EDB NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026

Mauritius Leads Africa in Global Investment Risk and Resilience Index 2026

Artificial Intelligence

In conversation with Kendall Tang
CEO, RT Knits

Investment Pipeline

523 projects worth nearly Rs 650 billion

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD MAURITIUS

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Chairman's Message

A Mid-Year Reflection and Vision for the Future

As we reach the midpoint of the year, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the progress achieved and the path we continue to chart at the Economic Development Board. Over the past 15 months of my chairmanship, EDB has strengthened its role as the nation's premier institution for investment facilitation and economic strategy. This period has been marked by both consolidation and innovation, ensuring that Mauritius remains firmly positioned as a global investment hub.

Reviewing the First Half of the Year

The first six months have been defined by resilience and forward momentum. Despite global uncertainties, Mauritius has continued to attract high-value investment projects, diversify its economic base and reinforce its reputation as a jurisdiction of trust. Our teams have worked tirelessly to ensure that every project approved contributes meaningfully to national development priorities, from sustainable industries to high-tech innovation.

Institutional Reforms and Best Practices

A key focus during this period has been the continuous enhancement of our institutional practices and operational standards.

In recruitment, we uphold rigorous, merit-based recruitment practices to attract and retain talent of the highest calibre. In project approval, we have streamlined processes, embedding transparency, accountability and efficiency at every stage. These reforms have not only enhanced institutional credibility but also reinforced investor confidence in Mauritius as a destination where governance and professionalism are paramount.

Vision and Strategic Direction

Looking ahead, EDB will continue to be at the forefront of economic development. Our vision is clear: to deepen strategic partnerships with key economies, to facilitate high-tech and value-added investments and to ensure that Mauritius remains agile in responding to global trends. We are committed to harmonising regulatory frameworks, fostering innovation, and building collaborative relationships that extend beyond borders.

Moving Forward

The journey of transformation is ongoing. EDB is not merely an institution of facilitation, it is an engine of national progress. By combining strategic foresight with operational excellence, we will continue to drive Mauritius toward sustainable prosperity. The next phase of our work will focus on consolidating gains, expanding opportunities and ensuring that every initiative contributes to the long-term vision of positioning Mauritius as a dynamic, globally connected economy.

Sanjay Bhunjun

Rs 412 Billion in Investment - A Strong Pipeline for Growth

More than half-trillion rupees in declared investment. Nearly 250 projects breaking ground. And a pipeline that stretches across every major sector of the Mauritian economy.

Total declared investment

Rs 649.7 billion in total declared investment across 16 sectors.

That is neither a projection nor an aspiration — it represents the aggregate value of investment commitments made by promoters who have formally engaged with the EDB and submitted their project details.

It encompasses commercial and industrial facilities under construction, integrated projects being designed, solar farms being engineered, and hospitals being built.

Of the **Rs 649.7 billion in declared investment projects, Rs 138.8 billion has already been realised** through expenditure on construction, plant and equipment, operations, and employment.

While this represents a realisation rate of approximately **21%**, it reflects the composition of the investment portfolio rather than the pace of execution.

A significant proportion of the remaining Rs 412 billion pipeline comprises large-scale projects — including integrated mixed-use and smart city projects, as well as renewable energy infrastructure — that are implemented over several years.

As these projects advance through successive phases, they will continue to generate substantial investment, economic activity and employment opportunities, reinforcing the country's long-term growth trajectory.

A diversified investment mix spanning key sectors

Energy is perhaps the most telling indicator of structural change. With **44 projects declared and Rs 23 billion in investment**, the sector has emerged as a significant pillar of Mauritius's investment story, driven by the country's renewable energy transition and growing demand for distributed power infrastructure.

Healthcare and education also feature prominently, with 28 and 21 projects respectively — signalling that Mauritius's ambitions as a regional services hub extend well beyond the financial sector.

Role of the EDB

The EDB's role across this diversified investment pipeline is multi-faceted — facilitating approvals, resolving bottlenecks, coordinating across government agencies, and ensuring that promoters have the support they need to **translate investment commitments into successful project delivery**.

Mauritius Leads Africa in Global Investment Risk and Resilience Index 2026

Mauritius has emerged as Africa's leading jurisdiction for investment risk and resilience, ranking 61st globally with an overall score of 62.20 in the 2026 Global Investment Risk and Resilience Index (GIRRI), published by Henley & Partners in partnership with AlphaGeo.

The ranking places Mauritius ahead of Tanzania (62nd globally), Botswana (63rd), Seychelles (79th) and Cabo Verde (88th), reinforcing the island's position as the continent's strongest performer in an increasingly complex global investment environment.


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD MAURITIUS

African countries with the lowest investment risk in 2026

Global Investment Risk and Resilience Index 2026

Rank in Africa	Country	Global Rank
1	Mauritius	61
2	Tanzania	62
3	Botswana	63
4	Seychelles	79
5	Cabo Verde	88
6	Namibia	90
7	South Africa	95
8	Morocco	98
9	Rwanda	100
10	Algeria	102
11	Lesotho	107
12	Côte d'Ivoire	108
13	Gabon	109
14	Tunisia	111
15	Eswatini	115
16	Kenya	116
17	Benin	118
18	Democratic Republic of the Congo	119
19	Djibouti	121
20	Mauritania	122
21	Zambia	123
22	Togo	124
23	Guinea	125
24	Cameroon	126
25	Senegal	128
26	Angola	130
27	Madagascar	131
28	Mozambique	132
29	Niger	134
30	The Gambia	136
31	Malawi	138
32	Burkina Faso	139
33	Ghana	140
34	Egypt	141
35	Mali	142
36	Ethiopia	143
37	Burundi	144
38	Chad	145
39	Sierra Leone	146
40	Nigeria	147

Source: Global Investment Risk and Resilience Index 2026

Rank in Africa | Global rank

The May 2026 special edition stress-tests the index against recent geopolitical shocks by combining long-term structural resilience with real-time market signals, including Country Risk Premium data as of 1 April 2026.

