

Municipal elections

Former Minister Anil Gayan is a
candidate for a council seat



Over 40 years after being, at National Assembly level, Foreign Affairs Minister, and subsequently Health Minister, and Tourism Minister, Me Anil Gayan is now seeking election, as a municipal councillor for the Municipality of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill.

Usually, most budding politicians would make their debut in politics at local government level and work their way up. For Me Gayan, it's the reverse. After having been there at the top of local politics, he now makes a comeback starting from scratch. It is to be wondered whether he is the first Mauritian politician to be so engaged.

At one time he created the Front National Mauricien which fielded candidates for the general elections, though not successfully. It is reported that he later joined the Parti Liberator

and was successfully returned to the National Assembly as a member for the constituency of Beau Bassin/Petite Rivière in 2014.

For the forthcoming municipal elections to be held on Sunday, 4 May 2025, he has now constituted a new party known as 'Vré Parti Liberator' (True Parti Liberator), a rather provoking name that could insinuate or imply that the existing Parti Liberator of Yvan Collendavelloo is not genuine). The new party is fielding 22 candidates for the 120 seats of the five municipalites of the island.

The ruling government L'Alliance du Changement, headed by PM Navin Ramgoolam, contesting every single one of 120 seats to be provided for, is favoured by public opinion as the party that will scoop the majority of seats in every town.

Anil Gayan has had the opportunity to fulfil very successful assignments as an official at the service of other countries. Of late he was meant to be candidate for the post of Chairman of the African Union Commission, which was supported by the outgoing government.

One would have thought that Anil Gayan could have found support from the Labour Party, being blood cousin to Labour stalwart Arvind Boolell. They eat from different plates.

It would be interesting to see such an eminent figure back in local politics, and make his way up again

Suresh Coonjee Beeharry

A Novelty

The forthcoming municipal ballot will introduce a very important innovation: Vote Counting on the same day of polling. The country is waiting to see how this will work as regards the logistic, and the personnel who will have worked thro' the day, from morning to night. It is not impossible that such exercise may reach the early morning, if there is a question of recount, as frequently happens.

Detention torture in
Mauritius

The detention of any person by police in filthy cells in Mauritius and in other primitive countries is certainly no pleasure trip for any detainee, as one can imagine.

For an idea of what it is like to undergo such an experience, we wish to give some publicity (see below) to Ms Touria Prayag's book "Provisional Charges" published by

Graphic Press Ltd, which in the chapter on "Modern Dictatorships" tells us "How the system works."

From our point of view, we can say that the system is barbaric. The jailers have been trained from the time of recruitment into the police force to throw in the dustbin the bit of humanity they may have been endowed with that far. With training and persistent brainwashing, they do become robot-like creatures designed to inflict pain on all human beings who happen to get within their clutches. This sort of dehumanisation is not something that is restricted to Mauritius alone. It is a treatment that is inflicted on detainees in most primitive countries.

The tribulations of
Renganaden
Padayachy

Twice arrested within eight days on suspicion of failing as Finance Minister in the disbursement of funds from the Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC), Mr Renganaden Padayachy is the target of the slings and arrows from various strata of the highly virtuous Mauritian society.

When he appeared in court a crowd of good people gathered by the entrance were shouting abuse at him in the presence of the authorities.

The political party to which Mr Padayachy belongs was not itself above such criticism for the 10 years in power to 2024. The government of which he was a senior figure was, rightly or wrongly, accused of autocracy and power abuse. Are we now witnessing the other side of the medal?

Mr Padayachy is forcefully denying accusations of bringing pressure to bear on the former Governor of the Bank of Mauritius, Harvesh Seegoolam, and Mr Jitendra Bissessur, the CEO of MIC to approve hundreds of millions of rupees of credit facilities to the two main borrowers, as the court was told by those two officials.

In other countries of the world, fund managers, and even bank managers, officially, receive a commission for every loan successfully arranged in favour of an applicant.



Is it the case in Mauritius as well? It's therefore not surprising that toxic loans are made in Mauritius on the strength of a mere Business Plan without the submission of any appropriate security. At the very moment in Mauritius, there are numerous cases of toxic loans receiving legal attention.

It is not unnatural for people under investigation to deny everything, as advised by their legal rep. So a situation of "pas moi sa, li sa" arises where the blame is laid on the man next door.

As properly advised, the incriminated characters sometimes claim victimisation and earn the sympathy of the know-all crowd. Is Mr Padayachy a victim of reprisals by the new regime as claimed by members of his party?

S.C.B.

In Mauritius, politicians of all hues do now and then do get caught in the net. Two prime ministers and other politicians have so far suffered the humiliation of incarceration.

