

L'Union  
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# Mauritian Overseas Gazette



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Views expressed by contributors are their own

## The new Cabinet of 24 Ministers and 10 Junior Ministers sworn in on Friday, 22 November 2024



The Ministers with PM Navin Ramgoolam and President Prithiviraj Roopun in front

Dr Navinchandra RAMGOOLAM, GCSK, FRCP, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands, 2) Paul Raymond BÉRENGER, GCSK, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister without Portfolio, 3) Shakeel Ahmed Yousuf Abdul Razack MOHAMED, Minister of Housing and Lands 4) The Hon Rajesh Anand BHAGWAN, Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change 5) Dr the Hon Arvin BOOLELL, GOSK Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries 6) Govindranath GUNNESS, Minister of National Infrastructure, 7) Anil Kumar BACHOO, GOSK, Minister of Health and Wellness 8) Christian Harold Richard DUVAL Minister of Tourism 9) Ashok Kumar SUBRON Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity 10) Dr the Hon Mrs Jyoti JEETUN Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning 11) Patrick Gervais ASSIRVADEN Minister of Energy and Public Utilities 12) Dhananjay RAMFUL Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade 13) Darmarajen NAGALINGUM Minister of Youth and Sports 14) Muhammad Reza Cassam UTEEM Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations 15) Mahomed Osman Cassam MAHOMED Minister of Land Transport 16) The Hon Mrs Marie Arianne NAVARRE-MARIE Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare 17) John Michaël Tzoun Sao YEUNG SIK YUEN 18) Kaviraj Sharma SUKON Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research 19) Sayed Muhammad Aadil AMEER MEEA Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives 20) Mahend GUNGAPERSAD, PDSM Minister of Education and Human Resource 21) Avinash RAMTOHU Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation 22) Lutchmanah PENTIAH Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reforms 23) Ranjiv WOOCHIT, OSK Minister of Local Government 24) Mahendra GONDEEA, OSK Minister of Arts and Culture



The Junior Ministers with PM Navin Ramgoolam and President Roopun

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# (From Page One) - Names of Junior Ministers

1) **Dhaneshwar Damry**, Junior Minister aux Finances 2) **Fabrice David**, Junior Minister à l'Agro-industrie 3) **Joanna Bérenger**, Junior Minister à l'Environnement 4) **Karen Foo Kune-Bacha**, Junior Minister aux Sports 5) **Sydney Pierre**, Junior Minister au Tourisme 6) **Fawzi Allymun**, Junior Minister aux Collectivités locales 7) **Anisthta Babooram**, Junior Minister à l'Égalité des genres et au Bien-être de la Famille 8) **Rajen Narsinghen**, Junior Minister aux Affaires étrangères 9) **Kugan Parapen**, Junior Minister à l'Intégration sociale 10) **Véronique Leu-Govind**, Junior Minister aux Arts et à la Culture

## Postmortem

# “Je prends l'entière responsabilité de la défaite”

*Le Mauricien - 23.11.24*



According to *Le Mauricien* of 23 November 2024 the above headline was a statement made by former PM Pravind Jugnauth on the crushing defeat of his Alliance Lepep at the poll on 10 November 2024. He is reported to have acknowledged that the revelations of the Moustass Leaks were responsible for wiping him and his political partners out of the National Assembly.

When a postmortem proper is done, the former PM will realise that the reasons for the defeat of l'Alliance Lepep were multiple. It was a combination of factors that brought about the discomfiture of his coalition.

The writing was on the wall, and the group failed to acknowledge it. One of the attacks made against him personally was his autocratic attitude. He was accused of the concentration of power cumulating too many portfolios. Another of his sins was favouritism, giving top jobs to friends. Power will now no longer be . . . concentrated in one person (??) and personal friends will no longer be rewarded. In a *baitka* at Triolet, a group said that the Ministry of Justice placement was a necessity of the time: “*ti biziin faire li.*”

*Philippe Goss*

## The Honeymoon is over

# Getting down to brass tacks

There is a time for everything under heaven. A time to rejoice and a time to mourn. It is a time to rejoice for l'Alliance du Changement. They are on a lasting honeymoon, *Une Lune de Miel Perpétuelle*, as they say for newly-wed couples. Well, sooner or later, the couples must leave *le lit nuptial* for work

Now is the time for the l'Alliance du Changement to get ready to deliver, *dessan lor pie*, as they say in the Mauritian vernacular.. If there is any delay, as could be expected, it is not their fault. They have inherited a dirty and messy stable, which they have to clean up first. This can take months.

