

Budget 2026-2027

A Roadmap for an Inclusive and Future-Ready Mauritius

The Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, and Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, on 19 June, presented the Government's second National Budget in the National Assembly, outlining a comprehensive strategy to consolidate economic recovery, strengthen resilience, and chart a sustainable path towards prosperity.

Building on the reforms initiated in the wake of the Government's assumption of office in November 2024, Budget 2026-2027 seeks to accelerate economic transformation while safeguarding social progress. Presented against a backdrop of global uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, climate change challenges, and demographic shifts, the Budget is guided by four core principles: responsibility, solidarity, economic efficiency, and social justice.

In his address, the Prime Minister highlighted encouraging economic indicators achieved over the past year. Unemployment declined from 6 per cent to 5.7 per cent, while inflation fell significantly to 3.7 per cent after averaging 7 per cent between 2022 and 2024. Gross official foreign currency reserves reached a record USD 10.3 billion, tourist arrivals surpassed 1.4 million, generating tourism earnings of Rs 103 billion, and key sectors such as ICT and financial services continued to expand. The economy grew by 3.2 per cent in 2025, with per capita GDP increasing by 3.3 per cent.

The Prime Minister also underscored progress made in governance and institutional reform, namely the restoration of democratic practices, the resumption of municipal elections, the advancement of constitutional reform, greater representation of women in leadership positions, and enhanced transparency. All these achievements have been instrumental towards Mauritius becoming the first African country to attain the Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus status.

Central to the Budget is the vision of creating a Future-Ready Economy based on seven strategic pillars. These pillars range from leveraging artificial intelligence and digitalisation, unleashing the potential of start-ups and SMEs, expanding and modernising economic space, re-engineering traditional sectors, developing the blue economy to addressing investment constraints, and fostering higher, more inclusive growth.

To improve the well-being of citizens, the Government is introducing four flagship initiatives: the Purchasing Power Shield Project, aimed at protecting households against rising costs; the 25by35 Food Security Initiative, designed to strengthen domestic food production; the Access to Water for All Programme, focused on improving water supply and infrastructure; and the Energy Secure Mauritius Project, geared towards enhancing energy resilience and sustainability.

While pursuing growth and social progress, the Budget also places strong emphasis on fiscal responsibility. Dr Ramgoolam emphasised that lasting prosperity cannot be built on excessive debt and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to fiscal consolidation through prudent



Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam and wife Veena

management of public finances. According to him restoring fiscal balance is essential to preserving the State's capacity to invest in infrastructure, protect vulnerable groups, and support economic development.

Dr Ramgoolam indicated that for financial year 2026-2027, Government revenue is projected at Rs 235.5 billion and expenditure at Rs 266.7 billion, resulting in a budget deficit of 3.7% of GDP. Public sector debt is expected to decline to 85.5% of GDP by June 2027 and fall below 80% by June 2029. On that score, the Prime Minister underlined the importance of maintaining fiscal discipline to avoid a sovereign credit rating downgrade, which could increase borrowing costs, weaken the rupee, and raise the cost of living.

Salient Measures of Budget 2026-2027

- Rs 2 billion allocated for the M4 Motorway project** linking Forbach to the airport to improve connectivity and stimulate economic development.
- Rs 175 million earmarked to provide around 11,000 households** with water tanks and fittings for a continuous water supply. Eligible households to receive a 25% grant (up to Rs 75,000) for the installation of rooftop solar photovoltaic systems under the Household Rooftop Solar PV Scheme.
- Recruitment of 2,220 medical and paramedical personnel**, including nurses, to strengthen healthcare services. Launch of a Visiting Doctor Scheme with an allocation of Rs 40 million to bring international specialists to public hospitals.
- Basic Retirement Pension renamed State Age Pension, with eligibility based solely on age and not employment status.** Emoluments and pensions of serving and former Presidents and Vice-Presidents to become fully taxable as from 1 July 2026.
- Carer's Allowance increased from Rs 3,500 to Rs 4,250 per month.**
- Maternity leave extended to 12 months:** six months at full pay and an optional six months at half pay. Paternity leave extended from four weeks to six weeks.

