

# BIZWEEK

Economy | Business | Finance

bizweek.mu | ISSUE 546 | SUNDAY 01 JUNE 2025

“Countries can be independent, they can trade on their own terms, without constant dependence on the dollar.”

“Resolving the Ukraine conflict will require serious, patient, and well-prepared negotiations – not quick media statements.”

“Sanctions forced us to invest in ourselves – in tourism, food, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals... We no longer depend on Europe.”

**Irada Zeynalova,**  
*Ambassador of Russia to Mauritius*



**In Russia,  
we remember  
everything...**  







FINANCIAL MARKETS

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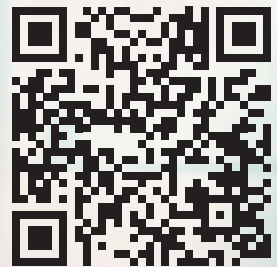
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# INTERVIEW

**DR SURESH NANDA,**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR, SYMPHONY CAPITAL LTD

## “Policy shift towards trade finance could anchor long-term growth for Mauritius”

In this Q&A with BIZWEEK, Dr Suresh Nanda explains that Mauritius should be positioning itself to capture a greater share of Africa-Asia trade flows through the development of a dedicated trade finance ecosystem. With 80-90% of global trade reliant on trade finance, the island economy is exploring how its legal stability, regulatory flexibility, and strategic location can support cross-border transactions and structured finance. Drawing parallels with Dubai's evolution into a trade and financial hub, this interview outlines the strategic rationale, competitive advantages, and key reforms that could enable Mauritius to play a greater role in regional trade finance.





# INTERVIEW

## Why should Mauritius focus on trade finance?

Trade finance underpins 80-90% of global trade. Mauritius is well-positioned to serve as a bridge between Africa and Asia. Developing as a trade finance hub would drive FDI, job creation, and regional integration. While Mauritius has successfully established itself as an offshore banking center, diversifying into trade finance would reduce dependency on existing financial services and add resilience. It would attract multinational corporations and investors looking for a stable jurisdiction to conduct trade finance operations. Countries like Singapore and Dubai have built robust trade finance sectors, benefiting from their strategic locations and favorable regulations. Mauritius can adopt a similar model, offering competitive regulatory frameworks and modern financial instruments to support importers, exporters, and commodity traders.

## What are the key lessons from Dubai becoming a trade finance hub?

The transformation of Dubai from a modest trading port into a global metropolis is a remarkable story of vision, ambition, and strategic planning. Over several decades, Dubai has evolved into a key hub for global trade, finance, and tourism. Unlike its wealthier neighbour Abu Dhabi, which benefited from vast oil reserves, Dubai had limited oil resources, but an unlimited appetite for progress. Rather than relying on natural wealth, the Emirate pursued an aggressive and forward-looking strategy to position itself uniquely as a global trading center by establishing a major port, an international aviation hub, a premier tourist destination, and a leading financial center. Today, Dubai's success story stands as a modern-day case study in visionary leadership and purposeful development, an iconic example of 21st-century transformation.

Mauritius is already well-established as a premium tourist destination and a reputable international financial center. However, by drawing inspiration from Dubai's success story and leveraging its strategic geographic location, Mauritius has the potential to also emerge as a prominent trade finance hub. This development would not only enhance its stature as a financial center, but also serve as a powerful driver of economic growth, diversification, and regional influence.

## What advantages does Mauritius possess to become a trade finance hub?

Mauritius is uniquely positioned to emerge as a regional trade finance hub, capitalizing on its strategic location, advanced financial infrastructure, and supportive regulatory environment. Located at the crossroads of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, Mauritius offers a natural bridge for triangular trade flows involving Sub-Saharan Africa, India, China, and the Gulf. Its GMT+4 time zone enables seamless overlaps with key global markets, ensuring efficient real-time communication and coordination.

The country benefits from a stable political and economic environment characterized by strong democratic governance, an independent judiciary, and a hybrid legal system blending civil and common law. These attributes reduce political risk – an essential consideration for international

lenders and investors.

Mauritius hosts over 20 international and domestic banks with expertise in corporate and trade finance. The local financial ecosystem includes development finance institutions (DFIs), funds, and family offices engaged in cross-border transactions and structured finance. This makes it well-equipped to support trade finance solutions such as supply chain finance, invoice discounting, and syndicated lending.

The regulatory framework is transparent and business friendly. The Financial Services Commission (FSC) and the Bank of Mauritius (BoM) are receptive to innovation, actively promoting digital finance through sandbox regimes and emerging technologies like blockchain. The tax regime is equally attractive, featuring no capital gains tax, low corporate tax rates (15%, often lower with incentives), and no exchange controls.

Mauritius's strong trade ties across Africa, through multilateral agreements like COMESA, SADC, and AfCFTA, reinforce its role as a gateway to the continent. The jurisdiction has a proven track record of facilitating Africa-bound investments, which can be extended to trade finance initiatives.

Moreover, its bilingual proficiency in English and French enables smooth engagement across both Anglophone and Francophone Africa, simplifying documentation, negotiations, and legal coordination. Legal certainty is further enhanced by institutions like the Mauritius International Arbitration Centre (MIAC), which offer internationally recognized dispute resolution mechanisms.

Ongoing investments in digital infrastructure, including KYC utilities, national trade platforms, and fintech partnerships, are creating an enabling environment for modern trade finance. This evolution aligns with the government's vision to position Mauritius as a leading financial and trade services hub.

By leveraging these strengths, Mauritius has the potential to diversify its financial services sector, generate employment, and contribute to long-term economic growth through the development of a dynamic trade finance ecosystem.

## What can Mauritius learn and adapt from Dubai's model?

Mauritius can position itself as a premier trade finance hub by executing a coordinated national Trade Finance Development Strategy, drawing lessons from global leaders like Dubai. This strategy should align government, regulators, and private stakeholders around key initiatives: enhancing port, airport, and digital infrastructure; establishing a national trade digital platform; and creating warehousing and fintech-enabled systems for trade documentation and finance.

A dedicated trade finance zone – similar to Dubai's DIFC – could provide a specialized regulatory framework, independent dispute resolution, and business-friendly conditions to attract global players. Building on Mauritius' existing financial ecosystem, tailored licenses and incentives for trade finance institutions, fintechs and insurers

will enhance competitiveness, while strengthening the sandbox environment can foster innovation in supply chain finance and blockchain-based trade tools.

Offering comprehensive logistics, banking, and legal services for cross-border transactions will make the country a preferred trade finance gateway. Strengthening the regulatory framework to align with international best practices, mirroring the credibility of Dubai's DFSA, will boost investor confidence.

In parallel, Mauritius should invest in specialized talent and financial education in trade finance, fintech, and risk management, ensuring long-term capability. A targeted global campaign promoting Mauritius as a reliable, bilingual (English-French), and innovation-driven trade finance destination will reinforce its position on the global stage.

## What about the size of the total market for Trade Finance in Mauritius?

The Africa-Asia trade will continue to increase significantly, and is expected to be over \$1 trillion by 2030. Mauritius can become a documentation and financial hub for part of the trade. Further, African importers often seek funding over 180 days under LCs, which many banks in exporting countries do not accept due to their respective Central Bank restrictions. These solutions can be provided through some specialized trade finance institutions and funds which operate in Africa. Mauritius can also play a role in warehouse receipt finance and structured commodity finance.



**While Mauritius has successfully established itself as an offshore banking center, diversifying into trade finance would reduce dependency on existing financial services and add resilience.**





OP - ED

# How to Judge the budget: Father Xmas or investing in the future?



BY ALI MANSOOR

Former Financial Secretary of the Government of Mauritius | Former Lead Economist at the World Bank | Former Deputy Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

As Mauritius transitions from upper-middle to high-income status, the budget must be seen not as a giveaway list, but as a strategic tool. A good budget doesn't pander to sectors or special interests – it strengthens the foundation for long-term, inclusive growth. This means investing in people, productivity, and resilience while staying fiscally responsible. It's not about whether we can spend, but how we use our fiscal space to secure the future. We are at a defining moment. Global uncertainty and technological disruption demand bold reforms. Mauritius needs a budget that drives 7% annual growth – the level needed to double incomes in a decade. But before all else, the most urgent challenge this budget must address is the looming disruption from artificial intelligence (AI). Within five years, thousands of Mauritian jobs in key export service sectors could be lost to automation. These include call centers, legal and financial process outsourcing, payroll processing, basic accounting, transcription, and data entry. These services – many of which underpin Mauritius's offshore and ICT sectors – are directly threatened by generative AI tools like ChatGPT, autonomous customer agents, and smart accounting and legal platforms. Based on international research by the OECD, McKinsey, and PwC, 20% to 40% of jobs in these functions are automatable. Applying a conservative 25% risk factor to an estimated 60,000 jobs in Mauritius's service export industries suggests the potential loss of 15,000 jobs within the next five years. However, Mauritius can turn this challenge into opportunity. It can position itself as a regional hub for AI regulation, responsible AI deployment, and sector-specific AI services. We must invest in AI talent, create regulatory sandboxes, and fund transition training and digital infrastructure to ensure our workforce is not left behind. This article therefore highlights a new reform priority: 'Harnessing the AI Revolution' in addition to the other reforms needed to take us to sustained 7 percent growth. This area includes reskilling programs, fiscal incentives for ethical AI use, cloud infrastructure investment, and creating an innovation ecosystem that integrates AI into the finance, education, and health sectors. If done right, these reforms could contribute 0.6% to 1.1% to annual GDP growth over the next decade. This article outlines a blueprint to move Mauritius forward. It focuses on practical, outcome-driven reforms that leverage our geography, talent, and institutions. These proposals are not the final word – they can and should be improved through national dialogue – but they offer a starting point and a benchmark by which to evaluate the coming budget. As shown in Table 1, this plan could lift annual growth by 4.0% (under slow implementation) and 8.6% (under full implementation) over the next decade. The following sections detail each reform area, its rationale, implementation strategy, responsible ministries, and estimated contribution to growth. The time for incremental fixes is over. The next budget must be judged not by what it gives away, but by what it builds.

## 1. Harnessing the AI Revolution (0.6 - 1.1%)

Mauritius must respond decisively to the AI revolution – not only to protect its economy from disruption, but

to claim a competitive position in the global digital economy. The following actions outline a coherent and implementable strategy to mitigate the risks and seize the opportunities that artificial intelligence presents over the next five years.

### 1.1 PROTECTING JOBS THROUGH TRANSITION SUPPORT

- - Establish a National AI Transition Fund to finance large-scale re-skilling and upskilling programs for affected workers in BPO, finance, law, and administration.
- - Partner with accredited global institutions to deliver certified online and hybrid AI-adjacent training in data analysis, customer AI support, prompt engineering, and digital workflows.
- - Provide wage top-ups and social protection for displaced workers undergoing training, similar to the approach used in Singapore and Finland.

### 1.2 BUILDING A FUTURE-READY WORKFORCE

- - Revamp the school curriculum to include coding, data literacy, and critical thinking starting from the primary level.
- - Expand vocational and tertiary offerings in AI, machine learning, cloud computing, cybersecurity, and ethical AI.
- - Create scholarship schemes for AI-related postgraduate study, especially in institutions with strong industry connections.

### 1.3 CREATING AN AI INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

- - Establish an AI Regulatory Sandbox to allow safe testing of AI applications in education, healthcare, and fintech.
- - Offer tax incentives for companies investing in AI R&D and hiring Mauritian AI talent.
- - Create a National AI Research Centre to coordinate public-private-academic partnerships in applied AI projects.

### 1.4 ATTRACTING INVESTMENT IN DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- - Expand national cloud infrastructure through a PPP model to support AI applications and startups.
- - Ensure affordable and high-speed broadband access nationwide, especially in rural and coastal areas.
- - Introduce sovereign digital bonds to finance AI and digital infrastructure initiatives.

### 1.5 POSITIONING MAURITIUS AS A REGIONAL AI HUB

- Host an annual Indian Ocean AI Summit to showcase regional innovation and attract international attention.

## 2. Diversify the Economic Base (0.6 – 1.2%)

### 2.1 POSITION MAURITIUS AS A BUSINESS SERVICES HUB FOR AFRICA

Mauritius must proactively establish itself as a launchpad for African business services. Through the **Ministry of Financial Services and Economic Planning**, Mauritius must establish itself as a regional hub by developing African-focused Special Economic Zones, modelled on Shenzhen's cluster-based innovation. Success requires partnership with the EU and International Financial Institutions funding. These zones would house financial services, legal process outsourcing, and Environmental, Social, and Governance



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The next budget should be judged not by giveaways, but by its power to deliver lasting progress.