On the local radios, questioned about his expectations, one young person, said he wanted to have **free internet** access, as his priority. Another person wants **free medication** prescribed by his private doctor. One almost permanently unemployed middleaged man wants to know when he will have **free transport** to be able to go about job-hunting. Questioned on TV, one local woman wanted “**pani**”, “**dilo**” which Minister Lesjongard failed them in spite of all their past efforts.

One can go on and on with the litanies of complaints and expectations in store for the new government to tackle, Let us for example talk about the 14th month salary promised to the workers during the elec-

toral *surenchère*. The trade unions are taking about the **salary readjustment**. Car owners want the reduction in the price of petrol and are even talking about the **VAT cut-down**. **Old Age Pension** will go up to Rs 21,500 per month. On that score the government does not to worry too much as they five years ahead of them to deal with this promise.

The present government as the previous one needs money. The new administration has begun by telling the people that the kitty is empty and a proper *état de lieu* is taking place to find out the extent of the rot. The previous government did mention that billions of rupees would be forthcoming from the US as Diego Garcia rent money.

It is reported that the forthcoming tenant of the White House has made it known that he is not keen on giving back the control of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius though Britain has agreed that it should be so in response to international pressure. There is an agreement between Britain

and Mauritius that the former will relinquish all claim on the Chagos.

The British Government is sending back their diplomat Jonathan Powell to the US to convince the Americans that the agreement to hand back the Chagos to Mauritius is the best arrangement to end the tension in the Indian Ocean. Mr Powell is slopping in Mauritius on his way to the US. He will have talks with the new Mauritian PM, Dr Ramgoolam.

The problem is that the British are at present talking to an American administration which will be overridden once Mr Donald Trump takes office in January next. He is the sort of a man who does not give two hoots about any agreement to restore the Chagos back to Mauritius's jurisdiction.

It has been intimated that if Trump is forced to accept the agreement between Britain and Mauritius, he may still default on payment of the rent money. It is hoped that he will relent and not use this strategy to have his way.



**Mr Jonathan Powell,  
British envoy**

It is possible that Mr Powell will have to make another trip to another trip to the US once Mr Trump is in office. In the meantime some projects may have to be put on hold fin Mauritius.

*K. Lingen*

## Reflections

Until when the four political parties (Parti Travailleiste, MMM, Nouveaux Démocrates, Rezistans ek Alternativ) making up the coalition known as l'Alliance du Changement will keep this appellation? If they use it for too long, when in office, they may tempt the electorate to go for *changement* again, i.e. to go for change again. They may become the target this time. They may not want this! What name next, if they are still together?

Dr Navin Ramgoolam, leader of the Labour Party, declared during the hustings that both elderly Paul Bérenger, leader of the MMM, and himself, are unlikely to stand for the next general election in 2025.

Someone has commented that Dr Ramgoolam may thus leave the political stage in glory. Could his coalition expect any challenge ahead? There are many imponderables in life and in politics.

*K.L.*

## Mylene Writes from Japan



### Happy 50th Birthday Hello Kitty!

#### *The mouthless cat that roared*



All this time we've been picturing Hello Kitty as a white cat with a red bow, right? But, guess what. According to Sanrio, the company that owns her and Yuko Shimizu, her designer, Kitty is actually a little girl!

Whatever. It's just amazing how far Hello Kitty has come over the past fifty years.

From those humble beginnings on a vinyl coin purse that sold for less than a dollar back in 1975, to soaring annual sales of up to \$8 billion in 2013.

Let's delve into this iconic character that has captured hearts worldwide for over half a century.

#### Her Bio

Born Kitty White in London, she has a twin sister called Mimmy.

To tell them apart, just check out their bows. Kitty wears a red bow on her left ear, while Mimmy sports a yellow one on her right.

Dad George is known for being reliable and funny, while mum Mary loves cooking and taking care of the house.

Grandpa Anthony likes to tell stories and Grandma Margaret is a pro at sewing.

