L'Union fait La Force

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Gazette

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Election 2024 The Race is On

According to some observers the MSM is riding on the crest of the wave having its performance on the balance sheet of its achievements examined by the nation. Prayind Jugnauth MSM believes that his party is going to the nation with a favourable bilan having created a prosperous Mauritius during the last mandate. This is endorsed by the new partner in the Alliance du Peuple, Xavier Duval who argues that the outgoing government under Jugnauth has created a country where "c'est un plaisir . . . de vivre". (Duval is more or less repeating the moto which was introduced when he was Tourism Minister in a previous government: L'Ile Maurice, c'est un plaisir.

On the other hand, Labour leader Navin Ramgoolam contending for the prime ministership is hitting as hard as he can to bring down the reputation of his adversary, PM Jugnauth, as an achiever. When he made his debut in politics some three decades ago, Navin Ramgoolam was the darling of the Constituency No 5 of Triolet. Yet, He



marked by the excesses of a copious living.

The outsiders

Others are in the wing queuing up to be the next Prime Minister of Mauritius. Rishi Badhain of the Reform Party, after having left pollical partner Bruneau Laurette by the wayside has now joined forces with the Linion Moris of Bodha and Valayden on the understanding he will share the

prime-ministership with Bodha at the expense of Valayden. Valayden who looks rather sickly to certain observers is reported to have agreed to the power-sharing agreement giving weight to his public declaration that his main concern is not power but the interests of Mauritius. People join the political arena cherishing the idea of become party leader with a dream for the top job. A question that may be asked in why has Reform Party leader Roshi Bhadain agreed to a power-sharing arrangement with Nando Bodha when he refused such an arrangement with Bruneau Laurette. Bruneau Laurette who thinks very highly of his candidature has created his own party known as Le Mouvman Bruneau Laurette.

So, the race is on. The number of candidates who will stand for election will only be known on Nomination Day on 22 October after withdrawals. It is, however, known that 73 political parties have registered to field candidates in the 20 constituencies of Mauritius each returning 3 MPs, and one constituency of Rodrigues returning two MPs.



was later rejected by the Triolet constituency in 2014. He went try his luck in Consituency No 10 at Bel Air in 2014. There too he was rejected. So, he is now back to Triolet where he is now doing the door-to-door canvassing telling the electorate by way of an apology that only a fool commits the same mistake twice. In a way he is acknowledging his past mistake.

So, this 2024 General Election is a struggle to-thefinish between to two leaders, Jugnauth and Ramgoolam who are not "spent" yet - an analogy from Shakespeare's Macbeth. Both leaders are still full of life though one of them appears to have been



The Electronic Travel Authorization UK (ETA) for Mauritian Citizens: A Complete Guide

Mauritian citizens traveling to the United Kingdom (UK) will be required to obtain a UK Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) starting on Jan 08 2025. On Nov 27 2024, Mauritian passport holders will be allowed to apply for their UK ETA in advance of the enforcement date.

ETA is a new digital travel permit that is mandatory for citizens of countries that can visit England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland without a visa for short trips. This includes the citizens of Mauritius.

It will simplify travel to the UK for visiting family and friends of Mauritians residing in the UK. The ETA will also benefit Mauritians who visit the UK for leisure, business, or study.

This guide offers all the information on the UK ETA for Mauritian citizens, including eligibility, requirements, the application process, and travel implications.

Why is the UK ETA being introduced for Mauritian citizens?

The UK ETA aims to improve the security of the UK border and allow the government more control and oversight over individuals entering the country.

The system seeks to help prevent illegal immigration, thwart organized crime syndicates, and identify potential threats to national security before they even arrive on UK soil.

The ETA is also designed to improve border control and streamline the immigration process for pre-verified, low-risk travelers.

Benefits of the UK ETA for Mauritian **Citizens**

The ETA is an electronic document that grants prescreened non-visa nationals permission to travel to the UK. It is not a visa, so applicants can skip the complex and lengthy acquisition process.

For Mauritian citizens, the UK ETA presents benefits that include the following: Quick and easy process

Applying for a UK ETA is entirely online and paperless. Mauritian applicants can complete the application in less than 20 minutes. They also do not need to visit consulates or visa offices for an in-person interview or to submit documents.