For the Prime Minister, the Budget 2026-2027 is one of duty and responsibility rather than convenience. He reiterated that the Government remains committed to making difficult but necessary choices to secure a better future for present and future generations. This Budget seeks to balance economic ambition with financial discipline, laying the foundations for a more resilient, inclusive, innovative, and sustainable Mauritius, said Dr Ramgoolam.

BUDGET 2026-27

The Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, unveiled key 2026-27 Budgetary measures, aimed at achieving fiscal consolidation to invest in infrastructure, support value creation, protect the most vulnerable and guarantee a sustainable future for the country and the next generations, this evening, in the National Assembly.

Protecting the most vulnerable

- * Increased monthly Carer's allowance from Rs 3,500 to Rs 4,250;
- * Earmarking of a budget of Rs 619 million for Special Education Needs learners
- * Provision of Rs 58 million to enable extension of Domiciliary medical visits to individuals aged 85 and above
- * Extended Maternity leave to 12 months, with the first 6 months full-paid and remaining optional 6 months at half pay; extension of paternity leave to 6 weeks
- * Rs 10 million will be provided to improve the infrastructure and facilities in the Recreation Centres so that our elders can receive better and more services.

Pension Reforms

- * Establishment of a unified Independent Pensions Regulatory Authority to decide on general and specific pensions policy
- * A Central Pensions Administration Bureau will regroup all state sponsored schemes into one place to digitalise and facilitate service
- * Renaming of BRP to State Age Pension, following age being the criterion of state pension eligibility;
- * Every eligible individual with income below the threshold of Rs 14,000 will receive their full SAP
- * Eligibility to SAP from age 60 is restored electively to all citizens, subject to income calibration and actuarial adjustments and
- * Pension reforms of the President, Vice President, Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister.

Women empowerment and child protection

- * A new Domestic Abuse Bill and National Adoption Bill will be introduced
- * Rs 10 million will be allocated for new shelters, specialised caregiver training, and a half-way home.

Tackling drug scourge

Earmarking of Rs 80 million for the National Agency for Drug Control (NADC) to scale up its initiatives

- * Allocating of Rs 50 million to Ministries for integrating the fight against drug trafficking and substance abuse across their policies and operations
- * The law will be amended to criminalise a broader range of synthetic drugs and consultations are being carried out regarding the use of Cannabis

Upholding law and order

- * Rs 14.2 billion is being catered to uphold law and order
- * Rs 125 million is being earmarked to modernise the fleet of vehicles and an additional amount of Rs 531 million for the acquisition of equipment to strengthen the operational capacity of the Mauritius Police Force



Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam telling the National Assembly of the goodies and the bitter pills in the Budget

- * Rs 200 million is being provided for the setting up of the National Crime Agency which will revolutionise policing in Mauritius

Housing Policy

- * For low-income social housing, Rs 2 billion will be catered for off-site in frastructure under Phase one of the 8,000 social housing project and Rs 150 million will be provided for the implementation of 100 serviced plots with essential infrastructure on a pilot basis for middle-income families.

Youth and Sports

In a bid to promote the sports culture, Rs 110.5 million is being provided to athletes for their preparation and participation in four major international games. Government will also expand access to quality sports facilities across the country.

Consumer Protection

To accelerate the adoption of rooftop solar and battery systems across all segments of our society, eligible households can now receive a 25% grant—up to a maximum of Rs 75,000 per application—under the Household Rooftop Solar PV Scheme.

Effective 1 July, lower subsidised prices will apply to corned mutton, corned beef, canned tuna, infant food, macaroni, black lentils, red lentils, red beans, and luncheon meat.

A public holiday which falls on a Sunday, the immediately following Monday will be declared a public holiday.

GIS

OAP, Universal Pension, Basic Retirement Pension, State Page Pension !!!

The Government is Relenting, Mercy for the Pensioners

No Ciblage, No Means Test, and What Have You! All put on hold!

According to various observers, the proposed new legislation to reduce and eliminate the old people's pension and benefit is not only unfair but will be burdensome to implement.

It is now the general view that the new scheme has not been properly

thought through. The powerful Prime Minister with a mandate of five years and No Opposition has been from the start "A Man in a Hurry". He wants legislations to be implemented immediately, i.e. NOW. Legislations demand study and consultation before implementation. The PM has been called "un politicien amateur". His late dad, SSR, used to call the likes of him "des aventuriers politiques" - political adventurers.

