

## Basic Retirement Pension à 65 ans

# Ramgoolam, Bérenger et Subron persistent et signent



Eliézer François

Puisque Ramgoolam, Bérenger et Subron persistent et signent, j'invite mes amis Facebookers et le public, en général, à lire ce texte qui a paru dans Le Mauricien 1 juillet 2025: -

Passe-moi la rhubarbe, je vous passerai le séné. You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. To gratte mo lédos, mo gratte séki pou toi. Ce n'est nullement par simple hasard que j'ai choisi de répéter cette phrase en trois reprises, le lecteur bien averti se rappellera que Ramgoolam et Bérenger viennent de se mettre en ménage pour la troisième fois.

Après la présentation du budget 2025/26 et le report de la Basic Retirement Pension à 65 ans, j'avais dénoncé cette décision comme étant un Deuxième Faux Pas du Gouvernement Ramgoolam, après le paiement discriminatoire et injuste du 14ème mois.

Em même temps, j'avais pris la décision de laisser les centrales syndicales, les travailleurs, les seniors et les autres mauriciens, continuer à manifester leurs dégoûts et mécontentements, à travers des marches de protestations, meetings publics, etc.

Cependant, en prenant lecture des discours de Paul Bérenger DPM et Navin Ramgoolam PM, comme rapportés dans Le Mauricien 27 juin 2025, j'ai éprouvé un sentiment de révolte, surtout contre Paul Bérenger, l'ex-président de la GWF et (grand défenseur) des travailleurs. Il veut se couvrir d'un manteau de grand patriote, d'un grand leader politique responsable, de grand historien et grand connaisseur de la politique d'ici et d'ailleurs. Quelle honte! Lui-même et Ashok Subron auraient dû être les derniers à soutenir cette décision anti-travailleurs.

SHAME on you Paul! SHAME on you Ashok!

Ici, je me permets un petit brin d'histoire autobiographique pour montrer à tous les mauriciens, aux travailleurs surtout, sans aucune prétention de ma part, La Différence.

Dans le premier gouvernement de coalition Ptr/PMSD post indépendance, je fus nommé Deputy Speaker (Deputy Chairman of Committees). À un certain moment, je fus révoqué comme Deputy Speaker pour être remplacé par Yousouf Mohamed. Pourquoi? J'avais refusé de voter deux lois scélérates qui étaient contre les intérêts des travailleurs, des journalistes et de la presse, en général.

Je suis alors parti pour m'asseoir dans les rangs de l'Opposition, avec L'IFB de Sookdéo Bissoondoyal et l'UDM de Guy Ollivry.

Oui, Messieurs les Ministres Paul Bérenger et Ashok Subron, deux ex-présidents de la GWF, je l'avais fait au nom de la Justice pour les travailleurs et au nom du Fair Play. Je n'étais pas resté comme vous cloués dans vos fauteuils marocains. Vous auriez pu, au moins garder le silence, au lieu de faire de grands dis-

cours. Comme va le dicton: "Speech is silver, Silence is gold." Quelle pitié!

Discours de Paul Bérenger:-

Je me permettrai ici de citer quelques extraits de ce discours.

- " Nou pei ek so bann zanfana avan tou " Quel grand patriote!
- " Zame mo kouyonn dimounn. " La maladie de cancer de Paul Bérenger?

(3) " J'ai toujours estimé que tout femme ou homme politique digne de ce nom a comme premier devoir un devoir de vérité. Dire la vérité même quand elle n'est pas bonne à dire. " Prière de lire 'La Vérité, La Sincérité & L'Intégrité' de Paul Bérenger ' dans mon livre Textes Choisis d'Eliézer François, le seul livre que j'écris et qui sera publié vers la fin de l'année 2025. Le livre n'est pas sorti avant les dernières élections générales afin de ne pas aider l'ancien Premier Ministre Mégalomane et l'ennemi de notre Démocratie, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, à obtenir un troisième mandat

(4) " Le FMI suit mieux que nos grands journalistes, ce que ces deux comités sont en train de fabriquer. " Bérenger a le culot d'être sarcastique envers les journalistes. Cependant, inconsciemment peut-être, il a utilisé le mot approprié. Car, d'après HACHETTE, Le Dictionnaire Pratique Du Français - fabriquer signifie (confectionner (une chose destinée à tromper). Définitivement, leurs recommandations seront basées sur la Discrimination, le Favoritisme, le Népotisme, le Communalisme et le Castéisme. Donc. ensemble avec les centrales syndicales, le peuple mauricien dit un GRAND NON à la BRP à 65 ans.