An ETA application is generally processed in three days. Travelers will receive the decision, whether ap proved or rejected, via the email address they pro- whether or not passing through UK border control vided.

If granted, the ETA will be linked to the passport they used to apply, so there is no need to print it out.

Affordable fee

A UK ETA application costs £10 each. The price is comparable to similar digital travel permits imposed by other countries. For instance, the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) of the United States (US) costs US\$21 (£17).

Australia's electronic travel authorization (ETA) costs AU\$20 (£10), while Canada's electronic travel authorization (eTA) costs CA\$7 (£4).

Once operational, the European Union's upcoming European Travel Information Authorization System (ETIAS) will cost €7 (£6).

Long validity period

Most digital travel permits are valid for a year to five years or when the passport it is linked to expires.

The UK ETA will be valid for multiple short visits over two years.

Travelers only need to apply for an ETA every two years or when their passport expires, whichever comes sooner, not every time they visit the UK.

How the UK ETA system will affect Mauritian citizens

Currently, Mauritians do not need an ETA to travel to the UK.

However, once the system opens for Mauritian citizens on Nov 27 2024, they must apply and obtain an approved UK ETA before traveling to the UK starting on Jan 08 2025.

It is required regardless of the mode of transport used, whether arriving on a flight, on a ship (e.g., as part of a cruise), or over land, such as through the rail tunnel connecting Britain and France.

A UK ETA is valid for the following travel purposes:

Short-term stay for less than six months (180 days) for tourism, short-course study, visiting friends and family, and permitted business activities and medical treatments.

Short-term stay for up to three months (90 days) on the Creative Worker visa concession

Transiting through the UK (i.e., changing planes),

ETA Eligibility Guidelines for Mauritian Citizens

To be eligible for a UK ETA, Mauritians must meet the following conditions:

Be a national of a country that has a visa-waiver status with the UK. Mauritius is included in the list of countries whose citizens need an ETA to travel to the UK.

Have a biometric passport valid for at least six months beyond the intended departure date from the

No intent to stay, work, or study in the UK for longer than six months.

No criminal record and past immigration breaches in the UK or elsewhere.

All travelers, including children and babies, will need an ETA before traveling to the UK. Parents and guardians can apply for an ETA on their behalf.

Individuals with a history of immigration breaches, criminal convictions, or incarcerations of more than 12 months in the UK or elsewhere may be denied an ETA. These travelers should consider getting a UK visa instead.

Mauritian citizens planning to stay in the UK for more than six months or to work will still need an appropriate UK visa. The new ETA system does not affect these travelers. The UK visa application and processing will also remain unchanged.

UK ETA Application Requirements for **Mauritian Citizens**

Mauritian citizens eligible for a UK ETA must prepare the following application requirements:

A valid biometric passport issued by Mauritius, whose citizens do not need a visa to travel to the UK for short trips.

A recent digital passport photo A valid email address

A working electronic payment method, such as credit or debit card, Apple Pay, or Google Pay

How to Apply for a UK ETA

Mauritian citizens can apply for a UK ETA through the official UK government website or app.

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The UK ETA application process is entirely online and paperless, so visiting consulates or visa offices is unnecessary. It only takes a few minutes to complete once all the necessary documents and information are ready.

Below is a step-by-step guide on how Mauritians can apply for an ETA.

- 1. Upload or take a photo of the passport you will use to travel to the UK. Ensure you include the picture and the two lines of numbers and letters at the bottom.
- 2. Upload a recent passport photo or take a picture using your device's camera. Images should be saved as a jpeg file or with the file extension .jpg. Children aged nine and under will not need to upload a passport photo.
- 3. Fill in all the required information. These include personal information (i.e., name, birth date), passport details, employment details, home address, and contact information.
- 4. Answer questions on security and eligibility. Like any other UK visitor, Mauritian ETA applicants must truthfully disclose criminal records, past immigration offenses, and any associations with or membership in any unlawful or illegal groups or organizations.
- 5. Pay for the UK ETA application online.

A UK ETA application costs £10 each. To submit the application, you must pay the fee online using a credit or debit card, Apple Pay, or Google Pay.

After completing the UK ETA online application, travelers will receive a confirmation through the email they provided.

Tips on for Applying for a UK ETA

Applying for an ETA is simple, but there is still room for errors. To avoid common mistakes, follow these guidelines for a swift and efficient UK ETA online application.

