

FREEDOM
OF
EXPRESSION

National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up reviews progress on Mauritius' international human rights obligations

The Human Rights Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade convened, this morning, in Port Louis, a meeting of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF), bringing together representatives from Ministries and Departments, National Human Rights Institutions, and Civil Society Organisations, including non-governmental organisations.

The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mr Dhananjay Ramful, in the presence of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade (Human Rights Division), Mr Ravi Shankar Sonea.

Established in 2017, the NMRF is an inter-ministerial mechanism designed to coordinate the reporting and implementation of Mauritius' international and regional human rights obligations. It also facilitates follow-up on recommendations from various

On this page, we publish two articles from the Government Information Service (GIS) which announce the present government policies as regards (a) human rights obligations and (b) the promotion of growth and innovation.

As an independent publication, the Mauritian Overseas Gazette (MOG) carries articles that highlight the positive actions of the government as well articles that express

bodies such as Treaty Bodies, the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review, Special Procedure Mandate Holders, and Regional Human Rights Mechanisms.

The meeting thus reviewed the status of submitted reports, examined recommendations issued by international mechanisms, and assessed the progress of their implementation.

During the meeting, the Minister urged all parties to take the necessary steps to act on outstanding recommendations and ensure that appropriate follow-up measures are in place. Stakeholders were invited to submit updates and details of any follow-up action to the Human Rights Division.

Key human rights instruments discussed at the meeting included the Universal Periodic Review; the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the Convention on

views that differ from those of the government. In that respect we can say that we are totally independent. This is a status that only MOG can boast of. All other publications have normally an agenda to comply with as established by the ownership, which, they are careful not to offend. Otherwise it's the door!

There are people who talk of bipartisan-ship. MOG is neither bipartisan nor partisan. MOG is purely and simply independent.

That's the way we are!



Hon Dhananjay Ramful

the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and several African human rights instruments, including the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and its protocols on the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities.

The meeting also reviewed progress on the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the National Human Rights Action Plan, and the National Recommendations Tracking Database.

Prime Minister calls for strong public-private partnership to foster inclusive growth and innovation



PM N. Ramgoolam with

Gilbert (left) & Philippe (right) Espitalier Noël

At a time of unparalleled economic distress and uncertainties, public and private partnership is important for achieving inclusive growth, driving productivity and mobilising resources for innovation. This was the gist of the speech of the Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, yesterday in Moka at the launching of the merger of the two private entities, ENL and Rogers to ER Group, in presence of Ministers, members of the Diplomatic Corps and other digni-

taries.

In his keynote address Dr Ramgoolam commended the merging of the two most important private groups while highlighting their contribution over decades in shaping the socio-economic fabric of the country as market leaders in sectors ranging from agri-business, real estate to hospitality, travel, logistics to financial services, commerce, manufacturing and technology. This merger embodies the spirit of proactive adaptation by bringing together the diversified strength of Rogers and ENL for a more resilient, dynamic and future-ready enterprise with 7 400 employees across 30 countries, he said.

The Prime Minister reiterated the Government's dedication to pursuing a transformative path for both the economy and society, geared towards building a new Mauritius founded on honesty, good governance, and integrity. He highlighted key initiatives such as the Government Programme 2025–2029, the establishment of a High-Level Steering Committee to oversee its implementation and the 2025–2026

Budget.

Speaking on propelling national progress, Dr Ramgoolam outlined the country's new economic strategy anchored on five foundational pillars to drive sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The new strategy include emphasis on research, development and innovation; strategic repurposing of resources such as land and labour; sustaining growth through investment and technology, sports and structural transformation that delivers on social justice and consumer well-being; restoring macroeconomics fundamentals with a reduction of the debt-to-GDP ratio; lowering dependency on imports and increasing share of manufacturing to GDP.

Amidst a period of significant challenges and emerging opportunities, the Prime Minister noted that countries around the world are rethinking and reshaping their strategies. On that score, he emphasised the need for pension reform in Mauritius, highlighting that the current system is unsustainable and must be addressed to ensure long-term financial stability.

He also spoke of upcoming trade negotiations with the President of the United States, Mr Donald Trump.

