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PM Ramgoolam outlines coordinated measures to counter impact of Middle East conflict



Amid escalating global pressures linked to the conflict in the Middle East, Government is implementing coordinated measures to safeguard energy security, stabilise prices, and protect the population, as part of efforts to strengthen economic resilience.

This was the crux of the reply made by the Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, today in the National Assembly, in response to a Private Notice Question by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Georges Pierre Lesjongard, regarding the economic and social impact of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and the measures being taken by Government.

The Prime Minister explained that the situation has caused severe disruptions in global energy supply, with sharp increases in the prices of oil, gas, food commodities and fertilisers, alongside rising freight and insurance costs and volatility in financial markets.

He underpinned that Brent crude oil prices have risen from USD 72.48 to USD 111 per barrel, an increase of about 53%, significantly affecting Mauritius' petroleum import bill, which rose by 82% in March 2026 and is projected to increase by a further 21% in April 2026.

Dr Ramgoolam recalled that, as a small and import-dependent economy, Mauritius continues to face mounting pressures from rising global food and input prices, as well as exchange rate pressures on the

rupee, all contributing to inflation, the cost of living, and the balance of payments.

In response to these challenges, an Inter-Ministerial Crisis Committee was established and held its first meeting on 01 April 2026. The Committee reviewed the work of a High-Level Committee chaired by the Financial Secretary and proposed a series of measures. A report has been submitted and will be examined before recommendations are presented to Cabinet.

Several immediate measures are being implemented across ministries to mitigate the impact of the crisis, including:

- Strengthening fuel security through increased reserves and optimisation of energy production;
- Accelerating renewable energy projects expected to generate around 405 MW over the next few years;
- Reinforcing energy-saving campaigns to discourage unnecessary electricity consumption;
- Introducing measures to reduce non-essential electricity usage in line with regulatory controls;
- Securing petroleum supply up to mid-2026 and beyond;
- Establishing dedicated crisis units within ministries to monitor developments and coordinate responses
- Advancing a Government-to-Government agreement with Indian Oil Corporation to reinforce energy supply security

The Prime Minister also indicated that Value Added Tax and excise duties on petroleum products are estimated at around Rs 3.9 billion and Rs 4 billion respectively for the current financial year, with no reduction in these taxes being considered at this stage in line with prudent fiscal management.

PM Ramgoolam reaffirmed that sustained and coordinated action remains essential to maintain long-term stability, strengthen economic resilience, and protect the population.

GIS

The International Monetary Fund

The International Monetary Fund is an International financial agency of the United Nations.

Established in 1944 after World War II, the IMF is funded by over 190 member countries to promote global cooperation and prevent financial crises.

The Bretton Woods Conference brought together 44 countries to create a stable financial system after the Great Depression and two World Wars

The Conference created two key institutions – the IMF and the World Bank to help rebuild economies and help ensure future financial cooperation.

The IMF steps in when countries face serious money problems like high debt, unemployment, or falling currencies.

When a country runs into financial trouble—like high inflation, falling currency, or rising debt—it can request help from the IMF.

The IMF's goal is to keep the global economy stable so countries can grow, trade, support their people, and work toward long-term goals like reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development.

Source: Internet

Japan: Local Colour

CHERRY BLOSSOMS - SHORT LIVED, FOREVER LOVED

Mylene



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For most Japanese people, the cherry blossom season is a special event. The day before, some even leave their picnic items under a tree to reserve a spot for the following day. It's not just families and friends who do this, companies, too, gather beneath the blossoms to eat, drink, and enjoy quality time together.

Both the plum blossom (ume) and the cherry blossom (sakura) have been important for centuries. The plum was especially admired in early Japan, influenced by Chinese culture to symbolise endurance, renewal and resilience. The cherry blossom came into its own during the Heian period (794-1185) and became associated with beauty, impermanence, and the

fleeting nature of life. Although I'm not in Japan at the moment, friends have been sending me photos of the cherry blossoms in their area, so I don't miss out on those soft pastel blooms.

Delicate by nature, these blossoms last for a few days. A spell of heavy rain or strong wind can scatter the petals in an instant, making the chance to picnic beneath them all the more poignant.

Japan is a long chain of islands, stretching about 1,900 (3,000km) from Okinawa all the way up to Hokkaido. Each spring, cherry blossoms start blooming in the south, then slowly work their way north, like a soft pink wave

drifting up through the country until it finally reaches Hokkaido.

And it's not just about looking at the blossoms. Sakura finds its way into everyday life too. Popping up in food, drinks, sakura rice, and all sorts of seasonal decorations. There's a deeper side to it as well. During the war, cherry blossoms were deliberately used as a powerful symbol in nationalist messaging.