Low Investment Risk

Mauritius' performance reflects a **relatively low exposure to key sources of investment risk**.

The country records a **Total Risk Score of 26.47 out of 100**, with lower scores indicating lower risk.

Its risk indicators include particularly low Currency Volatility (0.06) and Political Instability (0.22), alongside Inflation Risk (0.25) and Legal and Regulatory Risk (0.26). While Physical Climate Risk (0.53) remains a comparatively higher exposure, the overall profile demonstrates Mauritius' **ability to provide investors with a stable and predictable operating environmen**t.

This positioning is particularly significant at a time when geopolitical and economic shocks are prompting investors to reassess country risk and reposition capital across jurisdictions.

Mauritius' resilience

The country's standing is further supported by a **Total Resilience Score of 50.87 out of 100**, with strong scores in Social Progress (0.64) and Quality of Governance (0.63), as well as Fiscal Policy Space (0.54) and Climate Resilience (0.53).

Mauritius also records scores of 0.48 for Innovation, 0.44 for External Accounts, and 0.41 for both Economic Complexity and Investment.

Taken together, these indicators highlight the combination of institutional, social, economic and environmental characteristics underpinning Mauritius' resilience.

In a global landscape where investors are increasingly assessing jurisdictions not only by their exposure to risk but also by their capacity to absorb and navigate shocks, **Mauritius' first-place ranking in Africa strengthens its proposition as a trusted, resilient and future-ready investment hub.**

Click here to read more about the Global Investment Risk and Resilience Index.

Mauritius Boosts Investor Confidence with New DPOs Regulations

As the global economy becomes increasingly digital, trust has become one of the most valuable assets for businesses and investors. Countries with strong governance frameworks are gaining a competitive edge in attracting investment.

In line with international best practices, Mauritius is further strengthening its data protection framework with the introduction of the Data Protection (Designation, Tasks and Position of Data Protection Officers) Regulations 2026, which will **come into force on 1 January 2027**.

The new Regulations require organisations operating in Mauritius to designate qualified Data Protection Officers (DPOs) to oversee compliance with the Data Protection Act and promote robust privacy governance.

DPOs will play a central role in ensuring compliance, managing data protection risks, coordinating data breach notifications, conducting impact assessments and serving as the key liaison with the Data Protection Office.

The introduction of the Regulations reflects Mauritius' continued commitment to international standards of transparency, accountability and responsible data management.

Reinforcing digital trust

For investors, this is more than a regulatory development, it is a strong signal that Mauritius continues to build a secure, trusted and future-ready business environment. Strong data governance not only protects individuals' rights but also enhances corporate credibility, mitigates operational risks.

In a world where data governance, cybersecurity and regulatory compliance increasingly influence investment decisions, strong data protection standards enhance confidence, mitigate operational risk and support sustainable business growth.

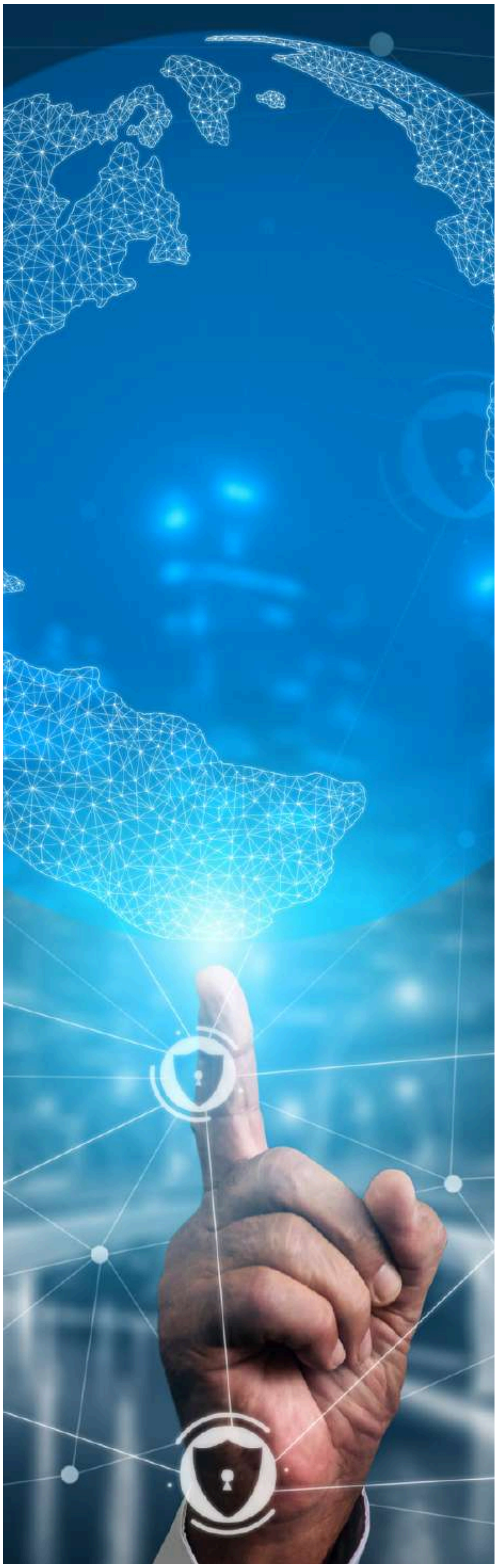
As part of its statutory mandate to promote and facilitate investment, the Economic Development Board (EDB) welcomes initiatives that strengthen the country's governance ecosystem and competitiveness.

The new DPO Regulations support Mauritius' vision of becoming a leading hub for investment, innovation, financial services and digital business by ensuring that organisations operate with integrity, accountability and respect for personal data.

Strong governance attracts strong investment. By reinforcing digital trust, Mauritius continues to demonstrate why it remains a preferred destination for businesses looking to invest, grow and succeed in a modern, well-regulated economy.

