

THE BusinessBULLETIN

by Business Mauritius

10 YEARS

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SHAPING OUR TECH FUTURE

AI, INNOVATION & NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS

B BUSINESS MAURITIUS
Building our Future

THE BusinessBULLETIN

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CEO'S MESSAGE

Dear friends

The current escalation of tensions in the Middle East is a reminder of how quickly external shocks can reshape our economic environment. For a small, open economy like Mauritius, the channels of impact are immediate and tangible. Already, global shipping routes are under strain, with vessels rerouting and transit times increasing significantly, adding both cost and uncertainty to supply chains. Energy markets remain particularly exposed, with the risk of sustained increases in oil prices feeding directly into inflation, operating costs and foreign exchange pressures. Tourism flows and air connectivity may also face disruption, with knock-on effects for the broader economy.

We at *Business Mauritius* see our role as anticipating and coordinating, along with our partners in Government. In that spirit, several meetings have already been held with key sectoral stakeholders in a public-private forum to assess risks and identify response and support mechanisms. The impact of the Middle East conflict also has repercussions on our key markets and offerings, with specific meetings held on positioning and diversification. The objective is to contribute to a national plan for Mauritius to remain resilient, agile and prepared in the face of evolving global dynamics.



This same approach underpins our ongoing work in preparing this year's *Budget Memorandum*. Building on the priorities identified by the *Economic Commission*, we are advancing a focused set of proposals aimed at strengthening competitiveness and improving ease of doing business. To do so, we have collaborated with the *Economic Development Board* on key reform areas, with a particular emphasis on positioning Mauritius more effectively ahead of the *World Bank's* upcoming *B-Ready* framework in 2027, with the objective to reinforce our attractiveness as an investment destination.

Recent Cabinet decisions on port development are also a step in the right direction. The port remains a critical pillar of our economic architecture and its transformation has been a long-standing priority for the private sector. In the current context of disrupted trade routes and shifting logistics patterns, accelerating reforms is a crucial – and timely – strategic step.

“Core values are independence, excellence, responsibility and federation.”

“Our individual responses must remain anchored in our core values.”

On sustainability, *Business Mauritius* was pleased to contribute to the *World Bank's Country Climate and Development Report* for Mauritius. This work provides some important metrics on the cost of inaction and the scale of transition required. The expectation now is for this to translate into structured, forward-looking dialogue and concrete pathways for implementation while taking into account the existing costs of doing business to Mauritian companies.

Finally, the main feature of this present issue focuses on a development that reflects a deeper shift underway: the launch of the *AI & New Tech Commission* under the chairmanship of *Vidia Mooneegan*, Managing Director of *Dayforce* and past President of *Business Mauritius*. This *Commission* will serve our members through a structured approach to AI which has today become a powerful, transformational disruptor that will reshape how we work, produce, compete and innovate.

In our current world defined by uncertainty and volatility, our individual responses must remain anchored in our core values. For *Business Mauritius*, these are independence, excellence, responsibility and federation. With these, we engage in our role of public-private dialogue with the objective of bringing clarity of vision, truthfulness and courage, in order to put in place the necessary mechanisms for Mauritius to grow and be resilient in these challenging times.

Best

Kevin Ramkaloan
Chief Executive Officer

EDITORIAL

BUSINESS, STABILITY AND THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLE

At the start of this year, *Business Mauritius*, alongside several other organisations, contributed to national reflections on electoral reform.

We were asked by some if this was a departure from the traditional role of the business community. Our answer, consistently, has been that it is not.

Business Mauritius remains a steadfastly apolitical association. And reflecting on the state and strength of our democratic structures should be, above all, an apolitical endeavour. For what is at stake are the conditions that shape the future of our country and by extension, the future of our economy.

Today, those conditions feel somewhat more fragile than they have in a long time.

Across the world, geopolitical tensions are intensifying. Conflicts are reshaping trade routes, energy markets and alliances. At the same time, we are witnessing increasing pressure on democratic institutions, even in countries long considered anchors of global stability. Closer to home, recent developments in our own political sphere have also sparked questions, reflections and even concern.

In this context, Mauritius's 58th anniversary of independence, celebrated last month, invites something more than celebration. It calls for clarity.

Because democracy cannot be viewed as an abstract principle. It is, rather, a system that either builds or erodes trust.

And trust is not only political capital. It is economic capital.

