

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Mauritius Summary 23 October 2025

President Dharambeer Gokhool's (2024-present) office denies he met with Madagascar's former president, Andry Rajoelina (2019-2024), who was ousted from his position in a coup d'état and seeking regional support. The African Credit Rating Agency (AfCRA) announces that Mauritius will host its headquarters, reinforcing Mauritius' strong financial regulation and goal to be a trusted financial hub within the continent. The island of Rodrigues hosts a summit to discuss its political status and potential independence.

President denies meeting with Madagascar's president to offer support during coup

The office of the president released a [statement](#) on 14 October, denying that President **Dharambeer Gokhool** (2024-present) met with **Madagascar's** former president **Andry Rajoelina** (2019-2024) after Rajoelina had been ousted from his presidential position and was reportedly [seeking](#) meetings with his regional counterparts to ensure support for him.

Madagascar faced a political crisis over September and October after nationwide youth-led protests erupted over service delivery issues. This led to Rajoelina [fleeing](#) Madagascar on 14 October to a 'safe location' amid escalating claims of a coup d'état. In an attempt to reinstate his power as president, Rajoelina reportedly set up meetings with other presidents throughout the region to secure support. This led to the Mauritian [media](#) speculating that Rajoelina also met with Gokhool.

While there is no concrete assurance that Gokhool met with Rajoelina, just the mere speculation and rumours has been damaging to Mauritius' reputation. If a meeting were to have taken place where Rajoelina's reinstatement as president were discussed, it would violate Mauritius' agreement to the **African Union (AU) Charter** and **Southern African Development Community (SADC)** protocols which explicitly state the prohibition of the interference of a sovereign state in another sovereign state's domestic affairs. The presidency's immediate denial of the rumours demonstrates that the presidency understood how serious the consequences of such a meeting would be.

The rumours add the negative media Mauritius has been subject to in recent months, including the resignation of former **Bank of Mauritius** (central bank) governor **Rama Sithanen** amid internal turmoil at the bank, and the corruption allegations facing former prime minister, **Pravind Jugnauth** (2017-2024) (see *ARC Briefing Mauritius Feb 2025 & Sep 2025*).

If the meeting had taken place, it would also undermine Mauritius' foreign policy tradition of [being](#) a neutral and non-aligned player in the **Indian Ocean Region**. Mauritius has strong bilateral relations with **China**, the **United States (US)** and **India** and is strategically designing and implementing its foreign policy to maintain positive relations with all these countries. Therefore, if the alleged meeting between Gokhool and Rajoelina is true, it would undermine the island's carefully cultivated neutral and non-aligned foreign policy by becoming involved in another country's domestic affairs.

Although the presidency has continuously denied the allegations and speculations of the meeting between Gokhool and Rajoelina, it comes at a critical time for Mauritius when other high-profile political figures are under fire for undue behaviour, placing pressure on Mauritius' reputation.

Mauritius to host the African Credit Rating Agency

The **African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)** led a delegation to Mauritius between 6 and 9 October, with the visit aimed at advancing the operationalisation of the **African Credit Rating Agency (AfCRA)**, which Mauritius will [host](#).

The AfCRA is a credit rating agency which [will](#) work to evaluate African economies from an African perspective. This initiative, launched under the auspices of the AU, is specifically aimed to provide credit assessments, risk evaluations and sovereign/corporate ratings. What makes the AfCRA different from other credit rating agencies is that the programme is specifically designed to [increase transparency](#) in the credit rating decision making process, so that African countries may challenge potential biases or inconsistencies in the credit rating methodologies. The outcome of credit ratings affects a country's development trajectory because higher borrowing costs are highly likely to drain resources that could have been used for other developmental purposes. The AfCRA has the potential to influence a country's borrowings (debt) and access to financial markets. Mauritius would also benefit from being part of the AfCRA as it offers the opportunity to receive more tailored credit assessments and risk indicators which better reflects the island's developmental challenges.

The decision to base the AfCRA in Mauritius is a significant announcement as it bolsters the country's reputation as the primary financial hub for the continent. It signals the AfCRA and AU's trust in Mauritius' regulatory, legal and market infrastructure. APRM ambassador **Rose-Quarte** [noted](#) that the choice of Mauritius as the AfCRA's headquarters is because of the island's strong governance standards, robust financial sector and commitment to regional integration.

While Mauritius benefits from the establishment of the AfCRA and being the primary judiciary, the island does now face pressure to maintain their high standards of business ethics and financial regulation. While Mauritius does uphold high standards of financial regulation, the island will undoubtedly face more pressure to resolve recent controversies surrounding the public sector regulations, such as the reports of internal turmoil within the central bank and public sector nepotism allegations (*see ARC Briefing Mauritius Aug & Sep 2025*).