Click button below to access the communiqué issued by the Data Protection Commissioner on 23 June 2026.

DOWNLOAD



Click Here to Report a Business Obstacle

BOAM Now Live

The Economic Development Board (EDB) has launched the Business Obstacles Alert Mechanism (BOAM), an online platform designed to help businesses resolve operational and administrative challenges more efficiently.

By providing a structured channel for reporting business obstacles, BOAM enhances business facilitation, promotes greater coordination with public authorities, and contributes to a more transparent and investor-friendly business environment.

The platform complements existing administrative procedures and does not replace the normal processes for applying for licences, permits, authorisations or other regulatory approvals. Rather, it provides a channel through which the EDB can engage with the relevant authorities to facilitate the resolution of business obstacles affecting investment projects and business operations.

Who can use BOAM?

BOAM is available to businesses operating in Mauritius that encounter business obstacles during licensing, permitting, utility connections, regulatory clearances or other administrative processes related to their activities.

How the process works

The BOAM process follows a structured workflow:

- A business operator first registers on the platform and submits details of the obstacle encountered.
- The submission is then reviewed by the EDB. Where appropriate, the case is routed to the relevant EDB department and, if necessary, referred to the Ministry or public authority for resolution.
- The system enables progress to be tracked and allows the outcome to be recorded once the issue has been addressed.
- This workflow provides greater traceability and supports a more systematic approach to the handling of business obstacles.

Artificial Intelligence at the Heart of the Future of Agriculture

Mauritius is taking a significant step towards the future of agriculture through an innovative pilot project that combines Artificial Intelligence (AI), controlled environment agriculture and vertical farming. Developed by Groupe GMD SAS of Réunion Island in partnership with the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI), the initiative aims to enhance food security, improve resource efficiency and accelerate the adoption of smart farming technologies.

Launched under the 2024 FASEP (Fund for Studies and Support to the Private Sector) call for projects of the French Ministry of the Economy, the pilot project is currently in its early stages of development. Site preparation, earthworks and foundation construction are underway, with the demonstration facility scheduled to become operational in October. The facility will integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI), controlled environment agriculture and vertical farming technologies, serving as a centre for research, innovation and skills development. It will foster collaboration among farmers, researchers, technology providers and academic institutions, while accelerating the adoption of advanced AgriTech solutions across Mauritius.

AI-Driven Smart Farming

Agriculture is entering a new era. Climate change, growing pressure on natural resources and increasing concerns over food security are reshaping the sector. In response, digital technologies are transforming the way food is produced. Artificial Intelligence (AI), combined with controlled environment agriculture, smart greenhouses, vertical farming and soilless cultivation, is driving a new generation of farming. These technologies create optimal growing conditions throughout the year, regardless of external weather conditions, paving the way for a more productive, resilient and sustainable agricultural sector.

> Our objective is not simply to introduce new technologies, but to build local capacity. By working alongside FAREI, we hope to demonstrate practical solutions that can help strengthen Mauritius' agricultural resilience and food security.
>
> NICOLAS GOVINDAMA
> Agricultural Engineer &
> Managing Director
> Groupe GMD SAS

The true innovation lies not only in modern agricultural infrastructure but also in its **ability to collect, analyse and act upon data**. Within the smart farm, an extensive network of sensors will continuously monitor environmental conditions, including temperature, humidity, soil moisture, pH levels and weather parameters. Artificial Intelligence will analyse this data in real time to support or automate decisions that optimise crop growth. By integrating environmental sensors with automated control systems, the pilot project will demonstrate how data-driven technologies can work together to create an intelligent, responsive and highly efficient agricultural ecosystem.

AI-powered systems can:

- Automatically adjust irrigation according to crop requirements;
- Regulate greenhouse temperature, humidity and ventilation;
- Optimise nutrient application through precision fertilisation;
- Detect pests and plant diseases at an early stage;
- Forecast yields and support harvest planning.

Transforming the Role of the Farmer

Artificial Intelligence is not intended to replace farmers or their expertise. Instead, it complements their knowledge by providing accurate, data-driven insights that enhance decision-making and support the transition towards precision agriculture. Guided by real-time data, farming interventions can be tailored to the specific needs of each crop, while automation reduces repetitive manual tasks, allowing farmers to focus on strategic farm management, productivity and innovation.

Boosting Productivity While Preserving Resources

The pilot project seeks to increase agricultural production, strengthen food security, conserve natural resources and encourage agricultural innovation. Artificial Intelligence plays a central role in achieving these objectives by improving the efficiency of every stage of the production process.

By **optimising the use of water, energy and agricultural inputs**, smart farming systems can significantly improve productivity while reducing environmental impact. At the same time, they contribute to a more stable and reliable food supply by reducing dependence on unpredictable climatic conditions.

Towards a New Generation of Farms

Beyond its agricultural benefits, the FASEP pilot farm project represents an opportunity to position Mauritius as a regional leader in tropical smart agriculture, demonstrating how digital technologies can help build a smarter, more productive and more sustainable agricultural future.

Such an initiative could also stimulate the development of a vibrant agricultural technology ecosystem, creating new opportunities in data science, automation, robotics and sustainable food production.

The farms of tomorrow will be increasingly connected, intelligent and data driven. By integrating Artificial Intelligence with controlled environment agriculture, Mauritius could modernise its agricultural sector, enhance food security and strengthen its resilience to climate change.

In conversation with

Kendall Tang

CEO, RT Knits

RT Knits is among the pioneers in the region to integrate Artificial Intelligence into apparel manufacturing.

In this conversation, its CEO reflects candidly on what AI has and has not changed on the factory floor, where the real returns lie, and what it will take for Mauritius to compete as an innovation-driven manufacturing hub rather than simply a user of tools built elsewhere.