Table 1. Impact of reforms on annual GDP growth over the next decade

Reform Area	Estimated Growth Impact (%)	Rationale
1. Harnessing the AI Revolution	0.6 – 1.1	Reskilling programs, regulatory sandbox, AI compliance services, cloud infrastructure, and applied innovation.
Diversify the Economic Base	0.6 – 1.2	Establishing Mauritius as a business services hub can attract foreign investment and enhance service exports, similar to successes observed in countries like Rwanda and Singapore. <sup>1</sup>
Reform Justice and Labour Markets	0.2 – 0.5	Improving judicial efficiency and labour market flexibility can reduce transaction costs and encourage business activity, as evidenced by World Bank studies. <sup>2</sup>
Advance the Green and Blue Economies	0.3 – 0.7	Investments in renewable energy and sustainable aquaculture have been shown to boost GDP in countries like Morocco. <sup>3</sup>
Modernize Agriculture	0.2 – 0.4	Transitioning to high-value, sustainable farming practices can increase productivity and export potential, as highlighted by FAO reports. <sup>4</sup>
Strengthen Social Safety Nets	0.1 – 0.3	Implementing conditional cash transfers has been linked to poverty reduction and increased economic activity, as seen in Brazil's Bolsa Família program. <sup>5</sup>
Deepen Fiscal and Financial Reform	0.3 – 0.6	Enhancing tax compliance and restructuring debt can create fiscal space for growth-promoting investments, according to IMF analyses. <sup>6</sup>
Boost Export Competitiveness and Integration	0.4 – 0.8	Engaging in trade liberalization and regional integration, such as through AfCFTA, can expand market access and drive growth, as per UNCTAD findings. <sup>7</sup>
Support SMEs and Startups	0.3 – 0.6	Facilitating SME development can stimulate innovation and employment, contributing significantly to GDP, as noted by the African Development Bank. <sup>8</sup>
Build Human Capital for the Future	0.5 – 1.0	Investing in education and vocational training enhances labour productivity, a key driver of economic growth, as supported by OECD research. <sup>9</sup>
Enhance Climate Resilience	0.2 – 0.4	Strengthening infrastructure and adaptive capacities mitigates economic losses from climate-related events, promoting sustainable growth, as emphasized by UNEP. <sup>10</sup>
Transform Tourism	0.2 – 0.5	Diversifying tourism offerings can increase visitor spending and resilience of the sector, as observed in Caribbean economies. <sup>11</sup>
Improve Public Sector Performance	0.3 – 0.5	Enhancing governance and public service delivery improves efficiency and investor confidence, fostering economic development, as indicated by World Bank studies. <sup>12</sup>

(ESG) advisory firms, and develop into major modern cities that link the African hinterland to the global economy.

In parallel, the **Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research** will attract world-class universities by offering land grants, co-branded degrees, and dual-accreditation incentives. Educational clusters will provide the talent Mauritius needs while boosting exports of educational services.

2.2 PROMOTE MEDICAL AND HEALTH TOURISM

The **Ministry of Health and Wellness** will fast-track international accreditation for hospitals and create a “Mauritius Health Visa” for long-term stays. Hospitals will be incentivized to build joint ventures with Indian, French, and South African specialists to provide high-quality, but affordable care.

2.3 PROVIDE HOUSING FOR GLOBAL TALENT

The **Ministry of Housing and Lands** will implement mixed-income housing schemes tailored to foreign students, skilled workers, and digital nomads – positioning Mauritius as a globally competitive “Live and Work” destination. In the process, the Ministry will propose a scheme that makes it attractive for owners of unused property to work with Government to offer their property for rent.

3. Justice and Labour Reform (0.2 – 0.5%)

3.1 MODERNIZE JUDICIAL EFFICIENCY

Under the **Attorney General and Chief Justice**, the judiciary will undergo digital transformation with AI-powered case allocation and e-filing systems. Fast-track commercial courts will resolve business disputes within 90 days, using the model adopted by Dubai.

3.2 CREATE A DYNAMIC LABOUR MARKET



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The most urgent challenge this budget must address is the looming disruption from artificial intelligence (AI).



The **Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations** will legislate a modern Employment Code aligned with ILO conventions. This will introduce contract flexibility while embedding core worker protections and upskilling obligations for employers. The key reform will be to protect workers and not jobs by Government guaranteeing that any worker losing their job due to economic restructuring will be provided on the job retraining at Government expense. Moreover, any gap in wages and benefits between the lost job and the new one will be covered by Government.

4. Green and Blue Economy (0.3 – 0.7%)

4.1 SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND AQUACULTURE

The **Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities** will de-risk private investment in solar, wind, and offshore aquaculture through feed-in tariffs, green bonds, and sovereign guarantees. Government will cover the full capital cost of any household or SME investment in solar energy and the repayment will be on a long-term basis on the electricity bill to ensure that the bill is no more than 90 percent of what it was without the solar power. The **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change** will establish a Climate Finance Taskforce to access Global Climate and Adaptation Funds, aiming to mobilize MUR 10 billion by 2027. The funds will be allocated based on project proposals from households, Civil Society Organizations and Businesses that have viable projects that build sustainability and resilience. Part of the funding will be used to finance feasibility studies that turn project ideas into projects that can be financed.

5. Modernize Agriculture (0.2 - 0.4%)

5.1 TRANSITION TO HIGH-VALUE, SUSTAINABLE FARMING

The **Ministry of Agro-Industry** will shift subsidies away from sugar towards high-tech agriculture – hydroponics, vertical farms, and organic exports. It will support agritech incubators and provide matching grants for climate-smart farming inputs. It will issue Green bonds that can finance feasibility studies for project ideas and provide the financing for viable projects.

6. Strengthen Social Safety Nets (0.1 -0.3%)

6.1 IMPLEMENT CONDITIONAL AND DIGITAL WELFARE

The **Ministry of Social Integration** will consolidate fragmented welfare programs into a unified digital conditional cash transfer platform, linked to education, healthcare, and employment metrics. This ensures efficiency, dignity, and fiscal sustainability, and will allow greater poverty reduction and assistance to those most in need with the same budget expenditure. A minimum threshold income per family will be established, and all those below this level will get the necessary transfers to reach the threshold.

6.2 INTRODUCE A NATIONAL SERVICE AND SKILLS CORPS

A National Service Program will be launched targeting 18-24-year-olds, combining civic duty with skill acquisition, addiction recovery, and rehabilitation. The **Ministry of Youth and Sports and Social Integration** will jointly implement this initiative with local NGOs and grass roots Civil Society Organizations.

6.3 ENSURE AFFORDABLE BASIC SERVICES

Utility subsidies will be refined to support only vulnerable households, identified via the social registry. The **Ministry of Health** will introduce AI triage and e-health records to reduce wait times and improve service targeting. The **Ministry of Education** will deploy AI-powered adaptive learning to support remedial education and shift pedagogy from rote to skill-based learning. During the long school vacations, the best teachers in the country will be matched with the students most needing remedial attention to enable

them to catch up by the start of the next school year. Teachers will be given a choice of teaching in schools or providing private lessons. To compensate the teachers who are currently doing both, Government will subsidize the earnings of those who chose to teach in school to make sure their income remains the same for a transition period of 5 years. The income reported to the MRA will be used for this purpose. This will ensure that there is no incentive for teachers to use lessons rather than class to teach. It will also ensure that education is really free.

7. Deepen Fiscal and Financial Reform (0.3 -0.6%)

7.1 ENSURE DEBT SUSTAINABILITY AND SMART INVESTMENT

The Ministry of Finance will restructure high-cost debt through buybacks and swaps, targeting a 2-percentage point reduction in interest burden. The **Ministry of Infrastructure** will prioritize projects with positive economic multipliers and implement a PPP framework with risk-sharing provisions and dispute resolution mechanisms.

7.2 REFORM TAXATION FOR EQUITY AND GROWTH

A phased introduction of a wealth tax on the top 100 property owners and windfall gains from land conversion will improve tax fairness. Simultaneously, income tax will be simplified into a single transparent bracket to support FDI and compliance. State land will be auctioned with a proviso that large landowners and foreigners are not eligible to participate.

7.3 STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT

The **Ministry of Financial Services** will upgrade AML/ CFT systems using AI surveillance, and broaden the financial sector to include green finance, digital assets under regulatory sandboxes, and diaspora bonds. The Ministry will ensure that the FSC adopts time bound standards based on best international practice to process requests. It will review AML/CFT regulations to focus on where real risks lie and reduce the burden of compliance on individuals and SMEs where there is little risk.

8. Boost Export Competitiveness and Regional Integration (0.4 -0.8%)

8.1 NEGOTIATE SMART TRADE DEALS

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade** will push for reciprocal liberalization under AfCFTA and COMESA, particularly in digital and professional services. Mauritius will also lead in establishing a network of African Trade Hubs supported by Export Credit Agencies.

8.2 BUILD EXPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Modernization of Port Louis harbour and expansion of air cargo facilities will proceed under a concessional PPP model. The aim is to slash logistics costs by 20% by 2028 and to make Port Louis the premier port in the Western Indian Ocean.

8.3 OFFER EXPORT INCENTIVES

The **Ministry of Finance** will expand export credit insurance, support ISO/SA8000 certifications, and introduce a “Compliance for Export” program targeting SMEs.

9. Support SMEs and Startups (0.3 - 0.6%)

9.1 SIMPLIFY REGULATION AND ACCESS TO FINANCE

A national SME One-Stop-Shop Portal will digitize business registration, licensing, tax compliance, and support programs. The **Ministry of Industry** will unify fragmented financing schemes and introduce a partial Credit Guarantee Fund to unlock private lending. The

Annex: Methodology used to generate the growth estimates

Benchmarking Against Other Countries:

For each reform area, I looked at case studies and empirical research from comparable economies (e.g., Singapore, Rwanda, Ireland, UAE) that implemented similar interventions. These case studies often report GDP impacts or sectoral growth boosts following specific reforms.



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**Within five years, thousands of Mauritian jobs in key export service sectors could be lost to automation.**”

Ministry will also offer SMEs support at Government expense to develop business plans based on export expansion. The Development Bank of Mauritius will provide venture capital to firms with credible export expansion plans and link continued support to meeting export targets. The share of profits going to Government over a 10-year period will be set to make the scheme self-financing.

9.2 IMPROVE MARKET ACCESS

The government will subsidize SME participation in international expos and digital marketplaces. Priority will be given to women-led enterprises, tech startups, and green businesses.

10. Build Human Capital for the Future (0.5 - 1.0%)

10.1 REVAMP EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIPS

School curricula will be overhauled to embed coding, AI, data literacy, climate science, and ethics. Scholarships will be refocused on strategic postgraduate areas not available locally to support a Mauritius Knowledge Hub.

10.2 PROMOTE VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND SANDWICH COURSES

A public-private Apprenticeship Agency will coordinate sandwich programs combining academic learning and paid internships. Partnerships with international institutions can be facilitated with ILO support to ensure global relevance.

10.3 INVEST IN INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

Dedicated innovation hubs will be co-located with universities and SEZs. Research grants will target AI, fintech, green tech, medical devices, and agritech – linked to commercialization metrics.

11. Enhance Climate Resilience (0.2 -0.5%)

11.1 BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

The Ministry of Infrastructure will co-design coastal protection with local communities. Smart water grids and treated wastewater reuse (as in Singapore’s NEWater model) will be expanded for agriculture and hospitality use.

11.2 OFFER GREEN INCENTIVES

Concessional finance will be provided for solar, EVs, and building retrofits. A Green Transition Fund will be seeded with both domestic resources and concessional climate finance.

11.3 EMBED SUSTAINABILITY IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

The Ministry of Local Government will run Green Village competitions and support local composting, recycling, and climate awareness campaigns. Local Governments at village council and town council level will be given the authority to raise their own property taxes within bands set by the national Government. This will enable councils that desire to do so to expand their revenue base to provide a wider range and higher quality service.

12. Transform Tourism (0.2% -0.5%)

12.1 DIVERSIFY TOURISM OFFERINGS

Beyond beach tourism, the Ministry of Tourism will prioritize wellness, ecotourism, digital nomads, silver haired travellers and adventure travel. Public-private packages will integrate medical, hiking, diving, and cultural circuits. Specific actions as proposed in the World Bank blueprint on Tourism will be implemented. An app will be developed for tourists to shop for all service providers registered with the Tourism Authority.

12.2 EXPAND DIGITAL MARKETING AND LOCAL BENEFITS

A new digital campaign will target Gen Z and millennial travellers via social media influencers. Tourism revenues will be shared with communities through destination-specific levies.

12.3 PROMOTE MAURITIAN HERITAGE

Walking tours and digital trails will showcase the multicultural history of Mauritius, curated jointly by the Ministry of Tourism and Arts and Culture.

13. Improve Public Sector Performance (0.3 - 0.5%)

13.1 ACCELERATE E-GOVERNANCE

All ministries will digitize frontline services through a unified government portal. Blockchain will be piloted for land records and procurement.

13.2 BUILD CIVIL SERVICE CAPACITY

The Civil Service College will retrain civil servants in digital skills, service excellence, and crisis response.