For a country like Mauritius, open, interconnected, positioned at the crossroads of Africa, Asia and traditional Western markets, stability is what gives us competitive advantage. It shapes how we are perceived by investors, by partners, by international institutions. It influences ratings, investment decisions and long-term commitments. It determines whether Mauritius is seen as a reliable platform in an increasingly uncertain world or as a risk to be priced in.

“Reflecting on our democratic structures is an apolitical endeavour.”

The impact of instability, when it takes hold, is rarely immediate but it is cumulative. It raises the cost of doing business. It slows decision-making. It weakens confidence. And over time, it shifts opportunities elsewhere.

At the same time, periods of global disruption also create openings.

We are seeing supply chains being reconfigured. Investment flows being redirected. New partnerships emerging across regions. For Mauritius, these shifts represent real opportunities to position itself, to attract, to lead.

But opportunities of this nature are not captured by chance. They are secured by countries that offer clarity, consistency and confidence.

They require strong institutions. They require leadership that is able to look beyond immediacy and anchor decisions in a long-term vision. And they require a shared commitment across public and private actors to preserve and strengthen the foundations on which the country stands.

Reflections on how we, as a country, can and should uphold our democratic principles is then, an entirely apolitical question. For the business community, contributing to this reflection is not just a privilege – it is the duty we have to contribute to the resilience, credibility and integrity of the system within which our economy operates.

Because ultimately, the strength of our democracy will continue to shape not only how we are governed but also how we grow, compete and position ourselves in the world.

And that is a conversation in which we all have a stake.

Verna Pillay
Head of Communications

“And trust is not only political capital. It is economic capital.”



ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Q1 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

TRACKING NATIONAL PRIORITIES THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION LAUNCHES ITS DASHBOARD

To strengthen follow-up on national economic priorities, the *Economic Commission* has developed a new *Economic Dashboard*, replacing the initially intended post-Budget implementation review exercise.

The objective is clear: move from discussion to a structured mechanism that supports implementation through public-private dialogue. This shift reflects a determination to turn national priorities into measurable progress and to ensure that the private sector remains an active partner in shaping Mauritius's economic trajectory.

The *Dashboard* is built around **12 Strategic Enablers** identified as critical to Mauritius's long-term competitiveness. These enablers capture the foundations of a resilient, future-ready economy and provide a

shared reference point for coordinating action across sectors. For each enabler, the *Dashboard* highlights the expected economic impact, key actions required from and undertaken by Government, business community sentiment and measurable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to track progress over time. This structure ensures that priorities are not only identified but actively monitored, allowing for timely adjustments and stronger accountability.

The methodology for the *Dashboard* rests on **three core pillars**:



A rolling three-month action plan to ensure continuous implementation follow-up.



Structured capture of business sentiment on each priority area.



Dynamic updates through public-private dialogue, supported by performance indicators.

Together, these elements position the *Dashboard* as more than a monitoring tool. It becomes a catalyst for collaboration, a mechanism for transparency and a driver of collective determination.

By grounding national priorities in data, dialogue and shared responsibility, the *Economic Commission* reinforces its leadership role in shaping a competitive, resilient and forward-looking Mauritian economy.

12 STRATEGIC ENABLERS DRIVING NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS



1

Ease of Doing Business



2

Labour Reforms



3

Investment Attractiveness



4

Port Transformation



5

Energy Transition (Solar and Biomass)



6

Water Management



7

Healthcare and Biotech Development



8

AI and Digital Connectivity



9

Education Hub Positioning



10

Innovation Incentives



11

Coastal Regeneration



12

Disaster Risk Reduction



NATIONAL RESEARCH WEEK 2026

Turning Research into Real Economic Impact

This quarter, the *Economic Affairs Team* has been working closely with partners to shape *Business Mauritius's* contribution to *National Research Week (NRC) 2026: 20–24 April*.

For the second consecutive year, *Business Mauritius* will play an active role in the *National Research Week*, this time by jointly curating a dedicated one-day *Industry/Academia Forum*, alongside the *Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology Ltd* and *MRIC*.

The rationale is straightforward. Research generates knowledge and solutions. Industry brings real-world challenges, scale and commercial discipline. Investment enables ideas to move beyond proof of concept. When these three pillars align, innovation becomes a driver of productivity and competitiveness.

In practice, however, gaps persist. Businesses are not always aware of existing local research capabilities while researchers often lack early visibility on industry demand and market constraints. For Mauritius, bridging this gap is essential to strengthening firm-level performance and economic resilience.