> **AI is an accelerator. And an accelerator only takes you somewhere useful if you are pointed in the right direction. If the underlying strategy is wrong, AI will simply help you get to the wrong place more quickly.**

RT Knits was at the forefront of AI adoption in the textile industry. What was the specific problem that pushed you to start — and looking back, what did you get wrong early about where AI would actually help?

There was never a single moment of conversion. The pressure has always been the same, and it is permanent: increase productivity, reduce mistakes, and shorten the lead time from a customer's request to execution. AI simply became the most powerful tool we had found for a very old problem.

It helps to be precise about where human effort actually goes in a business like ours. There are two kinds of work: the manual work done by operators on the floor, and the intellectual work done by everyone sitting at a computer. We treat both as things to be continuously improved. For the manual side, that has meant sustained investment in automated and increasingly specialised production equipment. For the intellectual side, it meant committing early to digitalisation — and choosing to build our own tools rather than buy them off the shelf.

We began our AI journey in 2017, with a small team. In those early years, honestly, there were many proofs of concept and very few ideas we could implement at a scale that created real value for the company. Nothing went wrong, but it would be misleading to call it a period of quick wins. It was a learning and investment phase — and it was worth it, because the capability we built then is what let us move quickly later.

If there is a lesson in all of this, it is about scale rather than error. The arrival of generative and agentic AI did not merely add another tool — it inverted the constraint. For years the limiting factor had been our ability to find solutions. Almost overnight, the limiting factor became our capacity to implement them. The list of good ideas now grows faster than any organisation can execute, and learning to manage that abundance has become a discipline in its own right.

Apparel is a physical business — fabric still has to be cut, sewn and finished by people. Where has AI genuinely changed how RT Knits operates, and where has it made almost no difference to the factory floor despite the hype?

Let me start by correcting an assumption that shapes how most people think about this industry. We tend to believe the major cost in making a garment is manual labour. In our experience that is not true — the cost of intellectual work, carried out by everyone working at a computer, is higher than the cost of the manual work on the floor. Once you see that clearly, it changes where you look for the biggest gains.

That is exactly where AI has changed us most. Generative and agentic AI has let our developer team build solutions far faster than before. More significantly, agentic AI can now process almost any form of unstructured information — and in our industry almost everything is unstructured. Every customer's tech pack is different from the next. Emails carry critical instructions in no fixed format. Even customer specifications follow no common standard from one account to another. Handling that variety used to be slow, manual intellectual work; increasingly it is not. That is where the real transformation has happened, and it is largely invisible to anyone standing on the factory floor.

On the floor, the picture is more mixed. One clear success is in fabric production.

Our fabric is knitted on circular machines, and there it was relatively straightforward to fix a camera in place and capture a continuous stream of images to detect broken needles or holes that need an immediate fix. The fabric moves past a fixed point, so the vision system can do its job without any complex handling.

Final quality inspection is where the hype has met a harder reality. We had high hopes that vision AI would let us automate much of the inspection still done by hand. It has proved more complicated than we expected. Quality checking is not just looking at a garment — it means opening the seams, turning it over, inspecting the reverse side. So we need not only a very large set of images to train the algorithm, but also a physical system capable of manipulating the garment the way a person does. And with the sheer variety of garments we produce, engineering a solution that is both reliable and cost-effective is genuinely difficult.

Apparel manufacturing has always chased the lowest labour cost. If AI and automation weaken the link between competitiveness and cheap labour, does that open a door for a mid-cost, high-trust destination like Mauritius — or does it hand an even bigger advantage to the mega-factories that can automate at scale?

I am less worried about the mega-factory than this question assumes, for two reasons.

The first is that factory and customer have to be matched in size. A mega-factory is built to serve very large retailers placing very large orders; it is not designed to work with the kind of brands we serve, and it serves them poorly when it tries. Scale is not a universal advantage — it is an advantage only against a particular kind of demand. So the arrival of automation does not simply hand the game to the biggest player, because the biggest players are not competing for the same customers we are.

The second reason matters more. If AI weakens the old link between competitiveness and cheap labour, then competitiveness increasingly comes down to the speed at which a company can improve itself — how quickly it can identify a problem, build a solution, and put it into production. Here, being smaller is an advantage, not a handicap.

We are more agile. We can iterate faster, implement faster, and change direction faster than a very large organisation can. In a world where the technology itself keeps moving, the ability to adopt and adapt quickly is worth more than sheer size.

This is where Mauritius has something specific to offer, beyond simply being mid-sized. Our destination is built on trust — reliability, ethical production, and the kind of long-term relationships premium brands depend on — and on genuine sustainability credentials that are increasingly a purchasing criterion rather than a nicety. The old model rewarded the lowest cost per hour. The emerging model rewards trust, responsiveness, sustainability, and the speed of improvement. Those happen to be precisely the things a mid-sized, high-capability, premium-oriented manufacturer in Mauritius can be very good at.

As AI spreads, does it widen or narrow the gap between the best manufacturers and the rest? Is this an advantage the leaders can defend, or does it commoditise quickly once everyone has the same tools?

The gap between the best manufacturers and the rest has never come from a single source of advantage, and it will not in the future either. The best are better in a holistic way — across innovative products, quality, reliability against a committed delivery date, consistency, responsible and transparent production, excellent customer service, short lead times, a genuine ability to solve the customer's problems, and, of course, competitive prices. No one of these wins on its own; it is the combination, sustained over time, that separates the leaders.

AI will certainly improve several of these areas. But it is worth being clear about what AI actually is: it is a tool that helps a company build better tools, faster. It is an accelerator. And an accelerator only takes you somewhere useful if you are pointed in the right direction. If the underlying strategy is wrong, AI will simply help you get to the wrong place more quickly.

That is why I don't believe the advantage commoditises the way the question suggests it might. Everyone will eventually have access to the same underlying AI — just as everyone already has access to the same sewing machines. The tools become common; what does not become common is the judgement about where to apply them, the quality of the processes they are applied to, and the discipline to keep improving across all those dimensions at once. Two companies with identical tools and different strategies will get very different results. So AI widens the gap rather than narrowing it — not because the leaders hold a secret technology, but because they are better at turning any given tool into advantage.