Hiking in Switzerland

THE MATTERHORN

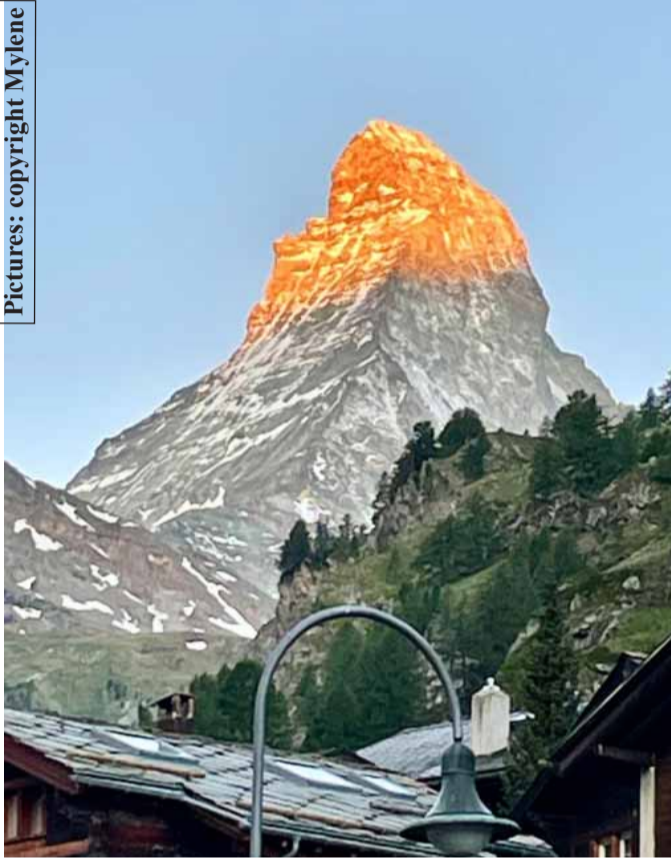
THE MOUNTAIN OF MANY FACES

From Mylene



As a British resident, Mylene has visited the Matterhorn several times. She agreed to accompany her husband who wanted to enjoy a bit fresh air during the heatwave in the UK where they are holidaying from Japan

