

L'Union
fait
La Force



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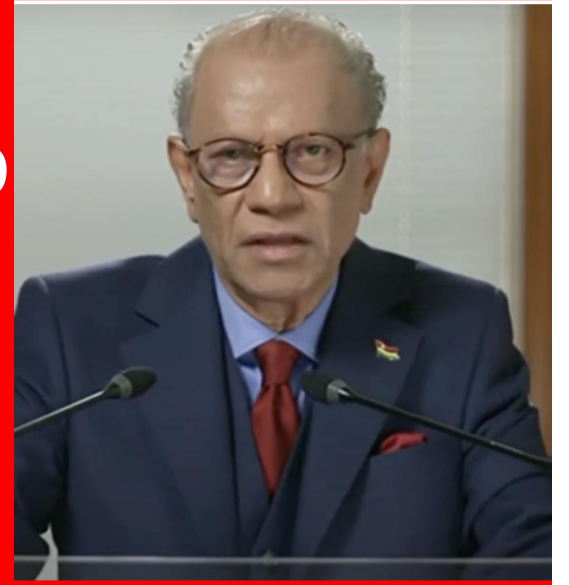
A Magazine for the Mauritian Diaspora

A totally independent publication

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Views expressed by contributors are their own

Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam's message to the Nation on 1 January 2025 (Translated from the Creole delivery)



My Dear Compatriots,

I am speaking to you with a great relief and great pride.

Thanks to your support, your understanding and your patriotism we have succeeded in taking the country away from the hands of a mafiosi clan who had taken possession of the State of Mauritius.

I wish to thank all Mauritians for this great victory. It's a victory for all Mauritians who have taken back their destiny into their own hands. You have voted for unity and freedom. I have a feeling you have rejected repression, division and corruption. Many people I have met have told me that they have a feeling that they have been delivered from evil, that there was a black cloud over our country, that they felt like a big weight has come off their heart. They can breathe and that they feel themselves free. There is nothing more important than a free people. Never in the history of our country we have felt what we have felt during the last ten years as prisoners of fear. We were afraid to express ourselves, and to speak on the phone. We were afraid to express ourselves openly.

At the 10 November election, Mauritians have shown that their freedom is more important than money or anything else. You have shown by your votes that you will not allow anybody to make a prisoner of yourself in your own country. It's a victory for your freedom and for our rainbow nation.

Not only we can, but we have a right to feel proud. There is nothing more important than our freedom, you feel you are a free people. Never in the course of our history have we felt as we have felt during the past ten years as Prisoner of fear.

Life is not a fatality. We can rid ourselves of the mafia. With this government team we can reconstruct our country. We have done it before. Together, we shall do it again as a united nation. One thing we can tell you, we shall honour our promises. Change is not just a promise, it's a contract.

We are in government for a mere six weeks, change has already begun, in spite of the disastrous economic situation. We have given the 14e month pay to more than 90% of Mauritian employees, price of fuel has gone down for the first time in years. Parliament has begun to operate as the temple of democracy. But there is no comparison between the MSM goalkeeper and the lady president of the National Assembly.

We have revoked the ridiculous law under which you had to re-register your SIM card, taking your picture, all your personal details to spy on all the movements of Mauritians. We are reviewing the education system in full. If your child does not obtain three credits, he will not have to abandon but can carry on with his studies.

We are renegotiating the Chagos deal. It is not simply a question of money, it is a question honour, dignity and justice. Some days ago, the Secretary of State of America, Anthony Blinken, spoke to me. We hope we can come to an agreement which will be in our interest in the long term.

My dear compatriots, you know to reconstruct a country it demands sacrifice and patience. I do not possess the magic stick. It demands working without break every day. People who ran our country for the last 10 years have taken our country not near a precipice but deep into a precipice.

Many people tell me that immunity cannot be given to people who have damaged our country in this way. Me, I say that all those people must answer for their actions. They have to give an account of their actions while in power within the framework of the law.

When you put the former government out of office, you also sanction their arbitrary and dominating attitudes. I am a democrat, and democracy can only survive and be regulated in a country governed by the rule of law and by independent institutions. Everything must be done in all legality. That everybody must answer for their actions is important so that there is no repeat of abuse, thefts and malpractice.