Sustainability and efficiency usually point the same way — but not always. Where does AI genuinely cut waste and energy for you, and where does the pursuit of efficiency start to pull against other goals, like employment?

Cutting waste and energy is, at its core, an engineering problem, and we have always treated it as one — continuously improving our efficiency in these areas over many years. I come from an engineering background myself, so this has always had my attention. There is still a great deal to improve, but I believe we are already well ahead of the industry average.

AI has become a genuine part of that engineering work. Our engineering team uses language models as a brainstorming partner and as a way to assess ideas quickly — testing an approach in minutes rather than days, across many areas of their day-to-day work. It does not replace engineering judgement, but it accelerates the cycle of proposing and evaluating improvements, which is where a lot of efficiency gains come from.

The more delicate part of your question is employment, and here I want to be direct, because it is where efficiency and other goals are assumed to collide. We are far more productive than we were ten years ago, thanks to automation on both the production side and in data processing. And yet we have never reduced our workforce because we automated a process. That is a deliberate choice. We use the efficiency we gain to increase our output and grow, rather than to shrink. Automation tends to deskill work — it makes a given operation simpler — which means an operator whose task is automated can be retrained for another operation relatively easily. Growth is what makes that possible: as long as the company is expanding, improved efficiency creates capacity for more work rather than fewer people.

I would be honest that this depends on continuing to grow. Efficiency without growth would eventually force the harder trade-off. So for us the two goals do not conflict — but only because we have kept growing, and keeping the company growing is therefore not just a commercial objective, it is what allows us to modernise without displacing our people.

Read the full interview here

What's New in Occupation and Residence Permits

Mauritius has introduced a series of updates to its Occupation and Residence Permit framework, aligning with its strategy to attract quality investment, skilled professionals and entrepreneurs while encouraging businesses with long-term economic value.

The latest reforms announced in the National Budget Speech refine the eligibility criteria for several permit categories, with a stronger emphasis on **business sustainability**, **economic substance** and **transparency**.

Investor Occupation Permit: Focus on Long-Term Business Growth

Entrepreneurs applying for an Investor Occupation Permit will now require a minimum initial investment of **USD 100,000**. In addition, the revised framework places greater emphasis on business performance over time.

From the third year of registration, investor-led businesses must generate an annual turnover of at least **MUR 5 million**. This threshold increases to **MUR 8 million** from the fifth year for permit renewal, encouraging investors to establish ventures that contribute meaningfully to the Mauritian economy.

Higher Income Benchmarks for Self-Employed Professionals

The eligibility requirements for Self-Employed Occupation Permit holders have also been reviewed. Under the new criteria, applicants are expected to generate a minimum annual business income of **MUR 2 million** from their third year of operation.

For permit renewal from the fifth year onwards, the minimum income requirement rises to **MUR 3 million**.

The revised benchmarks are meant to support sustainable entrepreneurial activity while ensuring that self-employed professionals maintain viable and growing businesses.

Harmonised Salary Threshold for Skilled Professionals

Another notable change is the harmonisation of the minimum salary requirement for Professional Occupation Permits across all sectors.

Regardless of industry, foreign professionals must now earn a minimum basic monthly salary of **MUR 50,000** to qualify for the permit. The standardised threshold provides greater clarity for employers recruiting international talent while creating a more consistent regulatory framework.

These latest policy adjustments support Mauritius' economic development ambitions by creating a more conducive environment for productive investment, commercially viable businesses, and the attraction of highly skilled professionals.

New Golden Visa Scheme Your Gateway to Residency

Mauritius is enhancing its appeal to high-net-worth individuals, global investors and entrepreneurs with the introduction of the Golden Visa Scheme.

The new investment-linked residency pathway provides a clear route to long-term residence while encouraging investment in high-value sectors that support the country's economic growth and transformation.

From Investment to Permanent Residence

The Golden Visa is initially granted as a **renewable two-year E-Visa** and extends to the investor's immediate family, including their spouse and dependent children. To facilitate a seamless relocation experience, work permits for domestic workers accompanying Golden Visa holders will be issued within five working days.

Within the first 12 months of the visa's validity, the Golden Visa holder is expected to make a **minimum investment of USD 1 million** in an investment project within a qualifying sector.

Eligible sectors include financial services, fintech, information and communications technology (ICT), tourism and hospitality, manufacturing, healthcare and wellness, education, renewable energy, blue economy, creative industries, and other innovative and knowledge-based sectors.

The Golden Visa Scheme provides international investors with a **clear pathway to long-term residency through investment**.

Upon making the required minimum investment, the Golden Visa holder becomes **eligible to apply for a Permanent Residence Permit**.

Fast-Track Concierge Service

The Golden Visa Scheme offers exclusive access to the EDB's dedicated Fast-Track Concierge Service, ensuring a streamlined investment and relocation process.

Investors benefit from **personalised support at every stage**, including identifying investment opportunities, establishing their business, navigating regulatory requirements, accessing wealth management guidance, relocating their families, and securing education advisory services. This comprehensive, end-to-end assistance enables investors and their families to settle and integrate smoothly into life in Mauritius.

The Golden Visa Scheme combines residency with long-term investment opportunities, business growth and an **exceptional quality of life** in one of the world's most stable, business-friendly investment destinations.

Boosting Mauritian Businesses with top-tier Indian talent

Mauritius is facilitating access to skilled talent with the introduction of a Government-to-Government (G2G) recruitment mechanism with India, providing businesses with a reliable, ethical and efficient pathway to recruit qualified workers.

Implemented by the Economic Development Board (EDB) in collaboration with India's National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), the initiative is designed to support business growth while addressing labour shortages across key sectors of the economy.

Key Benefits for Mauritian Employers

The new platform simplifies and accelerates the recruitment process while significantly reducing costs by eliminating intermediaries and recruitment agents.

