

L'Union  
fait  
La Force



# Mauritian Overseas Gazette

Email : mauritianoverseasgazette@outlook.com  
Website : <http://www.mauritianoverseasgazette.com>



Vol 2025 Issue No 59

A Magazine for the Mauritian Diaspora

A totally independent publication

Editor: Peter Chellen (Former Editor of Mauritius News 1983 - 2015)

21.03.25

Views expressed by contributors are their own

## Provision of a new Parliament building is cause for concern



Government House, seat of the Mauritius Legislative Council during colonial era. Became National Assembly after independence. On the far right, across the road, the Treasury building can be seen.



New National Assembly, behind Government House, built in the 1960s after independence. Picture taken from verandah of Treasury building, just opposite.



The old Treasury building which used to accommodate the Accountant-General's HQ, the Audit Department and the Head Office of the Ministry of works was totally converted into Prime Minister's Office.

**During his Independence celebrations visit to Mauritius, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi informed the Mauritian nation that India would support the costs of the construction of a new Parliament building for Mauritius. But Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam has not said a single word about this proposal from his chum Mr Modi. Why?**

Mr Modi's proposal has caused serious concern in certain quarters, especially among those who have at heart the conservation and preservation of our national heritage. Their concern is what's to become of the existing Parliament which forms part of Government House facing Place d'Armes leading to the waterfront.

No mention has been made by anyone as to the locality or location of the proposed construction. As Central Port Louis is very congested it may be assumed that the new Parliament will be outside the capital where there is plenty of vacant land. But Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam,

as we say, has not breathed a single word about this project. The reason for this blackout is very likely that he is not in favour of this idea of moving the National Assembly from where it is, facing the old Treasury Building which is itself the Prime Minister's office. For him, it is extremely convenient to move from his office to the Assembly across the road and back through the existing tunnel. If the Assembly should move miles away from Port Louis, the *va et vient* will be rather a problem.

But a more important reason as to why the incumbent PM may not favour the idea of a new building is that the present edifice received the blessings of his father, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (SSR) who was the PM of Mauritius at the time of its construction in the 1960s. This building would have surely received his endorsement. The present Parliament building, therefore, is a relic to the memory of SSR. This memory is perpetuated by very existence of the

existing building as Mother Parliament of the country. So all in all, the provision of a new Parliament is not an idea that is very appealing to Ramgoolam The Younger.

On the other hand, it cannot be said that the existing building accommodating the National Assembly has many fans within the Mauritian community. Someone has described it as a "toad ready to hop off the ground." On the hand, there is absolutely not a single postcard picture of it on sale for visitors to write home about it. You never see any visitor stopping to take pictures of the building.

All the same, for something that belongs to the history of Mauritius, no one will ever attempt to remove it for a replacement. It will certainly be kept in place for posterity as part of our national heritage, should a new Parliament ever be provided.

**Suresh Coonjee Beeharry**



# Trump Complains about Japan

*From Mylene*



***"I love Japan. We have a great relationship with Japan. But we have an interesting deal with Japan where we have to protect them but they don't have to protect us," U.S President Donald Trump told reporters on March 6 at the White House.***

**He is absolutely correct, but he neglected to mention that it was the United States that established the nonreciprocal pact.**

## What is the Pact?

After World War II, President Truman approved a document titled "U.S. Initial Post-Surrender Policy for Japan."

There were two main objectives: first, to eliminate Japan's war potential in order to prevent the resurgence of militarism; and second, to transform Japan into a democratic nation aligned with pro-United Nations principles. In exchange, the United States committed to providing military protection of the Japanese islands.

## How many American bases are there in Japan?

The United States operates approximately 128 bases in 49 countries, with Japan hosting the most at 14, followed by the Philippines with 9. Among these installations, Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, the southernmost island of Japan, is notable for being the largest military facility in the Asia-Pacific region and home to the largest wing in the Air Force.

## Why so many military bases in Japan?

**Many reasons:**

### Japan's geographic location provide the U.S bases:

With the ability for rapid deployment and operations in the Asia-Pacific region  
 capability to deter aggressors  
 protect the Homeland  
 aid Japan's defense  
 enhance regional peace and security.

During the Cold War, electronic and aerial surveillance was conducted out of Japan.

## Who pays for the bases?

According to information from Wikipedia. Japan covers about

75% of the costs associated with U.S basing - amounting to about \$4.4 billion as of 2008.

According to the Nikkei Shimbun, the U.S. ambassador to Japan, George Glass stated, "We've had consistent support by the Japanese for our military in and around \$1.4 billion a year."

He emphasized that this figure would need to increase and mentioned a significant backlog of \$50 billion worth of American military equipment that Japan had purchased but had yet to receive.

*(Depending on the source, the figures can vary significantly)*

## How do the Japanese feel about the U.S. bases?

In mainland Japan, many residents appear to value U.S support, particularly in light of concerns about China's increasing influence. However, the situation is quite different in Okinawa, where locals bear the brunt of the military presence, with over 70% of U.S. military personnel stationed there.