There is also a whole menagerie of animals that include mice Joey and squirrel Rorry.

#### Her Personal Info

So get this - her height is described as five apples and her weight as three apples, isn't that adorable?

She is good at baking cakes, likes to play the piano and to collect cute things.

Oh, and let's not forget her boyfriend, Dear Daniel, who came into her life in 1999. On top of all that she has her own pet duo. A cat called Charmmmy Kitty and a hamster named Sugar, both introduced in 2004.

She even has a superhero alter-ego named Ichigo-man.

#### How did Hello Kitty become a phenomenon

Her conception was in 1974. Just a year later she made her debut on a vinyl coin purse. Her appeal totally clicked with pre-teenage girls.

Back in the groovy 70's, Japan was all abuzz with the rise of kawaii culture. Kawaii is all about being cute, charming, and hanging on to a childlike innocence and our girl Kitty ticked all the boxes.

So far so good, but then the brand took a bit of a nosedive only to make a huge comeback in the 90's, winning over teenagers, adults and even gaining love from some top celebs.

#### Why does she have no mouth

Sanrio sure knows how to talk the talk. They want people to 'project their feelings onto the character and be happy or sad together.'

Another explanation is that, 'she speaks from the heart.'

#### Appointments of Hello Kitty

Hello Kitty's impact goes beyond just being a cute, as UNICEF appointed her as children's ambassador and the Japanese government appointed her as tourism ambassador.

#### Spinoffs

There are not one, but two theme parks in Japan and one in China all about our girl Kitty. And that's just the beginning - we're talking comics, animated films, video games, books, music albums, accessories, and even clothing collaborations with big shots like Nike and Gucci.

All in all, there are over 50,000 different Hello Kitty goodies out there. Imagine!

#### In conclusion

Hello Kitty has hit a nerve, the cuteness nerve. With some clever marketing magic, Hello Kitty has managed to become a part of every stage of life - from the moment we're born until our final goodbye, and all the special moments in between.

There are Hello Kitty pregnancy test kits, baby clothes, wedding cake toppers, walking canes, and even a stone statue for graves.

Hello Kitty has connected with a lot of people, not just children. She reminds us that it's perfectly fine to hold onto a small piece of our childhood as we grow up. It's like she brings a little bit of magic into our lives, and who wouldn't want that, right?

*Cheers Hello Kitty and here's to the next 50 years!*



## Paul Draper writes from Rodrigues

**Care-Co (Rodrigues). & the Trevor Huddleston Association for the Disabled (Rodrigues)**

**Camp du Roi, Rodrigues, R.519. Republic of Mauritius, Indian Ocean.**

**Tel (230) 8311766 Web: [www.gpl-centre.com](http://www.gpl-centre.com) Email: [careco@intnet.m](mailto:careco@intnet.m) [pdraper@intnet.mu](mailto:pdraper@intnet.mu)**

In the Care-Co Workshop department, the rather unsettled atmosphere and the changes coming due to the new Government regulations regarding wages and work conditions. has been compensated somewhat by the news that the honey from Care-Co beekeeping honey production department has won a **Third Prize** at the UK National Honey Show.

Our entry was in a new class dedicated to entries from 'Beekeeping projects in Charitable institutions around the world'.

We are most grateful to John, Bernard and Caroline in the UK for their help once again in getting our entries prepared and entered into the honey show exhibition, contest and judging, and also to Charles for his efforts to return our failing beekeeping to a healthier state.

The Beekeeping and honey department at Care-Co, which is dedicated to people with disabilities will be further helped in being included in the EU. funded ENSAMN project which has now been officially launched and is now under way in Rodrigues.

As part of this we and other ENSAMN participants AREF

& Rodrigues Environmentally Friendly Group will receive a visit from Vincenzo a Beekeeping Consultant from Italy in November.

We are looking forward to this and will work together with some other beekeepers to further strengthen the beekeeping and honey production at Care-Co and around the island.

We hope that this will bring in more people with disabilities who wish to learn beekeeping. and increase our own effectiveness in this respect and reinforce our operation with new techniques and equipment.

We are preparing for this, and Birgit our manager is hard at work arranging the various meetings and workshops and site visits, necessary to ensure the visit is a success

This ENSAMN Programme also has a segment that deals with Disability Issues in Rodrigues and although we at GPL School and Care-Co are not the only organization dealing with the disabled-on Rodrigues, we are known as part of Island's wider actions on disability issues and have experience in this field.