Employers gain access to a large pool of skilled and pre-screened candidates identified by the NSDC according to their specific requirements.

The entire process is managed digitally through a centralised platform, making recruitment more efficient, transparent and predictable while ensuring that employers recruit workers with the right skills for their operations.

- Ethical & transparent G2G recruitment
- Reduced recruitment costs with no intermediaries
- Simple online submission process
- Faster mobilisation of skilled workers
- Access to NSDC India's reliable talent pool

Eligible Employers and Sectors

The mechanism is open to companies, public sector organisations, NGOs, religious bodies and individual employers legally established in Mauritius.

It covers a wide range of sectors facing labour shortages, including agriculture, construction, manufacturing, healthcare, hotels and restaurants, transport, wholesale and retail trade, information technology, education, financial services and several other professional activities.

This broad sectoral coverage ensures that businesses across the economy can access qualified talent when local skills are unavailable.

A Simple and Structured Recruitment Process

The process begins with the employer submitting an online application through the National Electronic Licensing System (NELS).

After reviewing the application, the EDB forwards it to the NSDC, which advertises the vacancies, screens applicants and prepares a shortlist.

Employers then interview the selected candidates online or in person before issuing employment contracts.

Once the candidate accepts the offer, the employer submits the Work Permit or Occupation Permit application.

Prior to departure, workers receive orientation training in India, while employers arrange travel, accommodation and onboarding upon arrival in Mauritius.

Employer submits requirements → EDB verifies completeness and shares request with NSDC → NSDC disseminates requests across India and shares pre-screened candidates with EDB → Employer conducts interviews, if required → Selected candidates are communicated to NSDC → NSDC submits all Work Permit related documents

Supporting Mauritius' Long-Term Workforce Needs

Beyond addressing immediate workforce shortages, the G2G mechanism establishes a sustainable recruitment model built on trust, quality and accountability.

It provides employers with quicker access to skilled talent while safeguarding the welfare of workers through a transparent process jointly overseen by both governments.

By ensuring a steady supply of qualified human capital, the initiative enhances the competitiveness of Mauritian businesses and supports the country's long-term economic development ambitions.

APPLY ONLINE TODAY!

Access the National Electronic Licensing System (NELS) to submit your request and work permit applications.

business.edbmauritius.org

SCAN TO ACCESS NELS

NEED ASSISTANCE?

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edbmauritius.org/indiantalent

The Certainty of Mauritius as a Neutral Bridge for Capital and Domiciliation

The Economic Development Board (EDB) hosted a webinar as part of its ongoing engagement with international investors and financial professionals, highlighting Mauritius’ evolving role as a platform for capital domiciliation, wealth structuring and cross-border investment. The event brought together more than 150 participants from across the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Asia, underscoring strong international interest in Mauritius' value proposition as a resilient and competitive financial jurisdiction.

As global investors seek stable, trusted and efficient platforms to structure their international investments amid heightened geopolitical uncertainty in the Middle East, Mauritius continues to stand out as a prime International Financial Centre (IFC) and hub for Africa. The jurisdiction is well positioned to tap into emerging opportunities linked to capital diversification, regional risk mitigation and the redeployment of investment flows toward resilient and neutral platforms.

In this perspective, the EDB hosted a webinar on 25 June 2026, themed ***The Certainty of Mauritius as a Neutral Bridge for Capital and Domiciliation***, which brought together participants from the UAE, Kenya, Ghana, Qatar, Egypt, Morocco, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Key stakeholders in Mauritius' financial services industry, including the Mauritius Bankers Association, Axis, Dentons, Afrasia Bank and SBM Holdings discussed on recent budget measures, investor migration, substance requirements, wealth planning, banking solutions, capital raising and emerging opportunities across key sectors.

A Shift from Stability to Strategic Agility

The webinar highlighted that Mauritius is entering a new phase in the evolution of its IFC. While the jurisdiction has long been recognised for its stability, sound regulatory environment and extensive treaty network, the focus is now shifting towards substance, innovation and value creation.

Opening the session, **Mr. Sachin Mohabeer, EDB Deputy CEO** outlined how Mauritius is moving beyond its traditional role as a tax-efficient corporate route and has become *"**a fully compliant, Tier 1 jurisdiction of substance**, now bridging global capital to the real economy across Africa and Asia."*

Mauritius' latest policy direction, he added, is intended to transform the country *"from a traditional financial corridor into a cross-border hub for high-value talent, technology start-ups and deep regional integration."* Among the measures highlighted were simplified occupation permit rules, a revised investor permit framework, a Golden Visa pathway to long-term residency, a proposed Business Facilitation Bill, and the development of digital infrastructure, including the planned AI City in Côte d'Or and participation in strategic subsea connectivity initiatives.

"Mauritius is no longer just an island jurisdiction. We are a fully integrated, globally connected and future-ready economic platform, structured to attract and support international investors," he said.

Legal Certainty and a trusted Platform for Africa

Moderating the panel, **Mr. Daniel Essoo, Chief Executive Officer of the Mauritius Bankers Association**, focused the discussion around Mauritius' complementarity with other jurisdictions and its value as a safe, sound and practical investment base.

He described the webinar as part of a series aimed at presenting *"the features of Mauritius as a safe and sound investment jurisdiction."*

Mrs. Priscilla Balgobin-Bhoyrul, Senior Counsel and Senior Partner at Dentons, underscored that Mauritius' proposition has evolved from a gateway into Africa to a more substantive operating platform.

Investors, she explained, are increasingly asking where they should base themselves to do business on the continent, and Mauritius offers reassurance through its hybrid legal system, regulatory framework and dispute resolution mechanisms.

"Mauritius offers rule of law, a stable democratic country and a legal system familiar to both common law and civil law investors." She also highlighted the country's Supreme Court and Commercial Court, its international arbitration mechanisms, and the Privy Council as the ultimate court of appeal.