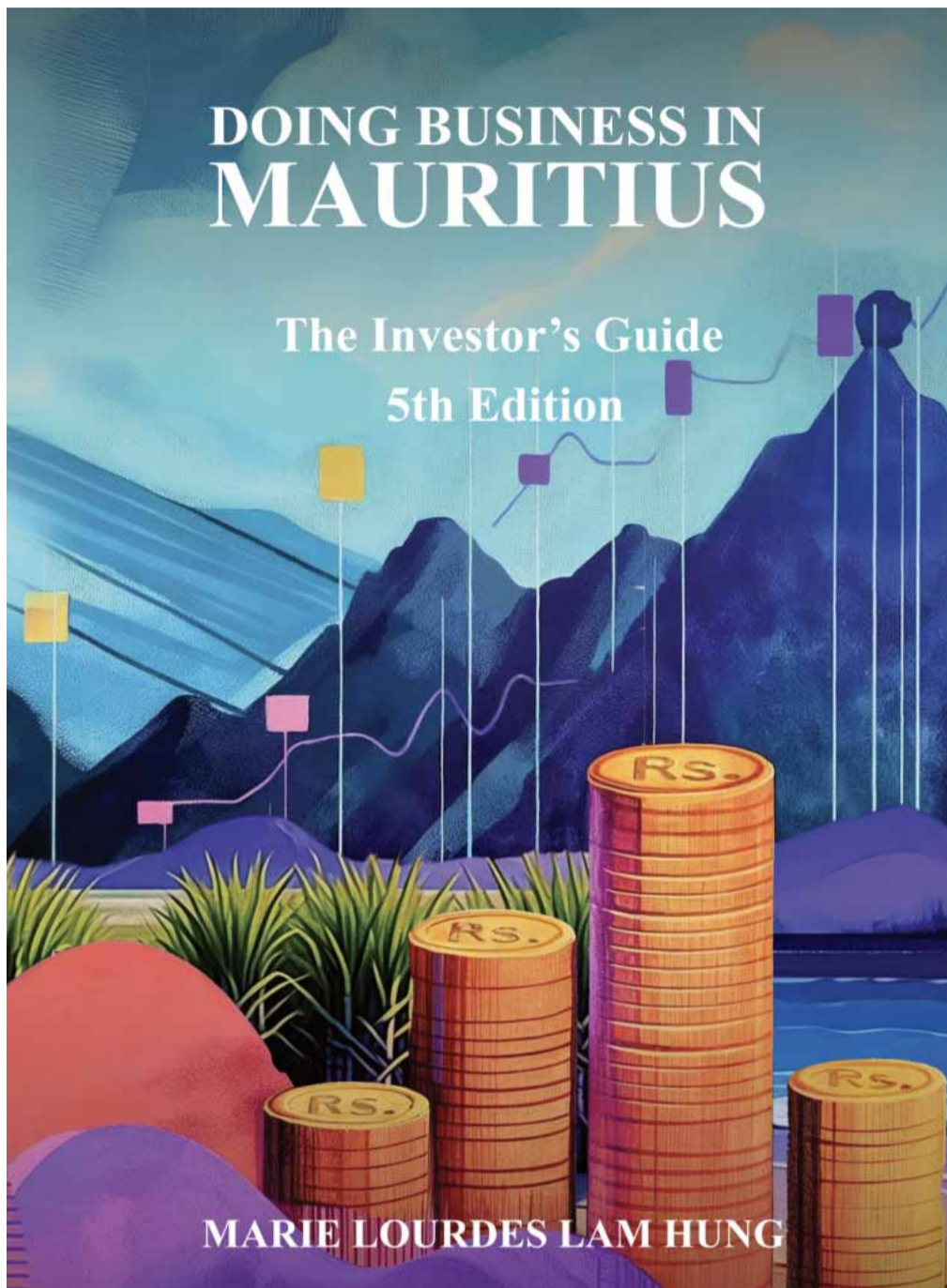
In the end, the cherry blossom is more than just a flower, it carries centuries of meaning. Like the petals that fall almost as soon as they bloom, they remind us that life's most beautiful moments are often fleeting and, therefore, all the more precious.

Publication

Doing Business in Mauritius

(5th Edition on the market)

By Marie Lourdes Lam Hung



Front cover of Book
Doing business means piling it up



Back cover of Doing Business with comments from Mr E. Tsang Mang Kin, CEO of Tamak Group and Mr Mahen Kundasamy, CEO of Economic Development Board

Discover the 5th Edition of Doing Business in Mauritius

Authored by Marie Lourdes Lam Hung, the 5th edition of Doing Business in Mauritius is a practical and authoritative guide designed for investors, professionals, and decision-makers seeking to understand and succeed in Mauritius.

