

Bank of Mauritius (BOM) Governor Rama Sithanen sues former Second Deputy, Gérard Sanspeur, for Rs50 million rupees for defamation

Picture: Courtesy ION News

BOM Governor Rama Sithanen (Centre) with, on his left (in the picture), First Deputy Rajeev Hasnah, and, on the right, Second Deputy Gérard Sanspeur. Picture taken before the fall-out between the Governor and his Second Deputy. Above their heads, hangs a framed picture of late Aunauth Beejadhur, first BOM Governor. If there is an afterlife, what must be thinking about the goings-on at the Bank!

As stated in our previous edition, Dr Rama Sithanen, Governor of the Bank of Mauritius felt defamed by the attack of his former deputy, Gérard Sanspeur, who had made various accusations against him at his press conference at the Labourdonnais Hotel, in Port Louis, on 30 August 2025.

Dr Sithanen has now made it known that he is claiming damages in the sum of 50 million rupees from Mr Sanspeur. We are yet to know who will be his lawyer. Mr Sanspeur already told the press that he had secured the services of Senior Counsel, Me Antoine Domingue.

This will be quite an *épopée* to follow as Mr Sanspeur also has declared that he would sue the BOM Governor for slander. Furthermore, he told the press that he was in possession of a recorded telephone conversation which would force Dr Sithanen to resign if it is made public. Will Mr Sanspeur reveal in court the contents of that recorded conversation. The BOM Governor has said that he was not aware of what recording his former deputy was referring to. He said that he should make it public if he has it.

Prime Navin Ramgoolam is expected to make a decision about the BOM issue when he is back from mission soon.

P.C.

Tevin Sithanen, son of the Bank of Mauritius (BOM) Governor, allegedly linked with the arrest of Journalist Narain Jasodanand by the Cybercrime Unit

Narain Jasodanand

There has been quite an outcry in the country regarding the arrest of Journalist Narain Jasodanand by a police squad of the Cybercrime Unit, at his residence on Friday, 12 September. The police seized documents, telephones, laptop among of other items. The journalist said, on his release, that he was manhandled by the police when they came to arrest him.

A freelancer Mr Jasodanand is also an online publisher who acknowledges the fact that he had been investigating the interference of Tevin Sithanen in the affairs of the Bank of Mauritius.

According to the journalist, young Sithanen, claim that he had been falsely reporting on him and had appealed to police for action. And this action on the part of the Cybercrime Unit has been criticised by Acting Prime Minister Paul Bérenger, Attorney General Gavin Glover and the media generally.

The Acting PM has requested a full report from the Police Commissioner. Mr Glover says that it is totally out of order for the police to make an arrest without any proper in-

Tevin Sithanen

vestigation. On the other hand, the media talk of an attack on the freedom of the press.

Lawyer Me Roshi Bhadain acting on behalf of Mr Jasodanand said, on his release, that any complaint from Tevin Sithanen should be proceeded as a civil case, it's not a matter for the police.

Questioned by Acting Prime Minister Paul Bérenger, Police Commissioner Rampersad Sooroojballi is reported to have declared that police took action as necessary. Mr Bérenger says that appropriate action will be taken by Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam on his return to the country from abroad.

it is understood that Mr Jasodanand should return to the Cybercrime Unit on 15 September.

One of the casualties of the brutal police arrest of the journalist is the transfer of Chief Inspector Siva Coothen from the Police Press Office. He was blamed for not being able to give to the media appropriate explanation about the police action.

P.C.

Minister Gunness calls for better preparedness ahead of rainy season 2025/2026

Minister Govindranath Gunness (Centre), Mr Ranjiv Woorhit (left), Mr Mohammad Fawzi Allymun (right)

The Minister of National Infrastructure, Mr Govindranath Gunness, chaired a meeting at the Municipal City Council of Port Louis with representatives of District Councils, Municipal Councils, the Land Drainage Authority, and other stakeholders to assess the Preparedness Plan for the forthcoming rainy season 2025/2026.

Minister Gunness was accompanied by the Minister of Local Government, Mr Ranjiv Woorhit, and the Junior Minister of Local Government, Mr Mohammad Fawzi Allymun.