13.3 EMBED PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Each ministry will sign an annual performance contract with KPIs linked to delivery, efficiency, and innovation. A Delivery Unit under the Prime Minister will track reforms.

13.4 PREPARE FOR FUTURE SHOCKS

A permanent Crisis Preparedness Unit will be established with scenario planning teams for climate, health, and economic crises.

Conclusion

Some may argue Mauritius lacks the fiscal space or capacity for such bold reforms. But this phased plan prioritizes catalytic interventions that unlock private and concessional finance. Experience shows early wins and national renewal can overcome resistance. By focusing on inclusive growth, competitiveness, and resilience, this blueprint offers a path to a high-income future. The next budget should be judged not by giveaways, but by its power to deliver lasting progress. Specifically, it can be assessed against the benchmark in this article. Which of the proposed reforms is it supporting, which reforms are better and which ones are missing? Finally, what do the reforms the budget proposes do to boost economic growth, and by how much?

Footnotes

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# NEWS

## EDB deepens global economic ties through high-level diplomatic engagements

Mauritius is stepping up its efforts to position itself as a regional hub for trade, investment, and financial services. In line with this ambition, the country's Economic Development Board (EDB) has engaged in a series of high-level diplomatic meetings in May 2025 with counterparts from South Africa, Indonesia, Australia, Japan, and China. Against the backdrop of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the African Union's Agenda 2063, these discussions reflect a wider strategy to leverage Mauritius' political stability, regulatory framework, and trade networks to drive new partnerships and unlock growth opportunities across the continent.

Mauritius has, in recent weeks, expanded its international economic diplomacy through a series of high-level meetings hosted by the Economic Development Board (EDB), engaging with key partner countries in Africa, Asia, and the Indian Ocean region. The engagements reflect both growing international interest in Mauritius as a gateway to Africa and the country's own ambition to contribute to Africa's long-term development agenda.

At the centre of these efforts is the African Union's Agenda 2063, a 50-year strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development on the continent. Across all recent discussions, Mauritius' alignment with this framework – and its role as a facilitator of investment, trade, and regional integration – was a recurrent theme.

### Reinforcing Bilateral Cooperation with South Africa

On 27 May 2025, Dr. H. N. Manzini, High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa to Mauritius, accompanied by Matlhaba Mogadingwane, First Secretary (Political), held a courtesy meeting with Mahen Abhimanu Kundasamy, Chief Executive Officer of the EDB.

Both parties reaffirmed the strength of bilateral relations and discussed ways to enhance existing synergies between Mauritius and South Africa. The meeting focused on accelerating implementation of Agenda 2063, promoting intra-African trade, and building integrated value chains.

Dr. Manzini noted that three visits by South African SMEs to Mauritius had already been facilitated, with growing interest in using the island as a springboard for regional expansion. These initiatives directly support the objectives of both the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the broader continental agenda of economic self-reliance.

Mr. Kundasamy highlighted Mauritius' business-friendly regulatory environment, robust financial services sector, skilled bilingual workforce, and network of trade agreements – factors positioning the country as an ideal partner for South African businesses seeking to expand across Africa and Asia.

In addition to trade and investment, the importance of peace and stability as prerequisites for economic development was emphasised.



Drawing from his own diplomatic experience, Mr. Kundasamy called for closer cooperation between Mauritius and South Africa in promoting unity and resilience across the continent.

### Advancing Indonesia-Mauritius Economic Cooperation

A few days earlier, on 23 May 2025, the EDB welcomed Lanang Seputro, Head of Mission of the Republic of Indonesia for Mauritius, accompanied by Salim G. Joonas, Honorary Consul of Indonesia, and Dr. Ahmed S. Badrais, Vice President of Ameerah Al Mubarakah Sdn Bhd.

The meeting reaffirmed cordial relations between Mauritius and Indonesia, and explored avenues for enhanced economic cooperation. Discussions aligned with the goals of Agenda 2063, with particular attention to opportunities presented by AfCFTA.

Mr. Kundasamy underscored Mauritius' strategic positioning as a gateway to Africa and its ambition to develop as an "ocean state," leveraging its 2.3 million km<sup>2</sup> Exclusive Economic Zone. The development of the blue economy was identified as a priority area where Indonesian expertise and investment could contribute meaningfully.

Potential sectors for further collaboration include manufacturing, agribusiness, smart cities, financial services, real estate, and renewable energy. Dr. Badrais noted that these areas correspond well to his organisation's competencies, signalling readiness to explore future opportunities.

Honorary Consul Joonas encouraged the EDB to organise focused promotional missions in Indonesia to highlight Mauritius' potential as a business platform for Indonesian companies seeking an African presence.

### Australia Looks to Mauritius for Strategic Partnership

On 21 May 2025, the EDB hosted Kate Chamley, High Commissioner of Australia to Mauritius, for discussions on bilateral cooperation.

Education emerged as a particularly promising area for collaboration. Kate Chamley noted Mauritius' potential to serve as a regional hub for higher education, citing existing partnerships with institutions such as Curtin University. With education the fourth-largest economic pillar in Australia, there is scope for further development of this sector in Mauritius.



# NEWS



Other areas of focus included financial services, the blue economy, renewable energy, and bilateral trade. Given that both countries are members of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), there is a shared institutional framework to support cooperation in sustainable development and regional governance.

Mr. Kundasamy outlined EDB’s interest in organising targeted missions to Australia, aimed at positioning Mauritius as a strategic gateway to African markets for Australian businesses.

### Japan-Mauritius Economic Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Context

The EDB also received Kan Masahiro, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Mauritius, for an introductory courtesy call.

Discussions focused on furthering economic cooperation between Mauritius and Japan, with reference to Japan’s “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” (FOIP) strategy, which emphasises rule-based order, trade openness, and maritime security.

Japanese companies have expressed interest in leveraging Mauritius as a gateway to Africa.



Current exports to Japan, such as tuna, provide a basis for expanding and diversifying trade, with opportunities in high-value products such as special sugars, rum, garments, and processed foods.

The upcoming ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9), to be held in Yokohama in August 2025, was identified as an opportunity to showcase Mauritius as an investment platform for Japanese companies targeting Africa. The EDB plans to work closely with Japanese partners such as JETRO, JICA, JBICA, and UNIDO-ITPO Tokyo to attract investment in key sectors.



## China-Mauritius Trade and Investment Dialogue

From 11 to 14 May 2025, a Chinese business delegation, led by Liu Chang, Director of National Gems & Jewellery Testing Co. Ltd, visited Mauritius to explore investment opportunities. The visit was facilitated by the EDB, and included sector-specific engagements in jewellery, diamond processing, financial services, construction, and sustainable manufacturing. Mauritius’ Free Trade Agreement with China – the first such agreement between China and

an African country – provides an institutional framework for strengthening trade and investment ties. The Chinese delegation’s visit included business-to-business meetings, company visits, and institutional presentations at the EDB. Geerish Bucktowonsing, Director of Industry, SMEs, Freeport and Logistics at the EDB, emphasised the importance of expanding trade volumes and strengthening the economic corridor between Mauritius and China.

“The development of the blue economy was identified as a priority area where Indonesian expertise and investment could contribute meaningfully.”



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# COVER STORY

IRADA ZEYNALOVA,  
AMBASSADOR OF RUSSIA TO MAURITIUS

## “In Russia, we remember everything...”

- “Countries can be independent, they can trade on their own terms, without constant dependence on the dollar.”
- “Resolving the Ukraine conflict will require serious, patient, and well-prepared negotiations – not quick media statements.”
- “Sanctions forced us to invest in ourselves – in tourism, food, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals... We no longer depend on Europe.”



*“Russia was one of the first countries to recognise Mauritius’ independence and freedom. In Russia, we remember everything...” Russian Ambassador Irada Zeynalova is quick to point out in this interview with BIZWEEK. On Russia’s own evolution, she notes pointedly: “We remember when foreign advisors tried to write our constitution. We no longer accept that.” A stance which is reflected by her views on geopolitical trends. “The world is no longer unipolar or bipolar – it is multipolar. African countries must have a strong voice, and Russia has always supported this. The time of colonialism must end,” she argues.*

Turning to current conflicts, she stresses that *“resolving the Ukraine conflict will require serious, patient, and well-prepared negotiations, not quick media statements.”* Geopolitics, she insists, *“is extremely complex – it is not about personal phone calls between leaders or superficial headlines.”* As for the potential impact of Trump’s presidency, she is cautious: *“A different U.S. administration might bring new approaches or priorities, but the road to peace will still require a deep, systematic process that addresses these fundamental issues.”*

Pivoting to trade and economy, Ambassador Zeynalova stresses that *“we need to move beyond stereotypes. Safety is essential, and safety starts with the economy.”* She is adamant that *“countries can be independent, they can trade on their own terms, without constant dependence on the dollar.”* Noting that sanctions have led Russia to invest more in its domestic industries, she argues that *“we no longer depend on Europe.”*

As for Mauritius, Ambassador Irada Zeynalova outlines her priorities: strengthening bilateral relations and expanding cultural exchanges showcasing Russia’s cultural heritage, which *“spans centuries,”* and finds its expression in painting, theatre, classical music, and ballet...

Editor-In-Chief: Rudy Veeramundar  
Photographer: Manoj Nawoor



## COVER STORY

**You come from a media background. Could you tell us about your career before coming to Mauritius?**

Yes, of course. I should start with my education. I am a physicist by training, and an expert in powder materials. Today we call it nanotechnology, but at the time, it was simply a specialised field in Russia. In fact, only one class graduated in it – it was the 1990s, just after the Soviet Union collapsed. Survival became more important than pursuing an academic career, so I didn't work as a scientist.

Instead, I started working as an interpreter, although I didn't know English at all. But I had to support my family. In 1991, after the Soviet collapse, I was offered a job by Samsung, paying \$15 a day, which was a huge amount for us then. I had one week to teach myself English. Of course, we had studied some technical English in school for aircraft engines and rockets, but I knew I had to master conversational English very quickly, and I did.

Later, I worked in television as part of an international team from a Dutch company building a newsroom for Russia's biggest television channel. I was officially representing a foreign company, but the Russian journalists included me in their community, and that is how I became a journalist – not through formal education, but through practice.

From 1996-97 until 2024, I worked as a journalist. In Russia, we practise what we call "*universal journalism*." You might cover a cultural event one day, and report from a conflict zone or natural disaster the next. Over the years, I reported from Chechnya, Afghanistan and all the countries of the Arab Spring. I also worked for five years as a foreign correspondent in London, and for two years in the Middle East during the height of the Arab Spring.

Later, I returned to Moscow and became a presenter. But I didn't enjoy studio work alone – I didn't like the idea of simply putting on makeup, wearing a suit, and reading a polished script. So, I arranged to work as both presenter and correspondent: during the week, I travelled across countries to cover stories, and on Sundays, I anchored an analytical programme.

During that time, I covered many major events: the Donbass conflict from its first days, the Ukraine war, Brexit, Trump's first inauguration – everything.

When COVID started, the first few weeks felt strange. It was a rare chance to sleep in my own bed – I was so used to sleeping in airports! But after a while, I decided to continue my education and joined the Diplomatic Academy. After graduating, I was offered a position as a diplomat. It made sense: journalism, especially television journalism, is not an ageless profession. There is a glass ceiling – your physical endurance becomes an issue. I also wanted to give space to younger journalists.

So, one Sunday, I did my last broadcast, and by Friday, I officially became a diplomat, an ambassador. And now I am here.

**How was the transition?**



On the surface, it seems similar – you smile and talk to people – but in reality, it is very different.

As a journalist, you can approach anyone, speak freely, gather information, and broadcast it. As a diplomat, you must remember that you represent your country and president. You gather information, but you do not broadcast it. You follow diplomatic protocol.

Also, I had never managed a team before. As a presenter, I had a crew, but I wasn't responsible for their welfare. In diplomacy, you must think about your staff, their families, their needs... It is a big responsibility.

And of course, when communicating with foreign governments, you must be more careful than as a journalist. Everyone knows you are a diplomat.

That said, I've been lucky here. Thanks to my television background, I found a community of local media professionals in Mauritius. They have become my friends.

**How do you find the Mauritian media landscape compared to Russia's?**

It is very different. In Russia, we have a law of competition: you must be first, or you are no one. We have dozens of television channels, radio stations, newspapers, online platforms, social media, and the competition is intense. I was among the most competitive.

Here, life is more relaxed. You do things differently. And perhaps you don't need such fierce competition, because here, people are more



## COVER STORY

relaxed. The technology is different too.

### How do you define your mission as a diplomat in Mauritius?

My mission is to deepen the bilateral relationship between our countries – a relationship that began five days after Mauritius gained independence. Russia was one of the first countries to recognise Mauritius' independence and freedom. In Russia, we remember everything...

I arrived at a time of great global uncertainty. My task is to help unite the Global South. The world is no longer unipolar or bipolar – it is multipolar. African countries must have a strong voice, and Russia has always supported this.