For international families and entrepreneurs, Mauritius is also becoming attractive as a relocation and succession-planning jurisdiction. *"We've entered into a new era,"* she noted. *"Traditionally, everyone came here to structure and invest somewhere else. Now there is such an increasing amount of interest in Mauritius itself."*

Private Wealth, Diversification and Cross-Border Structuring

Mr. Assad Abdullatiff, Managing Director of Axis Fiduciary Ltd, highlighted that international families are increasingly focused on diversification, asset protection and succession planning across multiple jurisdictions. He observed that recent global and regional uncertainty has reinforced the question of whether wealth should be held, managed and transmitted from only one place.

"Wealth and succession planning should no longer be viewed through a single jurisdiction lens," Mr. Abdullatiff stated.

He emphasised that clients are increasingly segregating portfolios, with part of their wealth and investment holding arrangements structured from Mauritius.

On cross-border investment, he described a natural synergy between Middle Eastern capital and African opportunities. *“The Middle East brings capital, entrepreneurship, connectivity and appetite to invest in growth markets, while Africa presents opportunities in infrastructure, energy, logistics, financial services, technology and real estate,”* he said. In that context, he underscored that Mauritius can provide the structuring, governance and administration required to deploy capital effectively.

Mr. Abdullatiff highlighted trusts, private trust companies, foundations, family offices, investment holding companies, limited partnerships, protected cell companies and variable cell companies as part of the Mauritian toolkit. He stressed that these operate within a regulated framework supported by banks, law firms, fiduciary providers, accountants, tax advisers and wealth managers.

Responding to questions on compliance and substance, he affirmed that Mauritius combines regulation with practical business considerations. *“There is no over-compliance,”* he maintained. *“We have a very good risk-based approach.”* Substance, he explained, remains important, but requirements are proportionate and depend on the activity of the entity.

Banking Needs: From Accounts to Sophisticated Financing

Mr. Navin Ramdoyal, Chief Commercial Officer of AfrAsia Bank, conveyed that investors using Mauritius to enter African markets are looking for more than standard banking products. They want banking partners that understand cross-border complexity, risk and the full investment journey. *“What investors are looking for is a partner that not only provides standardised products but also understands how to navigate the complexity of cross-border investment and the risk of investing in Africa,”* Mr. Ramdoyal explained.

He added that banking needs range from account opening and multi-currency accounts to capital expenditure financing, working capital, trade finance, debt support, equity connectivity and more complex exit structures such as management buyouts and leveraged buyouts. Mauritius, he indicated, can support investors from the early stages of investment through growth, regional expansion and eventual liquidity events.

On private banking, Ramdoyal underlined that banks must support not only businesses but also the ultimate beneficial owners behind them.

"Behind every business are people working to create value," he reflected. *"As you create value, there is a need for preserving that value and transferring legacy to the next generation."*

Private banking solutions, he added, include day-to-day banking, access to global markets, portfolio-based lending, Lombard financing and structured financing that allows investors to unlock liquidity without liquidating underlying assets.

Capital Raising, Markets and New Growth Sectors

Mr. Shailen Sreekeessoon, Chief Executive Officer of SBM NBFC Holdings Limited, emphasised Mauritius' financial services ecosystem now extends well beyond incorporation and banking. He drew attention to capital raising, advisory work, listings, guarantees, asset management and trading as increasingly important parts of the jurisdiction's offer.

He referenced examples of African multinational companies raising capital through the Mauritian market and noted that guarantees can help overcome challenges around collateral in African transactions. Renewable energy, he identified, is one area where Mauritius can combine financing, advisory expertise and tested frameworks.

"We have to be inventive and innovative," Mr. Sreekeessoon said, particularly where financing conditions require alternative structures. He also noted that Mauritius' investment and trading services have evolved from mainly rupee-denominated products to global equities and international markets, with trading activity increasingly driven by global clients.

Looking ahead, Mr. Sreekeessoon envisaged Mauritius as having the opportunity to become ***Africa's Financial Hub*** by supporting family offices, infrastructure and energy funds, private equity, venture capital, wealth management and capital market solutions. He further identified renewable energy, higher education, healthcare, medical tourism, senior living, the ocean economy, technology and innovation as areas with strong potential.

"Technology and innovation touch all the different sectors," he said. *"They make the lives of people easier, ease the compliance ecosystem and enhance value addition in every sector."*

Strengthening Mauritius' Global Financial Position

Concluding the webinar, participants agreed that Mauritius has evolved into far more than a traditional financial gateway. By combining regulatory excellence, international compliance, financial expertise and a collaborative ecosystem, the country is increasingly positioning itself as a trusted neutral platform for global capital, private wealth and cross-border investment.

Mauritius–La Réunion Business Forum: Building Regional Opportunities Together

The Economic Development Board (EDB) deepened economic ties between Mauritius and Réunion Island through the Mauritius–La Réunion Business Forum, convening businesses and institutional stakeholders from both islands to strengthen trade relations and unlock new business opportunities.

Held on 01 and 02 July at the NORDEV Exhibition Centre, the forum brought together nearly 50 Mauritian exhibitors, including SMEs and women entrepreneurs, representing a diverse range of manufacturing industries. The event provided a valuable platform for businesses to showcase their expertise and engage with their counterparts from Réunion Island.

The opening ceremony was held in the presence of **His Excellency Mr Frédéric Bontems, Ambassador of France to Mauritius**, who highlighted the strong potential for enhanced economic cooperation between Mauritius and La Réunion.

The exhibition featured companies operating across key sectors, including apparel and textiles, food and beverages, printing, stationery and packaging, cleaning and hygiene products, paints and coatings, wooden and aluminium furniture, interior décor, as well as modular housing and metal structure manufacturing.

New partnerships and commercial opportunities

The forum concluded on a positive note, laying the groundwork for new partnerships and commercial opportunities between Mauritius and Réunion Island. The EDB will continue to engage with its partners and stakeholders, in particular the ***Club Export Réunion***, the ***Syndicat de l'Importation et du Commerce de La Réunion (SICR)***, to convert these discussions into tangible outcomes that support regional economic growth.