Discours de Navin Ramgoolam:

En voici un extrait de ce discours qui fait honte non seulement à tous les dieux du parti travailliste, mais aussi à tous les sympathisants travaillistes. Comment le Premier Ministre Navin Ramgoolam peut-il descendre aussi bas que ça pour amadouer Paul Bérenger, se demande-t-on? Qui l'eût cru? Qui l'eût Dit?

Définitivement, la réponse se trouve dans cette citation: " Passe-moi la rhubarbe, je vous passerai le séné. "

Ramgoolam: " C'est celui-ci qui avec le soutien du FMI, avait introduit les mesures ayant permis de remettre l'économie sur les rails. " C'est lui le vrai père du miracle économique du pays". C'est un vrai pavé de l'ours. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam doit sûrement se remuer dans son Samadhis, au jardin de Pamplemousses.

Pour conclure, je dirais - NON Navin, vous faites erreur en refusant d'écouter la voix du peuple. Il ne faut pas trahir cette confiance que la majorité des mauriciens ont placée en vous. Laissez-vous guider par le Bon sens et la Sagesse, surtout par l'Humilité.

J'en profite pour dire à tous mes concitoyens, continuons ensemble, ce Grand Combat Pour La Justice.

Eliézer François JP

## In Memoriam

# Remembering Grace Seeneevassen



It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Mrs Grace Seeneevassen, the wife of the great *tribun* of the Mauritius Labour Party of the 1950s, Renganaden Seeneevassen.

Grace Seeneevassen, or Grace as she was lovingly called by those close to her, passed away on Sunday, 6 July, 2025 at her residence on the Goodlands Road at Petit Raffray, a few miles from the holiday resorts of Péreybère and Grand-Baie in the north of the island, and was cremated the following day at the Goodlands Crematorium.

The ceremony was attended by relatives and friends, and among

the mourners was Labour leader, Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam, both as a close friend of the family and as much as a tribute to the wife of a former pillar of the Labour Party — who left his marks on the constitutional development of Mauritius leading to the sovereignty of the country. I remember his ferocious campaign against the introduction of PR (Proportional Representation) in Mauritius. The first-past-the-post win for a general election was most favourable to the Labour Party while PR would certainly be to the detriment of the Party's majority in the Legislative Assembly.

Renganaden Seeneevassen, residing at Labourdonnais Street, in the Ward 4 of Port Louis (where I used to live myself), passed away in 1958 at the very young age of 48, and Grace became a widow at 30 with three young children to care for.

Renganaden Seeneevassen was a very charitable person and he could not have left much behind on his sudden departure. It must have been quite a feat for Grace to care for her young family. The daily, *L'Express*, in a tribute, says that she was invited by the Labour sympathisers to join the Party to carve herself a career in politics. She was not keen on the idea which she turned down.

## Welfare

However, welfare work was more in line with her temperament and in the early 1960s she secured employment with the Social Welfare Department as one of the Welfare Officers of the department which was based in the newly-constructed Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund headquarters at Edith Cavell Street in Port Louis. As a member of the Civil Service posted to the Social Welfare Department, it was there that I became personally acquainted with Mrs Grace Seeneevassen. In my mind's eye, I still see her as a cheerful young person with a permanent smile on her face.

While, the welfare officers worked in the field with people in need of attention, we, the office-based staff, provided the clerical support. Grace Seeneevassen was a very amiable person to work with, always with her trademark smile when she spoke to people. She was very calm and patient. Such qualities must have been an asset to her when attending

to people in need of help and welfare attention from the department.

On Saturdays, she occasionally brought her little girl, Sarojini, to the office, while she prepared her weekly report of her welfare activities. Sarojini, herself, is today a public figure as a member of the Labour Party. Under a previous Labour Government, she was made Mauritian Ambassador to Germany. She has now been appointed Mauritius High Commissioner to Australia.

In 2008, on the National Day Honours List, Grace was awarded the M.S.K. (member of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean) for social work

So much water has passed under the bridge since the welfare days. In her 90s, Grace's health began to fail her and she became more and more house-bound, in need of care and attention herself which she received from her children and grandchildren.