We see African nations as a treasure. We have no colonial past. From the Soviet era, we supported the struggle for independence. Now, I wish to support Mauritius' sovereignty, independence, and friendship with Russia – a friendship built over many years.

Education and culture are central to this. In Russia, we believe that if you think only about money, you lose your soul. The true treasure of a person is their personality, their soul, their culture.

That is why education is so important to us. Russia has 100% literacy. Books are sacred to us. Our constitution and national strategy prioritise families and children. The first point in our national security strategy is saving people and improving the lives of children.

In Mauritius, I organise many events for children, women, and vulnerable groups, because we support vulnerable people. I aim to bring as much Russian culture as possible here: classical music, ballet, painting, theatre, poetry...

Russia's cultural heritage spans centuries. We should share it with Africa to show that these are examples nations can learn from to develop their own paths. Russian culture is one of the world's great cultures, alongside French, British, Chinese, Iranian... If you don't share culture, you are being greedy.

For example, we have already organised concerts, exhibitions, and masterclasses. The Russian Institute of Theatre Arts came here, as did the Conservatoire. We will continue after a short summer break.

In September, we plan to bring Russian classical ballet, including a unique Islamic ballet from Tatarstan, and possibly a dance group from Chechnya. We will certainly bring more classical music. As a journalist, I have many friends who are now international stars. They will come here.

And all our events are free for Mauritians. These performances usually cost a great deal, but we cover all the expenses. Earlier this year, in March, we held a major dance theatre performance – a big event for Mauritius. We hope to do it again.

### You mentioned your own musical background...

Yes, I play the piano. In Russia, it is normal. Our children are highly educated. Parents usually choose for their children: music or sports, or both.



## Geopolitical negotiations are long, technical, and deeply complex... These are not things decided on Twitter or in television interviews.



My parents chose both – I had no free time!

In Russia, almost everyone plays an instrument – not professionally, but at some level. Our educational system is very comprehensive. Children are always engaged: they paint, play music, do sports... They do not have time for gadgets.

I have already discussed this approach with Mauritius' Ministers of Education, Health, and Sports. In Russia, we implement national projects, for example the "Healthy Generation" project, involving multiple ministries – Education, Culture, Health, Sports, Interior – working together. This avoids competition between ministries and ensures coordinated action.

The same applies to environmental projects: you must involve Environment, Agriculture, Interior and Education because environment is not just about preservation, but about education and development.

### What is Russia's perspective on Africa's future?

Africa is very important. The time of colonialism must end. During the colonial era, resources and people were drained from Africa. Now, these nations deserve a better life.

Safety is essential, and safety starts with the economy. If people are safe, can earn money, and their country supports them, they can build a better future and resist external pressure.

Poverty is not just about money. It is about education, water, food... I saw this in Sudan, where my son worked before the war. People there survive on \$2 a week. Sanctions destroyed their agriculture, despite the Nile. I asked locals what they needed, and they said: "Leave us alone. Give us safety, medicine, education. We can develop our country ourselves."

Fair trade is critical. Africans must have the freedom to trade fairly and develop their own countries, and not be trapped by dependency on aid.

BRICS is important here. It is not like NATO or the EU, with strict membership conditions. It is an open platform where countries are equal and respected. There are no rigid regulations, just

space for dialogue and cooperation.

### Is the dominance of the dollar in decline?

I hope so. And many countries around the world hope so too. If we look at history, the dollar was once supported by gold – but that changed in the 1970s. After the Bretton Woods system ended, the US abandoned the gold standard, and the dollar became a fiat currency. Since then, it has essentially been paper – supported not by intrinsic value, but by global confidence, political influence, and, for many years, by the petrodollar system.

But now, confidence is shifting. In practical terms, we see this everywhere. Many countries – particularly in Africa – are increasingly reluctant to accept older dollar notes. For example, in Tanzania, if you exchange dollars, the rate depends on whether your notes are new or old. The same happens in Egypt and other countries. This creates uncertainty. How can the world rely on a paper currency whose value fluctuates not just on the market, but also depending on the age of the banknote?

Of course, the SWIFT banking system remains highly convenient – it was designed over decades to facilitate fast and secure global transactions. But, as we experienced after 2022, SWIFT can also be used as a political weapon. For Russia, the weaponisation of the dollar and SWIFT against us was a wake-up call. We adapted quickly, but it demonstrated to many countries that over-dependence on a single currency and system is dangerous.

That is why platforms such as BRICS are working on alternatives. We are not advocating for the complete rejection of the dollar. That would be unrealistic. But it is essential to build parallel systems: payment mechanisms in national currencies, new financial networks that are inclusive and not vulnerable to unilateral sanctions.

You can already see steps in this direction. Even here in Mauritius, there are examples – the rupee is being used in new ways in international transactions. More broadly, countries are beginning to realise that they can be independent, and they can trade on their own terms without constant dependence on the dollar.

It is not easy, and it will not happen overnight. But step by step, as these alternatives mature, the world will move toward a fairer, more balanced financial system – one where no single nation can dictate terms to the rest.

### How do you see the current global debate on democracy?

We need to move beyond stereotypes. Democracy is not about whether someone wears a white tie or a black tie. It is about real rights: justice, elections, free speech...

Today, even in the West, countries accuse each other of being "more democratic" or "less democratic." That is dangerous.

In Russia, we speak of "sovereign democracy." We make our own choices within our legal system, without external interference. We remember when foreign advisors tried to write our constitution. We



## COVER STORY

no longer accept that.

**When will the war between Russia and Ukraine come to an end? Could the Trump presidency change the geopolitical landscape and fasten the peace process?**

Geopolitics is extremely complex. It is not about personal phone calls between leaders or superficial headlines. It is a long, multi-layered process of negotiation. Resolving the Ukraine conflict, for example, will require serious, patient, and well-prepared negotiations – not quick media statements.

The key issues must be addressed systematically. First, there is the problem of NATO expansion towards Russia's borders. At the time of the Soviet Union's collapse, during the talks between Mikhail Gorbachev and Western leaders – first Ronald Reagan, then George Bush – there was a clear promise: "Not an inch" of NATO expansion eastward. Today, NATO forces are just 50 kilometres from Russia's border. This is a serious issue for us – one that cannot be ignored.

Second, Ukraine is being used as a buffer state against Russia. This creates instability in the entire region. Ukraine should be a neutral country, not an enemy. We do not want an enemy on our border; we want a neighbour with whom we can have normal, peaceful relations.

And we must also confront the rise of nationalism in Ukraine. I have seen this with my own eyes since the very beginning of the conflict. I visited Donbass in the first days of the war. At the time, none of us fully realised how deeply prepared the nationalist forces were. By 2014, when they began bombing their own citizens, we were shocked. Many of my friends and colleagues, including journalists, lost their lives there. I helped to bring back the bodies of fallen journalists across the border. The first among them was my friend.

The Western media did not cover these realities. For us, it was very clear: this is a human tragedy. In Kyiv, during the Maidan protests, we saw nationalist symbols and slogans – things that should never have been allowed to take root in a civilised country.

In my own embassy, nearly everyone has mixed Russian and Ukrainian family backgrounds. Russians and Ukrainians are not distant relatives – we are one people. For a long time after the Soviet collapse, we made jokes about Ukrainian nationalism – we thought it was an exaggeration, a fringe movement. But unfortunately, it was deliberately cultivated, with significant support from the West.

Today, Russian language and culture are being suppressed in Ukraine. Children cannot study Russian in schools, people cannot speak Russian openly on the streets, and Orthodox churches are being burned. This is unacceptable. It is a violation of basic human rights and cultural freedom.

In Donbass, the Russian-speaking population has the right to live without persecution. They cannot survive as an isolated territory between Russia and Ukraine. They need support and protection.

Ultimately, any future resolution must ensure that Ukraine is not used as a NATO outpost against Russia, that nationalist extremism is dismantled,



**The Trump presidency could influence the process, but not in a simplistic or personal way.**



and that Russian-speaking citizens can live freely. Only then can this war come to an end.

Of course, the Trump presidency could influence the process, but not in a simplistic or personal way. Geopolitical negotiations are long, technical, and deeply complex. I often tell people to read Henry Kissinger's accounts of how long it took to prepare Nixon's visit to China, or to negotiate the end of the Vietnam War. These are not things decided on Twitter or in television interviews. Diplomacy is slow, hard work, carried out by hundreds of people

behind the scenes.

So yes, the different U.S. administration might bring new approaches or priorities, but the road to peace will still require a deep, systematic process that addresses these fundamental issues.

**How has Russia adapted to sanctions?**

We have adapted brilliantly. Sanctions forced us to invest in ourselves – in tourism, food, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals. Russians are now travelling within their own country. We no longer depend on Europe.

I have discovered new parts of the world: Africa, Asia, Latin America. The world is much bigger than we once thought. We now know who our friends are.

**Do you see Russia as part of Europe or Asia, or both?**

Both. We are friends to all who wish to engage with us. Division weakens us. Cooperation makes us stronger, healthier, and happier. Ultimately, we are here to build a better future for our children. That should guide everything we do.



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## O P - E D

# “Choose France” FDI Playbook: A Must-Read



BY DR HANS SEESAGHUR

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Mauritius Economic Development Board  
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In today's global arena, the countries that succeed in attracting and retaining foreign direct investment (FDI) are those that combine clarity of vision, consistency of policy, and excellence in execution. In 2024, France once again demonstrated its mastery. With 1,688 foreign investment projects across its territory, France not only cemented its position as Europe's top FDI destination for the sixth consecutive year, but also surpassed its pre-pandemic performance. These investments are not symbolic, but transformative. According to Business France, they are projected to create or maintain over 37,787 jobs within three years, a testament to a strategic model that Mauritius must study closely.

Behind these results lies Business France, the country's agile and well-coordinated investment and trade promotion agency. Its effectiveness stems not from isolated efforts, but from a systemic approach, one that aligns national policy with regional assets, and diplomatic outreach with private-sector confidence. It is no coincidence that 66% of all foreign investment decisions in France in 2024 were accompanied by Business France, providing investors with tailored support, streamlined processes, and confidence in long-term delivery.

## From Promotion to Precision

France has turned investment promotion into a national mission. Through events like the annual *Choose France Summit*, it creates a direct bridge between global CEOs and the highest levels of government. The summit is not a conference; it's an execution platform. In 2024, it generated over EUR 15 billion in commitments, channelled into high-impact sectors like renewable energy, semiconductors, and biopharmaceuticals.

This level of coordination does not happen by chance. France identifies strategic sectors, promotes its territories with granularity, and speaks to investors in the language of value creation. Notably, 28% of the companies that invested in France in 2024 were doing so for the first time,

showing that the system not only retains, but also expands its investor base year after year.

Mauritius, by contrast, continues to operate within a fragmented ecosystem, marked by scattered promotional efforts, dispersed incentives, and an overreliance on diplomatic goodwill from partner countries. This approach has too often failed to translate into structured, long-term inward investment. According to UNCTAD data, between 2003 and 2023, Mauritius attracted only 146 greenfield investment projects, an exceptionally modest figure for a jurisdiction that positions itself as a regional hub. The issue is not one of ambition, but of institutional design. Mauritius lacks a cohesive architecture capable of transforming strategic intent into tangible economic outcomes.

Mauritius now stands at a strategic inflection point. Its credentials as a financial centre and its geographic advantage in the Indian Ocean are indisputable. Yet, these assets have not been fully leveraged to deliver sustainable economic transformation, particularly in the form of job-creation from greenfield investments. To regain relevance and competitiveness in a fast-evolving global FDI environment, Mauritius must look to structured models of success, and few are as instructive as that of Business France.

## From Passive Gateway to Active Architect

The recent France-Mauritius Business Forum, held under the banner of deepening bilateral economic cooperation, concluded with a shared vision of growth through collaboration. While such platforms are valuable for reaffirming ties and exploring opportunities, Mauritius must ask itself a deeper question: rather than focusing on attracting French investment, often concentrated in real estate, why not study how France itself attracts high-value investments across diverse sectors?

France doesn't just seek capital; it structures ecosystems, curates investor journeys, and delivers





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with institutional precision. Emulating that model and adapting it to the Mauritian context ecosystem could prove far more transformative than a handful of MOUs or diplomatic photo ops. What Mauritius needs is not just more forums, but a framework, one built on clarity, credibility, and continuity.

There is also an urgent need to reimagine Mauritius' diplomatic economic engagement. France has used Business France not only as a domestic engine, but as a soft power instrument abroad. Its trade and investment commissioners are embedded in embassies, with direct lines of coordination to both headquarters and regional partners. Mauritius should adopt a similar model and adapt it to leverage trade and investment desks to proactively scout projects, identify sectoral champions, and build long-term investor pipelines.

Ultimately, the objective is not merely to compete in the global FDI arena, but to shape the terms of engagement. Mauritius must move beyond the role of a passive gateway or a receptive player. It has to become an active architect, offering tailored investor solutions, structuring regional supply chains, and a hub for greenfield investment that creates meaningful employment for its citizens.

