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The Honeymoon Goes On *Une Lune de Miel Perpétuelle*



The 'elderly couple' has been at it for the good part of the past 30 years, i.e. since the 1990s when Dr Navin Ramgoolam was a neophyte, as green as those MPs *en herbe* who sit around him in the Mauritius National Assembly and who are there to ask questions, in turn, to prompt answers damning the previous administration, and to keep the game going. By the time Navin Ramgoolam came on the political scene in the 1990s, Paul Bérenger, leader of the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM) was already an old hand in Mauritian politics. Remember his infiltration among the dockers at his political debut in the late 1960s?

When Ramgoolam and Bérenger met for the time on the political scene, they were operating in different camps, kicking one another. At the time that Paul Bérenger was Minister of Finance at the turn of the century, Dr Navin Ramgoolam, by then the leader of the Mauritius Labour Party {Parti Travailleliste - (PTr)} said that when he would be at the helm of Government he would set up a Commission of Inquiry into the sale of a local bank (with foreign ownership) that involved a certain Harry S. And yet, soon enough, the two figures, Ramgoolam and Bérenger, were to come together, kissing one another on the same platform. The business of the Commission of Inquiry and all political dissension

have been thrown overboard. Yet again, as time went by and as frequently posted on social media, they would, now and then, be at dagger's drawn cursing one another on separate platforms. Now, in 2025, it's a matter of everlasting reconciliation. It has been, as an editorial of the old Mauritius News put it, a relationship of 'Kiss and Kick, and, Kick and Kiss'.

What is the position between the two political figures, Ramgoolam and Bérenger, in 2025? It is now 'kissing all the way'. The elderly couple has made peace, a peace that is likely to be a lasting one. In accordance with present traditions, after their demise in years to come, both of them are likely to have their statues by the sides of SSR and SAJ on the waterfront and their tombs at the Pamplemousses Botanical Garden as the Builders of Mauritius.

Yes, in 2024, they joined forces in an electoral pact, plus two other political leaders, namely Ashok Subron of Rezistans ek Alternativ and Richard Duval of the Nouveaux Démocrates, on the last leg of their political journey. It may be said that Bérenger has her daughter, vice president of daddy's party, to inherit the MMM while, Ramgoolam in that respect is like an orphan, *aucun enfant au seuil de ses jours éternels ne viendra recevoir*



ses adieux paternels . . . plus his political inheritance. Well, we are not there as yet. We can say, the partnership, as with all other *ménage à deux*, has had its fair share of ups and downs. But, now in 2025, it is thriving. Both partners are determined that the political alliance should not break down again. Paul Bérenger has declared publicly that his commitment is firm and will last through the five-year mandate received from the people while Navin Ramgoolam has done his *mea culpa* in public and told the nation that he has learned from his past mistakes. He is now a 'changed man'. No more macarena nights and wild beach parties for him.

The electorate believed him and gave the coalition made of PTr, the MMM, Le Nouveaux Démocrates (ND) et de Rezistans ek Alternativ (ReA), operating under the banner of L'Alliance du Changement all the 60 seats of the National Assembly at the November 2024 General Election. *La canaille* (Charles de Gaulle's qualification of the electorate) equally blessed the Quator with the control of the five municipalities of the country by an overwhelming majority of votes at the May 2025 local councils election.

The Honeymoon of the tandem goes on !

P.C.

Is it true?

Roshi Bhadain, leader of the Reform Party, says that this accusation of "*la caisse vide*" professed by the new Government is a pretext used by every incoming Government to discredit the previous administration and to veil their own inadequacies.

Could there be any veracity in this statement from Mr Bhadain? Well, we have heard American President Donald Trump saying that the present economic

chaos of the United States existed under his predecessor, Joe Biden, which he has inherited.

Mauritian Opposition leader Joe Lesongard has said in the National Assembly that the economic situation of Mauritius is not bleak at all, on which the present government is harping at every opportunity in the National Assembly and on every political platform.

Mahendra Seeruttun, former Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance has, of late, publicly

said that the economy of Mauritius is still in good shape, as left by the previous Government and is not in the least bankrupt, as repeatedly pretended by Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam.

It has been reported that the present Government is throwing on the pavement 1,725 local government employees recruited by the outgoing administration on whom the blame is laid for this '*Licenciement*.'

P.C.

Early May Bank Holiday in Blackpool

By Mylene



In its heyday, Blackpool attracted royalty, celebrities, the political elite and Hollywood stars. Photographs of their smiling faces decorate the walls of the establishments they once visited. Today, this seaside town shows signs of wear and tear and a certain kitschy appeal, yet it remains a lively place



Blackpool Tower Dunegrass

As a child, I loved the beach, the illuminations, the trams, the piers. I vividly remember the wax figure of the woman born with a pig's snout at Madame Tussauds wax work museum, and how I begged my parents for a donkey ride along the shore, an experience that turned out to be itchy, smelly and uncomfortable.

While the donkeys still roam the beach, some aspects have changed.

Along the sea front now stands "Dunegrass," an art installation that resembles a leaf perched on top of a 114-ft-long stem bending gracefully in the sea breeze. To me, it highlights how treeless the town centre has become.

The traditional horse-drawn carriages have been replaced by pretty Cinderella carriages, but the horses appear rather unhappy. The green Victorian shelters lining the promenade, once bustling spots where people waited for a chance to sit down, now stand empty. In fact, the whole town carries an air of emptiness, with very few holidaymakers in sight.



Vintage Victorian Shelter

Blackpool boasts not one, not two, but three piers: the North, Central, and South Piers. The North Pier, built during the Victorian era, is the oldest and features the iconic Big Wheel alongside free entertainment, food stalls and shops. Meanwhile, the South Pier Coaster and a variety of thrilling rides.

The Imperial Hotel, Blackpool Tower, and the annual dance competition -host of the annual dance competition - BBC show "Strictly Come Dancing" - are just a few of the magnificent buildings that define the grandeur of Blackpool.

Even though this isn't peak season (5 May) and the temperature was 11 °C (59 °F) which may account for the lack of tourists, I can remember a time when a Bank Holiday would draw massive crowds to Blackpool.



The Cinderella carriage

Winter Gardens and the Tower Ballroom are just a few of the magnificent buildings that define the grandeur of Blackpool.

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North Pier- the longest and oldest of the three piers



The Imperial Hotel

Take a look at the archives of the Blackpool Gazette for Blackpool in its prime.
www.blackpoolgazette.co.uk

For the attention of Hon. Ashok Subron, Minister of Social Security

"Retired people should be completely tax exempt. They have completely paid their dues."
This online quote was part of the Minister's electoral campaign pledges. When will this pledge be implemented !!!