

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Mauritius Summary 25 August 2025

Deputy prime minister Paul Bérenger denies reports that there is a possible rift in the ruling Alliance du Changement coalition. Government introduces new amendments to its financial legislations to expand the scope of what it considers as a legal entity. While this amendment reflects the government's willingness to address corruption, it may impact ease of doing business. Mauritius officially signs the Southern African Development Community's Parliamentary Forum treaty to establish a regional parliamentary institution.

Possible rift in the governing coalition of Alliance du Changement

Deputy prime minister **Paul Bérenger** made a [statement](#) on 12 August denying friction or a 'rupture' within the ruling coalition government, prompting questions about the political stability of the ruling **Alliance du Changement** coalition so early into its four year term. The possible friction in the coalition is [rooted](#) in Bérenger's **Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM)**, the junior party in the coalition, feeling sidelined by the **Parti Travailleiste (PTr)**. MMM's support in the coalition was critical to the coalition and contributed to the PTr, the senior party, and its leader **Navinchandra Ramgoolam** (2024-present) being reinstated as prime minister.

Citizens' dissatisfaction with the political leadership and continual frustration with the state of the economy could also be exacerbating the possible rift between the two parties and party leaders. Even though Mauritius has made strides to clamp down on public sector corruption and correct the economic wrongs of the previous administration, the island's politics remains clouded by accusations of corruption and the current economic pressure, especially with [rising global inflation](#).

Citizens remain critical of current political leadership because they are [unsatisfied](#) with the current government's approach to appointing individuals to prominent and high profile public sector jobs. For example, Bérenger's press conference on the 12 August was meant to address criticism of his son-in-law, **Frédéric Curé's** appointment as chairman of national carrier **Air Mauritius**. Curé's appointment had sparked public outrage, with citizens accusing the current government of participating in [nepotism](#) and corruption.

Despite the rumoured tensions, Mauritius does not face a significant risk of the current coalition government dismantling as both political parties have too much to lose. If the MMM is to withdraw, it would leave the party on the political sidelines – having struggled to muster significant support in recent elections - and if the PTr were to withdraw, it would not have enough of a majority to stay in power without a big coalition partner. However, the reported tensions could impact the coalition's delivery of key campaign promises and reforms as focus falls on navigating these tensions and coalition politics and ensuring that there is enough support across party lines for issues, which can delay implementation.

Mauritius introduces new amendment to its financial legislation

The **Financial Crimes Commission (FCC)** announced an [amendment](#) to its guidelines under the Section 52 of the **Financial Crimes Commission Act (FCCA)** to expand its scope of what the law considers as a legal entity. Previously the FCC's definition of a legal entity focused on banks and financial institutions but the new amendment applies to all businesses regardless of industry and size. Broadening definition of what constitutes a legal entity brings more institutions under the legislative

scope of the FCC and FCCA and will make compliance with Mauritius' financial regulation mandatory for all businesses

This is a significant change in direction with Mauritius setting a new benchmark of ethical business conduction. It is especially notable considering the recent negative publicity surrounding the former regime's mismanagement of public funds and institutions (*see ARC Briefing Mauritius Feb 2025*). In addition, this is also an important step for the island to distance itself from its reputation as a [tax haven](#) by introducing better accountability into the island's business environment.

The FCCA was passed in the National Assembly in December 2023 and came into effect in March 2024. The act consolidates the functions of the three key financial crime agencies in Mauritius, the **Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC)**, the **Asset Recovery Investigation Division** and the **Integrity Reporting Services Agency**, to the FCC. The FCC embodies more robust investigative and prosecuting powers than the ICAC.

The introduction of the legislation is a significant step to counter financial crimes and non-compliance and is indicative of the current's administration's attempts to crackdown on financial crimes. The government's continuous efforts to control and counter financial crimes reflects positively on its seriousness to address corruption within the country. While this is a significant step to improve accountability into Mauritius' business ecosystem, it is likely to have repercussions for business on the island. Considering that Mauritius invests a lot of money and effort into maintaining its reputation as a destination that is business friendly, the introduction of additional legislation is likely to be an administrative burden to companies. Any additional administrative requirements that a business needs to adhere to costs more money and time that the business will need to invest to ensure that it adheres to the islands' regulations.

Mauritius signs the SADC parliament agreement

Prime minister **Navin Ramgoolam** (2024-present) and Madagascar's President **Andry Rajoelina** (2023-president) signed an agreement to transform the **Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF)** on [22 August](#), into an official SADC Parliament. The signing took place during the 45th SADC Summit in Madagascar.

The establishment of the SADC Parliament [aims](#) to strengthen regional democracy and preserve the rule of law in the region. The SADC Parliament was first idealised in 2004 but documentation related to its establishment was only accepted during the 41st SADC Summit in **Malawi** in 2021. During the summit, members [accepted](#) the proposed framework for a SADC regional parliament to act as a consultative and deliberative body to deepen regional cooperation and legislation. The **East African Community (EAC)** has a similar set-up through the **East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)**.