Toward a Mauritian Investment Renaissance

The most recent *Choose France Summit*, held on 19th May 2025 in Versailles, set a new benchmark, securing €20 billion in international investment commitments – a sharp rise from €15 billion the year before. The event not only showcased France's diplomatic and economic clout, but reaffirmed its ability to convert political leadership into measurable economic gains.

Here lies the most valuable lesson from France: FDI attraction is not merely about hosting, it is about orchestration. France choreographs its strategy across agencies, timelines, investor touchpoints, and policy frameworks. The objective is not just to attract capital, but to direct it intelligently across sectors and regions. This ensures that investments are not just made in Paris or Lyon, but also in smaller industrial towns, where the impact on employment and regional vitality is more profound for economic inclusion.

Mauritius must adopt a similar approach, not with bureaucracy, but with purpose-built coordination

between its Ministry of Finance, the Bank of Mauritius, its diplomatic missions, and a reformed investment and trade promotion agency. What is needed is a centralised, empowered agency, one that has the strategic foresight with clear sectoral focus, prioritising high-value sectors. Investors should be able to enter, navigate, and establish operations in Mauritius with confidence and predictability, without having to decipher administrative opacity or procedural delays.

If Mauritius is serious about moving from aspiration to execution, it must have targets set and do more than host forums and webinars or launch brochures. It must architect a new model, one that transforms investor interest into long-term projects, employment, and resilience. In a world increasingly fragmented by geopolitical rivalries and economic disruptions, small economies like Mauritius must punch above their weight through intelligence, coordination, and execution.

'Cultiver l'après'

France has shown, for six consecutive years, that it can be done with discipline, diplomacy, and direction. For Mauritius, the challenge is not one of potential, but of purpose. What's particularly telling is that France, "le pays de Molière", hosts its flagship investment forum entirely in English. *Choose France* is not just a slogan, it's a signal to the world that France is open, inclusive, and ready to speak the language of global business. And rather than "filer à l'anglaise" once the forums are over, why not "accueillir à la française" by engaging and keeping the doors open, deepening relationships, and promoting Mauritius as a destination of trust, openness, and long-term engagement.

Rather than “filer à l'anglaise” once the forums are over, why not “accueillir à la française”



# INTERVIEW

JAMES LEMAY,

U.S. MEDIA CONSULTANT AND FORMER CNN EDITOR

## “Core principles of journalism must remain constant, irrespective of technological change”

- *“It’s important for professional journalists to remember that our role is not merely to entertain, but to inform”*



During a recent visit to Mauritius, James LeMay, veteran media consultant and former CNN editor, led a workshop on critical journalism as part of the U.S. State Department’s ECA Speaker Program. In this conversation with BIZWEEK, drawing on decades of newsroom leadership – from covering global conflicts to managing CNN’s live reporting during 9/11 – LeMay shared deep insights on truth and disinformation, the need for balanced reporting, and the evolving role of journalists in the digital age. What hasn’t changed, he argues, is that “journalism must make a difference in people’s lives”



# INTERVIEW

## In your opinion, what are the non-negotiable principles of effective investigative journalism?

Based on my experience – both from years in the field and now working as a media consultant with organisations worldwide – I believe that certain core principles must remain constant, regardless of changes in technology or platforms.

First and foremost is truthfulness. Even when it is uncomfortable, inconvenient, or unpopular, journalists must remain committed to reporting the truth. Our role is to serve the public, not ourselves, our employers, or any specific interest group. This requires us to think constantly about the people we represent – our readers, viewers, and listeners – and to put their need for accurate information first.

Secondly, balance is essential. It's very easy in today's polarised environment to fall into one-sided narratives. But good journalism requires us to present the full picture – with context and the inclusion of multiple perspectives – so that audiences can make informed decisions for themselves. We must remain open-minded, even when reporting on subjects or individuals with whom we may personally disagree. Without balance, we risk becoming advocates instead of journalists.

## Journalists often rely on state sources, such as the police, who may have their own agendas. How should reporters approach such sources?

Sourcing is always a delicate aspect of journalism. If your source is the architect of a policy, then of course their perspective is valuable. However, transparency is key. Audiences today expect us to provide more than just quotes – they want to understand who the source is, their background, and potential motivations.

If a source has a political or personal agenda, we must make that clear to readers. Likewise, we should challenge any one-sided version of events. If a source is the only one with first-hand knowledge, then their contribution is justified – but in most cases, corroboration from multiple sources is needed to ensure accuracy. One unchallenged voice is not sufficient.

## How has social media and the 24-hour news cycle affected investigative journalism?

The speed of news today is astonishing. Twenty years ago, newsrooms could control when to publish. Now, audiences expect instant updates, and that creates enormous pressure.

Unfortunately, this race to be first can sometimes undermine accuracy. I always advise journalists: "Don't be first – be right." It's better to take the time to check facts, even if it means publishing later. If you lose credibility with your audience by making mistakes, it is very difficult to regain that trust.

## We increasingly see online misinformation, harassment of journalists, and even violence. How do you view this global trend?

It's a serious concern. Disinformation is the root of much of this problem. With so much false or misleading information circulating, it can be very difficult for the public to know what to believe.



Interestingly, during COVID-19, we saw a significant return of trust in local journalism. People realised they needed reliable information about what was happening in their own communities – something social media or distant sources couldn't provide.

Journalists now face a critical task: not only must they debunk falsehoods, but they must also educate audiences about how misinformation is created and spread. Ignoring disinformation is no longer an option – if we don't confront it, it risks becoming accepted as truth.

## Locally, journalists often face anonymous online attacks. How should they respond?

I've worked with teams that specialise in tracking and exposing disinformation campaigns. Once false narratives are out there, journalists must respond actively – fact-check them, explain why they are false, and reveal how they were created.

Transparency is key. Show the audience the mechanisms behind the falsehoods. If we stay silent, false information fills the vacuum and risks becoming entrenched. We now have software tools and methods to help identify and combat disinformation – but the responsibility still rests with journalists and editors to act.

## The traditional press is in decline worldwide. Is

## there still a future for print journalism?

There is still strong public demand for credible news – but the format is evolving. Whether print, online, or mobile doesn't matter as much as the quality of the content.

We are in what I call the "era of shareable content." People want to read stories that they feel compelled to share with others. If journalism doesn't provide that kind of value – if it isn't accurate, insightful, and relevant – then it risks losing relevance, regardless of the platform.

So, the future of journalism lies not in whether print survives, but whether we can produce content that audiences trust and value enough to share.

## What could help sustain independent journalism?

Monetisation is a constant challenge for independent journalism. Platforms like YouTube offer opportunities for journalists to build subscriber communities and generate revenue. Of course, I'm cautious about government funding, as it can sometimes compromise editorial independence. If it's done, the terms must be extremely clear to preserve that independence.

Ultimately, journalists need to meet audiences where they are – often on digital platforms – and



# INTERVIEW



explore diverse revenue models to sustain their work.

**How would you assess the media landscape here in Mauritius?**

It's an exciting and evolving landscape. There's strong coverage of politics, culture, tourism, and business – all key pillars of the country's identity and growth.

I see the local media as being at different stages of maturity – in some respects still developing, but in others quite sophisticated.

As Mauritius continues to grow and attract global attention, it will be vital for its media to maintain independence and continue holding those in power accountable, while also highlighting the positive. Not all politicians or officials are corrupt; many do valuable public service. Journalists must strive for balance, giving credit where it's due, as well as exposing wrongdoing.

**How can investigative journalism support democracy?**

It plays a vital role. Today's audiences no longer want just long, in-depth reports published once a year. They also want daily journalism that applies critical thinking, and stories with context, perspective, and relevance.

So investigative journalism now operates on two levels:

1. Daily critical reporting, where journalists dig deeper and ask more questions about the stories of the day.
2. Long-form investigations, which still have an important place, especially for systemic issues.

Both forms are essential to helping citizens make informed choices, which is the foundation of any democracy.

**What is your assessment of journalism worldwide?**

It's definitely under pressure. There are now



**We must remain open-minded, even when reporting on subjects or individuals with whom we may personally disagree**

countless influencers and content creators presenting themselves as journalists – often without the same editorial standards.

It's important for professional journalists to remember that our role is not merely to entertain, but to inform. This requires rigour, ethics, and a clear distinction from the more superficial content circulating online.

**Could you share a bit about your career?**

I started as an overnight photographer and reporter, working those tough shifts where you really learn about human nature.

Later, I moved into management and spent 14 years at CNN, covering major global events, from tsunamis to wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, to Hurricane Katrina. I managed live coverage, deployed crews, and made editorial decisions in real time, sometimes seven days a week.

One of the defining moments of my career was covering 9/11. I was CNN's DC Bureau Chief at the time, and I'll never forget standing on the rooftop overlooking the White House as the events unfolded. Moments like that remind you that journalism is about documenting history in the making.

**You've also been involved in military-related charity work.**

Yes. My family has a strong military background. We created "Battle Saint" bracelets to raise funds for PTSD clinics on U.S. Army bases. It became a very successful initiative, raising millions of dollars. Though the intensity of the conflicts has lessened, we continue to support efforts around PTSD and TBI (traumatic brain injury) care for service members.

**What did Mauritian journalists take away from this workshop?**

The idea was to spark curiosity and to encourage them to explore new ways of working, whether it's using AI tools or adopting different editorial approaches, so that they can evolve as professionals.

Ultimately, journalists need to feel that they are making a valuable contribution to their communities.

**What is your view on the use of AI in journalism?**

AI can be helpful – for example, in formatting and enhancing content – but human editorial judgment must always remain central. AI tools can support our work, but they cannot replace the journalist's role in deciding what to publish, how to frame it, and ensuring accuracy and fairness. We must not allow algorithms to dictate editorial decisions.

**Any final reflections on your visit to Mauritius?**

The U.S. State Department has been very supportive of journalism and press freedom around the world, and I appreciated their invitation.

I studied Mauritius before coming, and I'm very impressed by its progress. There are important stories to be covered here – from climate change to gender equality to youth and drug issues.

Journalists have an essential role in exploring these topics and helping their communities address them. At its core, journalism is about making a positive difference in people's lives through accurate and courageous reporting.



# BUSINESS

## ENL AND ROGERS

# Restructuring approved by shareholders

At separate special meetings held on 29 May 2025, the shareholders of both ENL and Rogers voted in favour of the proposed restructuring and reorganisation of the groups, with majorities of 100% and 97.8% respectively. The next and last milestone for this Scheme to become effective is its official sanction by the Supreme Court, expected in June 2025.

The approval during the week by the shareholders of the ENL and Rogers Groups is a decisive vote for both groups as it marks a significant step towards the coming into effect of the restructuring and reorganisation of both entities. If implemented, the Scheme will result in a simplified group structure, with more agile and efficient decision-making, bolder ambitions, including regional expansion, and intra-group synergies.

In November 2024, the Boards of ENL and Rogers initiated an assessment of a potential restructuring of both groups. EY was appointed to lead the transactional aspects, together with ENSafrica (Mauritius) as legal advisor and PwC as independent external valuer. Based on their findings, which confirmed the benefits of

the proposed restructuring, the two Boards decided to proceed with the proposed Scheme in April 2025, following which both the Supreme Court of Mauritius and the Listing Executive Committee of the Stock Exchange of Mauritius provided their clearance for the holding of the special meetings of shareholders.

At the separate meetings held on 29 May, the required majority approval was secured from both ENL and Rogers shareholders.

In a joint statement, Gilbert Espitalier-Noël and Philippe Espitalier-Noël, respectively CEOs of ENL and Rogers, stated: *"We are encouraged by the strong backing of our respective set of shareholders, who have recognised the compelling value proposition this strategic restructuring presents. We*



From left to right – Philippe Espitalier-Noël and Gilbert Espitalier-Noël

*are convinced that a more agile and unified group structure, supported by a strong strategic plan, will drive sustained high performance. This transformation aligns with our broader ambition to create shareholder value by leading responsibly, combining strengths, expanding horizons, and contributing to shaping the future of Mauritius."*

The Scheme remains subject to the final sanction by the Supreme Court of Mauritius. If implemented, it will see the creation of two distinct listed entities: NewENLRogers, a leading

operations-focused group, and ENL post-Scheme, an asset-backed entity. NewENLRogers will regroup all operations and related investments currently under ENL and Rogers, while ENL post-Scheme will consist of 13,300 arpents of agricultural land and a 25% stake in Société Helicophanta.

Upon completion of the Scheme, NewENLRogers and ENL post-Scheme will be renamed and rebranded to build on the strong legacy and brand equity of the ENL and Rogers Groups.



**We are convinced that a more agile and unified group structure, supported by a strong strategic plan, will drive sustained high performance**



## Andre Viljoen selected as CEO of Air Mauritius

After an extensive head-hunting exercise, Air Mauritius announced, during the week, that Andre Viljoen has been selected to become the next Chief Executive Officer of the company. Mr. Viljoen will assume office as from the 15th of October 2025.