Knowing the *aleas* of the job, why do people still opt for a political career which demands unbridled ambition in order to succeed. On the way up, one should not hesitate to tread over the bodies of others including friends and benefactors. They should be ready to get involved in dealings of all sorts.

P.C.

Modern dictatorships - How the system works

Extract from Provisional Charges by Touria Prayag

- The police - who many believe serve the Government rather than the citizens - descend on your house to arrest you on a mere suspicion - sometimes on a mere allegation. If there is no allegation, one can easily be made up. It is literally as easy as that.
- They send a large, scary group of cops to your house to raid it, making sure there is enough police presence and movement to alert the neighbours that they are living side-by-side with a living criminal.
- While searching your house, the police barge into all the rooms and finger your personal items, those of your spouse and loved ones.
- If you object to this, the police may rub it in by making a nasty joke about things which are sacred to you and your family.
- The police may even handcuff you when you are guilty of nothing, shove you in a police car and drive you to a police station.
- When they want to go full Monty, the cops mishandle you. Once you are dishevelled and

- frightened out of your wits, with a bit of luck, a news photographer will appear and snap a photo or two and the humiliation is immortalised.
- While you are in custody, you find how ghastly the conditions are: a filthy, stinking mattress, nauseating toilet facilities, doors which cannot close for any privacy and no possibility of being able to pass the time other than looking at the wall and trying to guess the time of the day.
 - The police can prevent your family from bringing food or drink to you so you have to make do with whatever inedible, unhygienic food you are served. If you suffer from a chronic disease or have a special diet to follow, hard luck!
 - The police can choose to detain you in a police cell far away from your home. They just have to say that all the police cells in the person's vicinity are full - something that is rather plausible considering that, by definition, everyone is a criminal. So the police get your family to travel the length and breadth of the country and their daily activities are thus halted while you remain in custody.
 - Police can heighten the humiliating experience by asking you strip and turn round while a whole tribe of cops is gloating and grinning at your private parts and making inappropriate comments.

En Marge du Budget 2025-26

COIN DES CONSOMMATEURS

Le premier budget du nouveau gouvernement arrive à grand pas. Les attentes du grand public sont nombreuses et urgentes après avoir subi toutes les calamités possibles pendant ces dix dernières années. La nouvelle gestion au pouvoir a promis beaucoup et le grand public en attend



Claude Canabady

Le gros souci qui attend le gouvernement, c'est que beaucoup a été promis et le petit peuple est en attente pour voir les vrais changements tant attendu dans leur quotidien. Malheureusement entre attente et conclusion, il y a un gouffre qui parfois peut être gigantesque.

Evidement tous les changements promis ne verront pas le jour immédiatement car beaucoup demandent du temps avec parfois des procédures compliquées et des changements dans les lois du pays, malheureusement, c'est la réalité de la vie.

Comme une association des consommateurs, la CEA comprend et accepte la situation. Pour pacifier le grand public, le gouvernement a un gros travail à faire. C'est de convaincre la population d'accepter cette période d'attente en donnant des explications plausibles et peut être un bilan mensuel. Entretemps, Je pense que c'est essentiel que les autorités viennent avec un plan psychologique spécialement au niveau de la communication pour mieux avancer. Le petit peuple souffre au quotidien de beaucoup de problèmes avec les différentes autorités gouvernementales. Pour pallier à tous ces manquements, on peut immédiatement mettre en place des mesures positives, cela apaisera la population.

La liste qui suit n'est qu'une partie des problèmes encourus par le petit peuple et les solutions possible et la CEA a préparé ces suggestions pour soulager les misères de la population au quotidien. Les mesures ne demandent pas beaucoup de temps pour mettre en pratique et très peu au niveau financier mais un suivi et une évaluation des initiatives mise en place sont essentielles pour faire du progrès.

Ces plaintes suivantes sont reçues presque au quotidien par la CEA et au fil des jours, des mois et des années, cela s'est accumulée pour devenir de plus gros problèmes et malgré nos efforts le statu quo a été maintenu sous l'ancien régime.

1) Le temps de répondre au téléphone dans les différents bureaux gouvernementaux est inacceptable et n'est pas customer friendly. Le consommateur fini par raccrocher après avoir vainement essayé et reste insatisfait.

Solution

- Enquêter pourquoi cela arrive et à quelle fréquence
- Etablir une norme pour pouvoir mesurer toute nouvelle initiative mise en place pour remédier au problème
- Demander au public de donner leur « Feedback » pour connaître l'efficacité des nouvelles mesures et réajuster le système mise en place si cela s'avère nécessaire.

2) Manque d'information affiché dans certains bureaux.