In a few days we shall deliver the keynote speech of our government. You will see then how we shall undertake the reconstruction of our country during the next five years. You will see the measures we shall take to straighten out the country at the economic, social and political levels. I am lucky to be at the head of a team of true patriots who have at heart the reconstruction of the country where it is good to live.

You remember that I told you that I would give you a team who will apply a programme as a bridge to the future. Today, when you look at the team, it is of people of experience and of people who are young. This is our strength. We are going to lay down the foundation for the future, and we are going to follow the route we are tracing with determination.

I have headed many governments and I can tell you that I feel that we are going to be a team of operators sincerely engaged in one line of direction.

Paul and myself, today our relation is marked by the wisdom of experience. You know life, that is the greatest school for apprenticeship, that is the greatest university. We are a dream team who is performing marvellously well during a difficult period of our history. With our partners, the Nouveaux Démocrates and Rezistans ek Alternativ, we are an ideal team to reconstruct and transform Mauritius into a country where everyone has his place based on meritocracy and where our young people regain hopes.

Today we all know that illegal drug is destroying young people, and consumption of drugs is strictly connected with the feeling of insecurity. We intend to act without any compromise against the drug barons. Their days are numbered. I am going to be intransigent, zero tolerance. The new Commissioner of Police, everybody knows his competence and his strictness. He

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is reorganising ADSU with a competent element to give good results and recreate NATReSA which the previous government did not wish to dismantle. You will see changes which will make Mauritius becoming a beacon in our region. This is our priority.

My dear compatriots, I have no doubt that we shall be able to achieve our objectives, one by one, with method, discipline and determination. You can trust us, you can trust me and I will honour that trust.

Before I end I wish to say that we all have a special thought for our compatriots of Agalega who are experiencing very hard times after the passage of cyclone Shibo. We are putting everything in place so that Agalega can return to its normal

life.

During this festive period we have a special thought for people who have lost a close member of the family. Their hearts are with the departed.

We wish all Mauritians, Rodriguans, all Agaléens, fellow citizens of St Brandon, a Sincere Happy New Year 2025.

Let us be united and strong like a true nation as the words of our national anthem sing: One People, One Nation, live In Peace, Justice and Liberty.

The Tamilians are over the moon



We thank our contributor Nadarajen K. Lingen for sending us the above picture of a banner which he shot during the weekend at Place d'Armes in Port Louis opposite Government House. Some members of the Tamil community wish to express their gratitude to the Prime Minister and his deputy, According to Nadarajen K. Lingen several such banners have been placed around the area.

On seeing the picture a designer of MOG said those Tamils do not mention why they are saying thanks to the honourable gentlemen. Na-

darajen K. Lingen says this banner seems to imply that the whole Tamil community share their gratitude for whatever reason. Is this true? He wishes to know who are these people who can anonymously place any banner in the country with impunity.

On the banner are pictures of two heads which look like mad dogs, tigers or lions. It was always thought the gracious peacock was the symbol adopted by the Tamilians. Are these animals intended to mean something?

The Tamils need a welfare association and a lobby

The Tamil MPs are happy that the present government has restored to the Tamil community the land at Réduit in the District of Moka which was taken back from them by the previous government. It is a victory for the *Rann Nou Later* movement who campaigned for the return of the land.

That Réduit land was given to the Tamils some twenty years ago for community development. Unfortunately, the Tamils never had the means to construct anything on the land for 20 years. In return for the land taken back, the previous government was to build a Cultural Centre for the Tamil community at Côte d'Or estimated at some Rs50 million. Will the Tamils have their cake and it, thus having the two good

things, the land at Réduit and the Côte d'Or Centre at the same time?

Veda Balamoody, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, who was a supporter of the *Rann Nou Later* movement has told the Tamil leaders at a reception in honour of the Tamil parliamentarians that they should not leave undeveloped the land given back to them.

The Tamils are the only people in Mauritius without a welfare organisation. Kovils, Cultural centres are OK, but where do the Tamils go for help when they need it? May the Tamil Parliamentarians in their wisdom agree to demand that a Tamil Welfare Centre, properly equipped and staffed, be also built at Réduit.

One of the *Rann Nou Later* campaigners rightly said that the Tamils in Mauritius do not exist officially. They are not recognised by the Constitution of the country, he said. As such they have no lobby. They do not exist.

P.C.