## The Romance

Before her marriage to Renganaden Seeneevassen, Grace was a Miss Brebner of Rodriguan origin. As a young boy in the 1950s I came to know of the Brebner family who used to live in Port Louis, at the corner of Chaussée Street (La Chaussée) and Sir C. Antelme Street, a stone's throw from Jardin de la Compagnie. Francis Collendavelloo, a journalist at nearby daily *Advance* (in Dumat Street), who married divorced Mrs Brebner, was a familiar figure around. *Advance* was the mouth-piece of the Mauritius Labour Party,

The large family used to occupy the ground floor of the one-storey building at corner of Chaussée Street and Sir C. Antelme Street. The whole of the wooden upper first floor of that building contained a large open-space unit with a balcony overlooking Chaussée Street. That open-space unit provided accommodation to the HQ of the Mauritius Labour Party with Guy Rozemont as the leader.

The stage was set then for the great romance between the eldest daughter of the Brebner's, Grace, and the young Barrister, Renganaden Seeneevassen (Renga for friends), who had joined the Mauritius Labour Party. They met and it was thunder. As an adolescent living in the area, I was a frequent visitor to the first floor Labour HQ, one of my relatives was a clerk at the office. A die-hard Port Louisian, Renganaden Seeneevassen was himself seen thereabout of La Chaussée more often as a courting young lover than as a Labour Party member.

At that time, Renganaden Seeneevassen lived at Bourbon Street in Port Louis, near the Champ de Mars, occupying the same premises as the Sivaramen family. Samba and Sada Sivaramen were friends of mine and the nearby Champ de Mars was our playground, where we joined others for a bit of ball-kicking on one of the many pitches. Renganaden Seeneevassen, in his long flying black barrister's gown could often be seen in the vicinity of Bourbon Street accompanying clients to court, which was located not too far away from his residence. A gifted orator and with his remarkable *prestance*, his court performance was quite a spectacle for the public who came especially to watch his *plaidoiries*.



From the family album, picture of the parents with the young children



Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam *en recueillement* with the family

Continued of Page 3

From Page 2



**Present-day corner Sir C. Antelme and Chaussée Streets in Port Louis where Renga met Grace. The first floor wooden part of the corner building has gone. The ground floor provides outlets to traders.**

As one of the very few lawyers among the Tamils of the era, Renganaden Seeneevassen was a highly looked-up member of the Tamil community. Grace soon found herself comfortable among the Tamils. Seeneevassen, himself, remained a staunch Tamil and his family grew within the Tamil faith, though he always professed to be first and foremost a Hindu. As a matter of fact he was made chairman of the newly-founded Young Men's Hindu Association Government-Aided School at Rémy Ollier Street in Port Louis. The primary school was staffed mostly



**A fitting tribute to a 'Tribun': The country's one-hundred-rupee bank note bears the image of Renganaden Seeneevassen**

with a Tamil personnel and was known as L'Ecole Madras, which I attended. Prayers in Tamil were said every Friday by the school's Head-



**The primary Hindu Govt-aided school where Renganaden Seeneevassen was chairman. The school is now fully government-owned**

teacher, Retnon Sooben. Our attention has been drawn to the fact that Renganaden Seeneevassen, himself, did his primary schooling there.

"One of us never left us, really," the community had to say of Renganaden Seeneevassen. On the other hand, Grace was graceful in sarees, as if she was born in them. This is the story of a lovely people, I have known and I am happy to place on record these few lines of my encounter with them. In the 1950s, Before I moved on to the Social Welfare Department, I made my debut in the Civil Service as a Clerical Officer at the Public Assistance Department in a building at the old Immigration Square, now demolished to make room for the Apravasi Ghat by the Docks in Port Louis.

Lawyer Seeneevassen, an elected member of the Mauritius Legislative Assembly (MLA), and another MLA, Abdool Razack Mohamed (not knighted yet) came, separately, as a ritual, with a few applicants for outdoor relief on Saturdays at 12 (noon)) when we were about to close for the weekend. We did not grumble and we helped with the formalities. It was great on the part of an eminent lawyer and MLA to personally accompany applicants to the Department to apply for financial assistance and to ensure that they were helped. What an era and what a personality!