Being part of SADC and ratifying the parliament treaty benefits Mauritius diplomatically and indicates its support for regional integration, as well as strengthening economic ties within the region. For example, Mauritius imports various raw products like edible fruits, live animals, cotton and tobacco from countries such as [South Africa](#) and [Zimbabwe](#) and is therefore dependent on its Southern African neighbours for access to fresh produce which cannot be locally grown on the island. As a consequence, the establishment of a regional parliament gives Mauritius access to dispute any domestic or regional actions that might disrupt the island's access to the imports it receives from Southern Africa.

More [broadly](#), the regional parliament could help ratify regional protocols, oversee regional institutions and promote regional integration and development. However, Mauritius faces significantly different developmental challenges than its regional partners, which could limit its benefits. The **World Bank** classifies Mauritius as an [upper middle income country](#), and the country eradicated extreme poverty in 2017, with a poverty rate of 13% in 2023, measured at the international poverty level of \$6.85 per day for an upper middle income country. Most of Mauritius' regional partners are considered low income countries and have much higher levels of inequality – for example, in 2023, an estimated 18.9 million **Mozambicans** [live](#) below the national poverty line of

\$0.70 per day. Alongside this, Mauritius has higher levels of democracy and political stability compared to other member states. These stark differences makes Mauritius a bit of an outlier within the regional grouping and while it still benefits from several positives, like trade agreements, being a member of the SADC parliament does not present overarching benefits to the country.

Mauritius' ratification of the SADC PF treaty indicates its regional participation and contribution to regional integration, but the island does not necessarily stand to benefit significantly from the establishment of such an institution.

Planner

11 Sep 2025 **(India)** Prime minister **Navinchandra Ramgoolam** to visit India and meet his counterpart, **Narandra Modi**

Chronology

21 Aug 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Ministry of foreign affairs*. Foreign affairs minister **Dhananjay Ramful**, opens the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** open day to commemorate 51 years of partnerships between the UNDP and Mauritius;

21 Aug 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *MSN*. **Financial Services Commission** hosts the third annual **Capacity Building Programme for Boards of the Sommittee of Insurance, Securities and Non-Banking Financial Authorities (CINSA)**, to discuss regulatory authorities overseeing insurance and non-banking financial institutions in **Southern Africa**;

21 Aug 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Le Mauricien*. Police arrest Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) **Rajcoomar Seewoo** on charges of money laundering and financial crimes after investigations reveal that \$750,000 intended for informants during his time in the special intelligence division and eastern division was deposited into his bank account;

21 Aug 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *MSN*. A business delegation from **China** meets with the junior foreign affairs minister **Hambyrajen Narsinghen**, to discuss investment and business opportunities in Mauritius and on the African continent through Mauritius;

20 Aug 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *MSN*. Mauritius is busy formulating its third generation **Nationally Determined Contribution** which is an amendment to emission reduction targets and climate change adaptation measures as set out under the **Paris Agreement**;

19 Aug 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Government of Mauritius*. Deputy prime minister **Paul Raymond Berenger**, states in a press conference that the government of Mauritius is committed to bring economic and financial relief to its population amid increasing global inflationary pressures;

19 Aug 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *United News of India*. Prime minister **Navinchandra Ramgoolam** announces that he will visit **Varanasi (India)** on 11 September to hold bilateral talks with India's prime minister **Narandra Modi**;

14 Aug 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Le Mauricien*. Mauritius calls for an immediate ceasefire in **Gaza**, expressing deep concern over the worsening humanitarian crisis and strongly opposes **Israel's** reported plan for the total occupation of Gaza, condemning all acts of violence and civilian casualties;

13 Aug 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Bank of Mauritius*. **Bank of Mauritius** (central bank) opts to hold the key rate unchanged at 4.5%;

12 Aug 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Ministry of foreign affairs*. **Traian Laurentiu Hristea**, a representative of the **Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)** for the Indian Ocean, meets with foreign affairs minister **Dhananjay Ramful**, to reaffirm the ties between Mauritius and the Francophone community;

11 Aug 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Le Mauricien*. President **Dharam Gokhool** appoints **Gokhool Vidya Mungroo-Jugurnath** as president of the **Public Bodies Appeal Tribunal**;

7 Aug 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Web India*. India's high commissioner, **Anurag Srivastava**, officially hands over the first batch of ten electric busses to prime minister **Navinchandra Ramgoolan** as a donation from India to Mauritius to help reduce Mauritius' carbon emissions;

5 Aug 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Le Mauricien*. Government allocates over Rs 253m (\$5.62m) for its diplomatic missions and embassies abroad in the 2024/25 financial year, covering salaries and operating costs such as rent, electricity, water and phone bills;

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