Andre Viljoen is a seasoned airline executive with more than 45 years airline leadership experience gained in both the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) roles. He holds an honours degree in accounting, as well as commerce, and is a Chartered Accountant (SA).

He has initiated and led many successful business and airline turnarounds, restoring/maximising revenues and profits. His leadership, financial

and turnaround expertise is complemented by his extraordinary customer service skills.

He started his career with British Airways (Comair) in South Africa in the late 1980s as Financial Manager, and soon progressed to hold the Group CFO position as well as Group Commercial Director role. In 1995, he took up the position of Chief Operating Officer with South African Express Airways, and in 2000 was promoted to the Executive Vice President and CFO position at South African Airways. In 2002, he became the President and CEO of South African Airways (SAA). In 2007, he was appointed CEO of Air Mauritius and, in 2015, the Managing Director and CEO of Fiji Airways, which he still fills today.





# BUSINESS

## AFRICA STRATEGY

# Maurice renforce son positionnement de centre financier international à l'Africa CEO Forum 2025

La ministre des Services financiers et de la Planification économique, le Dr Jyoti Jeetun, était invitée à la 12<sup>e</sup> édition de l'Africa CEO Forum, les 12 et 13 mai 2025, à Abidjan. Organisé par le Groupe Jeune Afrique et la Société financière internationale (IFC), membre du Groupe de la Banque mondiale et dédié au développement du secteur privé dans les pays émergents, ce forum est reconnu comme le principal rendez-vous du secteur privé en Afrique.

L'édition 2025 a réuni plus de 2 800 participants, dont dix chefs d'État – parmi lesquels Alassane Ouattara (Côte d'Ivoire), Cyril Ramaphosa (Afrique du Sud) et Paul Kagame (Rwanda) –, une cinquantaine de ministres et de nombreux dirigeants d'institutions et d'entreprises globales majeures. Une trentaine d'entreprises mauriciennes du secteur financier ont pris part à l'événement dans le but de développer de nouveaux partenariats et renforcer les liens économiques avec les pays africains. La forte présence mauricienne à ce Forum – avec notamment MCB, CIEL, Eclasia, Nexus, AFG Capital et Peach Payments – confirme que Maurice est perçue comme une plateforme crédible, stable et tournée vers l'Afrique, capable d'attirer des institutions internationales et de faciliter les investissements sur le continent. Le Dr Jyoti Jeetun a participé au forum de discussion sur le thème « *Cost of capital crisis: How can African business turn geopolitical shifts to its advantage?* ». Cette séance, animée par David Pilling, Africa Editor du Financial Times, s'est tenue en présence d'environ 230 décideurs africains venus de

tout le continent. La ministre a aussi prononcé le discours d'ouverture lors d'un événement d'AfricaRe sur le rôle de l'assurance et de la réassurance dans le financement du développement.

### Maurice suscite l'intérêt des acteurs internationaux

En marge du Forum, la ministre des Services financiers et de la Planification économique a aussi conduit une série de rencontres stratégiques pour promouvoir le Mauritius International Financial Centre (MIFC), suscitant un vif intérêt pour Maurice comme plateforme d'implantation. Mathias Cormann, Secrétaire général de l'OCDE, a exprimé sa volonté de collaborer dans le cadre d'un futur 'Country-programme'. Avec Troy Fitrell, haut responsable du Bureau des affaires africaines au Département d'État des États-Unis, les échanges ont porté sur la fintech et sur l'accord « *Open Skies* » visant à améliorer la connectivité aérienne en Afrique. John Humphrey, Commissaire au commerce du Royaume-Uni pour l'Afrique, ainsi que Steven Gray, responsable de UK Export Finance, ont



évoqué le 'capacity building', ainsi que le soutien que les institutions britanniques peuvent apporter à Maurice. Roland Siller, CEO de la DEG (Deutsche Investitions und Entwicklungsgesellschaft), l'institution allemande de financement du développement et filiale du groupe KfW, a salué le rôle de Maurice en tant que plateforme financière de référence pour l'investissement en Afrique. Des discussions ont également eu lieu avec le CEO de l'Africa Finance

Corporation – pan-african Multilateral DFI sur l'adhésion de Maurice, en cours de finalisation, ainsi que sur les projets d'infrastructure et les options de financement hors dette. Le PDG de l'Atlantic Finance Group (AFG) – institution clef opérant en Côte d'Ivoire et dans les pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest – a, pour sa part, exposé sa stratégie de développement de services de financement et de gestion patrimoniale à partir de Maurice.

### DTOS renforce les compétences fiscales des professionnels mauriciens

DTOS, entreprise de référence du secteur des services financiers, a organisé une session de formation de haut niveau à la fiscalité des entreprises à l'intention de professionnels de divers secteurs. La formation s'est tenue le vendredi 23 mai 2025, au Hennessy Park Hotel, à Ebène. Centrée sur les différentes manières d'organiser et de planifier les transactions financières conformément aux provisions de la loi, tout en optimisant les impôts dus, celle-ci visait également à sensibiliser les participants sur l'équilibre délicat entre une planification conforme aux obligations légales et des pratiques plus agressives, pouvant être perçues comme abusives ou contraires à l'éthique. Dans un contexte où le droit fiscal est en constante évolution, Mario Hannelas, expert du département fiscalité et Lead Tax Trainer à DTOS, a mis en lumière les changements législatifs susceptibles d'impacter les stratégies de planification financière des entreprises.

Une attention particulière a été portée aux enjeux liés à l'optimisation fiscale internationale et à la conformité en matière de prix de transfert afin de sensibiliser les professionnels face aux exigences accrues en matière de transparence et de conformité. « *Dans un environnement fiscal de plus en plus complexe et surveillé, il ne suffit plus de connaître les règles : il faut comprendre leur portée, anticiper leur évolution et maîtriser leur application. À travers cette formation, notre ambition était de permettre aux professionnels d'aller au-delà de la simple conformité, en leur fournissant les outils nécessaires pour adopter une planification fiscale responsable, efficace et alignée sur les standards internationaux. Chez DTOS, nous croyons fermement que le renforcement des compétences est la clé pour faire face aux défis actuels et futurs du paysage fiscal* », a déclaré Jimmy Wong, Chief Executive Officer de DTOS.



### Valoriser l'humain au cœur des chantiers : La vision de Stessy Chowrimootoo

Stessy Chowrimootoo, Responsable Communication et Responsable Acquisition des Talents chez Transinvest Construction Ltd, incarne une vision audacieuse et profondément humaine des ressources humaines dans le secteur du BTP. Au sein de cette entreprise mauricienne reconnue pour son engagement envers l'excellence locale, elle œuvre au quotidien pour construire une culture d'entreprise inclusive et valorisante. Découvrez son portrait. Quel est le plus grand défi RH dans le secteur de la construction, dont on parle rarement, et comment l'avez-vous relevé chez Transinvest ? Selon elle, le plus grand défi est sans doute le manque de reconnaissance humaine et sociale des métiers manuels. « *On parle souvent de pénurie de main-d'œuvre, mais rarement de la fierté et de la valeur intrinsèque de ces métiers. Chez Transinvest, nous avons décidé d'y répondre par une communication de terrain, sincère et incarnée. Nous mettons en lumière les visages, les parcours et les gestes de ceux qui construisent notre île, à travers des vidéos, des capsules comme 'Une journée sur le chantier', et des événements internes. Cela nous permet de nous reconnecter à l'humain, au concret, et au local, dans le respect de nos valeurs : transparence, excellence, et rentabilité* », dit-elle.





# NEWS

## GOVERNANCE D'ENTREPRISE



# Le Professeur Mervyn King à Maurice du 23 au 26 juin

Le Mauritius Institute of Directors (MloD) a annoncé la visite du Professeur Mervyn King, éminent juriste sud-africain, ancien juge et figure de renommée mondiale en matière de gouvernance d'entreprise, à Maurice, du 23 au 26 juin 2025. Cette visite marque une étape importante dans les efforts du MloD pour renforcer les standards de gouvernance d'entreprise à Maurice, particulièrement dans un contexte mondial en constante évolution.

### Portrait du Professeur Mervyn E. King

Ancien juge de la Cour suprême d'Afrique du Sud et avocat de renom, le Professeur Mervyn King est surtout connu pour avoir présidé le King Committee on Corporate Governance en Afrique du Sud, à l'origine des célèbres « *rapports King* » largement reconnus et adoptés à l'international comme références en matière de gouvernance. La contribution du Professeur King à la promotion de la durabilité, de l'intégrité et de la transparence dans les pratiques de gouvernance a été saluée dans le monde entier. Il a, d'ailleurs, participé à la préparation du Code de gouvernance d'entreprise à Maurice en 2002. Parmi les différents postes occupés par le Professeur King, l'on note celui de Chair Emeritus au sein de la Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) et de l'International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC). Il est également titulaire de plusieurs doctorats honorifiques et occupe des fonctions universitaires prestigieuses en Afrique du Sud et à l'international.

Durant son séjour de quatre jours, le Professeur King participera à une série d'activités organisées par le MloD. Il animera notamment une conférence publique intitulée « *L'Agenda Gouvernance 2025 : Nouvelles Priorités pour les Conseils d'Administration* », qui se tiendra le lundi 23 juin, à l'hôtel Hennessy Park, à Ebène, de 14h à 16h. Le Professeur King dirigera aussi des séances de formation en entreprise sur le thème « *Comprendre la géopolitique et ses répercussions sur le commerce et la gouvernance* ». L'expert en gouvernance d'entreprise aura également une rencontre officielle avec des parties prenantes clés.

### 3e anniversaire de blink: Lancement de deux dispositifs de paiement pour commerçants

Pour ses trois ans, blink, la plateforme FinTech d'Emtel, passe à la vitesse supérieure. En lançant ses propres terminaux en marque blanche, elle propose aux commerçants une solution plug-and-play pensée pour simplifier l'acceptation des paiements digitaux, sans friction ni complexité. Le terminal de point de vente (POS) est équipé de la technologie de QR code dynamique. Intuitif et sécurisé, il élimine les risques d'erreurs de saisie ou de doublons. Il suffit à l'opérateur de saisir le montant dû ; le terminal génère automatiquement un QR code à usage unique, spécifique à la transaction en cours. Le client peut alors scanner ce code via l'application de paiement de son choix. Plus besoin pour le commerçant de vérifier manuellement la transaction sur son propre appareil ou celui du client. Une confirmation de paiement est affichée en temps réel sur le terminal. Le QR code généré n'étant valable qu'une seule fois, toute tentative de double paiement est automatiquement bloquée. Une autre version du terminal POS intègre une

confirmation sonore des transactions. Cette fonctionnalité dispense le commerçant de vérifier manuellement la validation du paiement sur son téléphone, offrant ainsi un gain de temps et une plus grande commodité dans la gestion des encaissements. « Emtel propose une fois de plus des solutions innovantes avec le haut-parleur de confirmation de paiement via QR code, un produit pionnier dans l'univers des terminaux de paiement. Les caissiers et commerçants n'ont plus besoin de consulter leur téléphone pour vérifier chaque transaction. Nos dispositifs leur permettent de recevoir une alerte instantanée, sans interrompre leurs opérations principales – une solution mains libres, simple et efficace », a déclaré Kresh Goomany, CEO d'Emtel. « Nous lancerons prochainement un modèle entièrement intégré aux caisses, en partenariat avec les plus grandes enseignes de Maurice. Cette initiative mettra en lumière tout le potentiel de blink, ainsi que la simplicité et la fluidité qu'il apporte aux clients comme aux commerçants. »



### Partenariat entre l'ACCA et l'University of London pour un BSc (Hons.) Professional Accountancy programme

L'ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) et l'Université de Londres se sont associées pour lancer une nouvelle licence (BSc Hons.) en comptabilité professionnelle. L'annonce a été faite le 28 mai 2025 et les intentions d'inscriptions sont possibles sur le site web de l'ACCA dès cette date. L'ACCA réalisera les inscriptions finales à partir de décembre 2025. Ce programme BSc (Hons.) Professional Accountancy innovant concerne aussi les étudiants de la République de Maurice. Il intègre les études de la qualification ACCA et celles de la licence (BSc.) en comptabilité professionnelle de l'Université de Londres au sein d'un seul et même parcours d'études. Pour être admis à ce programme d'études, les étudiants de l'ACCA devront avoir déjà validé sept papiers en ACCA Applied Knowledge et en Applied Skills. Ils suivront ensuite deux modules avec l'Université de Londres, qui sont cohérents avec les papiers de gestion de la performance et de gestion financière de l'ACCA. De plus, les étudiants compléteront un Project Module qui leur permettra d'obtenir leur BSc. et les aidera à mieux poursuivre leur parcours vers la qualification complète ACCA suite à leur réussite aux examens liés au niveau Strategic Professional. Pour rappel, la qualification complète ACCA (Niveaux 1, 2 et 3) est équivalente à un Masters britannique. Cette BSc (Hons.) Professional Accountancy peut être obtenue en 12 mois minimum. Les étudiants disposent d'un maximum de trois ans pour terminer le programme, ce qui leur permet de progresser à leur rythme.