Clear, structured, and highly accessible, this edition provides a comprehensive overview of the Mauritian business environment, from investment opportunities and legal frameworks to residency options and lifestyle considerations. It is crafted as a user-friendly reference, combining legal insight with practical guidance to support informed decision-making.

Mauritius stands out for its political stability, safety, and peaceful environment, qualities that strongly appeal to international investors. Its solid foundation in the rule of law provides a secure and reliable jurisdiction, giving investors the confidence to plan for the long term, protect their assets, and relocate with their families in stability.

The book places strong emphasis on Mauritius as a gateway to Africa, demonstrating how investors can use the country as a strategic plat-

form to access high-growth African markets. Through its network of treaties, financial expertise, and internationally aligned regulatory framework, Mauritius enables efficient structuring of cross-border investments while mitigating risk.

Building on the success of previous editions, the 4th edition was translated into Chinese at the request of Guangzhou University, reflecting strong international interest, particularly from Asian investors. This 5th edition further enhances the content with updated economic data and the latest national budget measures, ensuring readers benefit from current fiscal incentives, policy developments, and emerging opportunities.



Marie Lourdes Lam Hung

The book is available at all local bookstores, and enquiries may be directed to: esthel@intnet.mu.

Positioned as both a strategic guide and a practical handbook, this publication remains an essential resource for anyone looking to invest, establish, or expand their presence in Mauritius and across Africa.

Vengeance

Netanyahu will hunt everyone criticising Israel online

Have you seen the latest video on YouTube of Prime Minister Netanyahu's alleged declaration that he will hunt every single person who criticizes Israel online? Now, we have all been warned.

The first question that we may be tempted to ask is whether the Jewish Manitou will also go for all the publications which have been highlighting the atrocities committed by some Jewish parasites.

It may be borne in mind that people do not in fact criticize Israel itself.

But PM Netanyahu is believed to be instigating crisis after crisis to deflect attention from his own predicament at home on corruption charges.

After exterminating the Palestinians and crushing Gaza, he has turned his attention to

Iran and the Lebanon.

Numerous international publications feature online reports exposing his genocide tendencies of killing babies, toddlers, women and old people.

In every society there are the good people and the bad people. According to what we read from these cyber reports, the criminal activities of the bad elements of Israel know no limit. In

his quest to eliminating online criticism, will Yahu go for all those publications and cyber posts, worldwide, which have pinpointing his alleged criminal activities?

Hereunder, we highlight some of those criminal activities going on in occupied territories as reported by international voices.

Pictures picked up from the Internet.



The fact is that after appropriating Gaza, i.e. after taking possession of the strip, a Palestinian territory situated in the southwest of Jerusalem, and of the West Bank of the northeast part of Jerusalem, all the Jewish criminals have moved in on the land beating up the Palestinians, taking possession of their residential properties and stealing their possessions.

This is being done while Netanyahu looks the other way and is merciless attacking Iran. Will Netanyahu go for those international YouTube posts which are showing to the world what is taking place in Gaza and the West Bank.

The inhabitants of Gaza have been dispossessed and turned homeless by Netanyahu's henchmen. Together with Trump, they decided

to attack Iran on 26 February on their own accord. Now both have the face to ask other nations to help them in exterminating the Iranians.

Such a situation is taking place in the 21st Century. Could one imagine the atrocities that took place 2,000 years ago when an innocent man was beaten up and crucified?

P.C.

Iran is yet to reach the 21st Century

US President Donald Trump, an amateur but ambitious politician, wants to rule the world and impose his whims on every nation.

Instigated by Israel PM's Netanyahu, Mr Trump took it as an opportunity to rouse the people of Iran to rise against the Mullahs. So both Netanyahu and Trump started a bombing attack on Iran.

They both thought that the expedition would be a mere walk over. They sincerely believed that within days they would force the Iranian clerics to kneel down and beg for mercy. This was sort of narrative with which the Mr Trump has been feed-

ing his supporters. A month later, the two characters found that they are stuck in a quagmire. They are desperate, They can't move.

For the whole month of the war, Trump has been proclaiming on rooftop that he would force the Iranians to surrender, the war would end within a few days. He vowed that he was going to bomb Iran beyond recognition. Iran's response is "We are waiting for you." — Tough luck, Mr President.

There is no doubt that Iran is a country that is yet to reach the 21st Century. It is a country where clerics run the show like the country's of Europe some five centuries ago. Remember the likes of

Cardinal Thomas Wolsey in England and Cardinal Mazarin in France. They used to run the Affairs of State.

Europe experienced the Renaissance and the Religious Reformation. The countries of the Arabian Peninsula have never had such experiences. So, they have their own view of life and how rulers should rule, which is inconsistent with the 21st Century.

Yet, It is not an amateur politician of the West who will force the reformation on Iran and the others.

P.C.