Over recent months, the *Economic Affairs Team*, led by *Zaahira Ebramjee*, has been working with stakeholders to design a format that moves beyond dialogue. The *Forum* will feature case studies, research pitches, thematic tracks, poster sessions and networking, all focused on translating research into investable, demand-driven projects.

Our continued engagement in the *NRC* reflects a clear objective: ensuring that knowledge produced locally is connected to industry needs and contributes meaningfully to growth and national competitiveness.

PORT STRATEGY MOVES FORWARD

Strengthening Operations for Competitiveness

For several years, *Business Mauritius* has been advocating for stronger strategic focus and investment in the development of the port, a critical pillar of the country's trade, logistics and economic competitiveness.

In a rapidly shifting global environment, the importance of a high-performing port is becoming even clearer. The ongoing crisis in the Middle East and tensions affecting major maritime corridors are a stark reminder of how vulnerable global shipping routes can be and how essential resilient logistics infrastructure is for island economies like Mauritius.

In this context, *Cabinet* has taken note of the recommendations of the *Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Strategy for Port Development*. Among the key measures announced is the decision to pursue negotiations with two strategic shipping lines to enter the capital of the *Cargo Handling Corporation Ltd* as minority shareholders, bringing operational expertise and incentives to route vessels through Port Louis.

The strategy also clarifies institutional roles, with the *Mauritius Ports Authority* focusing on regulation and marine services while the *Cargo Handling Corporation* operates the port. These steps signal renewed momentum to strengthen the competitiveness of one of Mauritius's most strategic economic assets.



SOCIAL CAPITAL

Q1 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

CURRICULUM & EMPLOYABILITY CO-CHAIRING THE NCCHE

Mauritius has entered a decisive phase in reshaping how skills are developed, recognised and deployed across the economy. The first meeting of the *National Curriculum Committee for Higher Education (NCCHE)* was held on 05 March 2026 at *Business Mauritius's* office.

The meeting was a landmark step in aligning higher education with the real needs of the labour market. As co-chair of the *NCCHE*, *Business Mauritius* plays a central role in ensuring that the voice of employers, sectors and industries is embedded at the heart of curriculum reform.

At its core, the *NCCHE* exists to solve a long-standing challenge: **the persistent mismatch between graduate competencies and workplace expectations.**

For the *Social Capital* agenda, this issue directly affects employability, productivity, workplace readiness and the long-term competitiveness of Mauritian enterprises. By sitting at the decision-making table, *Business Mauritius* ensures that the country's skills pipeline evolves with discipline, evidence and purpose.



What the NCCHE Will Deliver & Why It Matters for Social Capital

The Committee's mandate is ambitious but its impact will be concrete. Through structured collaboration between Government, academia and industry, the *NCCHE* will:

- **Embed employer insights into curriculum design**, ensuring graduates enter the workforce with the competencies businesses actually need.
- **Promote transversal skills** - communication, problem-solving, digital literacy - that strengthen workplace culture and adaptability.
- **Support micro-credentials co-developed with industry**, enabling faster, more flexible upskilling aligned with sectoral needs.
- **Expand work-integrated learning**, including internships, capstone projects and applied research, giving students real exposure to workplace realities.
- **Align higher education with national economic transformation priorities**, from ICT and FinTech to renewable energy, biotechnology and digital services.
- **Strengthen academia-industry partnerships**, creating a more coherent ecosystem for talent development.

Each of these pillars directly reinforces social capital by improving employability, reducing onboarding gaps and fostering a more confident, capable and future-ready workforce.

Business Mauritius at the Centre of the Reform

As co-chair, *Business Mauritius* ensures that curriculum reform is not theoretical but grounded in the lived realities of employers. Through the *Social Capital Team*, represented by *Dhiruj Ramluggun*, *Business Mauritius* brings sector insights, labour market signals and employer expectations into every discussion. This role is essential: without structured employer input, curricula risk lagging behind the pace of economic change.

The first meeting set the tone for a disciplined, evidence-based and forward-looking work programme. Working groups will now be established across priority sectors, with *Business Mauritius* nominating subject-matter experts from industry to ensure that recommendations remain practical, relevant and implementable.

A New Chapter for Workforce Readiness

The *NCCHE* marks a turning point for Mauritius. For the first time, curriculum relevance, employability and industry needs are being addressed through a national, structured and collaborative mechanism.