Pictures: copyright Mylene

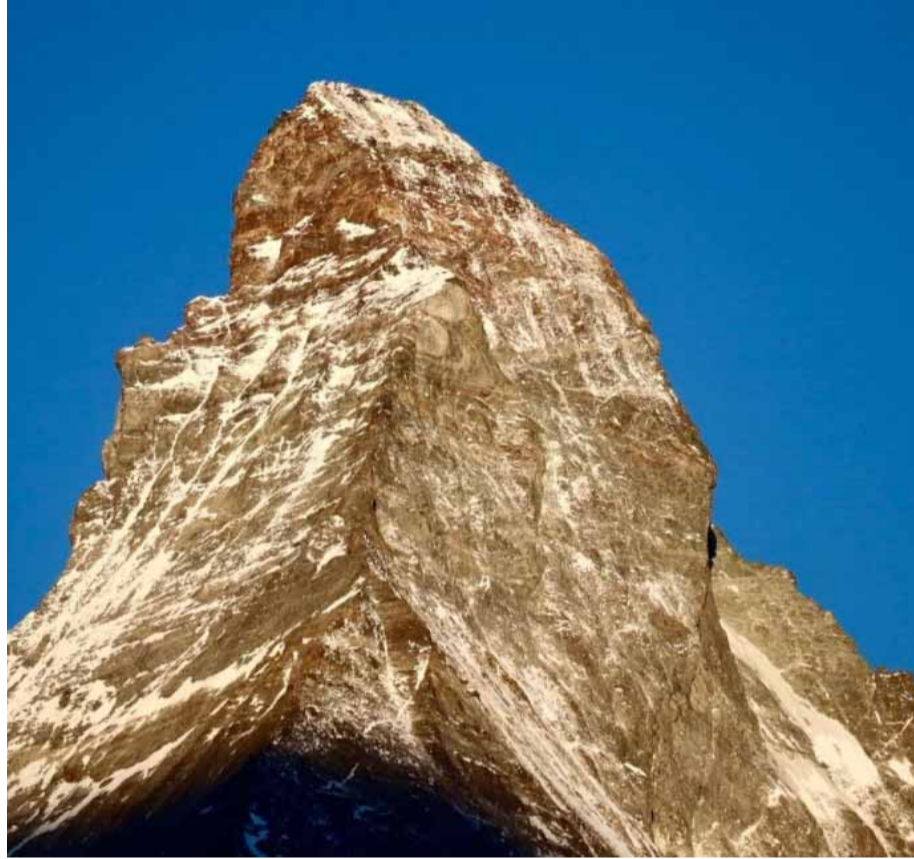


Matterhorn

The Matterhorn is a mountain in the Alps on the border of Switzerland and Italy. Standing 4,478 metres (14,692 feet) high, it is easy to recognize thanks to its distinctive pyramid-shaped peak.

I've been to Zermatt, the Swiss mountain village best known for its views of the Matterhorn, many times. Every visit has been different. I've seen the mountain covered in snow, hidden completely by clouds and almost snow-free. It never seems to look the same twice.

For me, the best way to see the Matterhorn is to take the Gornergrat Railway, a cogwheel train that climbs from Zermatt to the summit station at 3,089 metres. From there, you can enjoy the views, stop for a coffee, browse the souvenir shop and, if you're feeling energetic,



Golden Sunrise

walk back down. That's what I did, wearing only my old pair of trainers, even though there are trekking shoe rental shops almost everywhere.

The downward track can be gravelly, slippery and sometimes icy, even in June, but the effort is worth it. Along the route are picturesque lakes, tiny alpine flowers and stunning views of the Matterhorn from close range. The mountain looks very different from up there than it does from the village below.

If you're prepared to wake up at 4.30 a.m, you can watch the sunrise bathe the Matterhorn in shades of yellow, gold and orange. At 9 p.m, the setting sun makes the mountain glow as if it were on fire. The ever changing colours are truly magical. Timing is everything, because nature waits for no one.



Matterhorn Sunset

ZERMATT

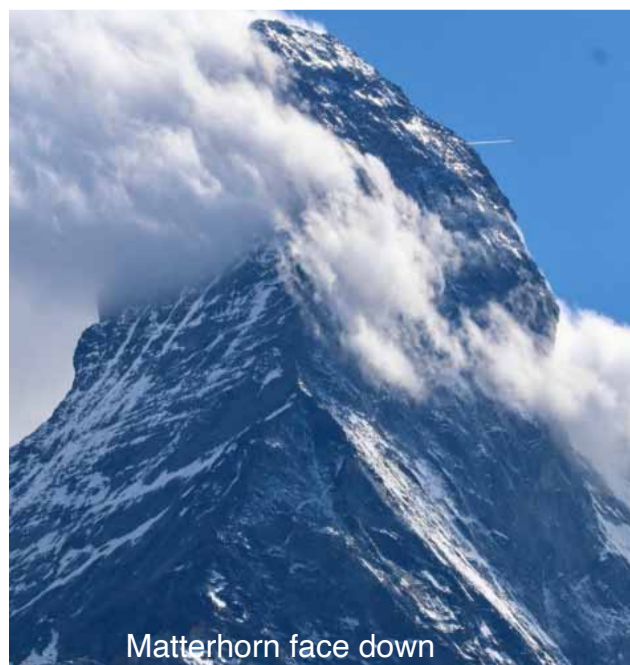
Zermatt is a car-free village. Both residents and visitors leave their cars at the large Matterhorn Terminal car park in Täsch, about 5km away, and take the shuttle train into town. The journey takes around 12 minutes.

This car free policy helps to keep the mountain air clean and gives the village a peaceful atmosphere. If you don't fancy walking, you can hop into one of the many electric taxis, take an electric bus or hire a bicycle. There are no petrol or diesel vehicles in the village.

Zermatt isn't cheap, but in my opinion, it's worth every penny.



Lake Riffelsee



Matterhorn face down



Tiny alpine flowers.

One In - One Out

PM Sir Keith Starmer Bids Farewell

It was in the wild wind that Keith Starmer would incessantly be resigning as PM. Every branch of every tree in the UK has been echoing this information:
Starmer is on the Way Out



The PM even confided the information of his resignation to his American friend, the President. Like all political leaders on Planet Earth who owe allegiance to the Manitou, he had to impart this information to the Boss.

