

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Mauritius Monthly Briefing November 2025

Mauritius Summary 28 November 2025

The ruling Alliance du Changement coalition faces internal tensions after the largest opposition party in the coalition, Mouvement Militant Mauricien's (MMM) leader Paul Bérenger challenges the appointment of key government positions. The United States (US) Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issues a release order against textiles produced by the Firemount Group, citing allegations of forced labour. France's President Emmanuel Macron (2017-present) visits Mauritius on an official state visit, focused on strengthening bilateral relations with Mauritius. One of the main topics of discussion is the Tormelin Island's administration which is a recurring point of conflict between the two parties.

Turbulence in the national coalition over electoral reform

Local media reported on 7 November that **Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM)** leader **Paul Bérenger** had threatened to leave the governing coalition, **Alliance du Changement (ADC)**, due to increasing tensions between himself and prime minister **Navinchandra Ramgoolam** (2024-present). Bérenger has publicly challenged the appointment of key government positions such as the parliamentary **Financial Crimes Commission (FCC)** chairman, police commissioner, and **Air Mauritius** chairman, decisions Ramgoolam wields major power over.

Bérenger has pinpointed his public challenge of these key government positions on his dissatisfaction with the slow [progress](#) over the island's electoral and constitutional reform. Currently, Mauritius has a First Past the Post (FPTP) electoral system whereby the political party or candidate with the most votes wins the majority seats in parliament. With this [system](#), parties or candidates who come second do not have a seat or share of seats in parliament, meaning that the votes they receive are effectively discarded. As a consequence, one of the big drawbacks of a FPTP electoral system is that it does not accurately reflect all the parties within the election according to the proportion of votes received.

By calling for reform to the island's electoral system, Bérenger is fighting for opposition parties to have the proportion of seats according to the number of votes they received during the election. He [argues](#) that if all participating parties retain seats in parliament according to the proportion of votes they receive, it is highly likely to increase accountability as one political party will not retain an overwhelming majority of seats and power as the FPTP currently allows for.

Ramgoolam's party, **Parti Travailleiste (PTr)**, holds 35 seats of the 66 seats in parliament, and can therefore push through the legislation and decisions - such as these appointments - which it deems is right. Hence, the prime minister currently [controls](#) numerous ministerial portfolios such as national finance, internal affairs, and external communications (port and airport). As Bérenger points out, this has left an unbalanced government whereby one person is responsible not only for a large number of ministries but also decision making power in the government.

Although Bérenger pushed hard to overturn the public appointments of the key government positions in an attempt to push Ramgoolam to appoint ministers to the ministerial portfolios he currently oversees, Ramgoolam held back on compromising on these demands. Ramgoolam is taking an increasingly hardline stance against these demands by saying that he already complied with other concessions, such as [dismissing Bank of Mauritius \(BoM\)](#)(central bank) governor **Rama Sithanen** and Air Mauritius chairman **Kishore Beegoo**.

Ramgoolam and Bérenger attended the cabinet meeting on 7 November together, which was [received](#) with relief that coalition has managed to hold even though it is widely acknowledged that the issues at the root of the conflict remain unresolved. Bérenger's push to overturn the appointment of key government positions also points to a deeper problem within Mauritius' domestic politics, whereby one party and leader has unproportional control and is increasingly difficult to be held accountable.

US government bans cloths produced in Mauritius by Firemount Group

The **United States (US) Customs and Border Protection (CBP)** [issued](#) a release order on 18 November against apparel and textiles produced in Mauritius by the **Firemount Group**. The release order alleges that that Firemount Group workers are subject to four of the **International Labour Organisation's (ILO)** indicators of forced labour, including abuse of vulnerability, debt bondage, deception and intimidation, and threats. The CBP believes it has enough evidence to support its issued withholding release but it should be noted that no other organisations have investigated the claims.

The textile industry plays a significant [role](#) in the island's economy and is considered a major catalyst of the Mauritian Industrial Revolution which spearheaded the structural transformation of the Mauritian economy. The industry remains relevant to the island's economy today, and is one of its biggest industries, [contributing](#) 18.61% to GDP in 2023.

In the short term, the release order is an immediate trade-restricting measure which stops the shipping of all shipments linked to the alleged forced-labour claims within the supply chain. The release order is only [withdrawn](#) or lifted once the exporter can prove that its products are compliant.

In the longer term, the sector risks a reputational fallout, even if there is not enough evidence to prove the shipper guilty. Mauritius continuously [positions](#) itself as a stable, ethical and rules-based investment destination. However, Mauritius has seen a number of high profile allegations this year, including the alleged meetings between President **Dharambeer Gokhool** (2024-present) and **Madagascar's** former president **Andry Rajoelina** (2019-present) (*see ARC Briefing Mauritius Oct 2025*), and the corruption allegations against the former prime minister, **Pravind Jugnauth** (2017-2024) (*see ARC Briefing Mauritius February 2025*). This brings into question the island's credibility as a stable and regulation abiding investment destination.

While such reputational damages are high level and often difficult to gage on a practical level, if the allegations of forced labour are discovered at other textile companies on the island or damaging evidence is brought forth by the CBP, it seriously impacts Mauritius' Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) risk ratings which investors use to evaluate sovereign and corporate risks of a country to [determine](#) the riskiness and possible returns of an investment.

French president visits Mauritius for the first time in 30 years

France's President **Emmanuel Macron** (2017-present) visited Mauritius for an official state visit on 23 and 24 November, before heading to the **G20 Summit** in **South Africa**. While in Mauritius, Macron met with Ramgoolam and [discussed](#) several topics including security and maritime security, energy and water supply, and university cooperation.

