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Views expressed by contributors are their own

La Tragédie humaine in the Animal Kingdom

Never a Dull Moment in Mauritian Politics Ex-PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth faces charges of money laundering The Tribulations of a former Prime Minister



**Former Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth being escorted to court by a heavy commando of armed guards. They fear he may bolt away, especially as he is armed ... with a sheet of paper in his hand.
"How the mighty have fallen !"**

Coup de Théâtre: former Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, was questioned by officials of the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) on Saturday, 15 February 2025 following the allegations of high-flyer Josian Laval Deelawon, owner of My Leisure & Project Ltd and a conglomeration of other businesses whose *chiffres d'affaires* run into multi-million rupees, to the effect that the sum of some Rs 114 million in various currencies (**see list further down**) found on the premises of his Chief Financial Officer, Nitish Oomah, at Pointe aux Cannoniers,

**Highflyer
Josian Laval
Deelawon**



and on his own premises at Bain Boeuf, Péreybère, belonged to former Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth.

Among his businesses, it is reported that Josian Deelawon runs an estate agency selling to high profile personalities around the world. His successful travel tour operations bring him into contact with very wealthy foreign travellers.

The high-flyer told investigators that the hoard of Rs114 million (plus jewellery) found on his premises was sent to him by former PM Pravind Jugnauth for safekeeping. (*The question is being asked by real independent journalists as to who, in the first instance, tipped off the authorities that Deelawon had the money on his premises.*)

Jugnauth was first questioned by the Major Crime Investigation Team (MCIT) and the FCC on Saturday 15 February 2025, then detained at Moka Police station where he spent the night, later put *en état d'arrestation*, and subsequently charged with the Money Laundering offence. He will stand trial later in the year.

Some people have tried to draw a parallel with defeated Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam's case of 6/2/2015 when some 220 million rupees worth of currencies were seized on his premises at Des-forges Street, in Port Louis, and at his residence at Vacoas. The observers say that this Jugnauth's occurrence is a repeat of the *crache en l'air tombe lor néné* scenario: *What Jugnauth did unto others is being done unto him !!!*

Ten years' rule

Over the ten years (2014 to 2024) that Pravind Jugnauth had been Prime Minister of Mauritius he had managed to make lots and lots of enemies for various reasons as stated elsewhere in this issue. To sum up it here, it may be said that there are those who, in the presence of evidence so far, believe he is guilty. There are also those who, evidence or no evidence, want him to be found guilty, so much hatred do they harbour for him and his wife Kobita, who is also in the line of vision of the FCC investigators for questioning.

According to the turn of event, former PM Pravind Jugnauth would have requested Josian Laval Deelawon who lives at Bain Boeuf near Péreybère to keep for him four suitcases, which would be brought to him by a woman.

**Chief Financial
Officer Nitish
Oomah**



Deelawon told the FCC that it was Mrs Devianee Ramchurn who brought the suitcases to him and his Chief Financial Officer, Nitish Oomah, who lives at Pointe aux Cannoniers. Who tipped the police of those transactions has not been revealed by any party as yet? In any case, based on informa-

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tion received by police, the Major Crime Investigation Team (MCIT) made a raid on Deelawon's premises at Bain Boeuf, Péreybère, and Nitish Oomar at Pointe-aux-Canonnières on Saturday 15 February. Three suitcases and a bag were seized at Deelawon Residence, and a suitcase at Nitish Oomah's residence. These suitcases and bag were reported to contain money in various currencies amounting to some 140 million rupees.

Pravind Jugnauth named

When the money was seized at his premises at Bain Boeuf, Péreybère, on Saturday 15 February, Josian Deelawon told the investigators that the suitcases belonged to former PM Jugnauth who had entrusted them to him for safekeeping.

If this money does not belong to him (Deelawon), but belongs to the former PM, then this is considered as a case of money laundering. The police at that stage decided that it was a matter for the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) to proceed.

The FCC did not take long to make a landing at Pravind Jugnauth's residence at Angus Road in Vacoas on Saturday, 15 February. After hours of



Devianee Ramchurn, Deputy Mayor of Vacoas-Phoenix, a former champion runner with quite a few trophies to her name. Now accused of running suitcases for former PM Jugnauth

HQ at Réduit for questioning about the money reported to be theirs. After hours of probing, Mrs Kobita Jugnauth was provisionally released.

