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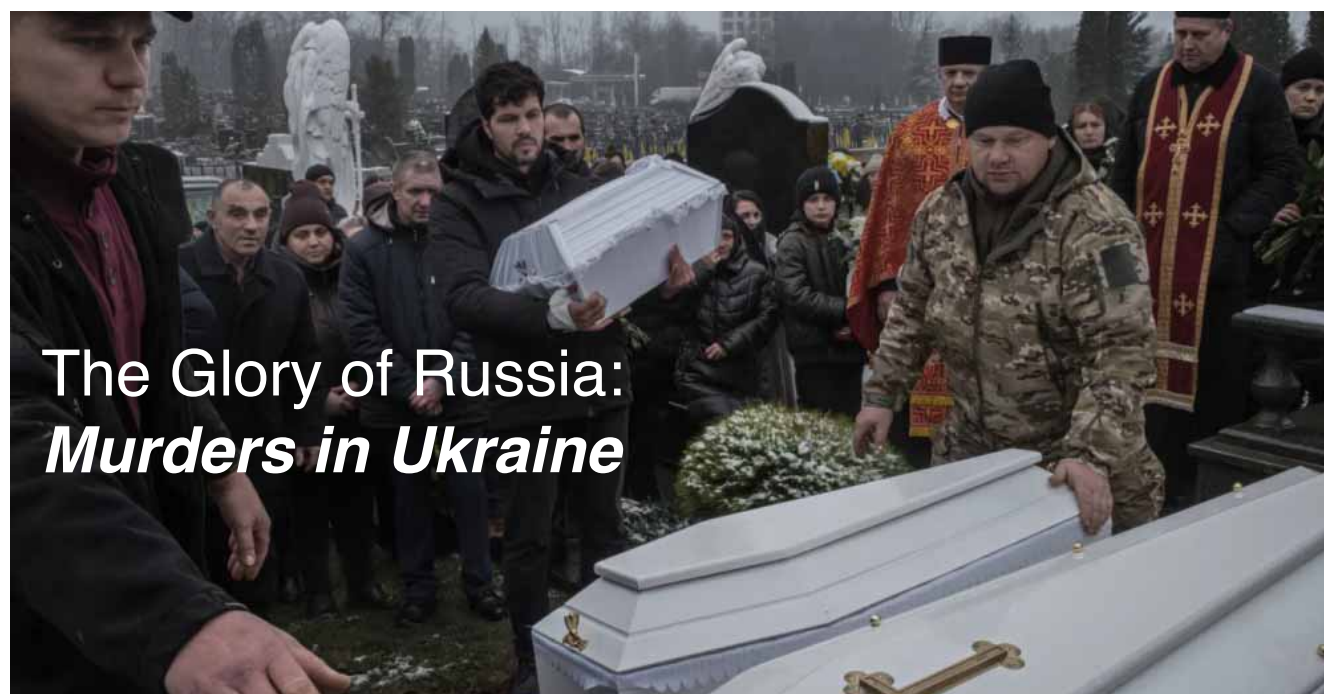
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Views expressed by contributors are their own

December 2025

Reflexions on the First Quarter of the Century

The whole of the Year 2025 will be consumed in a matter of days.
2025 as a quarter of the current century is almost gone



The Glory of Russia: Murders in Ukraine

Yes, this present Century is the First Century of the present Millennium. And this Millennium whose birth we were privileged to witness 25 years ago has been consumed by only 1/40 of its quantum of 1000 years. Another 975 years to go . . . to finish it off.

1,000 years ago, our ancestors could not have imagined in their wildest dream what we would witness by the year 2000. What we experienced by the year 2000, and today, would have seemed like magic to our ancestors of the primitive era.

Telephone, Television and online communication

The possibility of communicating verbally with people miles and miles away via a small gadget held in our hand, and the possibility of seeing on a small box in their own home people in various activities in other parts of the world would have been beyond any understanding of their time.

We better not talk of the computer age which had become a reality in our daily life by the Year 2000. Had anybody any vision, one thousand years ago, to talk of such occurrences, the ancestors would have thought him mad.

