplication and fragmentation in research and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration;
- (f) create and manage a research repository;
- (g) establish and manage a research fund; and
- (h) adopt and implement appropriate accountability standards in the various operations of the Institute.

10. Strategy Division

The Strategy Division shall be responsible to –

- (a) undertake foresight analysis to inform evidence-based policymaking;
- (b) lead and coordinate stakeholder consultations with Ministries, Government agencies, the academia, the private sector and the civil society to define, develop and periodically update the National Research and Innovation Priorities; and
- (c) evaluate projects, schemes and events with regard to technical feasibility and financing aspects for the purpose of –
 - (i) encouraging the development, in Mauritius, of innovative products, processes and services;

- (ii) increasing investment by the public and private sectors in research and development activities which will address the scientific, technological, social and economic needs and challenges of the country and make Mauritius more competitive internationally; and
- (iii) promoting the technological advancement of the public and private sectors in Mauritius through a focus on innovation, and creating an environment which is conducive to the commercialisation of new processes and product technologies.

11. Applied Research and Commissioned Studies Division

The Applied Research and Commissioned Studies Division shall be responsible to –

- (a) undertake in-house applied research and commission feasibility, research and related studies, in collaboration with Ministries, Government agencies, universities and international partners in areas of national importance;
- (b) develop and implement proposals for commissioned research and related studies, particularly for Ministries and in alignment with the National Research and Innovation Priorities;
- (c) undertake contract research for the private sector to support competitiveness and innovation;
- (d) manage collaborative research, innovation and related projects with Government research institutions, universities and international partners;
- (e) conduct socio-economic impact assessments of existing and proposed policies, and produce policy briefs, working papers and independent evaluations to guide Government decision-making; and
- (f) acquire research tools, including AI-enabled ones, and an e-library.

12. Partnerships and Innovation Division

The Partnerships and Innovation Division shall be responsible to –

- (a) develop and strengthen linkages among Ministries, Government agencies, universities, industry and the civil society;

- (b) bridge the gap between the academia and the industry by facilitating the translation of research into commercially viable products, processes and services;
- (c) support technology transfer, incubation and innovation clusters;
- (d) promote co-funding arrangements and research and development tax incentive programmes;
- (e) develop and manage international partnerships, including joint research calls;
- (f) facilitate partnerships with African, Indian Ocean and international institutions; and
- (g) encourage individuals, firms and organisations to conduct research and innovation projects.

13. Capacity Building and Talent Development Division

The Capacity Building and Talent Development Division shall be responsible to –

- (a) design and implement training, mentorship and fellowship programmes;
- (b) design and deliver structured programmes to train researchers, innovators and public officers in research methodologies, analytical techniques and innovation management, and to strengthen institutional capacity in research governance and compliance;
- (c) launch and manage a Mauritius Brain Gain Initiative to attract diaspora expertise;
- (d) support the participation of women and youth in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), and research and innovation;
- (e) strengthen system-wide capacity in research governance, ethics and compliance; and
- (f) train public officers in research-related fields, including research methods and techniques, the use of research tools, conduct of research, preparation of research plans and development of research-based policies.

14. Other Divisions and Units

(1) The Chief Executive Officer may, with the approval of the Board, set up such other Division, or Unit within a Division, which shall have such functions and powers as the Chief Executive Officer may direct.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer may direct a Division or Unit to discharge such functions and exercise such powers as may have been assigned to another Division or Unit.

(3) No act done by a Division or Unit shall be void or impeachable by reason that a matter should have been dealt with by another Division or Unit.

PART III – ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE OF INSTITUTE

Sub-Part A – Setting up of Board of Governors

15. Board of Governors

(1) There shall be a Board of Governors which shall be responsible for the administration and governance of the Institute.

(2) The Board shall consist of –

- (a) a Chairperson;
- (b) the Chief Executive Officer; and
- (c) 7 other members.

(3) The Chairperson of the Board and the board members referred to in subsection (2)(c) shall –

- (a) be persons who have proven competence in research, science, finance, technology transfer, higher education, entrepreneurship, policy development, management of research or public administration;
- (b) be appointed by the Minister and hold office for a period of 3 years, on such terms and conditions as the Minister may determine.