Provide or capture clear, high-quality photos of your passport and yourself. Ensure the images comply with passport photo specifications and are in full color without filters or effects.

Make sure you provide the correct data and are as accurate as possible. Giving false or incorrect information and even withholding information could result in delays or your application being refused.

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works and if you have enough funds to pay for the application online.

Be sure to review and double-check the data you provided in your ETA application before you submit.

After submitting the UK Page 2 can no longer amend or withdraw it. Should Mauritian citizens need to correct simple mistakes in their ETA application, they can quickly do this by re-submitting the application and paying the fee again.

Processing and Receiving the ETA for Mauritian citizens

Upon receipt of a UK ETA online application, the system will cross-verify the details submitted against several security databases in the UK and worldwide to check if the applicant is qualified for an ETA.

Applicants typically receive a decision on their ETA application via the email address provided within three days (72 hours).

Many travelers receive a decision within hours of submitting their application. Still, some applications may take more than three days to receive a decision.

Mauritian citizens are recommended to apply for a UK ETA before booking their travel to the UK to prevent delays or other issues.

If an ETA application is denied, the applicant can choose to complete a new ETA application form and pay the fee again. However, this is only recommended if they can establish the reason for the initial rejection and address it before doing so.

Being denied an ETA does not mean the applicant is banned from traveling to the UK. The alternative to a UK ETA is an appropriate UK visa: a Standard Visitor visa, Temporary Work visa, or Transit visa.

However, getting a visa is a more complicated and longer procedure, so travel plans should be adjusted accordingly.

Traveling with a UK ETA

A UK ETA is digitally linked to an individual's passport. It is valid for two years, allowing multiple short visits lasting up to six months per visit.

Mauritian citizens must apply for a new ETA after two years or when their passport expires, whichever comes first, to continue being allowed to travel to the UK.

Since it is an electronic document, Mauritian citizens don't need to bring a physical copy of their ETA.

Check beforehand if your online payment method Still, they can print it and carry a paper copy with them or be prepared to show the ETA decision email in their inbox in case of unprecedented circumstances.

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For travelers with multiple passports, make sure to travel to the UK with the passport used in the appli-

Before boarding a plane, ship, or train, carriers will check if travelers have the appropriate permissionto-travel document by scanning their passports.

Carriers will only allow boarding to Mauritian citizens who can present a valid UK ETA or visa.

Those still waiting on the decision on their ETA applications will also not be permitted to board.

Arriving in the UK

An ETA does not guarantee entry into the UK. Upon arrival, Mauritian citizens with an approved UK ETA must still submit their identity documents to the UK Border Force or go through an electronic passport gate (eGate), if available.

Be prepared to provide proof of onward travel upon request. This typically means presenting a ticket to leave the UK within six months of arrival.

If asked, Mauritian travelers must also show evidence that they have enough funds to support themselves during their entire stay in the UK and their journey home.

Travelers with a valid ETA may still be refused entry into the UK if they fail a border check or meet other entry conditions.

Once past border security, Mauritian travelers with an approved ETA can freely travel between the UK's four constituent countries: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Mauritian citizens can use all modes of transportation within the UK, such as trains, ferries, and local flights. Before boarding a ferry or an internal flight within the UK, they only need to present an ID, usually a passport or driving license.

Important Note: A UK ETA is not valid in Ireland or other European countries.

A UK ETA does not allow entry to the Republic of Ireland and other European countries. The UK is not a member of the European Union or the Schengen Common Travel Zone.

Mauritian citizens visiting Ireland or other European countries must check the entry requirements of their destination country before booking their travel.

Telephone Tapping: sunami is

A certain chappy calling himself Missie Moustass is believed, by some people, to have been tapping the phones of chosen personalties, including political figures and even of the Commissioner of Police and to reveal via the social network the contents of their conversations.

Those revealed conversations are of a highly insulting nature towards other personalities and communities. They also indicate plots to pervert the course of justice.

When a certain top official of the Telecoms Department, Sherry Singh, fell out with his chum, the present PM Jugnauth, and resigned as CEO of the department in June 2022, he promised that a Tsunami would strike Mauritius.

He has of late met with the aspiring Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolsm who, too, has said that a Tsunami would hit Mauritius during the present electoral campaign.