Can we, the humans of today, visualise what life will be on Planet Earth a thousand years hence, i.e by the year 3000?

We can be forgiven for making this sort reflexions in 2025, as we are just 25 years into the current millennium. Others have tried to speculate about the future. Have their visions materialised. In 1968 Stanley Kubrick made a film "2001 A Space Odyssey" to gauge the future of the space travel of mankind.

Birth of the Millennium

We, who have witnessed the birth of this new Millennium, can remember some of the celebrations that were organised to welcome the new era.

I can remember the fireworks along the Thames in London which seemed to last and last. The Millennium Big Wheel was inaugurated. Big Ben chimed and chimed to welcome simultaneously the New Year, the New Century and the New Millennium. Yes, it was the occasion for the celebration of three events taking place at the same time: the birth new year (one year), the birth of a new century (100 years) and the birth of a new Millennium (1,000, years).

The New Year event and the New Century event were overshadowed by the new 1,000 years commemoration. True, the birth of a

New Millennium was something to celebrate the world over. In other parts of the world, the celebration took place earlier or later than in London.

Melbourne, New York and London

It was pleasant to follow on TV the celebration taking place first in Australia, a continent that is up to 10 hours ahead of GMT, then Britain at 000 hours, followed by USA up to some 8 hours later.

Which Millennium?

The New Millennium from the Year 2000 was very much a celebration for the West. In an editorial in Mauritius News in 2000, I asked the question: Which Millennium? Different nations have different calendars, some even based on religious interpretations. In the Christian world (mostly of the West), the Gregorian Calendar is tied to the birth of Christ. The Chinese are two millennia ahead. They will, apparently, be

The Glory of Israel

1 child dies every
35 minutes in Gaza

The Starvation of babies
to seize territory

entering their 4th Millennium or so. According to Hindu chronology, India is already within the 6th Millennium.

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Reflexion on First Quarter of the Century

New Hope: A Century of Peace

At the end of the 20th century, there was a feeling of great international understanding. There was feeling of mutual cooperation among nations. The rat race was practically no longer existent. It was on the basis of that sort of atmosphere that observers were tempted to predict that the forthcoming century would be a Century of Peace. The observers believed that the world had become more civilised. Advancement in technology would help nations to enjoy peaceful coexistence.

No one then could foresee the upcoming of blood thirsty Russia, blood thirsty Israel and that a great nation like America would turn beastly.

Both Russia and Israel are determined to seize territories of their neighbours with the blessing of the Ku Klux Klan country. The conquest of territories is happening in the 21st century. One may wonder what the situation

was in the days of slavery.

Next Millennium Speculation

Can we speculate what life will be like on earth by the year 3000? A thousand years are not too great of a number of years to think ahead when we realise that Planet Earth has been in existence for 4½ billion years.

The creature known as man, a species in the Animal Kingdom has been around for 1½ million years and has always been tribal from the moment of his emergence from the jungle.

The main concern of tribal people has been survival and the grabbing of territories of other tribes. This is what happening today: Russia wants to take over Ukraine, Israel wants to take over Palestine, America wants to take over Canada, Panama Canal, Greenland etc. This mentality Still persists among men and induces the species to resort to attacking and destroying other tribes.

The vocation of Man, as a creature of the Animal Kingdom, is to kill. Through the ages of recorded time men have been killing men. Through recorded times we know of Genghis Khan, Atilla, Julius Caesar etc and the Of late there have mass killing during the first world war and the Second World War, Vietnam etc etc. Planet Earth is soaked with the blood of human beings.

Wars of religion, Catholics killing Protestants in the name of their gods and so do Hindus and Muslims. Africa is worst. It is a continent of tribalism where the tribes are in different camps in accordance to ... by the Christian colonialists or Arab conquerors. Religion is being used as a pretext of the extension of tribalism.