(4) No person shall be qualified as a board member where he is –

- (a) a member of the National Assembly;
- (b) a member of a local authority; or

(c) otherwise actively engaged in any political activity.

(5) No board member shall engage in any activity which may undermine the integrity of the Institute.

16. Functions and powers of Board

The Board shall be the governing body of the Institute and shall be responsible for –

- (a) defining the policy directions of the Institute;
- (b) providing strategic oversight and accountability for the operations of the Institute;
- (c) ensuring alignment with national development strategies and the legal mandate of the Institute;
- (d) devising, approving and supervising budgets, strategic plans and policies for the Institute;
- (e) monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the operations of the Institute and commissioning independent evaluations of its performance every 5 years;
- (f) maintaining rigorous standards of accountability, good governance and transparency in the operations of the Institute; and
- (g) ensuring the Institute reports annually to the Ministry.

17. Meetings of Board

(1) The Board shall meet as often as necessary but at least once every month.

(2) Every meeting of the Board shall be convened by the Chairperson.

(3) At any meeting of the Board, 5 board members shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Board may co-opt other persons capable of assisting it with expert advice but that person shall have no right to vote on any matter considered by it.

(5) A board member who has a direct or an indirect interest in a matter being considered or about to be considered by the Board shall forthwith, or as soon as is practicable after the relevant facts have come to his knowledge, disclose in writing the nature of his interest to the Board and shall not –

- (a) be present during the deliberations of the Board with respect to that matter; and
- (b) take part in any decision of the Board with respect to that matter.

(6) The Board shall regulate its meetings and procedures in such manner as it may determine.

18. Secretary to Board

(1) There shall be a Secretary to the Board who shall –

- (a) prepare and attend every meeting of the Board;
- (b) keep minutes of the proceedings of every meeting of the Board;
- (c) follow up on the implementation of the decisions of the Board;
- (d) service the Board and such other Committees as may be set up by it; and
- (e) perform such other duties as may be conferred upon him by the Board.

(2) The Secretary to the Board may be an officer of the Institute.

19. Committees

(1) The Board may set up such Committees as it deems necessary to assist it in the discharge of its functions.

(2) A Committee may consist of board members and such other persons as the Board may designate.

(3) Every Committee shall –

- (a) be subject to, and act in accordance with, any directive given to it by the Board; and
- (b) report to the Board.

(4) Every Committee shall regulate its meetings and proceedings in such manner as it may determine.

(5) A Committee may request any person to attend any of its meetings for the purpose of advising it on any matter under discussion but that person shall have no right to vote on any matter considered by it.

(6) Every committee member or any person requested under subsection (5) to attend any meeting of a Committee may be paid such fees and allowances as the Minister may approve.

Sub-Part B – Staff of Institute

20. Chief Executive Officer

(1) The Board shall, with the approval of the Minister, appoint a Chief Executive Officer, who shall have expertise in research, innovation and management.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer shall –

- (a) be appointed for a term of 3 years and on such other terms and conditions as the Minister may determine; and
- (b) be eligible for reappointment.

(3) The Chief Executive Officer shall be the head of Institute and shall –

- (a) be responsible for the control and management of the day to day business and operations of the Institute;
- (b) attend every meeting of the Board and take part in its deliberations, but shall have no right to vote;
- (c) be responsible for the execution of the policy and functions of the Board; and
- (d) do such other things as may be necessary to meet the objectives of the Institute.

(4) The Chief Executive Officer may delegate any of his functions and powers to any officer.

21. Appointment of officers

(1) The Board may, on such terms and conditions as it may determine,

appoint such officers as are necessary for the proper discharge of the functions of the Institute under this Act.

(2) Every officer shall be under the administrative responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer.

(3) The Board may retain the services of researchers, consultants and technical experts from local and international universities, regional partners, international organisations, private and public local and international institutions, and diaspora networks on such terms and conditions as it may determine.

22. Conditions of service of officers

The Board may make provision for the conditions of service of its officers and may, in particular, provide for –

- (a) the appointment, retirement, dismissal, discipline, pay and leave of officers, and any security to be given to them;
- (b) appeals by officers against dismissal or any other disciplinary measure; and
- (c) the establishment and maintenance of provident and pension fund schemes or any other scheme, and the contributions payable to, and the benefits recoverable from, any such scheme.

