

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Mauritius Summary 29 September 2026

United Kingdom (UK) prime minister Andy Burnham (2026-present) holds a direct call with prime minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam (2024-present) on the Chagos Islands, marking the most significant diplomatic engagement on the dispute since the treaty was signed in May 2025. The government announces on 16 September that it will be presenting nine new financial bills to the National Assembly to form the foundation for a new National Crime Agency (NCA). While the NCA signals the government's commitment to financial regulation ahead of the critical 2027 Financial Action Task Force (FATF) mutual evaluation, concerns remain about the agency's operational independence. Mauritius on 26 September denies a flight seeking landing clearance from Israel on the grounds of "political and diplomatic considerations", signalling a subtle stance by the government in response to ongoing conflicts.

UK makes diplomatic progress on the Chagos Islands

United Kingdom (UK) prime minister **Andy Burnham** (2026-present) held a direct telephone [call](#) with prime minister **Navinchandra Ramgoolam** (2024-present) on 21 September regarding the **Chagos Islands** deal, the most significant diplomatic engagement between the two governments on the Chagos Islands dispute since the agreement was signed in May 2025. The call signals a meaningful revival of negotiations after more than sixteen months of parliamentary stalling in the UK, during which Mauritius has been losing approximately £165m (\$218m) in anticipated annual sovereign payments critical to its fiscal consolidation efforts.

The UK government's official press release confirmed that Burnham underlined his commitment to work with Mauritius and the **United States (US)** on a way forward that secures the operation of the base and protects UK national security. Burnham's explicit inclusion of the US alongside the other two bilateral parties is diplomatically significant because it represents a direct acknowledgement that the deal cannot proceed without the US' endorsement. This is a reality that has defined the stalemate since US President **Donald Trump** (2017-2021; 2024-present) publicly opposed the agreement in early 2025 (see *ARC Briefing Mauritius Apr 2026*). The call suggests that quiet diplomatic progress has been made in bringing the US administration toward a workable position, although no formal US endorsement has been announced.

Beyond the biggest island, **Diego Garcia**, which hosts the joint UK-US military base, Burnham set out a broader bilateral agenda encompassing climate change cooperation, combatting illicit finance, and boosting growth and trade. These thematic areas align directly with Mauritius' own strategic priorities as an international financial centre navigating FATF compliance pressures and climate investment demands. The two leaders agreed that UK foreign secretary **Ed Miliband** and Mauritian foreign minister **Ritish Ramful** would meet during the same UNGA week to further advance the relationship, indicating the diplomatic momentum extends beyond the Chagos question.

Mauritius works to establish a new National Crime Agency

The government announced on 16 September that it will be [presenting](#) nine new financial bills to the **National Assembly** to form the foundation for a new **National Crime Agency (NCA)**. If the National Assembly approves the bills, the NCA will be established and be the lead investigative agency in Mauritius for financial crime, cybercrime and other complex organised crimes.

The establishment of a new financial crime prosecution agency comes at a time when Mauritius' is seeking to repair its reputation as a financial services heavyweight; events such as the **Financial Crimes Commission's (FCC)** February 2025 arrest of former prime minister **Pravind Jugnauth** (2017-2024) over [accusations](#) of money laundering have negatively impacted this. Ensuring the strict application of the island's financial legislation, even at the upper levels of government, is important to bolster the financial sector's reputation. The financial services sector [contributes](#) roughly 13.4% to GDP, highlighting its importance.

The establishment of the NCA also carries urgency as Mauritius is scheduled to undergo its next **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** and **Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG)** mutual evaluation in 2027. The FATF placed Mauritius on its grey list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring in 2020 due to strategic deficiencies in its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) frameworks. The designation severely damaged its standing as an international financial centre and the country worked quickly to have itself removed in October 2021.

Having since achieved compliance or largely compliant status on 39 of the 40 FATF's recommendations, Mauritius cannot afford a regression in its 2027 evaluation. Critically, the 2027 evaluation will assess not merely technical legislative compliance but operational effectiveness, which includes whether Mauritius' enforcement agencies, regulators, and financial institutions demonstrably work together to produce meaningful anti-financial crime outcomes. In this context, the NCA's nine founding bills signal a deliberate attempt to demonstrate institutional readiness ahead of the evaluation.

Although the establishment of the NCA is an important signal for the government to send that they are taking the island's financial regulations seriously and are taking active steps against serious financial crimes, there are [concerns](#) about the NCA's independence and ability to enforce the island's laws. The president will be in charge of appointing the NCA's director general, indicating that the agency is not 100% free of political intervention. The bills seek to offset this by noting that the president will appoint the director general under the advice from an independent advisory panel but the executive retains the power to accept or reject a candidate. The FAFT will directly consider whether the NCA's director-general appointment remains susceptible to political influence and if the NCA cannot credibly demonstrate the operational autonomy, the FATF evaluators are sure to scrutinise it.