The first Quarter of the Century, i.e. the past 25 years, has been a Century of destruction and killing. As we drive into second quarter of this century, is it pointless to hope for peace and goodwill among men? Or will the world continue to produce the likes of the leaders of Russia, Israel and America! *What a Wonderful World!*

Peter Chellen

The 2025 FIRST and AFRICACERT
Symposium: Africa and Arab Regions was held in Mauritius from 4 December

The key regional platform for capacity building, knowledge sharing, and strengthening cybersecurity maturity



The Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, Dr Avinash Ramtohul; the Executive Director of AFRICACERT, Mr Jean-Robert Hountomey; the Chair of the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST), Mr Olivier Caleff; and other personalities were present.

Jointly organised by the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, the Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius (CERT-MU), AFRICACERT and FIRST, the symposium is being held on the theme “When the Defenders Unite.” It brings together cybersecurity experts, national and regional CERTs, policymakers, researchers, and industry stakeholders to deepen collaboration and strengthen incident response capabilities across the African and Arab

regions.

In his address, Minister Ramtohul underlined Mauritius’ strategic location in the African region and reaffirmed Government’s commitment to positioning the country as a leading digital hub. He recalled that that Blueprint for the ICT sector lies on four foundational pillars, each with cybersecurity at its core.

According to the Minister the current economic stability depends heavily on digital and social stability. With Artificial Intelligence (AI) re-shaping the global landscape, there is a growing need to protect societies from emerging risks, he said. He indicated that his Ministry has established an AI Unit, with the national AI Charter and Strategy expected to be published in January 2026.

Dr Ramtohul also cautioned against the misuse of social media and its impact on youth, noting that this issue requires serious policy consideration to ensure safer and more responsible use of the Internet. Some 1,414 cases of online harassment involving more than 50% of women have been reported since the start of 2025. He stressed the need to protect vulnerable groups while ensuring that regulatory measures respect individual rights.

The Minister further reiterated Mauritius’ ambition to nurture a clean, safe, and trusted digital space, emphasising that collaboration across Africa is vital to amplifying the region’s collective voice.

In a bid to provide better protection for citizens and uphold their rights, Government is currently reviewing existing legislation, including amendments to the Cybersecurity and Cybercrime, he said.

GIS

A Good Saying argues that
Some People Want It To Happen
Some Wish It Would Happen
Others Make It Happen

AND THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS WORD OF THE YEAR 2025 IS...RAGE BAIT!"

From Mylene



"Rage bait" refers to content, such as an article, video, or post, designed to provoke anger, mainly online, so that people react, share, or comment.

Since 2004, The Oxford University Press (OUP) has chosen a 'Word of the Year.' Their first selection was *chav*. This year's choice is *rage bait*.

Some of you might be thinking, "But, that's two words!" And you'd be right.

Oxford still calls it the Word of the Year even when the winner is a phrase, like *Climate Emergency*, or slang, like *Selfie*.

In linguistics, a word can be a single unit of meaning, not just one single word. Sometimes that unit is one word, sometimes two, and sometimes a short expression.

As the publisher of the Oxford English Dictionary, OUP naturally takes a close interest in the English language.

How is a Word Chosen?

With millions of words in use, how do they pick just one? It starts with The Oxford English Corpus (OEC)

- not a panel of people, but a massive electronic database of English. It contains billions of words from newspapers, books, websites, blogs, social media, and even TV and radio transcripts. Because it's constantly updated, the corpus provides an up-to-date picture of how English is actually used.

Oxford University Press draws on this huge pool of data - just like lexicographers and language scientists do - to track how English is changing and how older words are being used in new ways. They also watch for new words and expressions that reflect how people speak today.

The Selection Process

From this massive archive, an editorial review is carried out. Lexicographers, editors, linguists and other language experts put together a shortlist, asking: Is there a spike in usage? Does it capture something important or influential? Will it matter beyond this year?

The final choice is based on how often the word is used, its cultural relevance, impact on public conversation, and how well it reflects the mood and trends of the year.

Since 2022, Oxford has invited the public to vote on the final shortlist, allowing people around the world to participate.

Being selected does not automatically place the word in the Oxford English dictionary, it simply recognizes the word's cultural impact, not its official dictionary status.