Rodrigues hosts summit to discuss political status

The **Rodrigues Government Employees Association (RGEA)** will be [hosting](#) the **Rodrigues Summit** on 23 and 24 October to reflect on the island's political status under the theme 'Shaping the Rodriguan Destiny – From Chains to Choice'. The two day summit intends to invite political leaders, journalists, social activists and workers to further explore the debate of Mauritius' sovereignty over Rodrigues.

The island of Rodrigues has been a part of Mauritius since Mauritius gained independence in 1968 but regained internal autonomy in 2002, with the **Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act of 2001** which [allowed](#) the island to establish its own national assembly to create laws and regulations. Although only 44,000 people live on the island, Rodrigues contributes significantly to Mauritius' **exclusive economic zone (EEZ)**, which is an [area](#) of the ocean 200 nautical miles. Currently Mauritius has four island clusters under its sovereignty, Rodrigues, **Agalega**, **Cargados Carajos Shoals** and the **Chagos Archipelago**, with these islands [establishing](#) Mauritius' oceanic dominance through their extensive EEZ's which brings Mauritius' EEZ area to 2.3 million km².

If Rodrigues were to establish its independence from Mauritius, this would have significant consequences on Mauritius' EEZ area, not only reducing the square mileage by up to a quarter but could lead to other islands seeking their independence. In fact, Chagossians had already [campaigned](#) for their independence during Mauritius' negotiations with the **United Kingdom (UK)** to return the Chagos Islands' sovereignty to Mauritius.

Additionally, if Rodrigues were to gain full independence it would also mean Mauritius would have to redefine its constitution, as Mauritius' constitution is designed to accommodate Rodrigues with legislations such as the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act, which could lead to Mauritius needing to renegotiate the sovereignty and governing legislation of its other islands.

The independence of other islands is also likely to affect Mauritius' foreign policy as the island relies quite heavily on its vast EEZ and the access this provides to key maritime shipping lanes across the Indian Ocean Region. For example, India built an [airstrip](#) on the Agalega island to assist Mauritius in monitoring the shipping lanes on the east coast of Africa.

Planner

23 – 24 Oct 2025 **Rodrigues (Mauritius) Rodrigues Summit**

2026 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** Mauritius to host the 2026 **United States-Africa Business Summit**

Chronology

20 Oct 2025 **Istanbul (Turkey)** *Capmad*. **Mauritius** and the **Comoros** represents the **Indian Ocean Region** at the **5th Turkey-Africa Business and Economic Forum** to discuss increasing economic relations between Turkey and Africa;

20 Oct 2025 **Londen (United Kingdom)** *The Independent*. The **United Kingdom (UK)** officially passes the **Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory Bill** to cede the **Chagos** to Mauritius;

16 Oct 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. The **European Union (EU)** project for the **Implementation of a Circular Economy Roadmap** is officially launched with the EU providing Rs 175m (\$3.84m) to help build awareness campaigns to encourage circular practices;

16 Oct 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. Agro-industry, food security, blue economy and fisheries minister, **Arvin Boolell**, comments at the **World Food Day Exhibition** that Mauritius must transform the agricultural sector by investing in research and development to build a more food secure Mauritius;

14 Oct 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. The minister of tertiary education, science and research, Kaviraj Sharma Sukon, speaks at the Potentials of Micro-credentials in Southern Africa (PoMiSA) conference and says Mauritius remains resolved to transform the island's educational landscape in line with an evolving labour market and demands of rapid technological advancements;

13 Oct 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Le Mauricien*. National carrier **Air Mauritius** cancels flights between Mauritius and **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** due to the volatile socio-political situation in Madagascar;

13 Oct 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Le Mauricien*. Prime minister **Navin Ramgoolam** defends his administration's security and policing record in parliament, reporting significant improvements in law-and-order indicators between January and October 2025 compared to 2024;

9 Oct 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. Social integration minister, **Ashok Subron**, says at a press conference that the government remains committed to provide adequate support and resources to various organisations effectively address homelessness;

7 Oct 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. Agro-industry, food security, blue economy and fisheries minister, **Arvin Boolell**, opens the **Les Assises de l'Océan 2025**, a ten-day series of meetings between the public and private sector, to discuss sustainable ocean development and the future of Mauritius' blue economy;

6 Oct 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** resident representative for Mauritius and **Seychelles, Alka Bhatia**, pays a courtesy call to foreign affairs minister **Dhananjay Ramful**;

3 Oct 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. Agro-industry, food security, blue economy and fisheries minister, **Arvin Boolell**, reiterates the government's commitment to safeguarding the island's marine resources and harnessing the ocean's potential to drive sustainable economic growth;

2 Oct 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius) Bank of Mauritius**. The **Bank of Mauritius** (central bank) intervenes on the domestic exchange market and sells \$15m at Rs45.26/USD;

30 Sep 2025 **Port Louis (Mauritius) Le Mauricien**. Mauritius and the **United Kingdom** are continuing negotiations to finalise the **Chagos Archipelago Treaty**, focusing on marine environmental protection, security, resettlement of former inhabitants, and creation of a trust fund;

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