***As Grace Seeneevassen was a wonderful person, it is certain that she will find peace wherever she is!***

**Peter Chellen – July 2025**

## More Pictures from the Family Album



*That's the way we were*



**Grace with SSR & British officials**



**Hon Renganaden and Mrs Seeneevassen Greeting HM The Queen in 1972**

Mauritian Day-Out, North London

Sunday, 13 July 2025



The North London Mauritian Day-Out that was held this year on 13 July 2025 pulled a crowd estimated at 1500 to 2000 Mauritians, mostly from the local area of Barnet. Among the few UK Mauritians providing the musical entertainment to enliven the event was Yvan Antalika of Islington and his group. They provided the core of the entertainment, In terms of both songs and dance performances.

There was also the participation of the Chagos community group from Crawley. They normally organise their own annual festival in that part of England. But they did participate in the North London Day Out as the Zilwa (Ilois). Their singers offer their own style of the séga with a beat different from that of the Mauritian séga. Their speciality is the Ravanne which

compels the attendance to hip-hop en cadence to their musical theme.

It was burning hot in north London and, it may be said that, the Mauritian people are used to such weather extreme. Usually, such an open air event does attract some non-Mauritian spectators but with weather temperature registering the thereabouts of 30c, it's not to everybody's taste to get sunburnt, plus the usual irritation and blisters on white people's skin.

On the whole the community had an enjoyable time renewing the Mauritian tradition of getting together. Usually this sort of event is sponsored by some Mauritian caterers. This year, they seemed rather absent and the attendance could not enjoy the usual Mauritian

fare: Briani, Dalpouri, Gatopiment, Samossa, Dipainfire, Gatoaoui, napolitaines etc. There were long queues for a bit of refreshment made available by the odd providers.

At a good fun day on previous occasions, the kids enjoy the rides and the merry-go-round while the parents take advantage of the non-skilled games, like darts and all. The providers made themselves scarce this year.

However, all in all, it may be said that the efforts of the event-organisers were rewarded by the very sunny condition of the day. See you next year: in South London or North London?

K. Lingen

Meeting with Mauritian Séga

Artiste Warren Permal in London

By Yvonne Goder-Persand

I recently met up with the young talented Mauritian Séga Artiste, 28 years old Warren Permal, and enjoyed brunch with him at the authentic Mauritian restaurant 'Mangé des Îles', located in Tooting Market, South London.

We started with the delicious Dim Sum (Boulette Soup) which I rated highly as one of the best I had tasted, after that of my Mauritian mother-in-law, of course.

I wanted some Mauritian sweet treat and had Vanilla Eski. Both myself and Warren stuck with traditional Mauritian-style dishes of rice and noodles. The price was reasonable for London and was value for money. Portion sizes were also reasonable and we felt happily full.

I then had the Puits D'Amour dessert to myself as Warren was already satisfied content. The homemade pastry was exceptional with the coconut top-

pings.

Mangé des Îles Restaurant is a family-run catering business. The food is fresh. The homemade cuisine reminded us of the Mauritian street food with soul.

**Talented Artiste**

Warren Permal is a young talented uprising Mauritian artiste. He has been working extremely hard to make a name for himself and to be acknowledged for his songwriting, his singing with the musical instruments he plays.

Although he is well known in the Mauritian community, he feels restricted as to how much he can do. He wishes to expand internationally. It's the dream many of Mauritian Séga artistes. Will he be the one to break through?

We feel that his hard work and the pain of this musical restriction. Warren has travelled more than many Mauritian artistes can dream of. His



Warren holding Mauritian flag whilst performing at Paris Olympic Games 2024

biggest accomplishment is 'Agatha' with over 4.8 million views on YouTube and 'Gaté' with female La Réunion séga singer, Médérice



Mauritian menu at the Mangé des Îles Restaurant in Tooting Bec

Payet, with 5.8 million views also on YouTube. Warren was fortunate to perform at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in front of a huge crowd which has heightened his drive. His dream is to conquer France with his Creole/French styled lyrics.

In the picture on the left, he is featured holding the Mauritian flag. He was seen in the stadium and on TV around the World making us proud.

We sure do hope that his international success, and his young man's dreams are loser to reality.



Yvonne Goder with singer Warren Permal



Warren Permal With Reunion séga singer Mérédice Payet