Two other words made the shortlist

Aura farming - cultivating an attractive or charismatic public image through confident presentation and subtle self-branding (*Kim Kardashian springs to my mind*)

Biohack - efforts to improve or optimise one's physical or mental performance, health, or wellbeing through lifestyle, diet, routines technology etc.

The idea of a Word of the Year isn't new.

Dictionaries such as Cambridge and Collins also choose one each year.

For dictionary.com, the 2025 Word of the Year is 67 - yes, a number! And not, sixty-seven, but six-



seven.

It's a slang expression widely used among young people, without a fixed meaning. Some say it means maybe, so-so or meh, often paired with a shrug-like hand gesture. Others use it as a playful response with no real meaning at all. It's essentially a new meme.

Whether it's the playful ambiguity of 67, the confidence of *aura farming*, or the self-improvement focus of *biohack*, this year's words show how language evolves to capture our culture, moods and trends. Words act as a mirror of the world we live in. Paying attention to them gives us an insight into how our language is evolving and how we communicate.

Right, well - "I'm out with a belly button. (a playful goodbye)

JAPAN'S 2025 BUZZWORD OF THE YEAR: WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK AND WORK

Sanae Takaichi said this line, **WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK AND WORK**, when she became leader of the Liberal Democratic Party. She later took office as Japan's first female prime minister in October this year. She vowed to work, work, work, work and work, showing her determination to do her best.

Takaichi attended a ceremony in Tokyo on Monday where her phrase was named Buzzword of the Year 2025 by T&D Holdings, an insurance company.

Her comment sparked controversy. Japan has a long history of *Karoshi*, or death from overwork, and many supporters of work-life balance felt her words dismissed the serious need for reform.

"I want to emphasize that I have no intention of encouraging overwork among the public, nor of suggesting that long working hours are a virtue." Prime Minister Takaichi explained.

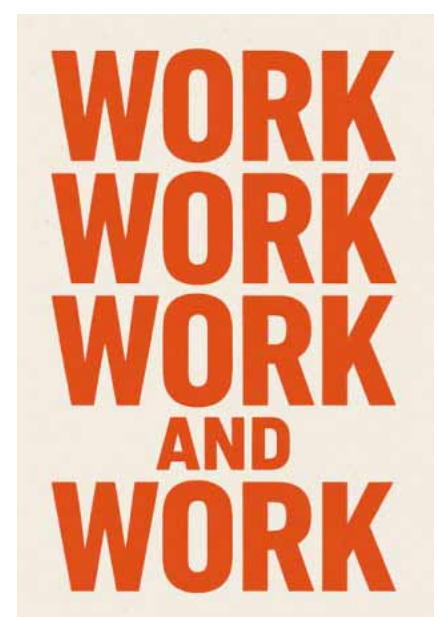
These days, it feels like almost everything said can be taken the

wrong way. Perhaps we should take a leaf out of the notebook of generation Alpha (those born from 2010) and simply say, six-seven, with a shrug-like hand gesture.



Sanae Takaichi

Editor's note:
What about the English saying:
All work and No Play,
makes Jack a dull boy !



La Saga Réforme Electorale

– BLS

Eliézer François



La Réforme Electorale est devenue le slogan préféré de certains politiciens qui l'utilisent pour camoufler toutes les tractations d'alliances politiques qui se font actuellement derrière le dos du peuple admirable. D'une façon très astucieuse, ce slogan est utilisé pour chloroformer et endormir le peuple et aussi pour détourner son attention des vrais problèmes qui sont légion. Par exemple:

