

L'Union
fait
La Force



Mauritian Overseas Gazette



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Happy New Year 2025 from Mauritius

Le Flamboyant/Flammetree . Picture by P.C.



Mylene says

As we welcome in year 2025, may the year of the snake bring you new beginnings, success, happiness and exciting times ahead!
Happy New Year everyone!

2025 - What kind of year should it be? *It should be l'Année du Changement*

The majority of the electorate has voted for "l'Alliance du Changement" avec rage (Ramgoolam dixit). The Electoral Campaign has been the occasion for a *surenchère politique extravagante*. Both L'Alliance Lepep under the leadership of Pravind Jugnauth and L'Alliance du Changement under the leadership of Navin Ramgoolam were offering to a gullible electorate the best sweetener (*douceur électorale, illegal elsewhere*) which they hoped the good people of Mauritius would swallow and get hooked.

According to Labour leader Navin Ramgoolam of l'Alliance du Changement the people came out with rage and voted with rage. Ramgoolam had hit the nail on the head. Did the people vote for l'Alliance du Changement because they were enamoured of Navin, Paul, or the hordes of untested newcomers of the coalition? Or were the people fed up with Pravind and his MSM cohorts, some of whom had acquired a disreputable notoriety owing to their extravagances while in office?

Some minor political parties had campaigned that it cannot always be Pravin or Navin. In the end they got Navin. **Content pas content: Plus pas ça, ça même!** Reform Party leader Roshi Bhadain had predicted, during the electoral campaign, that MMM leader Paul Bérenger would carry to Ramgoolam his Rs 220m suitcase of unexplained wealth. On a RadioPlus broadcast Yvan Martial of l'Express connection said that *Navin Ramgoolam would have to come clean on that question.*

Well, the electorate (*please try to find out what General Charles de Gaul used to call the electorate*) had decided who should run the country. People get the government they deserve. *Vox Populi, Vox Dei.*

C'est à l'oeuvre qu'on connaît l'artisan. Eh bien l'artisan, à peine à l'oeuvre, voit des trous partout. This reminds one of the song of Serge Gainsbourg in which he sang *"des p'tits trous, des p'tits trous, part-out des p'tis trous"*

Now that the Government of Change, made up of veteran Navin Ramgoolam (Labour), veteran Paul Bérenger (MMM), neophyte Duval (formerly PMSD, now Nouveau Démocrate), Ashok Subron (Résistants ek Alternatif (ReA)) are at the helm, the good people of Mauritius expect their due: 14^e mois, free medications (on the British NHS system), free transport, reduction in the price of fuel, stabilisation of the value of the rupees, inflation and price control, etc etc and the etc.

According to the article of Le Défi Quotidien of 16 December 2024 entitled "Surenchère Electoral ..." the Opposition then already talked of the poor financial management of the previous government during the electoral campaign. Yet, they made all the promises while knowing that the financial position of the country was bad. It may be deduced from this article that the *"l'épouvantail ressorti"* par le nouveau gouvernement" is only to con the population. Can they con all the people all the time?

Suresh Coonjee Beeharry

Public Holidays 2025

Wednesday 01 January - NEW YEAR

Thursday 02 January - NEW YEAR

Wednesday 29 January - CHINESE SPRING FESTIVAL

Saturday 01 February - ABOLITION OF SLAVERY

Tuesday 11 February - THAIPOOSAM CAVADEE

Wednesday 26 February - MAHA SHIVARATREE

Wednesday 12 March - INDEPENDENCE AND REPUBLIC DAY

Sunday 30 March - UGAADI

Monday 31 March - EID-UL-FITR **

Thursday 01 May - LABOUR DAY

Thursday 28 August - GANESH CHATURTHI

Monday 20 October - DIVALI

Saturday 01 November - ALL SAINTS DAY

Sunday 02 November - ARRIVAL OF INDENTURED LABOURERS

Thursday 25 December - CHRISTMAS

** The exact date of this festival is subject to confirmation as its celebration depends on the visibility of the moon.

Comfort

This first stanza of Rudyard Kipling poem IF may bring some comfort to people who are down at this time of the year:

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
You can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

Weather trend to March 2025

The cumulative rainfall from November 2024 to April 2025 for Mauritius is projected at about 1,100 millimetres, representing around 80% of normal levels. For Rodrigues, the cumulative rainfall during summer will be around 85% of the normal, amounting to about 600 mm.

Regarding temperature trends, Acting Director of the Met Services, Dr Booneedy, explained last month that there had been a rise by 2 to 3°C compared to historical averages due to global warming. He highlighted that for the forthcoming season, temperatures would be slightly above the normal. For Mauritius, on certain days, it is likely that temperatures will exceed the long-term monthly average by more than 2 to 3°C, resulting in maximum temperatures reaching 35°C during the day along the western coasts. In Rodrigues, maximum temperatures during the day may reach 33°C along coastal areas.

As for cyclone activity, Dr Booneedy averred that it was projected to be slightly elevated, with expectations of 11 to 13 formations in the southwest Indian Ocean, though not all were expected to impact Mauritius directly.

In light of these forecasts, the Acting Director recommended precautions for the upcoming months, particularly during the warmer and more humid conditions expected from December 2024 to March 2025. Emphasising the health risks associated with heat stress, he underlined the importance of staying hydrated and ensuring proper ventilation. Additionally, he stressed the risk of heavy rains causing flash floods, and of cyclones, requiring awareness and preparedness

Source: GIS.

New Indian High Commissioner, H.E. Mr Anurag Srivastava, meets PM Dr Navin Ramgoolam



Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam receiving at his office, Treasury Building, the newly appointed High Commissioner of the Republic of India to Mauritius, H.E. Mr Anurag Srivastava.

In a statement, High Commissioner Srivastava highlighted that the meeting with Prime Minister Ramgoolam was cordial and was an opportunity to pass on the greetings and good wishes of his Leader to the Mauritian Prime Minister and congratulate the latter for his victory in the National Assembly Elections 2024.

He observed that both countries share enduring ties and cooperate in several traditional and diverse sectors. He expressed confidence that these ties will continue to strengthen under the leadership of Prime Minister Ramgoolam, and reassured his commitment to work together with the Mauritian Government to help take the Mauritius-India relationship to greater heights.

The Indian High Commissioner also looks forward to more visits and exchanges with relevant stakeholders in the coming days in a bid to advance the special ties the two countries share.

It is recalled that, prior to being appointed as High Commissioner of India to Mauritius, Mr Srivastava managed the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Finance Division; served as Ambassador to Ethiopia and Djibouti in 2016; was the MEA's Official Spokesperson from 2020 to 2021; and headed the Nepal-Bhutan division as Joint Secretary.

GIS