PART IV – THE NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE COORDINATING COUNCIL AND THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

Sub-Part A – Setting up of Coordinating Council

23. Coordinating Council

(1) There shall be a National Research Institute Coordinating Council which shall be responsible to ensure system-wide coherence and effective coordination across the Government research ecosystem.

(2) The Coordinating Council shall consist of –

- (a) the Chief Executive Officer, who shall be the chairperson;
- (b) the Chief Executive Officer of the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute;
- (c) the Chief Executive Officer of the Mauritius Cane Industry Authority;

- (d) the Director of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute; and
- (e) the administrative head of every Government-funded research agencies.

(3) The Coordinating Council may co-opt such other person as may be necessary to assist it in any matter.

(4) The Coordinating Council shall meet as and when necessary but at least once every 2 months.

(5) The members of the Coordinating Council shall be paid such fees and allowances as the Minister may determine.

24. Role and functions of Coordinating Council

- (1) The Coordinating Council shall –
 - (a) ensure operational coherence and strategic alignment among Government research agencies, including alignment with the National Research and Innovation Priorities and the identification of cross-cutting challenges requiring joint research efforts;
 - (b) facilitate the joint development of solutions to national missions such as climate resilience, food security, digital transformation, ocean economy development and health system strengthening;
 - (c) enhance the efficiency and impact of Government-funded research by identifying synergies, eliminating duplication and promoting coordinated research planning across Government agencies, including the use of shared research infrastructure and scientific platforms;
 - (d) contribute expertise to studies commissioned by the Institute for Ministries and provide technical input to policy issues requiring multidisciplinary research;
 - (e) support the implementation of national research and innovation priorities;
 - (f) foster inter-agency and cross-sector coordination; and
 - (g) advise the Institute on strategic research and innovation matters.

(2) The Coordinating Council shall prepare and submit biannual reports to the Board, which shall include, but not be limited to –

- (a) structured advisory inputs to inform oversight and strategic decision-making;
- (b) progress on national missions;
- (c) coordination achievements across publicly funded research institution;
- (d) identified opportunities for streamlining and harmonisation, as well as systemic bottlenecks; and
- (e) recommendations for strengthening the research ecosystem.

(3) The Coordinating Council shall, in the discharge of its functions, be supported by such staff of the Institute as the Chief Executive Officer may designate.

Sub-Part B – Setting up of Scientific Advisory Council

25. Scientific Advisory Council

(1) There shall be a Scientific Advisory Council which shall be responsible to strengthen quality assurance and ensure technical excellence.

(2) The Scientific Advisory Council shall consist of –

- (a) the Chief Executive Officer, as chairperson; and
- (b) 5 other members, to be appointed, with the approval of the Minister, by the Board.

(3) The members referred to in subsection (2)(b) shall –

- (a) have expertise in research, innovation or technology; and
- (b) be from the academia, industry or research organisations.

(4) The Scientific Advisory Council may co-opt such other person as may be necessary to assist it in any matter.

(5) The Scientific Advisory Council shall meet as and when necessary but at least once every 2 months.

(6) The members of the Scientific Advisory Council, which may be from overseas, shall be paid such fees and allowances as the Minister may determine.

26. Role and functions of Scientific Advisory Council

- (1) The Scientific Advisory Council shall –
- (a) provide independent expert advice on the quality, rigour and relevance of the research and innovation activities of the Institute;
 - (b) review the quality, relevance and impact of the research programmes and commissioned studies of the Institute;
 - (c) provide independent technical advice on methodological standards, innovation practices and emerging areas of research;
 - (d) ensure that the work of the Institute meets international benchmarks of excellence and remains aligned with the development priorities of Mauritius;
 - (e) support the Institute in strengthening its credibility as a trusted partner for Government, industry and international collaborators;
 - (f) issue biannual reports; and
 - (g) make selected findings publicly available to enhance transparency and stakeholder trust.

(2) The Scientific Advisory Council shall, in the discharge of its functions, be supported by such staff as the Chief Executive Officer may designate.