- 1 L'administration mauvaise et malsaine dans les collectivités locales.
- 2 L'injustice envers les maraichers de Port Louis.
- 3 Le chaos et l'anarchie causés par le problème des marchands ambulants.
- 4 Le renvoi des élections municipales dues depuis octobre 2010.
- 5 L'adoption par le parlement d'un projet de loi bidon du ministre Herve Aimée; une loi scélérate et anti-démocratique.
- 6 Le rapport de la Commission Justice et Vérité, surtout les recommandations du Dr. Boraïne concernant les exclus de la société mauricienne,
- 7 Un "demi-million de roupies a chacune des 12 a 14 institutions scolaires" qui se trouvent dans la circonscription du vice-Premier ministre et ministre des Finances, Xavier-Luc Duval alors que rien est fait pour les écoles ZEP et celles des régions défavorisées de Roche Bois, Batterie Cas-sée, Ste. Croix, LaCure, Tranquebar, Cassis, Bain des Dames, Pte. aux Sables, Richelieu, Petite Ri vière, le Morne, les cotes de la Rivière Noire, La Ville Noire, Goodlands, Grand Gaube.
- 8 Le Rapport Carcassonne, au coup des millions de roupies, sous le paillason.
- 9 Le documentaire présenté par MBC 6.
- 10 Le communalisme institutionnalisé.

Quand les leaders politiques parlent de la Réforme Electorale, ils ont comme principal objectif:

- (a) Faire tout pour ne pas perdre le pouvoir politique - "Pa laisse pouvoir sape dan nou lamin"
- (b) L'augmentation du nombre des députés a l'Assemblée Nationale pour satisfaire l'appétit des différentes castes. (Maraz, Ba boojee, Vaish, Rajput, Ravived.)
- (c) Le financement des partis politiques par l'Etat.

Ils ne parlent pas d'un redécoupage électoral qui demeure un 'sine qua non' pour une bonne réforme électorale a Maurice.

Redécoupage Electoral

Une vraie réforme électorale doit être précédée d'un redécoupage des circonscriptions. Il n'est pas possible d'avoir une circonscription avec 20 mille électeurs inscrits pour élire 3 députés, et une autre circonscription avec 58 mille électeurs inscrits pour élire un même nombre de députés. Le nombre d'habitants ou d'électeurs inscrits dans chacune des 20 circonscriptions pour élire 3 députés doit être plus ou moins a parité. Par ailleurs, le redécoupage des circonscriptions ne doit pas être l'affaire de l'Electoral Supervisory Commission seulement. On doit aussi faire appel a des légistes, des arpenteurs, des experts, des hommes et des femmes intègres – des personnes qui ne se laisseront pas influencer par des considérations politiques, ethniques, communales ou religieuses ; des personnes qui s'opposeront a toute tentative de charcutage électoral "gerrymandering" par n'importe quel politicien, n'importe quel parti ou alliance politique ; contre n'importe quel groupe socio-culturel. Ils ne doivent pas être des "Roder Boutes" non plus. Du jour au lendemain, quelqu'un ne peut pas prétendre être devenu un Oracle en matières Constitutionnelles et Réforme Electorale. Une Réforme Electorale est un travail de longue haleine; il ne s'agit pas tout simplement de "kozé, kozé in camera," par deux leaders politiques. C'est plutôt un travail de consultations entre tous les partis politiques, un travail d'équipe par des experts en matières constitution-

nelles.

Eliminer le BLS?

Pourquoi? Pourquoi tant de voix s'élèvent-elles maintenant contre le système de Best Loser? Je ne mets pas le moindre doute la sincérité des vrais mauriciens qui souhaiteraient voir disparaître de la société mauricienne, ce monstre que représente le communalisme, scientifique ou pas. Mais, ce qui me dégoûte vraiment, c'est le comportement de ces singes, ces moutons de Panurge, ces opportunistes qui aiment « to jump on the bandwagon .» Malgré que jour et nuit, ils piétinent le mauritianisme et nagent dans le communalisme, le népotisme et la corruption, ils veulent se poser comme des champions anti-BLS.