# NEWS

## Mauritius advances education partnership with UK by signing 2 agreements

Last week, London hosted the Education World Forum (EWf), which provides a stage for global education leaders to meet, connect and find solutions to today's challenges. Dr Kaviraj Sukon, Minister of Tertiary Education, enjoyed an extended mission in London to attend the EWf and speak to UK education partners. At this year's event, the UK and Mauritius progressed their educational collaboration through the signature of two landmark agreements with leading UK institutions, helping to bring world-class education to Mauritius.

Dr Kaviraj Sukon had the opportunity to meet Dr Rosena Allin-Khan MP, the UK's Trade Envoy to Mauritius and South Africa, in the margins of the EWf. Discussions focused on the UK-Mauritius Strategic Trade Partnership (STP), including education, which is a key pillar of this collaboration. The STP has delivered strong results since its launch in 2023, creating opportunities for Mauritians, driving trade and investment, and accelerating mutual growth. UK-Mauritius bilateral trade is worth 69.73 billion rupees (or £1.2 billion) annually. The UK is Mauritius's second biggest export market, while Mauritius is in the top 10 of the UK's biggest markets in Africa. This umbrella framework has expanded the scope and scale of the existing UK-Mauritius trade and investment relationship. It spans six growth sectors, including education. An agreement was signed between the UK's Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and Mauritius's Higher Education Commission (HEC), making it easier for UK universities to bring

their expertise and programmes to Mauritius and allowing expanded access to world-class education. Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd, which was also part of the delegation, agreed a new partnership with Kingston University London, launching AI and digital technology programmes. This is a significant milestone advancing the island's digital transformation. During the Minister's visit to London, a series of meetings were also held with representatives from key UK education institutions, including SOAS University of London, London South Bank University, Times Higher Education and several schools within King's College London, notably its AI Institute, Business School and School of Government. "Education is a pillar of the UK Mauritius Strategic Trade Partnership. At the Education World Forum in London this year, we saw this partnership in education go further with the signature of two agreements with UK education institutions. These partnerships are important as Mauritius aspires to become a regional education hub. The UK



is supporting this vision, not least because investing in education means investing in sustainable growth for both our countries," British High Commissioner Charlotte Pierre said. Dr Kaviraj Sukon, Minister of Tertiary Education, stated that "the mission yielded landmark agreements, including a comprehensive MoU between the UK Quality Assurance Agency and Mauritius Higher Education Commission, alongside

strategic partnerships with four leading British universities. These collaborations will enhance Mauritius' emergence as a regional education hub while providing new pathways for British institutions to deliver world-class programmes locally. Through education, we are not just building bridges between our nations – we are constructing the foundation upon which future generations will stand to reach new heights of excellence and innovation."

## Absa Mauritius wins Best IPO in Africa (Mid-Cap category) at the EMEA Finance Achievement Awards

Absa Bank Mauritius recently announced that it has won the Best IPO in Africa (Mid-Cap Category) at the prestigious EMEA Finance Achievement Awards 2024, further cementing its position as a trusted capital markets partner on the continent. This recognition comes on the heels of another major accolade, having been named Best Investment Bank in Mauritius 2025 by Global Finance earlier this year. The EMEA Finance award celebrates Absa Mauritius' role as Sole Lead Transaction Advisor for the IPO of a leading player in the Technology, Media, and Telecommunications sector, listed on the Official Market of the Stock Exchange of Mauritius in 2024. This landmark transaction showcased Absa's ability to navigate complexity with agility and insight, reflecting its deep understanding of capital markets and strong commitment to client success. "The EMEA Finance award is a powerful endorsement

of our ability to structure and deliver complex transactions that create real value. When paired with our recent Best Investment Bank recognition by Global Finance in Mauritius for 2025, these accolades highlight the strength of our team, our regional expertise, and our commitment to delivering world-class financial solutions tailored to the evolving needs of the market. We are deeply honoured," commented Ravin Dajee, Managing Director at Absa Mauritius. Aslam Taher, Head of Wholesale Banking, Corporate and Investment Banking at Absa Mauritius, added that "these recognitions reflect our relentless focus on providing innovative, client-centric investment banking solutions. We're proud to lead transformative deals that contribute to the growth of Mauritius' financial services sector and drive meaningful outcomes for our partners across the African continent."





# DEBRIEF

## ATTENTES – BUDGET 2025

# Lottotech prêt à renforcer sa contribution aux priorités nationales

À l'occasion de son 15e anniversaire, Lottotech Ltd fait le bilan de son impact économique et présente sa vision pour l'avenir. Moorghen Veeramootoo, CEO, détaille les réalisations de la société et ses projets de modernisation.

Depuis le lancement du Loto en 2009, Lottotech a versé plus de MUR 8,34 milliards au Consolidated Fund national. Ces fonds, gérés par l'Etat, ont financé des projets d'infrastructure publique, de santé, d'éducation et d'autres services publics essentiels. L'entreprise a également distribué plus de MUR 17,2 milliards en prix aux joueurs, et son réseau de plus de 650 points de vente soutient les micro-entrepreneurs et contribue aux économies locales urbaines et rurales. Lottotech génère aussi des revenus par les impôts sur les sociétés, les frais de licence et l'emploi direct et indirect dans plusieurs secteurs.

### Une vision tournée vers l'avenir

« Lottotech peut contribuer encore plus aux priorités nationales », explique Moorghen Veeramootoo. « Avec le bon cadre réglementaire, notamment l'autorisation d'opérer en ligne et sans espèces, nous pouvons répondre aux nouveaux comportements des consommateurs et soutenir la transformation numérique de Maurice. » L'accès numérique permettrait d'atteindre une population plus large. Cette modernisation améliorerait la sécurité, réduirait les

risques liés à la manipulation d'espèces, éliminerait les paris illégaux et apporterait plus de transparence aux transactions.

### Attentes pour le prochain Budget

En vue du discours budgétaire, Lottotech espère des mesures progressistes pour moderniser le secteur du jeu. L'entreprise souhaite particulièrement l'autorisation de la digitalisation et des transactions sans espèces, qui débloquera de nouveaux revenus sans augmenter les taxes. Lottotech propose également le lancement de nouveaux jeux régulés pour attirer les joueurs des marchés noir et gris non régulés vers des alternatives sûres et transparentes. Cette approche augmenterait les revenus de l'État tout en protégeant mieux les joueurs. Lottotech serait ainsi en mesure de contribuer davantage au Consolidated Fund.

### Engagement social renforcé

Au-delà de l'économie, Lottotech développe son rôle dans l'inclusion financière, l'éducation sur le jeu responsable et le soutien aux groupes vulnérables. L'entreprise travaille déjà avec des ONG et des lignes d'aide pour les personnes ayant des



problèmes de dépendance. « Nous sommes prêts à être un partenaire stratégique pour les initiatives gouvernementales dans l'autonomisation des jeunes, l'innovation, l'éducation et la santé », conclut M. Veeramootoo.

### Citroën ë-C3 : L'électrique nouvelle génération débarque chez Axess

Axess, filiale du groupe ENL et concessionnaire officiel de Citroën à Maurice depuis 1986, accueille la toute nouvelle Citroën ë-C3, une citadine 100 % électrique qui conjugue style, confort et accessibilité. Disponible en showroom depuis début mai 2025 à Bagatelle Motor City, ce modèle vient enrichir l'offre de mobilité durable sur le territoire, répondant à une demande croissante pour des véhicules électriques. Pensée pour les trajets urbains du quotidien, la ë-C3 s'impose comme une solution de mobilité pratique et économique. Elle affiche un prix attractif de Rs 890 000 après remboursement MRA, et un coût d'utilisation estimé à seulement Rs 0,50/km, ce qui en fait l'un des véhicules électriques les plus accessibles du marché local.

### Le chef étoilé Vineet Bhatia, MBE, de retour au LUX\* Belle Mare pour un événement culinaire exclusif

Le tout premier chef indien étoilé Michelin, Vineet Bhatia, MBE, fait son grand retour au LUX\* Belle Mare, en juin, pour une expérience gastronomique exclusive de trois soirées au sein de son restaurant signature, Amari by Vineet. Du 12 au 14 juin, chaque soirée débutera par une rencontre avec le chef, de 19h à 20h, accompagnée de canapés et de cocktails. S'ensuivra, de 20h à 22h30, un dîner d'exception, soigneusement imaginé par le chef et composé de menus dégustation végétariens et non végétariens, avec des accords mets et vins en option.

### A Casela : La famille s'agrandit avec l'arrivée d'un bébé girafe et six lionceaux

Tandis que Casela Nature Parks célèbre son 45e anniversaire, le parc se réjouit d'accueillir sept nouveaux pensionnaires qui viennent enrichir son patrimoine animalier. Le 26 avril dernier, Kyba a vu le jour sous le regard attentif de ses parents, Kira et Caramel, deux girafes résidentes. Kyba n'est pas la seule nouveauté : quatre lionnes et deux lions, âgés de cinq à sept mois et pesant entre 15 et 20 kg, ont rejoint Casela après un transfert soigneusement préparé depuis l'Afrique du Sud. Leur intégration répond à un double enjeu : diversifier le patrimoine génétique et assurer la relève d'une lignée dont la dernière naissance sur le site remontait à 2018.

### Café éco-responsable : Puro Coffee fête ses 20 ans



Créée en 2005 par Miko Coffee, entreprise belge de torréfaction, Puro Coffee est une marque engagée et résolument responsable. Il est, à ce jour, un des rares cafés commercialisés à Maurice à être certifié commerce équitable (Fairtrade).

Représentée et distribuée à Maurice et dans la région par Miko Coffee (Mauritius) Ltd, elle se distingue par la qualité de ses produits autant que par son engagement en faveur du développement durable, notamment la préservation des forêts tropicales dans les pays producteurs. Ce n'est donc pas un hasard si son 20e anniversaire coïncide avec la Journée mondiale de l'environnement, célébrée le 5 juin. « Puro Coffee est une marque qui place la durabilité environnementale et l'équité sociale au cœur de son modèle économique. Chaque tasse de café vendue dans le monde contribue à des projets de conservation, en partenariat avec le World Land Trust. À ce jour, Puro Coffee a permis de protéger plusieurs milliers d'hectares de forêts en Amérique du Sud et en Afrique. La marque s'engage aussi activement en faveur du commerce équitable, en garantissant de bonnes conditions de travail et une juste rémunération aux producteurs », explique Frédéric Moirt, CEO de Miko Coffee (Mauritius) Ltd.

### L'Espérance en action : Caritas Ile Maurice marque 60 ans d'engagement solidaire

Caritas Ile Maurice entame cette année une étape importante de son histoire. Voilà 60 ans que l'organisation agit, aux côtés des familles en difficulté, pour les aider à faire face aux défis du quotidien. Cet anniversaire a été lancé lors d'une rencontre conviviale tenue le 29 mai à l'Institut Cardinal Jean Margéot, à la Maison Carné à Rose-Hill. Collaborateurs, partenaires et bienfaiteurs y étaient réunis pour un moment d'échange, de gratitude et de mobilisation. Le thème choisi – L'Espérance en action – résume bien l'état d'esprit qui anime cette nouvelle étape. Elle s'inscrit également dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de la stratégie 2025-2030 de Caritas, qui vise à renforcer son rôle comme association de référence dans la lutte contre la pauvreté et la promotion du développement humain intégral. « Pour Caritas, cet anniversaire n'est pas une simple célébration. C'est une manière de réaffirmer ce qui compte vraiment : être présent, jour après jour, avec et pour les personnes en difficulté. Et continuer à croire qu'ensemble, on peut faire bouger les choses », a déclaré Christiane Tadebois, la présidente de Caritas.





# DEBRIEF

## Standard Chartered et MauBank annoncent un accord de correspondant bancaire

Standard Chartered et MauBank renforcent la connectivité financière transfrontalière depuis le Centre financier international de Maurice en établissant une relation de correspondant bancaire

Dans le cadre de ce partenariat, Standard Chartered mettra à disposition ses services de compensation en dollars américains (USD), permettant à MauBank d'optimiser le traitement des paiements internationaux et de mieux accompagner le financement des opérations commerciales de sa clientèle.

« Ce partenariat s'inscrit dans notre engagement à accompagner le développement des écosystèmes financiers dans nos marchés clés. En mettant à disposition notre infrastructure mondiale et notre expertise en matière de paiements transfrontaliers, nous contribuons à renforcer la connectivité financière de Maurice avec les grandes places internationales. MauBank dispose désormais de capacités accrues en matière de services multidevises, facilitant les opérations de ses clients avec des marchés stratégiques tels que les États-Unis, l'Allemagne, l'Inde, les Émirats arabes unis, le Royaume-Uni et l'Asie orientale, y compris la Chine », a déclaré Abrar A. Anwar, Chief Executive Officer et Head of Coverage de Standard Chartered Mauritius.