PART V – FINANCIAL PROVISIONS AND ACCOUNTS

27. General Fund

- (1) The Institute shall establish a General Fund –
- (a) into which all monies received from any source by it shall be paid; and
 - (b) out of which all payments required to be made under this Act shall be effected.

(2) The Research Fund of the Institute shall be part of the General Fund.

28. Estimate of income and expenditure

(1) The Institute shall submit to the Minister, not later than 31 March in every year, an estimate of its income and expenditure in respect of the following financial year for his approval.

(2) The Minister may –

(a) give his approval under subsection (1); or

(b) approve only part of the estimate and direct the Institute to amend the estimate.

29. Annual report

(1) The Institute shall, in accordance with the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act, prepare an annual report and submit it to the Minister, together with an audited statement of accounts on the operations of the Institute, in respect of every financial year.

(2) The Minister shall, at the earliest available opportunity, lay a copy of the annual report and the audited statement of accounts of the Institute before the Assembly.

30. Audit report

(1) The auditor of the Institute shall be the Director of Audit.

(2) For the purpose of this section, the first financial year of the Institute shall be the period starting on the commencement of this Act and ending on 30 June of the following year.

(3) Section 7(1) of the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act shall not apply in relation to the first financial year of the Institute.

PART VI – MISCELLANEOUS

31. Intellectual property

(1) Unless otherwise agreed, the ownership of intellectual property and responsibility for its application shall vest in the person generating that intellectual property.

(2) Unless otherwise agreed, where a person uses the resources of the Institute to create a product, process or service, the intellectual property rights of that product, process or service shall vest in that person.

(3) Any intellectual property vested in, owned by, or controlled by, the Institute in respect of any invention or improvement in any art, process, apparatus, machine, manufacture or composition of matter may be licensed, sold or otherwise granted or made available to others, in return for royalties, fees and payments to the Institute, on such terms and conditions as the Institute may determine.

(4) Where any intellectual property belonging to the Institute is devised or developed, wholly or partly, through the use of resources provided by a sponsor, the Institute may assign the intellectual property to that sponsor on such terms and conditions as they may mutually agree in writing.

(5) (a) The rights in any discovery, invention or improvement in respect of a process, an apparatus or a machine made by an officer of the Institute in the course of his employment shall vest in the Institute.

(b) The Institute shall, subject to such conditions and the payment of such fees or royalties as it may determine, make the discovery, invention or improvement referred to in paragraph (a) available for use in the public interest.

(6) The Institute –

(a) may apply for a patent, the registration of an industrial design or any other relevant form of intellectual property protection in respect of any discovery, invention or improvement referred to in subsection (5)(a); and

(b) shall, for the purposes of the Industry Property Act 2019, be regarded as the assignee of the discoverer, inventor or author of the improvement.

(7) The rights in a discovery, an invention or an improvement made by the Institute in the course of a commissioned work or an investigation for or on behalf of another person or the Government shall vest in the Institute, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

32. Powers of Minister

The Minister may give such directions of a general nature to the Institute, not inconsistent with this Act, as he considers necessary in the national interest and the Institute shall comply with those directions.

33. Delegation

(1) The Board may, subject to such instructions as it may give, delegate to the Chief Executive Officer such of its powers and functions as may be necessary for the effective management of the day to day business and activities of the Institute, other than the power to –

- (a) sell or exchange any property or make any donation; or
- (b) borrow money.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer may, with the approval of the Board, delegate any of his functions or powers to such officer as he deems necessary.

34. Protection from liability

No liability, civil or criminal, shall attach to the Institute, the Board, a board member, a Committee, a committee member or any officer in respect of any act done or omitted to be done in good faith in the discharge of its or his functions under this Act.

35. Execution of deed, contract or cheque

No deed, contract or cheque shall be executed by, or on behalf of, the Institute unless it is signed by –

- (a) the Chairperson of the Board, or in his absence, a board member designated by the Board; and
- (b) the Chief Executive Officer, or in his absence, any officer designated by the Board.

36. Donations and legacies

Article 910 of the Code Civil Mauricien shall not apply to the Institute.

37. Confidentiality

(1) Subject to subsection (2), every board member, officer and committee member shall, during or after his period of service with the Institute, maintain the confidentiality of any matter relating to this Act which comes to his knowledge.