Pravind Jugnauth himself was detained and spent the night in a cell at the Moka Police Station. He appeared before the Weekend Bail and Remand Court on Sunday, 16 February. After of hours of probing, late in the night, the magistrate decided to grant him conditional discharge subject to the payment of two bonds of Rs750,000 each and a debt acknowledgement of Rs 5 million.

Mrs Devianee Ramchurn

Mrs Devianee Ramchurn, Deputy Mayor of the town of Vacoas-Phoenix, and a sporting figure in her youth, arrested by the FCC on Saturday 15 February 2015, following the allegation by Josian Deelawon that she took the suitcases from Pravind Jugnauth for delivery to Nitish Oomah and himself in January 2025.

Mrs Ramchurn spent the night in detention and appeared before the Weekend Court on Sunday 16 February. She was released on conditional bail on Monday, 17 February, following the intervention of her lawyer

The two other protagonists, Josian Deelawon and Nitish Oomah who also appeared before the Weekend Court were refused bail and are still in detention (at the time of writing).

According to press report other persons connected with this 'suitcases' transaction may also be investigated by the FCC. On Wednesday, 19 February 2025, Sanjiv Ramdane, brother of Kobita Jugnauth, owner of the Maradiva Hotel complex of Flic en Flac, was brought in for questioning by the FCC owing to his close friendship and business connection with Josian Deelawon.

Searches made at his residence and at the hotel revealed no incriminating evidence. No accusation has been made against Pravind Jugnauth's brother-in-law. The brother of Josian Deelawon and the



Sanjiv Ramdane, owner of the Maradiva Hotel Complex at Flic en Flac. Wealth inherited from rich father Sir Kaliash Ramdane of the prosperous landowners Teelock family, formerly of Brisée Verdière.

daughter of Devianee Ramchurn have been questioned by the FCC without any action taken against them.

Pravind Jugnauth will appear in court in August 2025 to answer a charge of money laundering and Mrs Devianee Ramchurn also will appear in court in August 2025 to answer a charge of conspiracy in connection with this case of money laundering.

Suresh Coonjee Beeharry



Mrs Kobita Jugnauth on the way to court. She looks rather distressed by the experience, a far cry from the Iron Lady she is often portrayed to be or the Lady Macbeth that her former bosom friends (turned-enemies) have nicknamed her.

searching, it was reported that nothing incriminating was found on the ex-PM's premises. However, the ex-PM, and his wife Kobita, were taken to FCC

Currencies of the 140 million rupess seized on the premises of Travel operators J.L. Deelawon and N. Oomah

Devises étrangères

Euro Found on the premises of Nitish Oomah and Josian Deelawon

Livre Sterling

Dollars américains / dollars sing

Dirhams

Roupiés indiennes

Rand



Descente de police at ex-PM's residence at Angus Road, Vacoas,.

"Let justice be done, though the heavens fall."

The correspondence below has been sent to us by an acquaintance with a possible purpose to make us aware of the agissement of the old regime in certain situations. There is also the possibility that the sender wants us to publish the text. As a totally independent publication since the days of Mauritius News (UK), we have always abide by the >>> that we want our readers to see both sides of the coin and to let them hear the ding . . . and the dong . . . of the bell. Our attitude has always been "Publish and be damned," avoiding libel at the same time.

We trust that Mr Axel Cheney will forgive us for taking the liberty to publish on our online publication his text about his experience under the previous regime.

Dear Pravind,

Once again, today, I pray for you.

I pray that justice may serve you with the fairness you so brazenly and unscrupulously denied to so many.

Like countless others who have suffered at the hands of your authoritarian, corrupt, and decaying police force, I cannot help but recall that fateful September morning in 2017—when, instead of addressing the damning and irrefutable facts of the Yerrigadoogate scandal, you sent officers to my home at 4 a.m., in an act as laughable as it was sinister. From that moment on, my service to the public interest has repeatedly clashed with your Machiavellian maneuvers: Euroloan, Biscuitgate, St. Louis Gate, the MedPoint Cover-Up orchestrated by ICAC, the scandalous mismanagement of our borders amid your spouse's privileged travel arrangements during the height of COVID, Angus Road, the Menteur Menteur series, my forced eviction from your Wakashio press conference, the unlawful interception of my communications—the list of abuses, betrayals, and deceptions goes on.