Government takes subtle stance against Israel

Mauritius on 26 September [denied](#) a flight seeking landing clearance from **Israel** on the grounds of "*political and diplomatic considerations*", signalling a subtle stance by the government in response to ongoing conflicts. Following the outbreak of the conflict between **Israel** and **Palestine**, Mauritius [stated](#) its support for a two-state solution in line with the **United Nations (UN)** and **African Union (AU)**, but has taken no direct action to support its position. However, following the outbreak of the **Iran** conflict, which has placed significant pressure on Mauritius' economy, it appears to be taking a subtly stronger stance against the country.

Although the flight received clearance a few months prior to land Mauritius, Israeli news outlet, **Ynet**, stated that the flight's clearance was suddenly called off a few hours before the flight was scheduled to depart. Mauritian authorities are yet to release an official comment on this decision. Notably, Mauritian representatives were also absent from Israeli prime minister **Benjamin Netanyahu's** (2022-present) address at the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**.

In terms of Mauritius' own diplomatic considerations, it is not at risk of alienating any of its major diplomatic and trading partners such as **South Africa**, **China** or **India**. This is further supported by Mauritius alignment with the AU and UN that further decreases the island's risk of alienating its biggest trading and investment partners. However, the US will likely not take kindly to actions like this, which could hold consequences for the ongoing Chagos Islands negotiations.

Planner

29 Oct 2026 (Mauritius) **International Conference on Public Policy, Governance and Sustainable Cities (ICPPGSC) Conference**

6 – 9 Dec 2026 (Mauritius) **18th United States-Africa Business Summit**

Q4 2026 (Mauritius) **Bank of Mauritius** (central bank) **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting

Chronology

28 Sep 2026 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Kenyan Wall Street*. A **Kenyan** high court rules that **Mauritius Commercial Bank (MCB)** can recover \$6.5m it paid toward Kenyan oil marketer **Jade Petroleum's** debt under standby letters of credit, despite Jade Petroleum arguing that MCB had not been a party to the original financing agreement and that it had not proved the debt;

27 Sep 2026 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *RFI*. Foreign affairs minister **Ritish Ramful** calls on **France** to resume discussions on the sovereignty of **Tromelin Island**, which have been stalled for several years after the French government abandoned a joint management agreement for the island;

27 Sep 2026 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Johannesburg Sunday World*. **Israeli** media reports that Mauritius has denied landing clearance for a scheduled flight from Israel, forcing its cancellation after authorities failed to approve the aircraft's arrival;

22 Sep 2026 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Le Mauricien*. **The Netherlands**-headquartered **KPMG** is positioning Mauritius as a strategic hub and gateway to **African** markets, with the firm highlighting the country's institutions, talent, connectivity and role within its **Southern Africa** network;

17 Sep 2026 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Government Information Services*. Industry, SME and Cooperatives minister, **Aadil Ameer Meea**, urges Mauritius' industrial sector to enhance productivity by embracing digital transformation and incorporating the use of Artificial Intelligence into business work flows;

16 Sep 2026 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Government Information Services*. Prime Minister, **Navinchandra Ramgoolam** meets with a delegation from the **Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)** with discussions centring around Mauritius' status as a **Capital of People of Indian Origin (PIO)** and how to facilitate coordination among various PIO communities within the GOPIO;

16 Sep 2026 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Government Information Services*. The government releases the **Mauritius Vision 2050 Final Report** which sets out a long-term strategic framework to guide the socio-economic transformation of the country over the next 25 years;

16 Sep 2026 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Government Information Services*. Mauritius and **Rwanda** are set to strengthen cooperation in the exchange of financial intelligence relating to suspected money laundering and associated financial crimes through a proposed memorandum of understanding between Mauritius' **Financial Intelligence Unit** and Rwanda's **Financial Intelligence Centre**;

14 Sep 2026 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Le Mauricien*. Cabinet approves plans to sign a general cooperation agreement with **Angola**, establishing a framework for closer bilateral cooperation;

8 Sep 2026 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *Bloomberg*. Mauritius is considering a strategic partnership with **Etihad Airways**, including flights and direct investment;

7 Sep 2026 **Ébène (Mauritius)** *Defi Media*. **United States (US)**-headquartered **Concentrix** confirms it will cease operations in Mauritius, citing a continued decline in the competitiveness and commercial appeal of its operations in Mauritius;

2 Sep 2026 **Port Louis (Mauritius)** *L'Express*. Mauritian stakeholders, including **Mauritius-United States (US) Business Association (MUSBA)** director **Maurice Vigier de Latour**, welcome the US' decision to extend the **African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)** until 31 December 2028;

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