We are therefore keen to learn more how these issues

are dealt with in other countries and welcome advice and expertise from visitors from the E.U (in this case from Italy) in the ENSAMN Programme.

We know we have a lot to learn and look forward to meeting working with the Consultants and experts from Europe.

It will then be Christmas and the New Year celebrations and our Programme of events in this connection, meticulously prepared but Birgit and agreed between all parties is posted in the workshop.

I hope to produce another NEWS before the Festive Season starts in earnest.

My usual apologies for this being a printed NEWS but promise as always to reply to your emails.

*Paul*

# The Grand Baie Tragedy



Picture: courtesy Le Défi

The whole nation of Mauritius felt the pain of Fateemah Dilmohamed (21) when her feet were stuck within the collapsing step of a moving escalator at a shopping centre within La Croisette complex, Grand Baie, on Saturday 23 November 2024.

The authorities moved extremely fast for Fateemah to receive immediate care. The decision to fly her to Chennai, South India, was most appropriate at a time of great panic. The people of Mauritius were at one with the parents of Fateemah to pray that she should not lose the use of both legs.

The numerous sympathisers wait to hear of the outcome of the surgery the victim has undergone.

## Indian High Commissioner Nandini Singla bids farewell to Mauritius in a moving speech



At tous les Mauriciens

**Warm greetings to all my Mauritian friends, I hope you and your families are doing well, and looking forward to the end-of-year holidays.**

Well I am leaving Mauritius tonight, after four unforgettable years, I wanted to say goodbye and wish you all well before leaving. As many of you know I came alone four years ago with just my dog Nova, and I now I feel like I am leaving with a family of 1.2 million Maurician. I have been truly overwhelmed by the incredible love, kindness and affection I have received from so many of you, I have been humbled by the touching attachment by so many Mauritian's to the motherland India, and greatly encouraged by your genuine goodwill India Mauritius relations. I am pretty sure that Mauritius is the only country in the world to make me feel this way.

It's been a home away from home, I have been humbled by how so many of you, continue to celebrate Indian traditions, Indian festivals with so much fervour and devotion, in fact I have rediscovered Indian culture here in Mauritius and have to thank Mauritius for making me a better ambassador of India. Whenever I've gone back from a foreign posting to India. I have always felt that I was going home, but for the first time I prepare to leave Mauritius for Delhi. I feel like I'm simply leaving one home for another. I suppose that is the power magic and the uniqueness of the relationship our two countries, we feel at home in each other's countries because we share not only ties of blood culture religion but also what we ultimately value truly as human beings, democracy, diversity, peace and prosperity such foundational values that define who we are as Nations that define our very identities as people are Timeless they do not change with changing times they do not change with changes in High Commissioner's changes in Governments.

I warmly congratulate honourable Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam and the L'Alliance de changement on their historic victory in the election and wish the new team in Government all the very best in taking Mauritius to even greater heights. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the unwavering support we receive from former Prime Minister his Excellency Mr Pravind Jugnauth and his Government in further strengthening the very special relations between India and Mauritius. I wish you all and your beautiful rainbow Nation all the very best, may the wonderful people of Mauritius continue to thrive and prosper. May the brotherly bonds between our two democracies continue to strengthen for the betterment of our people and the world

*Vive Maurice Jay Hind Namaste*

# The First Session of the Eighth National Assembly



The full House in session on Friday, 22 November 2024 with new Speaker Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra in the chair

## The Front Benchers - Four Happy People!



Two Labour: Navin Ramgoolam & Shakeel Mohamed, Two MMM: Paul Bérenger & Rajesh Bhagwan

## Plus ça change . . .



**New Speaker Mrs Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra**, former MMM stalwart, not an elected member of the National Assembly, brought from retirement by Paul Bérenger. Members of the Opposition in the previous Assembly always clamoured for the Speaker to be an elected member of the House.

**New Attorney General, Minister of Justice (Labour)**, personal friend of Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam, is not an elected member of the National Assembly. The PM says he is not the lawyer of the government, he is not the lawyer of the Prime Minister. He is adviser to the government.