Furthermore, under the current agreement, American service members fall under U.S. legal jurisdiction, which means Japanese courts lack the authority to hold them accountable for their actions. Since 1972, Okinawa has experienced an increase in criminal cases involving U.S. military personnel, contributing to ongoing tensions in the region.

In conclusion, Japan is constrained by the agreement established by the United States. Even if they wanted to, they would be unable to protect any other country, much less themselves.

## Who's going to tell the president?

### Who is going to tell the President?

As read on the Internet, many of his own fellow countrymen are trying to assess his performance in his own America and on the world stage. American Psychiatry professionals are writing everyday on their facebook pages that they believe that he is subject to the "delusions de grandeur". There is absolutely no doubt that Mr Donald Trump is the most powerful man in the world. He is aware of it. How is he using this power? The general consensus is that he is suffering from the megalomania syndrome. P.C.



# Local Government Elections

## The Town Hall Polling

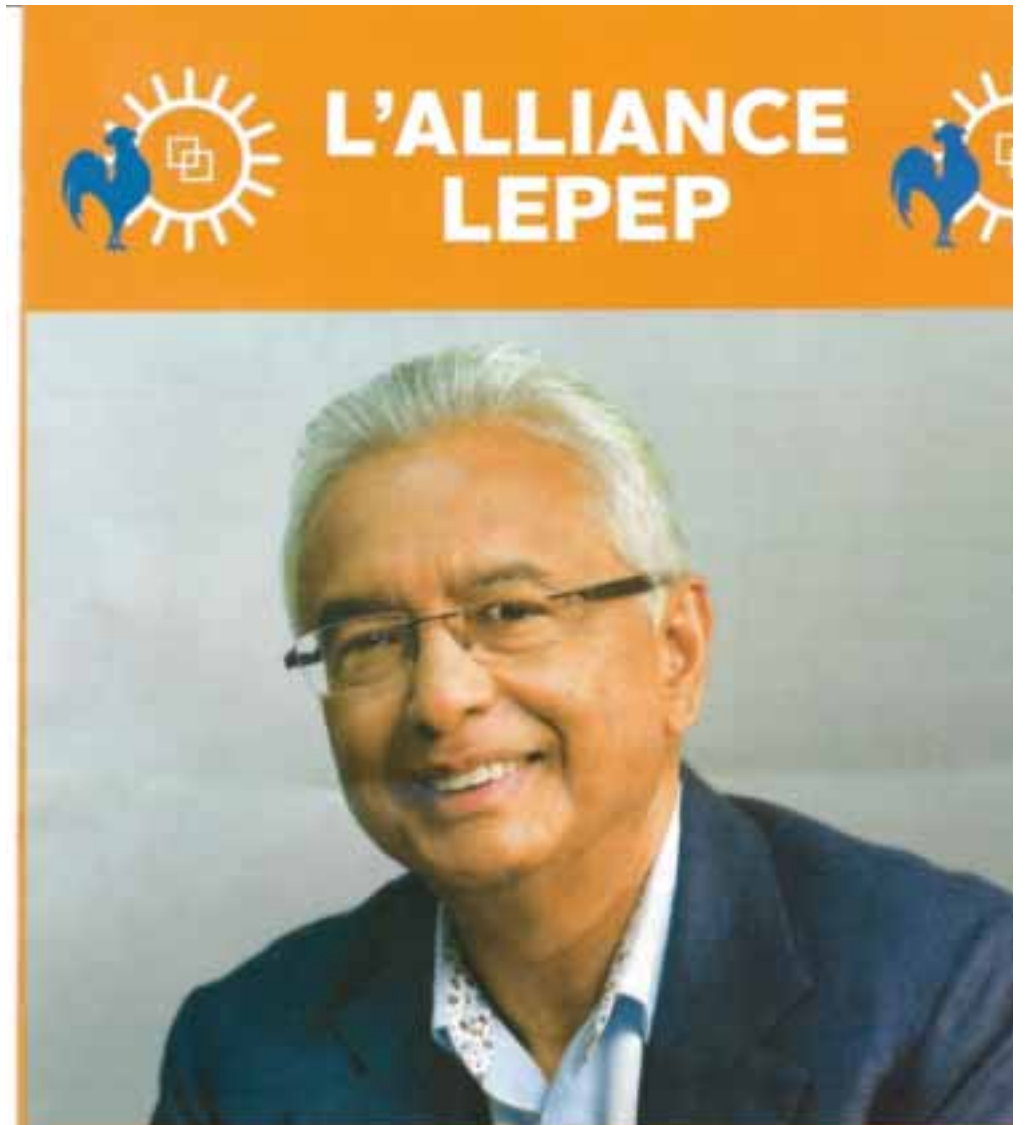
### The Mouvement Socialist Militant Opts Out

Elections to City Hall, town halls and village councils were postponed by the previous administration for the past 10 years. This was one of their failures which provided ammunition to the Opposition to lambast the L'Alliance Lepep government and more especially during the November General Election campaign. Because of this antidemocratic measure, the previous government was accused of dictatorship, depriving the nation of their right to choose their reps to town halls and the local councils

The fact is that, several factors had contributed to the crushing defeat of the L'Alliance Lepep government (60-0) at the 2024 general election from which they still find it hard to recover. The scar of the defeat will take a long time to heal. It is therefore not surprising that the MSM has decided not to contest the local council elections to be held on 4th May 2025. It's too close to the recent general election, they say. They believe that the animosity against the leadership of MSM boss, Pravind Jugnauth, is still too vivid.

