

**THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL MEASURES (MISCELLANEOUS
PROVISIONS) BILL**
(No. XX of 2025)

Explanatory Memorandum

The object of this Bill is to provide for the implementation of measures announced in the Budget Speech 2025-2026 relating to economic and financial measures and for other miscellaneous economic and financial measures and related measures.

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21 July 2025

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PROVISIONS) BILL**
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ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

Clause

1. Short title
 2. Animal Welfare Act amended
 3. Central Electricity Board Act amended
 4. Central Water Authority Act amended
 5. Declaration of Assets Act amended
 6. Fisheries Act 2023 amended
 7. Food Act 2022 amended
 8. Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute Act amended
 9. French-speaking Union Act 2024 amended
 10. Higher Education Act amended
 11. Workers' Rights Act 2019 amended
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A BILL

To provide for the implementation of measures announced in the Budget Speech 2025-2026 relating to economic and financial matters and for other miscellaneous economic and financial measures and related measures

ENACTED by the Parliament of Mauritius, as follows –

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the Economic and Financial Measures (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2025.

2. Animal Welfare Act amended

The Animal Welfare Act is amended –

(a) in section 5, by adding the following new subsection –

(4) Any person who hinders or obstructs an authorised officer in the exercise of his powers under this section 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.

(b) in section 7, by deleting the words “and in presence of an authorised officer”.

3. Central Electricity Board Act amended

The Central Electricity Board Act is amended, in section 5, in subsection (1), in paragraph (a)(vii), by deleting the words “Engineers’ Association” and replacing them by the words “Council of Registered Professional Engineers”.

4. Central Water Authority Act amended

The Central Water Authority Act is amended, in section 7, in subsection (2), by inserting, after paragraph (c), the following new paragraph –

(d) a representative of the Water Resources Commission;

5. Declaration of Assets Act amended

The Declaration of Assets Act is amended, in section 6, in subsection (1), by repealing paragraph (b) and replacing it by the following paragraph –

(b) in section 3(1)(e) and (f) shall –

- (i) at every interval of 5 years, make a fresh declaration with the Commission not later than 30 days after the end of the 5-year period of his last declaration; and
- (ii) make a fresh declaration with the Commission not later than 30 days after leaving office.

6. Fisheries Act 2023 amended

The Fisheries Act 2023 is amended –

- (a) in section 2, by inserting, in the appropriate alphabetical order, the following new definitions –

“CITES” has the same meaning as in the Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Act;

“Management Authority” has the same meaning as in the Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Act;

- (b) by inserting, after section 20, the following new section –

20A. Removal of grounded fishing vessel

The owner of a fishing vessel or a person acting with his authority shall, in case the vessel is grounded, forthwith take such appropriate measures as may be required to remove it in order to prevent pollution or any threat to the marine ecosystem and navigation.

- (c) in section 47, in subsection (1) –

- (i) by deleting the words “upon entry into and exit from the maritime zones” and “the time of entry and exit” and replacing them by the words “at least 24 hours prior to entry in the maritime zones and upon exit from the maritime zones” and “the proposed time of entry and time of exit”, respectively;
- (ii) in paragraph (c), by deleting the words “every 4 hours” and replacing them by the words “every 2 hours”;

- (d) in section 80, in subsection (1), by deleting the words “and applicable authorisation” and replacing them by the words “permit issued by the National Parks and Conservation Service under Part VIII of the Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Act and an authorisation issued by the supervising officer”;
- (e) in section 83 –
 - (i) in subsection (1), by repealing paragraph (a) and replacing it by the following paragraph –
 - (a) fish and fish products without –
 - (i) a valid and applicable authorisation, obtained electronically through the TradeNet or, in exceptional or unforeseen circumstances, in such other manner as the supervising officer may determine; and
 - (ii) a valid health certificate issued by the competent authority of the exporting country or country of origin, as the case may be; or
 - (ii) by inserting, after subsection (1), the following new subsection –
 - (1A) (a) Any fish and fish product imported under subsection (1) shall be accompanied by the certificate referred to in subsection (1)(a)(ii).
 - (b) An importer who imports any fish and fish product that is not accompanied by the certificate referred to subsection (1)(a)(ii) shall commit an offence.
- (f) in section 85, in subsection (4), by adding the following new paragraph, the existing provision being lettered as paragraph (a) –
 - (b) The importer of any live fish shall comply with the conditions of import of live ornamental fish.
- (g) in section 88 –

- (i) by inserting, after subsection (1), the following new subsection –

(1A) A person referred to in subsection (1) shall, with respect to any consignment of live fish intended for export, ensure that, in addition to the requirements specified in subsection (1), the consignment is accompanied by a CITES certificate issued by the National Parks and Conservation Service under section 38 of the Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Act.