For *Business Mauritius*, this initiative reinforces a long-standing commitment: building a labour market where people thrive, businesses grow and social capital becomes a true engine of national progress.

NCCHÉ: 6 PILLARS SHAPING MAURITIUS'S FUTURE WORKFORCE

1. Curriculum Relevance
2. Industry-Aligned Competencies
3. Micro-Credentials
4. Work-Integrated Learning
5. Applied Research
6. National Skills Alignment

EMPLOYMENT GUIDE FOR DISABILITY INCLUSION

Supporting Disability Confident Practices

Business Mauritius, through its *Social Capital Team*, led by *Dhiruj Ramluggun*, and the *Subcommittee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*, is developing an *Employment Guide: How to Employ Persons with Disabilities in Mauritius* to support organisations in strengthening their understanding of disability-confident employment practices.



The *Guide* aims to offer practical direction on why inclusive hiring matters, how employers can approach recruitment, accommodation and retention and the key health as well as safety considerations involved. It will also highlight statutory bodies and collaborative institutions that can assist employers in building more accessible and equitable workplaces.

This initiative forms part of *Business Mauritius's* broader commitment to strengthening inclusive employment practices across the private sector. Further updates will be shared with members as the work progresses.

[Explore Available
Company Guidelines](#)

NEW TALENT MANAGEMENT SERIES

Flexible People-Centred Learning

Unlocking stronger people leadership begins with learning that inspires action. The new *Talent Management Series* is a 75-hour, 4-workshop development journey designed for HR professionals, team leaders, supervisors and managers who want to elevate how people grow, perform and thrive, at their own pace.

Each workshop blends facilitator-led input, case studies, simulations, coaching practice and hands-on activities to turn insight into confident, immediate application.

The series brings together the essential foundations of modern people leadership:

strategic HR, talent development, recruitment and onboarding, employee experience, coaching, wellbeing, multigenerational collaboration, workplace ethics and employee relations. It equips organisations with a complete, future-ready toolkit to build stronger cultures and unlock human potential.

Key advantage: flexible, modular learning that strengthens both people and organisational outcomes.

Sessions will run throughout 2026, with dates and venues shared via the *Business Mauritius* training calendar.

[Browse Upcoming Trainings](#)

SUSTAINABILITY & INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Q1 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

CLIMATE CHALLENGES AND BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION CIRCULAR ECONOMY

As climate risks intensify and resource constraints become more visible across global supply chains, the transition toward a circular economy is rapidly moving from concept to necessity. For island economies such as Mauritius where resources are limited and waste management challenges are acute, circularity is not more than just an environmental imperative. It is a clear strategic economic opportunity.

Business Mauritius has been working actively with enterprises, policymakers and international partners to ensure that the private sector plays a leading role in this transformation. Through the work of its *Sustainability & Inclusive Growth (SIG) Department* and the *Circular Economy Subcommittee*, our *SIG Team* led by *Amandine Hardowar de Rosnay* has been helping to create the conditions for businesses to adopt more circular models, reducing waste, improving resource efficiency and unlocking new value chains.

This year, this work is being structured around **three major strategic projects** that aim to move the circular economy agenda from dialogue to practical implementation:



1. Managing Hazardous Waste Across Indian Ocean

The first initiative forms part of the *GEF-ISLANDS regional programme*, implemented by the UNDP and funded by the *Global Environment Facility*. The project focuses on improving the management of hazardous waste across *SIDs* in the Indian Ocean.

Within this programme, *Business Mauritius* plays a regional coordination role alongside the *Indian Ocean Commission*, engaging the private sector and particularly the hospitality industry, in identifying solutions for better hazardous waste management.

Early consultations with hotel groups across Mauritius, Seychelles and Maldives have already mapped key waste streams, identified barriers to improved practices and documented innovative solutions already being implemented in the sector. The next phase will focus on translating these insights into practical tools and platforms to support companies across the region.



2. Building Circular Solutions in the Construction Sector

A second major initiative supports the implementation of Mauritius's national *Circular Economy Roadmap*, adopted in 2023. With support from the *European Union* and *Expertise France*, the project focuses specifically on construction and demolition waste, one of the largest waste streams in the country.