Like that mythical chap who could not hold a secret, and soon everybody came to know that King Midas had long donkey ears, Trumpy was trumpeting the news on Friday that on Monday, Starmer would be a goner, adding two reasons: a question of North Sea oil and immigration control failure.

Go, Going and Not Gone

Effectively, on Monday (22/6) PM Starmer put a lectern outside Downing Street and announced that he was going. Did he shed a few tears, as one British paper said he did? Anybody who had been somebody would be a bit emotional on such an occasion. All his predecessors did so, according to one on-the-spot broadcaster during the drama.

No, Sir, he is not going as yet. He announced that he would only return the keys to 10 Downing when his successor will come with his wife and chattels. Usually, though No 10 is fully furnished, the PM and wife came with their own kettle. As soon as they step in, they would put the kettle on for a *cappatea*.

Yes, Sir, the first thing any new tenant wants is a cup of brew.

Well, who would likely be the next tenant of No 10? Everybody has been talking of Andy. Not Andy William (ex-singer), not Andy Macalaster (business manager) but of Andy Burnham (Mayor) who has made the trip all the way from Manchester, leaving his mayoral robe in the closet, with a few beauties by his sides on the platform when he took the train to London.

Yes, Sir, this Andy looks very dynamic and full of life. He is certainly a very popular character. He does not walk but seems to move about like Speedy Gonzales, always in a hurry. He is not that sort of sad-faced character who was



Dick Whittington came to London to become Mayor of London, Andy Burnham comes to London to become Prime Minister of UK

prevented by Leader Party Keir Starmer from standing as a Labour Candidate for the Gorton and Denton by-election in January last. For sure, he will not have forgotten this move of Starmer in denying him the right to stand for the vacant seat.

In an article in MOG issue No 111 in May, we wrote that the Labour leader, Keir Starmer, was getting his karma when he was himself being accused by converted Jew, Suella Braverman, of gaslighting the Jewish community in Britain.

Yet, he had previously carried out a campaign against members of the Party who, he believed, were antisemitic. In this connection, he sacked former leader Jeremy Corbyn from the Party.

Now that he has quit as leader, there must be party members who will not be sorry to see him out as the leader. He will still be a front bencher in the House as MP for Holborn. He may be banished to the House of Lords sooner or later.

Who is Andy Burnham?

Novara Media, 5 June

Labour leadership hopeful Andy Burnham has refused to call the Israeli military's actions in Gaza a genocide.

Asked about the violence in an interview with the Guardian, he said: "I can't judge things of that enormity from where I am as mayor of Greater Manchester."



It is said that he declined to call the mass killing in Gaza a genocide. This will not do him any good!

He added: "But I do have concerns about the disproportionate nature of what has happened in terms of the destruction, and there has to be a full process of investigation and accountability."

The world-leading International Association of Genocide Scholars last year declared that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza.

Israel has killed at least 72,000 Palestinians there since 7 October 2023 and experts quoted by the BMJ say the actual toll is far higher.

Burnham became a member of Labour Friends of Israel in 2015 and during a

Labour leadership bid the same year described the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel as "spiteful".

He also promised to make Israel his first state visit if he won - calling the country a "democracy that has a long history of protecting minorities and promoting civil rights".

The Muslim Vote, an organisation that monitors politicians' views on Palestine, regards Burnham's position as "unclear".

Burnham supports a two-state solution and has denounced illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank. He visited the area in 2012 as part of a parliamentary delegation with Labour Friends of Palestine and the Council for Arab-British Understanding.

He was one of three senior Labour figures who in October 2023 released a statement breaking with Keir Starmer's position and asking him to call for a ceasefire.

Burnham, along with London mayor Sadiq Khan and Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar, said Israel had the right to take "targeted action within international law". However, they said they had "profound concerns" about the numbers killed in Gaza and the denial of aid.

The Manchester mayor also backed the formal recognition of a Palestinian state, co-signing a letter in June 2025 demanding the UK government take action to protect the two-state framework.

The UK went on to recognise a Palestinian state in September 2025.