Solution

- Afficher les informations sur une notice board ou sur un pamphlet
- Assurer que les informations sont disponibles sur le site web (website)

3) Faire la queue pour avoir accès dans des bureaux du gouvernement et dans certaines pharmacies des hôpitaux et bouger de chaise en chaise (musical chair).

Solution

- Appareil (ticketing machine)
- Le consommateur peut s'asseoir sans avoir à bouger de chaise en chaise jusqu'à que son numéro est affiché ou appelé par le

hautparleur.

4) Ecrire une correspondance à un bureau gouvernemental et attendre en vain pour une réponse ou même un avis de réception

Solution

- Etablir une norme pour le temps alloué pour répondre à la lettre ou email et envoyer un avis de réception par lettre ou par email.

5) Demander un rendez-vous à un ministre par lettre ou email et ne pas recevoir une réponse ou même un avis de réception

Solution

Avis de réception avec une date approximatif pour le rendez-vous ou même obtenir des informations additionnels du demandeur pour voir si une autre personne peut le recevoir

Ce n'est que le tip de l'iceberg. Il y a beaucoup de problèmes assez basiques qu'on peut remédier assez facilement en suivant les solutions potentiels que j'ai énumérées. Comme j'ai dit au début, il y a beaucoup pour le gouvernement à faire pour honorer ses promesses mais au moins si le service est amélioré, cela aidera psychologiquement à pacifier les insatisfaits.

Il y en beaucoup d'autres problèmes basiques que je peux énumérer et les moyens pour améliorer la situation que je peux suggérer mais faute d'espace et pour constater si mes suggestions trouvent des preneurs, je m'arrête là mais au nom de la CEA, je confirme que nous sommes toujours à la disposition des autorités pour aider à soulager les misères du petit peuple et aider dans leur quotidien

A bon entendeur, salut

Claude Canabady
Secrétaire General
Consumer Eye Association (CEA)



N'oubliez pas de nous écrire soit par voie postale ou nous envoyer un courriel pour nous laisser avoir vos idées et vos attentes de la qualité de service que vous attendiez des entreprises économiques (détails sur notre site web)

Le « Consumers' Eye Association » (CEA) est une nouvelle association de consommateurs et entièrement à votre disposition pour vous aider dans tous vos problèmes de consommateurs. Vous pouvez visiter notre site web sur consumers' eye association ou nous écrire sur consumers.eye.association@gmail.com

Veuillez bien noter notre nouvelle adresse d'email. Nous avons aussi une page sur Facebook. Vous pouvez également nous contacter sur le 59743962. Venez nous rejoindre pour mieux défendre vos droits de consommateur car n'oubliez pas que c'est l'union qui fait la force.

CLAUDE CANABADY
SECRETAIRE GENERAL
CONSUMERS' EYE ASSOCIATION

Happy Easter



Golgotha

Throughout the island Easter was celebrated by the Christian community on this Sunday of 20 April 2025.

The theme among the Catholics as proclaimed by Bishop of Port Louis, Mgr Jean Michael Durhône, is Togetherness and Hope in this multicultural society of the island.



Dawood Rawat

Dawood Rawat damned by former Finance Minister Vishnu Lutchmeenaraidoo



V. Lutchmeenaraidoo

At his press conference on >> former Finance Minister Vishnu Lutchmeenaraidoo was adamant that emeritus businessman Dawood Rawat, was involved in a Ponzi scheme with the alleged intention to defraud investors. He said he had evidence that could prove it.

Mr Rawat is suing the Mauritius Government plus 11 personalities (including Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo), in the sum of one billion rupees for the destruction in 2004 of his investment conglomeration that included the BAI Insurance Company, the Bramer Bank, >>.

The former Finance Minister said that Mr Rawat would not get a single cent. He wants to know where all the money of the various companies has gone. According to Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo, It was the Mauritius Government who refunded the investors in the various companies all their money.

Another Knife into Padayachy

86 years old, Mr Armand Appavou, businessman of long-standing from sister island of La Réunion, is reported to have allegedly said that he was compelled by Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd (MIC) under the influence of former Finance Minister R. Padayachy to sell his shares in the hotel business in Mauritius to MIC to offset part of his loan to the Company.

As a businessman of considerable repute, Mr Appavou, according to Patrick Hilbert of Le Défi, has been doing business in Mauritius since 1987 and his transactions have very often reached rock-bottom. But he has always managed to shift from transactions to transactions and is still carrying on trading to this day,

in June 2024, he sold 70% of his hotel investments in Mauritius to MIC for 2.4 billion rupees. The article calls it "un mouvement stratégique qui marque sans doute une volonté de recentrage et de liquidation d'actifs pour assainir ses comptes."

If such is the case, that it was a ploy to redeem his debt to-



Armand Appavou

wards the MIC, Mr Appavou cannot have been forced to sell his 'actifs'.