A entendre la récente déclaration de notre cher Premier Ministre, Navin Ramgoolam sur le BLS « Il est inacceptable que 44 ans après avoir eu notre indépendance, nous sommes en train de tolérer un tel système », on ne peut que répéter avec Rodrigue :- « Qui l'eut cru ! – Chimène :- Qui l'eut dit ? » dans Le Cid de Pierre Corneille. Navin Ramgoolam est a son troisième mandat comme Premier Ministre, qu'est-ce qu'il a fait tout ce temps pour éliminer le BLS ? Il vient de dépenser des millions de roupies, l'argent des contribuables, pour défendre le BLS devant le Privy Council. Pourquoi donc cette volte face ? Le serait-ce parce qu'il veut épater la galerie ? (la population mauricienne) Ou, le serait-ce parce qu'il veut amadouer les jeunes ? Je crains fort que notre Premier Ministre se trompe, car nos jeunes qui connaissent Les Fables de La Fontaine sauront surement faire la différence entre 'Une Colombe et Un Renard.'

Rezistans ek Alternativ

Voyons ensemble l'origine de la démarche de Rezistans ek Alternativ pour éliminer le BLS : - Aux élections générales 2005 les candidats Rezistans ek Alternativ refusent de déclarer leur appartenance ethnique sous prétexte qu'ils sont contre la communalisation de notre système électoral. Le juge Balancy leur donne raison. Ils participent donc aux élections dans 4 circonscriptions. Réagissant, le MAM déclare que "le juge Balancy a tort, que son jugement est mauvais." Néanmoins, après le jugement Balancy, Jacques Tsang Mang Kin, au nom du MAM, loge une injonction en Chambre devant le juge Caunhaye pour que l'Electoral Supervisory Commission demande aux candidats Rezistans ek Alternativ de déclarer leur appartenance ethnique. Entre-temps, le MAM loge un 'Main Case' en Cour Supreme pour le renvoi des élections dans 4 circonscriptions ou Rezistans ek Alternativ avait des candidats, y-compris celle du Premier Ministre sortant, Navin Ramgoolam. Mais le chef juge et son adjoint ordonnent a l'ESC d'aller de l'avant avec les élections, que la question de Best Loser sera considérée après. Cependant, 6 mois après le Full Bench de la Cour Suprême, indirectement donne raison a MAM , en invalidant le jugement antérieur du juge Balancy.

La suite, nous la connaissons tous. - Aux élections générales 2010, les candidatures du Blok 104, Rezistans ek Alternativ furent rejetées. Le parti fait appel au Privy Council contre la décision de l'Electoral Supervisory Commission. L'appel est interjeté devant le Privy Council tout comme le MAM l'avait prévu et prédit a l'avance. Même s'il peut être sincère dans ses démarches pour éliminer le BLS dans notre système de vote, Ashok Subron a tort de croire que le communalisme disparaîtra avec cette élimination. Au contraire, ce sera peut-être le pire parce que le communalisme, le népotisme et la corruption sont déjà ancrés dans toutes nos institutions gouvernementales et semi-gouvernementales ; ils sont présents dans toutes les municipalités et tous les districts councils. Ashok Subron et certains membres de Rezistans ek Alternativ étaient encore trop jeunes, peut-être, pour se rappeler de certaines démarches qui furent entreprises

Continued on Page 5

Réforme Electorale

(from Page 5)

dans le passé pour faire disparaître le communalisme a Maurice. Les équipes de football : - Hindus Cadets, Tamil Cadets, Muslim Scouts, Fire Brigade, Racing Club de Maurice, (Dodos, Faucons) furent toutes interdites de continuer leur opération sans un changement de nom. Depuis des années, toutes ces équipes de foot ont disparu, mais qu'en est-il du communalisme ? Il règne en maître, non seulement dans le domaine sportif, mais dans toutes les sphères de notre vie quotidienne. Et, je suis d'accord avec Yusuf Mohamed quand, répondant à un journaliste il déclare : « Attendez, monsieur, vous croyez que la situation a changé ? Le communalisme a disparu à l'île Maurice ? »

Un Changement de Mentalité.