- (ii) by adding the following new subsection –

(4) No person shall export, re-export or tranship any species of fish referred to in CITES unless he complies with subsection (1) and possesses an export permit issued by the Management Authority under section 38 of the Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Act.

- (h) in section 95, by inserting, after the words “vessel monitoring system”, the words “, an electronic reporting system”;
- (i) in section 124 –
 - (i) in the heading, by deleting the words “**or lure**” and replacing them by the word “, **lure or hook**”;
 - (ii) in subsection (1), by deleting the words “or lure” and replacing them by the words “, lure or hook”;
- (j) in the Fifth Schedule, in item 9, by deleting the words “or lure” and replacing them by the words “, lure or hook”.

7. Food Act 2022 amended

The Food Act 2022 is amended, in section 2 –

- (a) by deleting the definition of “analysis” and replacing it by the following definition –

“analysis”, in relation to food, means the scientific process of analysing or examining and determining chemical and biochemical composition of food;

- (b) by deleting the definition of “examination” and replacing it by the following definition –

“examination” –

- (a) means any physical, chemical or microbiological test; and
- (b) includes a rapid test;

8. Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute Act amended

The Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute Act is amended –

- (a) in section 7, in subsection (1), by inserting, after paragraph (b), the following new paragraph –
 - (ba) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of finance;
- (b) in section 8, in subsection (3), by deleting the words “5 members” and replacing them by the words “6 members”.

9. French-speaking Union Act 2024 amended

The French-speaking Union Act 2024 is amended, in the Schedule, in paragraph 1, by deleting the words “19(1)(b)” and replacing them by the words “20(1)(b)”.

10. Higher Education Act amended

The Higher Education Act is amended –

- (a) in section 2 –
 - (i) in the definition of “Minister”, by deleting the word “education” and replacing it by the words “higher education”;
 - (ii) in the definition of “Ministry”, by deleting the word “education” and replacing it by the words “higher education”;
- (b) in section 5, by repealing paragraph (g), the words “; and” at the end of paragraph (f) being deleted and replaced by a full stop and the word “and” being added at the end of paragraph (e);

- (c) in section 6, in subsection (1), by inserting, after paragraph (c), the following new paragraph –

(ca) approve and recognise micro-credentials in higher education;

- (d) in section 7, by adding the following new subsection, the existing provision being numbered as subsection (1) –

(2) (a) The Commission shall appoint an Academic Research Committee which shall be responsible to develop, implement and maintain a Mauritius Research Excellence Framework with which all public higher education institutions shall adhere to.

(b) The Academic Research Committee shall comprise local and international researchers as approved by the Minister.

(c) The members of the Academic Research Committee shall be paid such fees as approved by the Minister.

- (e) by repealing section 17 and replacing it by the following section –

17. Accreditation of Institutional Accreditation Process

(1) No higher education institution shall operate within Mauritius unless the Commission has accredited its programme accreditation process.

(2) Every higher education institution shall submit its application for accreditation of its programme accreditation process to the Commission in accordance with such guidelines as the Commission may issue.

(3) Programmes that may be amended by up to 25 per cent to cater for local adaptation and offered directly or through local institutions or online within Mauritius shall be exempt from accreditation by the Commission where either the programmes or the overseas institutions or both have been accredited by one or more recognised accrediting bodies with which the Commission maintains mutual recognition agreements.

(4) Where compliance with professional practice standards is lawfully required, a higher education institution shall not offer programmes leading to professional qualifications unless

that institution has secured conditional or unconditional recognition of its programmes from the relevant professional bodies operating in Mauritius.

(f) in section 18, by adding the following new subsections –

(4) For programmes of overseas institutions offered in Mauritius, the Commission may approve any recognised credit value system.

(5) A higher education institution may use the Commission's National Credit Value and Transfer System in conjunction with any internationally recognised credit value system.

(g) by repealing section 22;

(h) in section 29, in paragraph (a), by adding the following new subparagraph –

(iii) the Mauritius Quality Code for higher education;

(i) in section 38, in subsection (1), by repealing paragraph (a) and replacing it by the following paragraph –

(a) through an academic programme offered by a higher education institution whose accreditation process has been accredited by the Commission; and

11. Workers' Rights Act 2019 amended

The Workers' Rights Act 2019 is amended, in section 47A –

(a) by deleting the heading and replacing it by the following heading –

47A. Leave to care for child, parent, grandparent or spouse with healthcare-related issues

(b) in subsection (1) –

(i) by repealing paragraph (b) and replacing it by the following paragraph –

(b) his parent;

(ii) by adding the following new paragraphs –

(c) his grandparent; or

(d) his spouse;

(c) in subsection (2), in paragraph (d), by deleting the words “parent or grandparent” and replacing them by the words “parent, grandparent or spouse”;

(d) in subsection (3), by deleting the words “parents or grandparents” and replacing them by the words “parent, grandparent or spouse”.