Mrs Dominique Valgresy, President of Club Export Réunion

Mauritius Pavilion at Source Fashion UK Attracts International Buyers

Mauritian textile and apparel manufacturers generated an estimated MUR 85 million in potential business at Source Fashion UK 2026, reflecting strong buyer interest in the country's premium and sustainable apparel offering.

This outcome followed an Economic Development Board (EDB)-led mission bringing together 11 Mauritian textile and apparel manufacturers to one of the United Kingdom's leading apparel sourcing exhibitions, held from 7 to 9 July 2026 at ExCeL London.

The United Kingdom remains Mauritius' second-largest export market for apparel, reflecting a long-standing trade relationship built over decades.

At this year's exhibition, Mauritian manufacturers showcased their latest collections and a diverse portfolio of products, including knitwear, premium cashmere, denim, luxury shirting, children's wear and tailoring.

The Mauritian pavilion highlighted the industry's strengths in sustainability, innovation and value-added manufacturing, with collections emphasising comfort, durability and made-to-measure solutions.

New partnerships and commercial opportunities

The Pavilion was inaugurated by H.E. Dr Rajeshwar Jeetah, High Commissioner of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Kingdom, who reaffirmed the High Commission's commitment to supporting Mauritian exporters by facilitating business connections and strengthening commercial ties with the UK market.

Throughout the three-day event, exhibitors engaged with buyers, retailers, sourcing offices and fashion brands, including established international names such as *Cordings*, *Neal & Palmer*, *Buckleigh of London*, *The Oxford Shirt Company* and *Perry Ellis*, among others. These engagements provided opportunities to develop new commercial partnerships, strengthen existing client relationships and reinforce Mauritius' position as a trusted sourcing destination for high-quality, ethically produced apparel.

Market Intelligence

The exhibition also provided valuable insights into evolving market trends.

Sustainability remained a key purchasing criterion. According to one buyer, consumers are increasingly favouring garments produced in smaller quantities, with greater emphasis on comfort, durability and longevity rather than fast-fashion consumption.

It is precisely in this niche that Mauritius is well positioned to respond to evolving market demand, with international buyers valuing the country's ability to deliver high-quality, value-added products with the **flexibility, reliability and shorter production runs increasingly sought by premium brands**.

Buyers indicated continued interest in premium apparel, particularly luxury knitwear, including cashmere sweaters, cardigans and other high-end knitted garments, as well as formal suits and premium shirts.

Discussions also highlighted growing demand for bespoke and made-to-measure clothing, reflecting a wider shift towards quality, craftsmanship and product differentiation.

Potential business opportunities

Beyond market intelligence, the exhibition delivered tangible commercial prospects. Participating Mauritian companies generated **potential business opportunities valued at approximately MUR 85 million**, expected to materialise over the next twelve months.

The successful participation reaffirmed the competitiveness of Mauritius' textile and apparel sector in serving premium and specialised market segments, while highlighting growing export opportunities for Mauritian manufacturers in the United Kingdom and across Europe.

EDB's Export Facilitation Mandate

As part of its mandate to promote exports and facilitate international market access, the EDB will continue supporting Mauritian manufacturers global outreach, through participation in international trade fairs and targeted export promotion initiatives, while further increasing the visibility of the ***Made in Mauritius*** brand in key overseas markets.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD MAURITIUS

INNOVATIVE MAURITIUS

Mauritius Export Directory

Connecting Mauritian Manufacturers to the World

The **Economic Development Board (EDB)** is inviting Mauritian exporters to feature in the Mauritius Export Directory.

Open to Exporters

- Textile& Apparel
- Footwear & Accessories
- Food & Beverages
- Jewellery & Watches
- Medical Devices
- Light Engineering
- Paints & Chemicals
- Printing & Publishing
- Manufacturing Related Services

Why feature in the Export Directory?

- Increase your international visibility
- Showcase your products
- Connect with overseas buyers & partners
- Position Mauritius a trusted sourcing destination

REGISTER NOW

For more information on the Mauritius Export Directory, please call 203 3329 or email noreyna@edbmauritius.org

Upcoming Trade & Investment Missions

The Economic Development Board will lead business delegations to these events as part of its continued efforts to promote investment, create business opportunities, and boost the export of Mauritian goods and services.

18 – 21 AUG' 2026

SheTrades Mauritius Hub to Lead Business Mission to Madagascar

Antananarivo, Madagascar

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Building Skills. Strengthening Businesses.

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AUGUST
20

The Economic Development Board (EDB) is launching a webinar series in partnership with the **Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FEWACCI)**, aimed at facilitating business connections between Mauritius and the West African region.

The webinar series will provide Mauritian businesses with a valuable opportunity to gain insights into the potential of the West African market, better understand its regulatory environment, and explore new avenues for trade, investment and strategic partnerships.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect, collaborate and expand your ambitions beyond borders.

REGISTER NOW

Launch of the GO-EXPORT Programme for Cooperatives

AUGUST
31

The Economic Development Board (EDB), in collaboration with the National Co-operative College (NCC), is launching the Go-Export Programme for Cooperatives, a **seven-session capacity-building initiative** designed to equip Mauritian cooperatives with the knowledge, tools and practical guidance needed to become export-ready and access regional and international markets.

The programme will cover key aspects of the export journey, including export readiness assessment, market selection, trade agreements, compliance and certification, export pricing, Incoterms, logistics, export documentation, packaging and labelling.

Participants will also explore e-commerce, digital marketing and artificial intelligence (AI) to support market research, customer engagement and export development.

Ready to unlock new markets?

Register for the Go-Export Programme today and take the next step towards becoming export-ready.

📅 Date: Monday, 31 August 2026
🕥 Time: 10:30 AM
📍 Venue: EDB Auditorium, Ebene

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