

13 May 2025

**Secretariat of the Acting Financial Secretary**

**Mr. A Acharuz**

Ground Floor Government House Port-Louis, Port Louis 11319 Mauritius.

**Subject: Budget-Season Suggestions to Further Support Internationally Mobile Families and Investment Flows**

Dear Mr Anandsing,

The South African Chamber of Commerce in Mauritius is deeply grateful for the Ministry's steady stewardship of our financial-services regime. Your recent drive to modernise administrative processes and expand talent pathways has been widely welcomed by our members, who rely on Mauritius as their base for regional investment.

Guided by fresh feedback from our members, and in the collegial spirit that has long characterised our dialogue, we respectfully submit a few additional reflections for consideration during the 2025/26 Budget cycle.

**End-to-end digital migration for routine travel documents.**

We applaud the Ministry's success with the fully online Premium Visa, and routinely approved within 48 working hours; government figures show that more than 2,000 such visas were issued in the most recent fiscal year. Based on feedback from our members, we note that applications for standard non-citizen visas still require an in-person visit, paper documents and processing times of four and five working days, respectively. We respectfully recommend extending the same secure, end-to-end digital workflow, featuring electronic document uploads, automated verification and real-time status alerts to these routine services. We believe that such a reform would further enhance Mauritius's ease-of-doing-business credentials, reduce queues and paper handling, and enrich the overall visitor and investor experience.

**Timely processing of property transfers and deeds.**

Concurrently, several estate agents within the Chamber report that deed registrations and property-transfer approvals can on occasion linger beyond statutory timeframes, with the unintended consequence that firm sales fall through and foreign-capital inflows are delayed. A brief performance review, or indeed a voluntary fast-track lane for files lodged digitally, could unlock transactions already funded and ready, thereby reinforcing fiscal revenues without compromising title integrity.

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### **Transparent, milestone-based pathway to citizenship.**

Moreover, we respectfully suggest introducing a transparent, milestone-based pathway to Mauritian citizenship. Peer jurisdictions such as Australia, the United Kingdom and South Africa publish clear road maps - detailing required years of residence, language proficiency, economic contribution and community integration, that allow high-value entrepreneurs and skilled professionals to plan confidently for naturalisation. A comparable, checklist-style framework in Mauritius would give globally mobile investors the certainty they seek, encouraging them to deepen their roots, maintain their capital and networks locally, and, ultimately, contribute more fully to the country's long-term prosperity.

### **Harnessing accompanying talent and averting brain-drain.**

Alongside capital, human talent remains a decisive asset. At present, spouses of residence- or work-permit holders must secure a separate Occupation or Work Permit before contributing professionally; many hold advanced qualifications yet sit on the side-lines. Granting an optional right to work at the moment residence is conferred, and aligning the age limit for dependent children at twenty-four across all permit categories, would harness this reservoir of skills while countering the gradual brain-drain our members observe.

### **Grace period for bereaved families.**

Additionally, in the unfortunate event that a principal permit holder passes away shortly before renewal, surviving relatives can find themselves in legal limbo during a period of grief. We humbly request an automatic grace period, or a fast-track renewal mechanism, would allow families to settle funerary, probate and repatriation matters, while imposing minimal extra load on the administration.

### **Aligning prudential standards for virtual-asset firms.**

The Chamber also commends the Financial Services Commission's forward-looking framework for virtual-asset businesses. Nevertheless, licensed firms still encounter difficulty opening bank accounts, owing to divergent prudential interpretations. A short working group between the FSC, the Bank of Mauritius and industry representatives could harmonise onboarding standards and ensure that compliant operators are not inadvertently excluded from the financial system.

### **Network infrastructure for sustained growth.**

Moreover, several members have flagged intermittent water supply, sewerage constraints and localised power interruptions that complicate day-to-day operations. We welcome the infrastructure investments already announced and respectfully propose that the forthcoming Budget maintain strong allocations for (i) accelerated pipe-replacement and desalination projects in growth corridors, (ii) grid-storage and rooftop-solar schemes to stabilise electricity supply, and (iii) wastewater-network extensions in emerging residential and commercial zones. Targeted funding in these areas would

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ensure that essential utilities keep pace with Mauritius's development ambitions and give businesses the confidence to plan further expansion.

Each of the foregoing observations is offered with gratitude for the progress already achieved and with full respect for the Ministry's priorities. Should any prove useful, the Chamber would be honoured to assist, whether through technical consultations, pilot initiatives or explanatory outreach to the wider business community.

Thank you for your consideration; we remain at your disposal.

Yours faithfully,

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