Dr Ramgoolam called for a strong partnership among the public and private sectors, academia, and local communities to build a prosperous and inclusive Mauritius, well-prepared to navigate the complexities of the years ahead. He also spoke of his vision to positioning Mauritius as a regional trade hub creating new investment space in the ocean and digital economy. The need to revive the Regional Cooperation Council and restructuring the Economic Development Board to foster growth and responsible resource management, investment in green infrastructure to safeguard the nation against calamities were also highlighted by the Prime Minister.

The Group Chief Executive Officer of the ER Group, Mr Gilbert Espitalier-Noël; the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Philippe Espitalier-Noël; and the Non-Executive Director, Mr Eric Espitalier-Noël reiterated their renewed commitment to making a meaningful contribution and continuing to invest in the socio-economic progress of Mauritius.

Budget 2025-26

COIN DES CONSOMMATEURS

Un ombudperson pour les services de la santé



Dans le dernier budget, on a annoncé la nomination d'un ombudperson pour les services de la santé.

Ce sera un grand pas en avant pour redonner la confiance à la population car c'est dans le service de la santé que la Consumers' Eye Association reçoit le plus grand nombre de plaintes, cela, couplé avec la création d'un National Health Quality Commission, devrait apporter de grandes améliorations dans le service de la santé.

Nous souhaitons de tout cœur qu'un membre d'une association des consommateurs sera nommé dans ce board pour assurer que l'intérêt des patients soient prises en compte. Nous accueillons favorablement la révision du Public Health Act datant de 1925, cela devrait apporter des règlements modernes pour assurer la qualité des soins que ce soit au niveau du service public ou privé.

Le budget 2025/2026 a prévu une somme de RS 185 millions alloué au secteur de la santé. La Consumers' Eye Association souhaite que ce sera servi à bon escient pour assurer un service de santé à la hauteur des attentes de tous et chacun.

La E Health devrait être la priorité des priorités car trop souvent la CEA a reçu des plaintes des patients que leurs rendez-vous a été annulé ou renvoyé car leur dossier ou leurs résultats des tests étaient introuvables.

Les dossiers médicaux électroniques devraient mettre fin à cette situation. Nous souhaitons également que les attentes interminables pour les rendez-vous médicales seront quelque chose du passé. Attendons voir l'effet de cette transformation digitale dans les services de la santé.

La CEA agira comme toujours comme chien de garde pour les consommateurs et nous demandons à tous nos membres et le public en général de nous laisser savoir les failles et les manquements car nous serons toujours là pour défendre leurs intérêts

LES ASSURANCES COMMENT S'Y PRENDRE

Les compagnies d'assurance sont nombreuses à Maurice. S'y retrouver dans l'éventail des différents types de police d'assurance proposés au public n'est pas toujours facile.

Voici un petit guide pour vous simplifier la vie. Voici quelque type d'assurances :

1. Pour un plan de pension personnelle
2. Pour vous aider avec l'éducation de vos enfants
3. Pour une couverture médicale dans le privé
4. Pour votre véhicule en cas d'accident
5. Pour votre maison en cas de vol/incendie
6. Pour vos vacances outremer

Supposons que vous êtes intéressé à prendre une police d'assurance, par exemple une couverture de soins médicaux. Avant de finaliser votre choix de compagnie d'assurance, soyez sûr de prendre en considération les points suivants :

Contactez les différentes compagnies d'assurances pour des brochures sur le type d'assurance qui vous intéresse, vous aurez au moins les caractéristiques principales de la police d'assurance.

Si vous pouvez visiter le bureau ce serait encore mieux. Vous serez en position de demander des questions et d'avoir des informations plus complètes.

Après avoir lu les brochures, vous pouvez prendre un rendez-vous avec un représentant pour des explications plus approfondies sur les conditions de la police d'assurance qui vous intéresse.

Comparez les différentes cotations tout en prenant en considération les conditions attachées à la police d'assurance. Par exemple, pour une assurance médicale Est-ce qu'il y a une limite d'âge pour être éligible ?

Y a-t-il une aide téléphonique (help line ou help desk) accessible 24 heures/24 heures ?

Si vous avez besoin d'être admis dans une cli-

nique. Est-ce que la compagnie d'assurance paie les frais directement ou avez-vous à payer et ensuite faire une réclamation ? Demandez à voir un spécimen de la police d'assurance pour examiner les conditions et pour vérifier ce qui est inclus et ce qui est exclus ?