Putting two and two together, caretaker PM Pravind Jugnauth says it's a coincidence that the phone tapping scandal should come out into the open following the meeting of Singh with Ramgoolam.

The outgoing PM has now said the conversations revealed by Mr



Moustass have been fabricated with the help of AI and a police

investigation has been instituted to throw light on the scandal.. Labour candidate Shakeel Mohamed is adamant that it is his own voice in a conversation with a member of his party that is heard in the taped recording. He says that he has consulted numerous foreign experts who say that A1 technology does not exist yet to imitate the spoken Mauritian Creole language. This is considered as a flying statement as Mr Mohamed does not prove his say. Apparently, the Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not intelligent enough to recognise Mauritian Creole!!!

Who is that famous moustachio who is causing such an upheaval in the country? Sunil Camadoo believes that he is not a Hindu, since the acrimonious recording is meant to arouse the feelings of the Christian and Muslim communities against Hindus.

Raju Velloo

News from Japan

Nobel Prize 2024

by Mylene



And The Nobel Peace Prize Goes to..... NIHON HIDANKYO

I think it's safe to say that not many people are familiar with this Japanese organisation, Nihon Hidankyo, despite the fact that they were established in August 1945, which is almost 80 years ago now.

Who exactly are they?

They are a grassroots movement made up of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These survivors are known in Japan as Hibakusha.

What does Nihon Hidankyo mean?

In 1956, local Hibakusha association together with the victims of nuclear tests in the Pacific formed the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organisations. This name was shortened in Japanese to Nihon Hidankyo.

What's their purpose?

Their purpose is crystal clear. Since the devastating atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the Americans, they have worked tirelessly towards achieving a world completely free of nuclear weapons and advocating that nuclear weapons must never be used again.

How do they do that?

The Hibakusha - thousands of them - serve as powerful historical witnesses, vividly bringing to life their personal stories of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. Their testimonies shed light on the immense suffering caused by the use of nuclear weapons that persists to this day.

They further conduct educational campaigns drawing from their own experiences. They issue urgent warnings against the spread of nuclear weapons. Their dedicated efforts include making continuous public appeals, passing resolutions, and sending annual delegations to the United Nations and various peace conferences serving as a constant reminder of the urgent need for nuclear disarmament.

How many hibakusha are alive today? The memorials in Hiroshima and Nagasaki keep records of the hibakusha which is updated annually. The number of hibakusha that hold the Atomic Bomb Survivor's certificate is naturally dwindling. In 1980,

there were about 370,000 compared to only 106,000 as of last March.

Why was this group awarded the Noble Peace Prize?

The Nobel committee, who chose to award them the prize stated: "for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating that nuclear weapons must never be used again."

Who else has won the Nobel Peace Prize

To date, The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded 105 times. In 2009 Barack Obama received it for his "vision of and work for a world without nuclear weapons." He made history by being the first US president to visit Hiroshima, in 2016.

Who is Sadako Sasaki

Sadako, was a 12 year old girl from Hiroshima who developed leukemia after being exposed to radiation from the atomic bomb blast. In the hospital, her friend reminded her of the Japanese legend that folding a thousand paper cranes (origami) could make her wish for good health come true.

Sadako started folding. These paper cranes has since become a global symbol of peace.

Then and now

In 1945 little was known about the effects of radi-



Mr Toshiyuki Mimaki, co-chair of Nihon Hidankyo, at a press conference after the Nobel Peace Award, was greatly moved.

ation on the human body, animals and the environment. Keiko Ogura, who was eight when the bomb dropped: "No one understood why people were still dying, days, weeks, months and years after the attacks....."

We now know much more, yet research is still not widely publicised.

Members of Nihon Hidankyo were surprised and grateful for the award. They are committed to passing down their efforts to the younger generation to ensure that there will never ever be any more hibakusha in the world.



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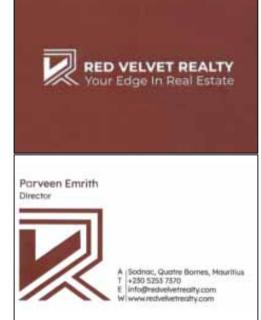








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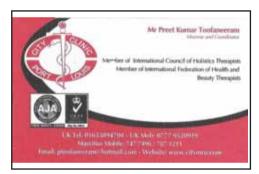


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