Yusuf a raison, car même après 40 ou 45 ans, rien a changé en ce qui concerne le communalisme a Maurice. Nos jeunes, non plus, ne sont pas à l'abri du communalisme parce que c'est devenu un virus qui se transmet de génération en génération. J'invite Ashok Subron, Résistants ek Alternativ, ainsi que tous les anti BLS de me dire pourquoi l'île Maurice a besoin de 7 effigies différentes sur ses billets de banque ? – Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam et S. Bissoondoyal, 2 hindous ; Sir G Duval, un créole ; Sir A. R. Mohamed, un musulman ; R. Seeneevassen, un tamoul ; M. Patureau, un blanc ; J. Ah-Chuen, un chinois. Pourquoi pas seulement l'effigie du père de la nation et de l'indépendance ? Ashok Subron devrait commencer par là, si sincèrement, il veut essayer de faire disparaître le communalisme a Maurice. Cessons d'être des hypocrites comme le Tartuffe de Molière !

Si vraiment nous voulons éliminer le BLS, voilà ce que le MAM propose –

1 Le Premier Ministre, Navin Ramgoolam, devrait organiser des élections générales anticipées immédiatement.

2 Navin Ramgoolam et Paul Bérenger devraient s'engager publiquement à mettre chacun, 3 hindous comme candidats à Plaine Verte ; 3 musulmans comme candidats à Cassis/ Vallijee ; et 3 créoles comme candidats à Triolet.

3 Dans les 19 autres circonscriptions, ils devraient prendre le même engagement pour mettre des candidats, sans aucune considération de leur appartenance ethnique (communale) ou castéiste, (Maraz, Baboojee, Vaish, Rajput, Ravived.)

4 Ramgoolam et Bérenger devraient, en même temps, s'engager à bannir tous les discours politiques lors des manifestations religieuses ou socio-culturelles.

C'est alors qu'on saura si c'est le BLS qu'il faut éliminer ou notre mentalité qu'il faut changer. A tous ceux qui rêvent de la disparition du communalisme a Maurice, je me permets de me répéter : 'Le Mauritianisme est déjà mort et enterré au cimetière Bois Marchand.' Une visite s'impose pour les incrédules. Par contre, il est temps pour que cesse cette Saga Réforme Electorale/BLS. Sinon, nous continuerons à ressembler à « des tombeaux blanchis, qui au dehors paraissent beaux, mais qui au dedans, sont pleins d'ossements de morts et de pourritures. » Mat :23, 27.

Eliezer François.

Sterile male mosquitos released to contain proliferation of Aedes albopictus



The Vector Biology and Control Division, through the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) programme, has proceeded with the release of some 80,000 sterile male mosquitos on 5 December 2025 on 12 different sites in Triolet, with the aim of mitigating the proliferation of the vector population of Aedes albopictus, commonly known as Tiger mosquitoes.

Junior Minister, Mrs Anishta Babooram; the Head of the Vector Biology and Control Division, Dr Diana Iyalloo; the Acting Director, Health Services, Dr Fazil Khodabocus; and other personalities were also present.

In a statement, Junior Minister Babooram highlighted that some Rs 24 million have been earmarked in the Budget 2025-2026 to invest in the SIT Production Facility aiming to deal effectively with mosquito-borne diseases. She pointed out that sterile males will mate with female mosquitoes, which will lay eggs that will not hatch. With time, there will be an increase in the number of sterile eggs in these regions, eventually decreasing the population of Tiger mosquitoes thereat, she added.

Mrs Babooram underlined that with the opening of a Facility at the



SSRN Hospital, the production of sterile male mosquitos will reach around 250,000 on a weekly basis, thus enabling the release of same in several regions around the island.

Dr Iyalloo, for her part, recalled that the release of sterile male mosquitos in Triolet is the follow up of a successful pilot project carried out in Port Louis last year. She moreover provided details regarding the process through which male mosquitos are bred and sterilised. The release programme will also be carried out in Goodlands, Grand Baie, Cité La Cure, Baie du Tombeau and Roche Bois, amongst others. Sensitisation campaigns will also be ongoing, she said.

As for Dr Khodabocus, he dwelt on precautionary measures which need to be observed in order to prevent mosquito proliferation especially in the raining season. These include: avoiding accumulation of stagnant water; changing water in vases once a week; avoiding the use of saucers underneath flower pots; covering water containers tightly; cleaning up waste lands; and putting all used cans and bottles into covered dustbins.

GIS