Business Mauritius plays a key role in mobilising private-sector stakeholders and coordinating industry participation. A multi-stakeholder working group bringing together developers, construction firms, material producers and recyclers has been established to identify practical solutions. Over time, this group will evolve into a *Circular Economy Hub* for the construction sector, fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange and pilot initiatives across the value chain.



3. Preparing Companies for Future Waste Regulations

The third project, developed under the *SUNREF programme* with the *Agence Française de Développement*, focuses on waste audits and characterisation within companies.

The objective is twofold: to help businesses prepare for upcoming waste segregation regulations expected in 2027–2028 and to generate reliable data that can inform both policy development and investment in recycling and waste-management infrastructure.

The project will involve audits across priority sectors, with international technical expertise supporting local consultancies and building national capacity in waste analysis and management.

From Awareness to Action

This year, our three main initiatives on the circular economy programme reflect a broader shift in how the circular economy is being approached in Mauritius. Beyond awareness and policy dialogue, the focus is increasingly on practical implementation: equipping businesses with the tools, partnerships and knowledge needed to redesign production and consumption systems.

The objective for the business community is now clear: we must ensure that enterprises are not only adapting to the circular transition but actively shaping it, strengthening both environmental resilience and long-term economic competitiveness.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN MAURITIUS

Rethinking the Framework

Business Mauritius will collaborate with the *Charles Telfair Centre* on a new study examining the legal and institutional framework for Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) and social enterprises in Mauritius.

These organisations play an increasingly important role in addressing social and environmental challenges and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, the absence of a clear legal identity and policy framework often creates regulatory uncertainty, limits access to funding and constrains their development.

Running from *March to July 2026*, the research will review international best practices, analyse the Mauritian context and engage stakeholders to propose a comprehensive framework and roadmap.

The project will culminate in a final report and presentations to sponsors and policy stakeholders, with the aim of strengthening the ecosystem supporting social enterprises and NPOs in Mauritius.



CLIMATE, GEOPOLITICS AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

A Strategic Dialogue with François Gemenne

Geopolitical tensions are rising rapidly across several regions of the world, from the Middle East to Eastern Europe, bringing renewed uncertainty to global markets, energy systems and supply chains. At the same time, climate risks continue to intensify, creating a complex landscape where environmental and geopolitical pressures increasingly intersect.

Against this backdrop, *Business Mauritius*, in partnership with the *Mauritius Commercial Bank (MCB)*, hosted *Dr François Gemenne* for a strategic exchange with members of the Mauritian business community.

A political scientist and leading expert on climate change, adaptation and environmental migration, *Dr Gemenne* is Professor at *HEC Paris and Sciences Po* and Director of the *Hugo Observatory*.

The discussion explored what these global shifts mean for *Small Island Developing States (SIDs)* such as Mauritius, highlighting the importance of climate finance, economic resilience and strategic positioning in an increasingly fragmented world.



LEADING THE AI TRANSITION

Introducing Business Mauritius's AI & New Tech Commission

With AI no longer a distant horizon but a clear and present driver already reshaping productivity, competitiveness and value creation, *Business Mauritius* has moved decisively, establishing the *AI & New Tech Commission*. This is the fourth Commission added to the three already representing *Business Mauritius's* mission in economic development, social capital and sustainability and inclusive growth.

In alignment with the *Government Programme 2025–2029*, the *National Budget 2025/26* and the national *Digital Transformation Blueprint*, the *AI & New Tech Commission* reflects a clear ambition: to ensure that the business community does not simply adapt to technological change but actively shapes it.



The Commission's mandate is both strategic and practical. Its mission includes:

- **Developing a private-sector AI roadmap** aligned with national priorities such as productivity growth, job creation, competitiveness, inclusion and sustainability.
- **Promote AI literacy and skills development** in partnership with Government and academia.
- **Contributing to policy dialogue** on AI regulation and data governance.
- **Supporting startups and SMEs** in adopting AI-driven solutions.
- **Encouraging cross-sectoral pilot initiatives** that demonstrate practical applications of AI.
- **Strengthening Mauritius's positioning** as a regional gateway for ethical and human-centric AI.

To translate this mission into concrete outcomes, the scope of work is comprehensive and forward-looking:

- **Mapping AI applications across industries** to identify opportunities and needs.
- **Assessing infrastructure and financing requirements** to support AI adoption.
- **Contributing to national consultations** on digital policy.
- **Linking Mauritian enterprises** to African and global AI ecosystems.