Yet, the Alliance Lepep which had introduced a very popular measure in abolishing the Council Tax payable by the townsfolks. But this not register in their favour. The abolition of the Council Tax should have brought them lot of support. There was previously quite a bit of dissatisfaction in the fact the town property owners were paying the council tax however modest their properties were. But the residents of the villages, however modern and luxurious their properties were, did not pay any tax, Nor did the owners of beach bungalows. The abolition of the council tax generally was certainly welcomed at the time. But it went out of people's mind by the time of the general election in November last.

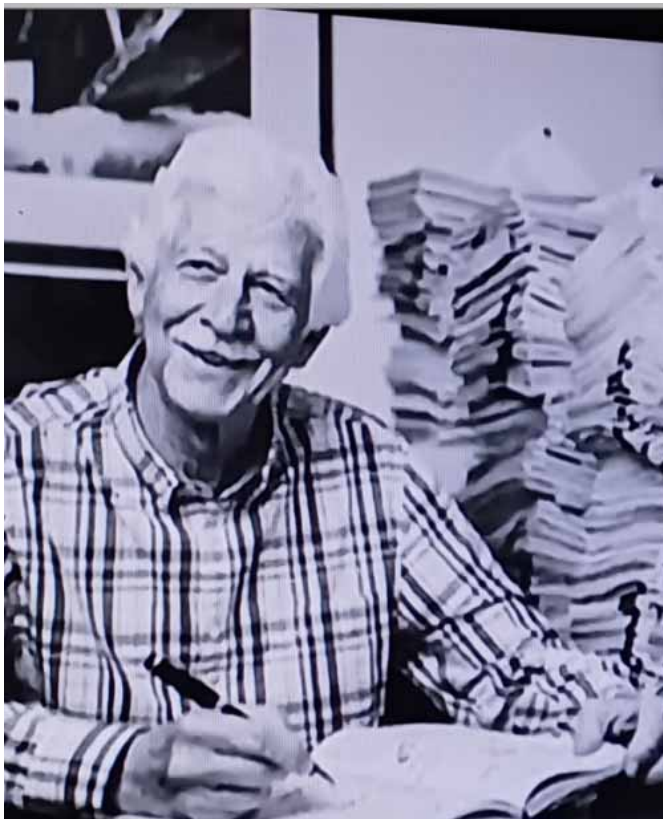
It is said that some 20 parties have entered the fight for the estimated 400 seats of the five municipalities, namely of Port Louis, Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes, Vacoas-Phoenix and Curpepipe. The L'Alliance du Changement, headed by Labour leader Navin Ramgoolam and made up of the Labour Party, the MMM, Nouveaux Démocrates, Resistans ek Alternativ, is believed to be still in the honeymoon mode



**Pravind Jugnauth, leader of the L'Alliance Lepep featured on pamphlet for the last general election**

following their immense victory at the November 2024 General Election. This alliance is expected to scoop the majority of the seats. The forecast is, however, that the smaller parties will secure a few seats as a result of their leaders' charisma.

## MMM Leader Paul Bérenger Celebrates 80th Birthday



**MMM leader Paul Bérenger celebrated his 80th anniversary on 26 March 2025**

As kingmaker, Paul Bérenger is on top of the world. He has helped his political chum Navin Ramgoolam to secure a 60-0 victory at the November 2024 General Election.

Bérenger's MMM support within the L'Alliance du Changement has helped Navin Ramgoolam to come back to power after *une traversée du désert* over the last 10 years. Today, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam is the most powerful man in Mauritius who can do almost what he wants, with everyone in the country bowing to his will. This has been achieved to no little will on the part of the MMM leader.

But Paul Bérenger himself has not always been at the top of the political spectrum in Mauritius. He has experienced a lot of Ups and Downs. The cartoon on the right by POV of Sunday Express of 31 August 2014 indicates that he still did not know which party leader would support for the December election. In the end he went in alliance with Ramgoolam and was defeated.

At the 2019 General Election, he was not any luckier. Still in alliance with the Labour Party, the L'Alliance Lepep headed this time by the young Pravind Jugnauth took the majority of seats of the National Assembly.

But Bérenger has been third time lucky, as the saying goes. With his brethren Navin Ramgoolam, the defeat on Jugnauth The Younger in November last has been very severe.