Macron's visit to the island is significant, not only because it is the first time in 32 years that a French president has visited Mauritius, but also because of the recent regional turbulence with the political [instability](#) in Madagascar. While both Madagascar and Mauritius are former French colonies, obtaining independence in 1960 and 1968 respectively, France remains interested in the region as it still [administers](#) many islands in the region - **Réunion**, **Mayotte**, and the îles éparées (scattered islands) which includes the **Tromelin Island**, **Bassas da India**, **Europa Island**, **Juan de Nova Island** and **Glorioso Islands**. In recent years, France has sought to maintain positive bilateral relations in the **Indian Ocean Region** and maintain a strong presence but also wishes to bolster and foster current bilateral relations to harness continued support in the region.

While France has been working to reshape its historical legacy, some animosities remain between Mauritius and France. The two partner's disputes are largely rooted in differences over the ownership

and administration of the above listed islands in the region, the biggest dispute of which is over Mauritius' claim of the Tromelin Island, located approximately 430km north of Mauritius. While the Tromelin island remains uninhabited, Mauritius argues that it should rightfully retain sovereignty over the island. In 2010, France and Mauritius agreed upon a co-management treaty whereby both countries would manage Tromelin Island but France never [ratified](#) the treaty due to domestic disputes over the validity and practicality of the treaty. France's administration and claim to the other islands was previously [disputed](#), with a **United Nations (UN)** non-binding resolution in 1979 requesting France to return the Scattered Islands to Madagascar.

However, during Macron's recent visit to Mauritius, both he and Ramgoolam acknowledged that the two countries had meetings discussing the administration of the island. Following, Macron publicly [stated](#) that the sovereignty and administration of the Tromelin Island should not be a source of division between the two partners, with Ramgoolam supporting this and saying they had open and frank discussion about the topic.

Although the island is uninhabited, it provides an increased exclusive economic zone (EEZ). France is reluctant to let go of the island as it is highly likely to have consequences on its administration of its other islands in the region - if France were to relinquish its administrative control of the Tromelin Island - while Mauritius is keen to obtain sovereignty of the island as the EEZ is beneficial to it.

Planner

24 Nov 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Le Mauricien*. **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** reprimands **Air Mauritius** management and executive **Kishore Beegoo** for imposing punitive measures, particularly the suspension of travel privileges, against current and former employees who filed legal action against the airline;

20 Nov 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. Gender equality and gender welfare minister, **Marie Arianne Navarre-Marie**, announces a national campaign 'Women, you are not only victim, you are the change' to bring awareness to violence against women;

19 Nov 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. **United Kingdom** supreme court justice Lord Hamblen of Kersey, **Nicholas Archibald Hamblen**, pays a courtesy call to prime minister **Navinchandra Ramgoolam**;

19 Nov 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Le Mauricien*. **France's** President **Emmanuel Macron** will make a high-stakes state visit to Mauritius on 20–21 November, highlighting bilateral ties through meetings with prime minister **Navin Ramgoolam**, economic and technological engagements, and new cooperation across education, digital innovation, energy and water management;

18 Nov 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. Energy and public utilities minister, **Patrick Gervais Assirvaden**, receives the ambassador of **Germany**, **Oliver Knoerich**, to renew and discuss the two country's commitment to further consolidate their bilateral ties;

14 Nov 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. The deputy high commissioner of **India** to Mauritius, **Aparna Ganesan**, pays a courtesy visit to the public service and administrative reform minister, **Lutchmanah Pentiah**, to discuss opportunities to deepen the collaboration between India and Mauritius in the fields of capacity building and public sector training;

13 Nov 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Bank of Mauritius*. The **Bank of Mauritius (BoM)** (central bank) intervenes in the domestic foreign exchange market and sells %15m at a rate of Rs 45.80/USD;

12 Nov 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. The 8th **High-Level Meeting on the implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct** is underway where senior representatives from the **International Maritime Organisation (IMO)**, **European Union (EU)**, **Indian Ocean Commission** and delegations from **Western Indian Ocean** countries meet to discuss pressing maritime security issues within the region;

6 Nov 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius) Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. The **Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC) Leadership 2025 Summit** kicks off with the information, technology, communication and innovation minister, **Avinash Ramtohol**, giving the opening remarks and welcoming 150 senior leaders, policymakers and technology experts to crypto regulation; digital identity, cybersecurity and emerging technologies; and environmental, social and governance;

5 Nov 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius) Le Mauricien**. **Bank of Mauritius** (central bank) governor **Pricilla Mathura Thakoor**, calls for inclusive, sustainable and integrated **African** capital markets to harness the continent's demographic and economic potential;

4 Nov 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius) Bank of Mauritius**. The **Bank of Mauritius (BoM)** (central bank) intervenes in the domestic foreign exchange market and sells \$15m at the rate of Rs45.90/USD;

3 Nov 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius) Le Mauricien**. The **Petroleum Pricing Committee** opts to lower the price of petrol from Rs 61.20 (\$1.33) to Rs 58.45 (\$1.27) per litre;

30 Oct 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius) Le Mauricien**. Mauritius-based financial services group **SBM** projects real GDP growth of 3.2% for 2025, slightly below 2024's 4.7% but above the official **Statistics Mauritius** forecast of 4.9%;

29 Oct 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius) Tech Africa News**. **Global Fraud Index** ranks Mauritius as Africa's most fraud-resilient country, placing Mauritius 22nd globally;

About Africa Risk Consulting:

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