These priorities form a coherent foundation for advancing AI adoption across the private sector while ensuring that innovation remains responsible, inclusive and aligned with national development goals.

The new Commission which already held its first meeting this January, is chaired by *Vidia Mooneegan, Managing Director of Day Force (Mauritius)* and a former *President of Business Mauritius*, whose leadership and experience in technology-driven enterprise bring both vision and operational grounding to this initiative.

With a diverse and multi-sectoral membership, spanning finance, telecommunications, manufacturing, capital markets, ICT and emerging digital platforms, the composition of the Commission reflects the cross-sectoral nature of AI itself. It also signals a collective commitment: AI is not the responsibility of one industry alone; it is a shared national project.

Mauritius has the opportunity to position itself not merely as a user of AI technologies but as a trusted, ethical and regionally connected digital hub. Through structured collaboration, responsible innovation and bold thinking, the business community, through *Business Mauritius*, is ready to lead that journey.

The Commission is convened by *Zaahira Ebramjee, Head of Economic Affairs* and supported by the *Economic Affairs Department*.

Composition of the AI & New Tech Commission

Vidia Mooneegan (Chair)	Managing Director	Dayforce (Mauritius)
Jenny Chan	Managing Director President	Astek Mauritius OTAM
Diya Nababsing-Jetshan	Head of Technology & Digital Transformation	IBL Group
Sheila Miller	Senior Manager IT, Digitalisation & Technology	Aspen Global
Jessica Naga	CEO	MINDEX
Kresh Goomany	CEO	Emtel
Dev Hurkoo	Managing Director	Rogers Capital Technology
Mahen Govinda	CTO	CIEL Finance
Mark Van Beuningen	Group Strategy & Investment Executive	CIEL Group
Rajiv Lutchmiah	CEO	Finwise Exchange
Marc Israel	CEO	Aetheis
Gerald Furlong	Managing Director	Maureva Ltd
Vrighesh Futta	Director of AI	BDO Consulting

IN Conversation WITH VIDIA MOONEEGAN

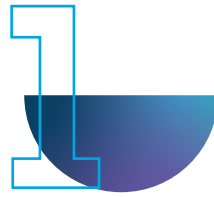
**CHAIRPERSON
AI & NEW TECH COMMISSION**

Following the launch of Business Mauritius's AI & New Tech Commission, a milestone that signals the private sector's determination to shape Mauritius's technological future, its first Chairperson, Vidia Mooneegan, offers a deeper look at the vision behind this new chapter.

In this conversation, he reflects on why AI is now a strategic imperative, how businesses can move from experimentation to structured adoption and what Mauritius must get right to turn AI into a genuine engine of national transformation.



THIS YEAR, BUSINESS MAURITIUS LAUNCHED A FOURTH COMMISSION, THE AI & NEW TECH COMMISSION. YOU ARE ITS FIRST CHAIRPERSON. WHAT IS THE VISION BEHIND THIS NEW COMMISSION AND WHY WAS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO LEAD THIS NEW CHAPTER FOR BUSINESS MAURITIUS?



AI will largely determine whether Mauritius moves into the next phase of global economic evolution. For a small economy facing demographic pressure, labour constraints and rising competition, AI is not optional. It is strategic.

It allows us to do more with less: optimise human capital, raise productivity and reduce the cost of doing business. But velocity matters. If we do not act with speed, the digital divide between Mauritius and more advanced economies will widen.

Beyond adaptation, AI offers a generational opportunity to leapfrog towards a high-value, high-income economy. That requires national alignment, with Government, business, academia and civil society working in concert, with strong institutional capability and global connectivity.

The *AI & New Tech Commission* at *Business Mauritius* exists to structure that ambition, from skills and data governance to regulation and innovation, so businesses can drive growth responsibly and strategically.

“AI offers an opportunity to leapfrog towards a high-value, high income economy.”

AS AI ADOPTION ACCELERATES, HOW CAN BUSINESSES, ESPECIALLY SMES, MOVE BEYOND EXPERIMENTATION AND ADOPT A MORE STRUCTURED, STRATEGIC APPROACH?



For AI to deliver its promise, it requires a shift in mindset first.

Too often, businesses see AI as a set of tools. We think better prompts, smarter marketing copy, incremental efficiency gains. But AI is more than another layer of software. It is a framework that can fundamentally reshape business models, workflows and decision-making.