« À mesure que les transactions internationales deviennent un levier central pour nos clients, nous structurons les infrastructures nécessaires pour accompagner cette dynamique. La croissance soutenue des volumes en dollars américains a rendu nécessaire l'élargissement de notre réseau de correspondants bancaires. L'intégration de Standard Chartered comme



partenaire supplémentaire nous apporte une plus grande flexibilité, renforce la résilience de nos mécanismes de règlement, et accroît notre capacité à accompagner les transferts transfrontaliers, notamment sur les axes de flux les plus sollicités. Pour nos clients, qu'il s'agisse d'entreprises tournées vers l'international, de membres de la diaspora ou d'investisseurs, cela signifie un accès plus rapide et plus fiable aux marchés clés », a quant à lui

souligné Vishuene Vydelingum, Chief Executive Officer de MauBank.

Le partenariat annoncé traduit un engagement commun et constant en faveur de la création de nouvelles opportunités de croissance pour le secteur financier mauricien. Il contribue également à renforcer la visibilité du Centre financier international de Maurice et à mieux faire connaître ses atouts et ses capacités.

### Air Mauritius : Les passagers doivent s'assurer que leurs agences enregistrent leurs coordonnées dans le PNR

Comme beaucoup de transporteurs aériens, Air Mauritius communique avec ses passagers pour les informer d'éventuels retards, de reprogrammation de leur vol ou d'autres dispositions à prendre en fonction des circonstances prévalant dans les pays qu'ils visitent. Toutefois, environ un tiers des passagers sont injoignables parce que leurs coordonnées n'ont pas été communiquées par leurs agences. Air Mauritius attire ainsi l'attention de ses agences partenaires

sur les dispositions de la Résolution 830d de l'IATA, qui prévoit que les passagers puissent être notifiés par les compagnies aériennes en cas de report et de reprogrammation de leurs vols. Il est convenu, selon la Résolution 830d de l'IATA, que les agences doivent entrer les coordonnées téléphoniques dans le Passenger Name Record (PNR) au moment où le passager procède à l'achat de son billet.

### Made in Moris organise, le 2 juin, une session pour connecter acheteurs et industriels

Le Made in Moris Pledge, initiative lancée en 2022 par le label Made in Moris, représente un engagement volontaire des entreprises à privilégier les produits et services labellisés Made in Moris dans leurs chaînes d'approvisionnement. Ce programme soutenu par la MCB a déjà séduit 12 entreprises, dont 4 travaillent activement à l'intégration de nouveaux produits locaux. Fort de la première phase réussie et

de l'impact positif, Made in Moris franchit une nouvelle étape dans le développement du Pledge en organisant, le 2 juin prochain, une 'pitch-meeting' aux Kocottes, à St Pierre. Si jusqu'à présent, le programme se concentrait sur la mise en relation des acheteurs et des marques déjà labellisées au sein du réseau Made in Moris, le Pledge s'ouvre désormais à toutes les entreprises indistinctement.



### Terra Run : Une édition placée sous le signe de la convivialité et de l'inclusion

Le domaine de Rambouillet a accueilli, le samedi 17 mai, la Terra Run, une course ludique et conviviale réservée aux employés du groupe Terra. Cet événement inclusif a clôturé un mois d'activités variées dédié à la santé, à la sécurité et au bien-être de ses collaborateurs. Grande nouveauté cette année : l'introduction d'une joëlette sur le parcours – une innovation qui a permis à Lucas, un jeune en situation de handicap, de participer pleinement à la course.

La convivialité et l'esprit d'équipe ont primé sur la performance sportive lors de cette édition de la Terra Run. L'événement comprenait en effet un itinéraire unique de 6,5 km alliant accessibilité et défi, avec une touche de technicité pour les plus sportifs, tout en restant praticable pour le reste des participants. Pensé pour tous, ce parcours de trail/randonnée offrait ainsi une expérience à la fois sportive, ludique et inclusive.

### Fin des inscriptions pour le Dodo Trail 2025

La clôture des inscriptions pour la 13e édition du Dodo Trail est arrivée. Les coureurs souhaitant participer à cet événement phare du calendrier trail avaient jusqu'au samedi 31 mai pour s'enregistrer sur ROAG.org. Organisé par IBL Together, le Dodo Trail s'est imposé comme un rendez-vous incontournable pour les amateurs de trail à Maurice et dans la région. L'événement propose une expérience complète avec six épreuves adaptées à tous les niveaux, allant du Le Morne Dash au Xtreme 50 km, en passant par le Squad 50 km, le Trooper 25 km, le Venture 10 km et le Rookie 5 km.



Les parcours traversent des zones naturelles souvent inaccessibles au public, incluant des sentiers exclusifs à travers des réserves protégées. La remise des dossards se fera le mercredi 9 juillet, à Decathlon Bagatelle, de 10h00 à 19h00. Le Dodo Trail 2025 se tiendra les 5 et 12 juillet, et réunira des athlètes locaux et internationaux dans une ambiance sportive, conviviale et respectueuse de l'environnement.

### Anahita Trail 2025 : une édition haute en couleurs et en sensations

Clap de fin en beauté pour l'Anahita Trail 2025, qui s'est tenu le samedi 24 mai. Organisée par Alteo & Anahita Mauritius, cette deuxième édition haute en couleurs et en sensations s'est tenue au cœur de la spectaculaire Smart City d'Anahita Beau Champ, permettant à plus de 600 participants de découvrir le charme unique de l'Est. Deux parcours étaient au programme : un 5 km accessible dès 6 ans et un 15 km plus technique pour les trailers à partir de 14 ans. Au-delà du défi sportif, cet événement avait aussi une portée solidaire. Grâce aux inscriptions, une somme de Rs 50 000 a été collectée et sera reversée à l'Association Solidarité Mamans, qui accompagne les mères et enfants en situation de vulnérabilité dans le village d'Olivia. La sueur et la fatigue ont laissé place aux sourires : chacun est reparti avec des souvenirs plein la tête et le cœur léger. Côté palmarès, Matthieu Richard et Kelisha Ramudu se sont imposés sur le 15 km, tandis que Calvin Curoopen et Elisa Aplin ont brillé dans leurs catégories respectives sur le 5 km.



# DEBRIEF

## WOMEN'S GOLF DAY

# L'excellence féminine célébrée sur le green par Constance Hotels & Resorts

Le mardi 27 mai 2025, Constance Hotels & Resorts a mis à l'honneur la "Women's Golf Day", une journée mondiale dédiée à la valorisation de la pratique féminine du golf. Organisé pour la septième année consécutive, cet événement est devenu un rendez-vous incontournable pour le groupe hôtelier. L'édition 2025 a ainsi rassemblé des femmes de tous horizons au Links Golf Course de Constance Belle Mare Plage, avec un programme mettant à l'honneur le golf sous toutes ses facettes : séances d'initiation guidées par des joueuses expérimentées et compétition en binômes mêlant passion et découverte, dans une ambiance à la fois conviviale et inclusive.

« La Women's Golf Day est devenue un rendez-vous emblématique au sein de nos établissements, une parenthèse sportive et humaine à laquelle nous sommes profondément attachées », a expliqué Lily Tin, Golf Administrator & Event Coordinator. « Le golf fait partie intégrante de l'expérience Constance Hotels & Resorts. À travers cette journée, nous créons des opportunités pour que les femmes découvrent, osent et s'épanouissent dans un sport encore trop souvent perçu comme élitiste ou masculin. C'est aussi l'occasion de tisser du lien, de transmettre une passion, et d'ouvrir la voie à de nouveaux regards. »

Initiée par Elisa Gaudet et soutenue par les grandes instances du golf international telles que la LPGA, la PGA, encore l'USGA, la Women's Golf Day a pour vocation d'encourager les femmes à travers le



monde à découvrir et pratiquer ce sport d'exception. Cette septième édition a ainsi rassemblé 43 participantes, offrant à nombre d'entre elles une première

immersion dans l'univers palpitant du golf. « La journée a été un succès que nous devons à nos équipes, nos golfeuses, les participantes, mais aussi les partenaires

de l'événement, notamment PNL, Jen Golf LTD, 8EvenLinks et Majorelle, qui apportent régulièrement leur soutien au golf féminin », a conclu Lily Tin.

## Air Mauritius propose Bangkok et Colombo comme combinaison à partir de l'Inde

Deux destinations pour le prix d'un : c'est ce que propose Air Mauritius à partir des trois aéroports indiens que la compagnie dessert régulièrement chaque semaine. Avec cette formule d'escale dans les deux sens, le transporteur national mauricien innove en s'appuyant sur son réseau de partenaires au-delà des dessertes d'un point à l'autre. Les passagers d'Air Mauritius ont la possibilité

d'obtenir un tarif unique, à partir de Rs 44 000 TTC, pour se rendre en Thaïlande ou au Sri Lanka à partir de Mumbai, Delhi ou Chennai. Ceux qui veulent se rendre en Thaïlande pourront emprunter Thai Airways, qui propose des vols quotidiens vers Bangkok au départ de ces trois aéroports. Sri Lankan Airlines offre aussi des vols quotidiens au départ de ces aéroports pour Colombo.

## Red Bull MEO : Zeus Moris, équipe championne mauricienne

Zeus Moris est l'équipe championne de l'édition 2025 du tournoi de jeu sur smartphone Red Bull M.E.O (Mobile ESports Open). Les membres de l'équipe ont été couronnés au bout de plusieurs heures de combats acharnés sur PUBG Mobile le samedi 24 mai. Les champions de Zeus Moris – Muhammad Ashraf Ally Ramchurn, Lugony Yaadav, Lovesh Nikhil Bhokhun, Kevisen Elvin Veerapen et Navnit Seedam – ont cumulé 80 points pendant la finale pour battre les quinze

autres équipes qui s'étaient qualifiées lors de la première phase quelques semaines auparavant. Le podium est complété par les équipes Team Unique (2e avec 69 points) et Mau eSports (3e avec 57 points). Zeus Moris a été la plus forte avec 49 Kill points et 31 Place points dans cette finale (ainsi que 2 WWCD - 'Chicken dinners'). Team Unique a réalisé 32 Kill points, 37 Place points et 2 WWCD, alors que Mau eSports a obtenu 40 Kill points, 17 Place points et 1 WWCD.



## Projection de film, lancement, remise des prix et conférence publique à l'IFM

La remise des prix du concours "Les plus beaux potagers de Maurice", suivie du lancement du livre Grand-Mère Potager, d'Aurore Rouzzi, aura lieu le samedi 7 juin. Cet événement rend hommage à celles et ceux qui cultivent une autre manière d'habiter le monde : des potagers citoyens, scolaires ou collectifs, débordant de biodiversité, de savoir-faire et de créativité. La cérémonie sera animée par Aurore Rouzzi, agricultrice, formatrice en permaculture, et autrice du livre Grand-Mère Potager, un ouvrage intergénérationnel ludique dédié au jardinage en famille.

Dans le cadre de la semaine « Terre & Eau : Cultiver l'avenir », l'IFM invite également à la projection du film documentaire La ferme des Bertrand, de Gilles Perret, le mercredi 4 juin. Un film émouvant sur la transmission intergénérationnelle dans le monde paysan, retraçant 50 ans de vie d'une ferme familiale en Haute-Savoie. Une histoire intime, sociale et économique, profondément ancrée dans la réalité du monde agricole. Par ailleurs, l'IFM a procédé à l'inauguration de l'exposition « Richelieu, entre mémoire et résilience », conçue par le Collectif NOU à l'issue de dix mois de résidence de recherche architecturale, le samedi 31 mai. Cette exposition interroge le lien entre habitat, vulnérabilité climatique et savoirs citoyens, à travers les récits et les gestes des habitants du quartier de Richelieu, construit après les cyclones des années 60.

## ABC Automobile éblouit le public lors du lancement officiel de Leapmotor à Maurice

ABC Automobile, acteur majeur du secteur automobile mauricien, a ébloui le public présent au Tribeca Mall, le jeudi 22 mai, lors d'un événement spectaculaire organisé pour le lancement officiel de la marque Leapmotor à Maurice. À cette occasion, l'île devient le premier pays africain à accueillir cette marque 100 % électrique, marquant le début d'une nouvelle ère de mobilité durable. En partenariat avec le Groupe Stellantis, ABC Automobile réaffirme son engagement en faveur d'une transition énergétique ambitieuse. Le public présent a pu assister à ce lancement historique et découvrir de près les véhicules exposés, notamment les modèles emblématiques de Leapmotor, notamment la T03 et le C10, alliant design intelligent, sécurité de pointe (certifiés Euro NCAP) et confort haut de gamme.





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