But who am I, today, to declare that you are merely reaping the bitter fruits of your own poisoned tree? God gives, God takes. Who am I to judge, to celebrate, or to mourn?

Strangely, I feel a pang of sadness for you. Encircled by the very police who once served as your instruments of power—now reduced to your captors—you stand alone.

The vilification on social media is relentless. The fireworks that erupted in celebration of your arrest must have echoed deep within your soul. The weight of such hatred is crushing for any man.

Yet, my sorrow is not for you alone. I grieve for your daughters—though they may have unknowingly benefitted from your exploitation of the system, they were never given a choice. Today, they must bear the judgmental stares and whispered condemnations of their fellow citizens, enduring the repercussions of your actions, inactions, and lies. And your mother—at her age, she should never have had to witness such a disgraceful downfall. Ask any victim of your regime's repression, and they will tell you: the deepest agony does not stem from the suffering inflicted upon oneself, but from the anguish it brings to those we love—our spouses, our parents, our children.

My parents raised me to extend kindness even to those who have wronged me. I do not wish you harm. Instead, I wish for justice—not vengeance, not vendetta, but the true and unwavering justice that this country so desperately needs.

Fiat iustitia ruat cælum: "Let justice be done, though the heavens fall."

TRUTHfully yours,

Axel Cheney

Jugnauth sur la Selette

Former Prime Minister Pravind Kuma Jugnauth is being accused of money laundering. On the strength of allegations made against him by a businessman, Josian Laval Deelawon, on Saturday, 15 February, 2025, that he arranged for some Rs114 million rupees in foreign currencies, contained in suitcases, to be hoarded at his place.

Jugnauth and his wife were arrested and questioned by the Major Crime Investigation Team (MCIT) and the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC), and his own residence at Angus Road, Va-coas, was searched. Nothing incriminating was found. His wife was allowed to go home on the same night. Pravind Jugnauth spent the night in police cell and appeared at the Weekend Court on Sunday, 16 February 2025. After hours under fire, he obtained bail and conditional discharge. Formal prosecution will take place in August next.

Rejoicings

There are considerable rejoicings in Mauritius among some compatriots who harbour an innate hatred for political figure Pravind Kumar Jugnauth for various reasons:

For some it's an innate hatred which they cannot help. For these, his whole persona oozes hatred. This is the natural instinct characteristic of the animal kingdom where creatures are born with the capacity to devour one another.

There are also those enamoured of the labour leader Navin Chandra Ramgoolam, or of the MMM leader Paul BÈrenger. They love these leaders as a result of their individual charisma. It may however be pointed out that there are more politicians who have deserted the MMM, and disavow Paul BÈrenger to join other political parties. Why?

There are the frustrated senior members of the MSM who became disillusioned when Pravind Jugnauth was made leader of the Party, on the departure of his daddy SAJ, riding over their heads.

There are those who have just come of age to vote and who have been fed on the bashing of the ruling party, the MSM. The past, when they were still crawling on fours, is of no concern of theirs. As for the future, they believe what they are promised, as does every new generation.

There are those of different castes, within his own Hindu Community, who feel they are sniffing the behind of a lower caste. They cannot bear such a situation. They bent over forward under the father, but they now feel it's too much to have to do it under

the son as well.

There are those who believe that Pravind Kumar Jugnauth was an autocrat whose 10 years at the helm of government was characterised by measures meant to punish or subjugate the people. Within this group are those who have actually been at the receiving end of the treatment and bear witness.

There is on the other hand, the pro-Jugnauth sympathisers who believe that there is an element of communalism or *ìcommunautarismî* which is inevitable in a multiracial society where the administration is always viewed, by one and another, with suspicion and distrust.

There is above all, the power of the press. The press is very jealous of its independence, but how do newspapers view this independence? What right does this independence bestow on newspapers? Does that independence bestow on newspapers the right to be-one sided in their analysis of events? Or should the newspapers express the views as seen by both sides of the spectrum? A lot of bashing is done by some newspapers that has a great influence on the public.

Some newspapers may choose to report on the negativity of one party while ignoring all the damnations of another party. This is how some publications may choose to exercise their freedom.

Suresh Coonjee Beharry