For SMEs, the starting point is information and intentionality. Leaders need to understand where value is truly created in their operations and identify the processes that are repetitive, data-heavy or time-consuming. That is where AI can generate immediate impact.

But there is also a cultural shift required. The traditional mentality of doing everything in-house is no longer sustainable. AI makes new shared-services models possible, from accounting to HR to data analytics, where several SMEs can pool resources and access high-quality capabilities at lower cost.

Engagement, therefore, should be deliberate: build understanding, start with targeted use cases and leverage collaboration. SMEs that move early and move together, will not only reduce administrative burdens but unlock new capacity for growth and innovation.

AI ALSO RAISES CONCERNS AROUND ETHICS AND RISK. HOW SHOULD BUSINESSES AND THE PUBLIC THINK ABOUT THESE ISSUES? WHAT KIND OF GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK IS NEEDED TO ENSURE RESPONSIBLE ADOPTION?



Let us be clear: governance matters. Any serious AI strategy must get the fundamentals right. That means data protection, privacy, transparency and accountability. These are non-negotiable if we want trust in the system.

At the same time, we must be careful not to overcorrect. Regulation that is too rigid or premature can slow innovation and discourage experimentation, particularly in smaller economies that are still building capability. The objective should not be to constrain AI but to enable responsible adoption.



Globally, we are seeing different regulatory approaches and the pace of innovation remains intense. Mauritius must find its own balance: one that preserves integrity and safeguards citizens while still creating space for entrepreneurship, research and growth.

Responsible innovation should be our guiding principle: clear baseline protections, strong institutional capacity and enough flexibility to allow businesses and startups to test, learn and scale.

If we get that balance right, governance becomes a competitive advantage rather than a barrier.



IF MAURITIUS IS TO TURN AI INTO A GENUINE LEAP FORWARD FOR THE COUNTRY, WHAT ARE THE NON-NEGOTIABLES WE MUST GET RIGHT?

AI will fundamentally reshape competitiveness. It reduces the cost of doing business, accelerates skills development and gives entrepreneurs access to global expertise at unprecedented speed. Today, data is the most valuable commodity. Those who can access, analyse and model it can build businesses faster and more efficiently than ever before.

To get this to happen, infrastructure and regulation are of course essential. Add to that digital capacity, connectivity and baseline governance – all these are necessary hygiene factors, and in many ways, they are the easier part.

But the real differentiator in this is human capital and leadership. Technology on its own does not transform economies. People do. We need thinkers, builders and decision-makers who understand how AI fits into a long-term national growth strategy.

That is why clarity of vision matters. How do we see AI shaping our economic model? Where do we want to compete? What capabilities must we build? Once that direction is defined, everything else can align, whether education systems, institutions, business strategy and regulation.

“The world is not waiting for us.”

The other piece of this is that we must remain globally connected. AI is evolving at extraordinary speed and the world is not waiting for us. No small economy can afford to operate in isolation.

If we are clear about the destination and disciplined in execution, AI can become not just a tool for efficiency but a catalyst for structural transformation.



LOOKING AHEAD

UPCOMING Trainings & Events



TRAININGS

April 2026

- Sustainability for Business – Initiation to Sustainability Tools and Management Protocols
- Finance for Non-Finance Managers
- First Aid
- Fundamentals of Workers' Rights Act
- Human Resources Business Partner (HRBP)
- Pathways to Customer Service Excellence
- People Management Principles & Practice for Line Managers & Supervisors

May 2026

- Stock Control

June 2026

- Trainings Information to Follow

Browse Upcoming Trainings

EVENTS

April 2026

- Budget Memorandum

June 2026

- National Budget

REDUCE PEAK-HOUR ENERGY USE

SIMPLE ACTIONS THAT EASE THE NATIONAL GRID

18:00 – 21:00

During summer, electricity demand rises sharply between 18:00 and 21:00. By adjusting our habits, we can help ease the load on the grid while maintaining comfort.

AT HOME

- ✔ Favour fans over air conditioners (or set air conditioning to a minimum of 25°C)
- ✔ Switch off non-essential lights
- ✔ Shift the use of washing machines, ovens, dryers, water heaters, etc. to after 21:00

AT WORK

- ✔ Reduce lighting and air conditioning after office hours
- ✔ Put non-essential equipment on standby
- ✔ Schedule energy-intensive operations outside peak periods

YOUR HABITS POWER THE DIFFERENCE.



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Partner Members



Other Members



Affiliates