S'il y a quelque chose qui n'est pas clair, posez des questions. Soyez sûr que vous comprenez toutes les conditions avant d'apposer votre signature. Si vous n'êtes pas sûr, demandez l'aide d'un parent ou ami pour vous expliquer les clauses sur lesquelles vous avez des doutes.

S'il y a une condition additionnelle que vous aurez aimé ajouter, par exemple, une condition que vous avez vue sur la brochure d'une autre compagnie, n'hésitez pas de demander au représentant si on peut l'inclure, au pis aller, il/elle ne peut que dire non.

Demandez si on offre des facilités de paiements sans intérêts. Cela vous aidera à échelonner vos paiements spécialement si la prime est élevée.

Soyez sûr, avant de signer que vous aviez choisi la police d'assurance qui vous donne les meilleures conditions et les garanties les mieux adaptées à votre situation personnelle.

Malheureusement, il y a beaucoup de personnes qui signent un contrat de police d'assurance sans en vérifier le contenu. Soyez prudent.

1. Lisez les petits caractères
2. Ne vous laissez pas impressionner, prenez votre temps, demandez des questions jusqu'à ce que vous soyez entièrement satisfait.
3. Toutes les conditions de polices d'assurances sont écrites en anglais, c'est regrettable que ce ne soit pas toujours dans un anglais simple (plain english). C'est pourquoi, il est important que vous soyez sûr d'avoir tout lu et compris avant de signer le document.

CLAUDE CANABADY
SECRETAIRE GENERAL
CONSUMERS' EYE ASSOCIATION

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.eyea.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.

DETTES PUBLIQUES: Comme nous l'avons dit dans un numéro précédent, tous le pays du monde contractent des dettes pour gérer leurs administrations. On dit que l'United States (US) contracte des dettes depuis sa création. Aujourd'hui l'US est le pays le plus endetté du monde. Il est dit qu'il y a des dettes publiques qui ne sont jamais repayées. Ces grands pays paient-ils des intérêts et à qui? Les petits pays, comme Maurice, paient des intérêts à FMI, qui est constitué par les grands pays. Ils surveillent de près les affaires des petits pays qui sont à leur merci.

Voici les noms de quelques pays les plus endettés au monde: (1) États-Unis: \$34 200 000 000 000; (2) Chine: \$11 400 000 000 000; (3) Union européenne: \$14 500 000 000 000; (4) Royaume-Uni: \$3 100 000 000 000; (5) Allemagne: 2 720 000 000 000; (6) Pays-Bas: 620 000 000 000; (7) France: \$3 299 462 620 000; (8) Japon: \$13 100 000 000 000; (9) Irlande: \$240 000 000 000; (10) Italie: 3 200 000 000 000; (11) Espagne: \$1 560 000 000 000; (12) Belgique: 650 000 000 000; (13) Norvège: 1 300 000 000 000; (14) Luxembourg: \$20 000 000 000; (15) Suisse: \$140 000 000 000; (16) Australie: \$1 169 000 000 000; (17) Canada: \$1 009 000 000 000; (18) Suède: \$853 300 000 000 (19) Autriche: 755 000 000 000; (20) Hong Kong: 750 800 000 000.

(Source internet)

S.C.B.

Geographical Britain

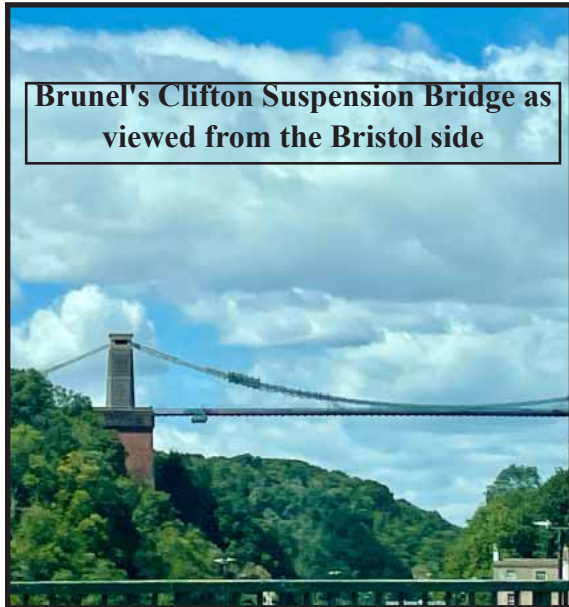
Bristol - a Southwestern City Where the Historic Harbourside is Vibrant with New Energy