In his address Minister Gunness pointed out that Government is giving top priority to cleaning and maintaining drains, desilting of rivers, and strengthening flood management ahead of the rainy season. He recalled that heavy rainfall is expected during the last three months of the year, making early interventions crucial. 'Our priority is to ensure that vulnerable areas are protected and that all authorities are ready to act without delay', he said.

Mr Gunness further indicated that preparatory works have already started adding that the 12 local authorities have been requested to submit their respective work plans and budgets for drainage maintenance and river desilting, of which four have already been submitted. He also cautioned against the disposal of waste in drains, noting that such practices frequently cause blockages and increase the risk of flooding. Constructing and maintaining drains is costly, but it is a necessary investment to protect lives and reduce flood dangers, he stated.

As part of additional measures the Minister announced that provision is being made for each local authority to retain a standby contractor who will be readily available to intervene and provide emergency services in the event of flooding.

GIS

Spirulina

Food supplement for Astronauts in space



From an online search, we learn that

Spirulina or Arthrospira is a blue-green alga that became famous after it was successfully used by NASA as a dietary supplement for astronauts on space missions. It has the ability to modulate immune functions and exhibits anti-inflammatory properties by inhibiting the release of histamine by mast cells.

From an entry on [YouTube](#) we pick up the following information on the benefits of the use of Spirulina in our everyday life. The text below is accompanied by the pictures on the right.

Stop Aging with these powerful veggies

Top 5 incredible Health Benefits you need to know about Spirulina

Spirulina has more protein than beef and that's just the beginning

Most people ignore this ancient super food. But it's one of the most Nutrient Dense food on the Planet.

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Third, it supports your brain health. Spirulina is rich in antioxidants that protect neurons and enhances memory and may even help cognitive decline.

Fourth, it strengthens your immune system with powerful compound like Phycocyanin. Spirulina fights inflammation and boosts white blood cell production.

And lastly, it promotes glowing skin. Spirulina's high chlorophyll content purifies your skin from the inside out, reducing acne and signs of aging.

Add Spirulina to your daily routine today and unlock its life-changing benefits.

Source: YouTube



Can Spirulina be obtained in Mauritius?

See next issue for information

Electoral Reform

Do we need an electoral reform in Mauritius? Do we need a change simply for the sake of change? The main reason accepted by all who advocate the Reform is that the Constitution of Mauritius is too old, dating back to colonial time.

The Constitution of Mauritius is based on the Westminster model, the Mother of Parliament which has itself been in force for a few centuries. Do we ever hear that the British Parliament is too old and should be modified or scrapped?

In Mauritius, there are some who are very keen to turn the country into an autocratic state with an elected president with executive powers in the style of an Idi Amin or Mugabe. Once in office, the President may convert the tenure of the job of President to last for life, no election will be held until his death. The President will be as powerful as Trump and subject the people to a state of slavery with the help of his Tonton Macoute. Does Mauritius deserve this treatment?

One of the main complaints we hear is the constitutional provision of the Best Loser System. The main argument that the people of Mauritius, made of several races, have become homogenised. We think and behave as One Nation, an idea incorporated in the National Anthem by Dr Jean-Georges Proper. Do we really? **Does the country need more MPs?** Mauritius is bankrupt, it is said. Yet, there is a suggestion to increase the number of elected MPs from 60 to 80. This would be an insult. Already MPs are admiring their navels with long parliamentary breaks. At this very moment Parliament is on holiday from July to October. There are at least 3 or 4 such breaks per year. Do the hardworking MPs deserve such long vacations?

Another idea that has been floated in the country is the right to vote to the Diaspora. As editor of Mauritius News in London, I did ask the newly-elected Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam at a press conference in London in 1996, whether he would grant the right to vote to overseas Mauritians. His answer was a categorical NO. Today, back to power, Dr Ramgoolam says that the situation has changed and the right to vote to overseas electors may be favourably considered. The PM is right, the situation has changed in the sense the number of potential overseas voters has increased. This idea will demand serious reflection when the electoral reform is debated. *(More on the topic later).*

P.C.



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