(2) No person shall disclose to any other person any matter relating to this Act which comes to his knowledge in the performance of his duties except –

- (a) for the purpose of administering this Act;
- (b) where he is required to do so by law.

(3) Any person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes subsection (1) shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 100,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.

38. Logo of Institute

The Institute shall have a logo for its exclusive use in connection with its activities.

39. Legal proceedings

(1) The Institute shall act, sue and be sued in its corporate name.

(2) Service of process by or on behalf of the Institute shall be sufficient if made on behalf of, or on, the Chief Executive Officer.

40. Regulations

(1) The Minister may, on the recommendation of the Board, make such regulations as he thinks fit for the purposes of this Act.

(2) Any regulations made under subsection (1) may provide for –

- (a) the levying of fees and charges; and
- (b) any matter necessary for, or consequential to, the implementation of this Act.

41. Repeal

The Mauritius Research and Innovation Council Act is repealed.

42. Consequential amendment

The Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act is amended, in the Schedule –

(a) by deleting the following item and its corresponding entry –

Mauritius Research Innovative Council	and	Mauritius Research and Innovative Council Act 2019
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- (b) by inserting, in the appropriate alphabetical order, the following new item and its corresponding entry –

National Research and Innovation Institute	National Research and Innovation Institute Act 2026
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43. Transfer of officers of MRIC to Institute

(1) Notwithstanding any other enactment, every person employed by the MRIC shall, on the commencement of section 41, be dealt with in accordance with this section.

- (2) Subject to this section, every person who –

- (a) is employed on the permanent and pensionable establishment of the MRIC may, not later than 30 days after the commencement of section 41, be transferred on the permanent and pensionable establishment of the Institute;
- (b) is employed on contract by the MRIC may, not later than 30 days after the commencement of section 41, be transferred to the Institute.

(3) (a) Where a person does not opt to be transferred to the Institute under subsection (2)(a), he shall be deemed to have retired on ground of abolition of office and he shall be paid his pension benefits in accordance with such pension schemes as may be applicable to him.

(b) Where a person does not opt to be transferred to the Institute under subsection (2)(b), his contract of employment shall be terminated and he shall be paid such benefits as provided in any relevant enactment or his contract, whichever is more favourable.

(4) (a) Where a person is transferred to the Institute under subsection (2)(a), his period of service with the MRIC shall be deemed to be an unbroken period of service with the Institute and he shall be deemed to have been transferred on the same terms and conditions than those of his previous employment.

(b) Where a person is transferred to the Institute under subsection (2)(b), his contract with the MRIC shall be deemed to have been entered with the Institute and he shall be deemed to have been transferred on the same terms and conditions of his contract.

(5) No person referred to in this section shall, on account of his transfer to the Institute, be entitled to claim that his employment has been terminated or adversely affected in breach of any enactment.

(6) The Executive Director of the MRIC shall, on the commencement of section 41, be the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute.

44. Other savings and transitional provisions

(1) Any proceedings, whether judicial or extra-judicial, started by or against the MRIC and which are pending on the commencement of section 41 shall be deemed to have been started by or against the Institute.

(2) All rights, obligations and liabilities subsisting in favour of or against the MRIC shall, on the commencement of section 41, continue to exist under the same terms and conditions in favour of or against the Institute.

(3) The funds and assets, including moveable assets, of the MRIC shall, on the commencement of section 41, vest in the Institute.

(4) Any scheme, incentive, grant, project, contract, funds, clearance, approval or arrangement given by, granted by, allowed by, allocated by, or entered into with MRIC, as the case may be, or any other act or thing done by the MRIC, and which is valid on the commencement of section 41, shall be deemed to have been given by, granted by, allowed by, allocated by, entered into with, or done by, the Institute.

(5) Any reference in any enactment or document to the MRIC shall be construed as a reference to the Institute.

(6) Where this Act does not make provision for any saving or transition, the Minister may make such regulations as may be necessary for such saving or transition.

45. Commencement

(1) Subject to subsection (2), this Act shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by Proclamation.

(2) Different dates may be fixed for the coming into operation of different sections of this Act.