By Mylene

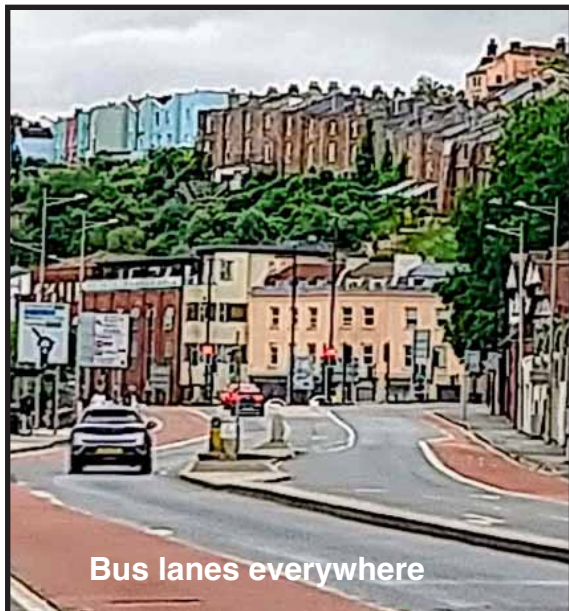


Brunel's SS Great Britain



Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge as viewed from the Bristol side

Banksy's "Girl with a Pierced Eardrum" a playful twist on Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring" featuring an alarm in place of the pearl earring



Bus lanes everywhere

What connects the UNESCO city of Film, the famous Aardman Animations studio known for Wallace and Gromit, Cary Grant, and Banksy?

They all hail from Bristol!

I remember my visit to this port city on the River Avon many years ago, a time when it was going through some significant changes. The M32 was still under construction and the Floating Harbour had ceased operation as a commercial port. Its "floating" title comes from the water level remaining constant, unaffected by the tides.

Back then, it was clear that the decline of the docks and manufacturing sectors had left some areas a bit neglected, paving the way for the National Front (NF) to gather some serious support. On a brighter note, the city was buzzing with an exciting music scene that embraced all kinds of genres, from punk to Caribbean. It really brought people together and created a wonderful sense of community.

I recently returned to this city, rich in maritime history, filled with tales of pirates. Yes, the legendary Blackbeard was attracted to this bustling port, which has flourished since Anglo-Saxons times.

Although Bristol may not be the thriving trade hub it once was, millions of pounds have been invested to rejuvenate the harbour area for leisure, retail and homes.

I was thrilled to see how much the city has changed. It now radiates energy, thanks to improved public spaces and modern infrastructure.

Every driver will notice the new 20 miles per hour speed limit across the city, alongside numerous bus and cycle lanes, all aimed at promoting a greener, cleaner urban environment.

There are some fantastic new cultural attractions to check out. The iconic SS Great Britain and We The Curious, an interactive centre dedicated to science and the arts. It even has the UK's first 3D Planetarium, a must-visit destination for anyone with a curious mind!

All this investment has created thousands of new jobs and much-needed housing. However, many restaurants in the city centre tend to be on the pricier side and primarily cater to tourists.

If you look closely, you might notice tents set up for the homeless. Like many major cities, Bristol has its affluent districts as well as its fair share of run-down and dilapidated areas.

THE PROUD SONS OF BRISTOL

Though engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel never permanently settled here, he spent nearly thirty years working on projects that reshaped the city's identity. Among his most notable achievements is the Clifton Suspension Bridge, which spans the Avon Gorge, connecting Bristol to North Somerset. This was a huge game changer for travel and trade in the region.

Brunel was also passionate about trains and ships. He was the chief engineer for the Great Western Railway (GWR) linking London to Bristol, and designed the first Bristol Temple Meads station, as well as the Steam Ship (SS) Great Western in 1838 and the SS Great Britain in 1843.