The headlines went wild when the Reunion man said he was forced to dilute his holdings by the former Finance Minister to plant another nail in his coffin.

MSM Press conference



At the MSM press conference on 17 April 2025, the party chairman Joe Lesongard (on the left in the picture above) accused the present government of trying "de diaboliser" the Mouvement Socialiste Militant MSM) by the frequent arrests and detention of former Finance Minister, Renganaden Padayachy. based on malicious allegations.

Mr Lesongard accused the government of failing to fulfil the promises the PM and other MPs made to the electorate during the hustings to secure their votes, while, on other hand, the cost of living in the country is going through the roof. Law and order has broken down completely and no one feels safe in the country.

The Bhojpuri Language

There is some talk in Mauritius of taking the Bhojpuri language to the same level as the Creole language, which is officially taught in schools at various levels and recognised as a subject for examination purposes up the Cambridge School Certificate. The Creole language will soon be accepted a medium of expression in the National Assembly. Can the Bhojpuri language ever receive such recognition in Mauritius as the Creole language?

While the debate goes on, we take this opportunity to reproduce the article below which appeared in Mauritius News in London in its August 1995 edition. That was 30 years ago when the question of Bhojpuri was very relevant to Mauritius. Today, it is more so. Well, what is Bhojpuri?, we may ask. A look at the internet

and we are told "*Bhojpuri is a significant language in Mauritius, spoken by a notable portion of the population, particularly those of Indian descent. It serves as a link to ancestral heritage and cultural identity.*"

Bhojpuri Fever

Another engine of the Mauritian culture revolution

by Devinia Sookia

The aim of this article is to seek your support to promote racial harmony among us, and to use the space provided by the media to keep you informed of what is happening in the Bhojpuri Mauritian community.

In Mauritius the Bhojpuri language is being used as a 'race card' to advance 'private' interests of politicians under the guise of 'public' interests. The same comments would apply to our Number One, spoken Creole language.

The Creole and the Bhojpuri folklores for the basis of



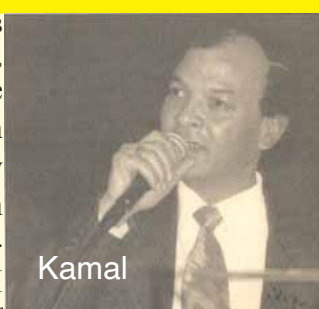
Bhojpuri Dance = Pic Internet

the Mauritian culture because they influence our food, our fashion and our conversation. Very often these two languages would incorporate a smack of Urdu, Tamil, Telegu, Marathi and Chinese/Mandarin too. Such fusion and respect is necessary, otherwise the quest for racial harmony would be in vain.

By promoting the Creole sega and the Bhojpuri sega abroad the artistes promote the Mauritian tourism as well mak-

ing Maurice known through its folklore. On Saturday, July 15, I attended a function at the Asian Centre in North London, organized by Mitty Ragnuth, Chairman of the Federation of Mauritian Associations, and I had the opportunity of seeing the Bhojpuri girls in action. With their electric hips they set the scene for yet another women revelation.

In this Bhojpuri emancipation they have sent a very bold message for liberation. I was indeed very impressed by the golden voice of male singer Kamal who interpreted film songs, the new and old classics. An engineer who did his secondary education at the Royal College of Curepipe before coming to the UK, his potential as a singer was further highlighted at the Battersea Town Hall on Saturday, July 22 during the show of the Bhojpuri Boys from Mauritius. He was joined by his wife Simi, encouraged by an enthusiastic audience. A genuine liking was instantly developed between them and the clapping audience.



Kamal

Like myself, very many enjoyed every second of that Mauritian experience. Kamal, as a curtain-raiser, created the sort of mood necessary for the warm welcome extended to the Bhojpuri Boys. Famous in Mauritius with such hit as 'Langan' the echo of their success has already reached us here in the UK. They really need little introduction. My special mention will rather be reserved for Stardust who need to be congratulated for that patriotic move to provide a show of such high standard. All complaint for the late start was quickly forgotten.

Among the audience were Suresh Taurah from Imbel Travel, Luc Cheung from Travel Centre (Clapham), Devinia and Bashir Sookia, Peter Chellen from Mauritius News, among so many others.

The occasion was seized by various organisers to announce their own Mauritian fête during the summer. Leaflets were distributed for: Maurifair – Sunday, 6 August, 1995 – Selby Centre, North London. (See previous issue); Mauritian Fun Day, 20 August, 1995 – Goan Association, Beckenham (See Advert opposite); Mauritian Day, 10 September, 1995, The Chestnuts, Walthamstow.

This article first appeared in Mauritius News Issue August 1995