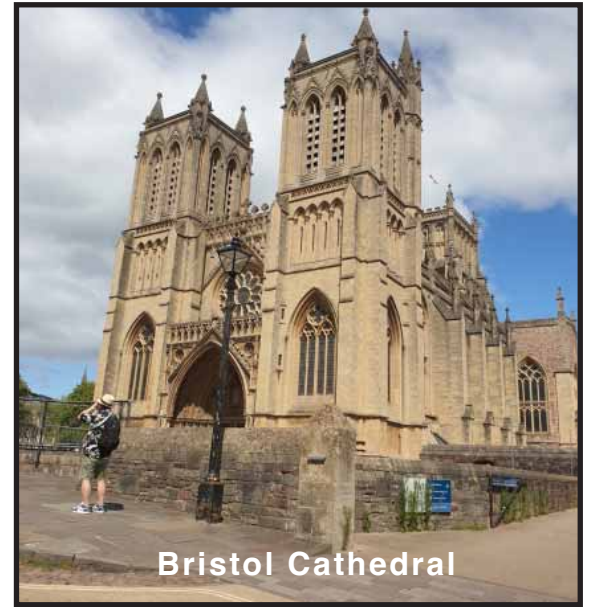
One could argue that Brunel had a significant impact on transforming the city's landscape.

Graffiti can be seen everywhere, which might have something to do with the elusive Banksy, a street artist who is rumoured to be Bristolian, though his true identity remains a mystery.

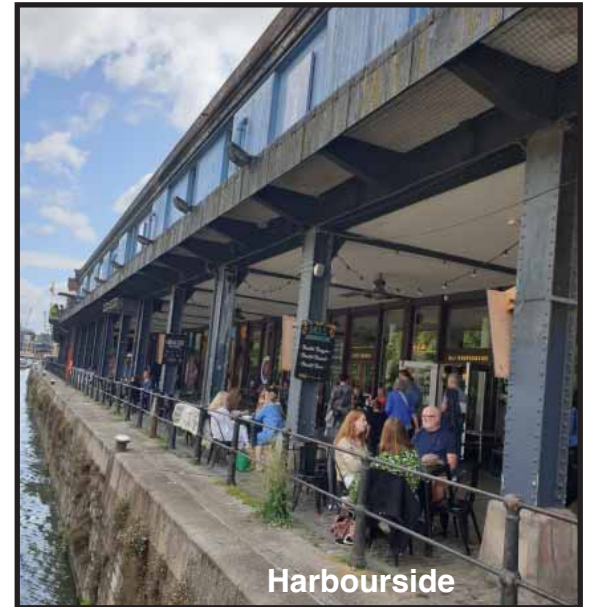
Another celebrated figure from Bristol is Archibald Alec Leach, who you might know better as the Hollywood star, Cary Grant! His statue proudly stands in Millennium Square right in the city centre.

While Grant was born here, it's worth noting that the respected Indian philosopher, reformer and scholar Raja Rammohun Roy passed away during a visit to Bristol in 1833.

"In the ebb and flow of its harbourside, and the buzz of its streets, Bristol's vibrant narrative continues to unfold."



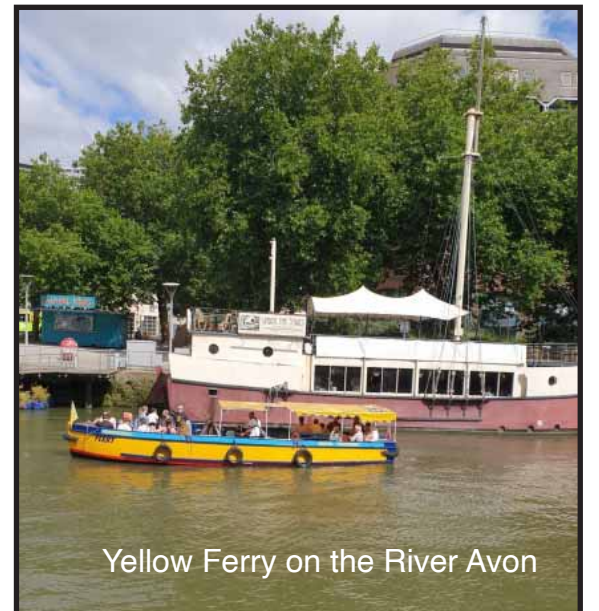
Bristol Cathedral



Harbourside



Statue of scholar
Raja Rammohun Roy



Yellow Ferry on the River Avon