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Extract

Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam's New Year Address

“We should consolidate and strengthen our economy in order to improve quality of life of all Mauritians”

The PM delivered his speech via the MBC on 1 January, 2026, in Creole. This extract is translated here for the benefit of readers not familiar with the Mauritian vernacular.

My Dear Compatriots,

I have the privilege this year again to convey to you the best wishes of our government.

2025 was the first year we were in power. That was a year of which we all know. Never could you have imagined in what state the ancient regime had left our country, left us not on the verge of the precipice but inside the precipice itself.

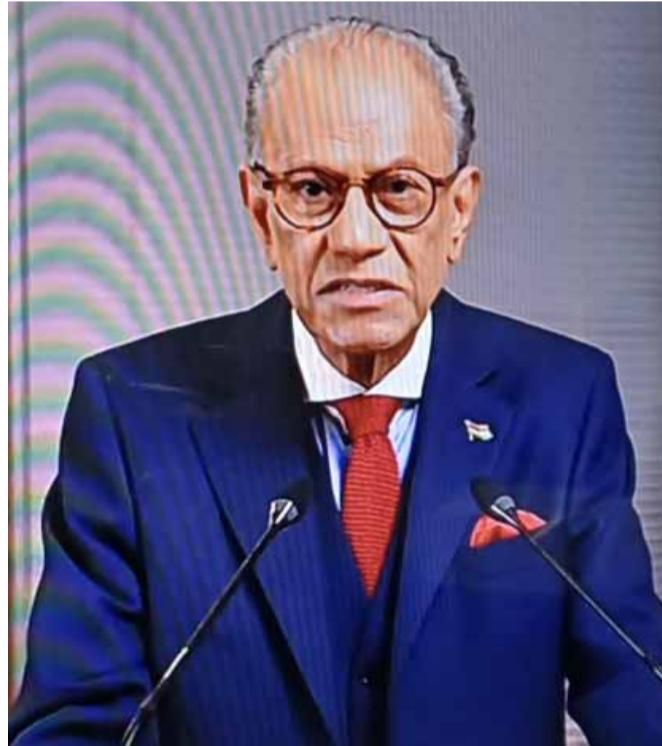
It's not pleasing for me to speak about the inheritance the previous government has left to us, but it is a truth which all Mauritians are witnessing and are still discovering. In order for us to know where we are heading, we must know where we come from. We must do the clean-up before we lay the foundation to reconstruct our country after ten years of corruption, ten years of dilapidation, ten years of repression. It's not an easy task. It can't be done in one day, or even in one year. It demands patience, it demands sacrifice, it demands solidarity.

Positive results are not obtained immediately. It is a process that takes longer when there is resistance and sabotage. But the task has began and today we are cleaning the mess. Today, we are clearing and sowing so that the people may reap tomorrow.

Past ten years

During the past ten years our country was on the way to the cemetery. Fortunately, by your pen you have chosen the way to light. We have already seen the first results in certain cases. My first satisfaction is that Mauritians feel themselves free at last. They can breathe. They no longer fear police to knock on their doors during the night because they criticized the government. Today, the State does not spy on you.

We obtained freedom in 1968. The MSM and their acolytes have deprived you of that freedom during



Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam

ten years. It is thanks to your vote in November 2024 that you have regained your freedom. We did promise you, we have kept our word. Freedom is our greatest possession.

We have restored democracy. For 10 years, the previous regime did postpone the municipal elections, not one time, not two times but three times. Us, as soon as we came to power, we restored democracy with the municipal elections in May 2025. For us, the right to vote is sacred.

Respect to Parliament

We have given back to Parliament its respect. Not one MP has been ordered out as the former regime was doing every week. The MBC (Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation) is no longer the propaganda of the government. MBC was doing the MSM propaganda. Our national broadcasting station is now a true information station.

For true democracy to operate there must be inde-

pendent institutions headed not by chatwas (bootlickers) but by people who are independent and honest. Dictature means total government which is referred to as State Capture. MSM ruled for 10 years as if government was their personal property.

You remember the level of policing under the ancient regime? The police, instead of working for the benefit of the people, did prioritize its assignments in accordance with the dictates of the former PM and his clan. If you did not vote for the Alliance party, we would never have been made aware that the police was granting in excess 250 million rupees as Reward Money, without any accountability. Did you know that there was only one arrest for corruption in 2024? In 2025, 95 people were arrested on corruption charges as a result of a change in mentality, when the director Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) operated in strict collaboration with the Police and the Director of Prosecutions (DPP).

Changes in Police Department

In 2026, we are introducing greater changes in the police department to consolidate the fight against criminality. We have already restored all the constitutional rights of the DPP. This year, more ameliorations will still be introduced. We are introducing the Criminal Justice Bill. The way of carrying out investigations will be more professional. Provisional Charges will be abolished. When police have evidence to arrest a person, the person must be charged as soon as possible. The suspect must not live with the Sword of Damocles hanging on his head for years.

We are also creating a National Prosecution Commission and a National Crime Agency. It will be total change of the way of criminal investigations.

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The National Crime Agency will comprise various branches to deal with criminal actions. For example, there will be a branch that will deal just with crimes, one branch to deal with frauds and corruption, with a team of top investigators comprising Mauritian and foreign elements.

There will be a total reformation with professionals and not amateurs with Zero Tolerance for criminals and frauds. It will not matter whoever the perpetrator is. He who commits a crime must pay. We'll have a justice system worthy of our reputation as a country operating under the Rule of Law.

We have discussed with the Privy Council for the Law Lords to come to Mauritius for sittings as we did before 2014 instead of Mauritian appellants to the Privy Council having to go to England and spending a lot of Money for their appeal.

Privy Council

Mauritians who appeal to the Privy Council at present have to go to England spending so much money to make their appeal. It's not only a facility to them to lodge their appeals to the Privy Council in Mauritius, but also appeal but also to enhance our image as an independent and impartial jurisdiction.

Road safety also is one of our priorities. We are introducing the Penalty Point System, this very day with more severe penalties. It is unacceptable that so many Mauritians are losing their lives on our roads due to the negligence or irresponsibility of certain people or driving under drug influence. Here also well show zero tolerance. Our objective is not popularity but to save lives. The loss of one life and one loss too many.

Another of the government's priorities concerns health. Government is spending more than 19 bil-

Reflexion on a Millipede

The fossil of a millipede, the size of a car has been discovered by scientists. (A millipede is supposed to have a thousand feet).

The one that is pictured on this page is said to have existed on Planet Earth over 325 million years ago, before the Dinosaurs.

Well, the men of science have always said that the dinosaurs were wiped out of Planet Earth 350 million years.

The question that may be asked is where was the creature known as MAN all those million years ago. Man has been on Planet Earth for only One Million years. Why did the Almighty wait for so long before creating MAN?

Man only appeared on Planet Earth million years ago. He has since then been killing other creatures for his food. In the beginning, as cannibals they used to kill and feed on one another.

Man generally speaking, man like Trump, Putin, Netanyahu, believe they are masters of the Universe and want to dominate the world. Fortunately, they are not permanent. They will be wiped out.

But Others like them will spring up! But the consolation is that Planet Earth itself will be consumed with all the Trumps, Putins and Netanyahus in it.

lion rupees per year on health services. But unfortunately, the system is operating in an archaic manner in many sections. Government is determined to modernise the health care system to offer a well-deserved service of quality to Mauritians. The government will introduce a Digital Card not only to reduce queues but also for staff not having to look for patients' records. We wish that every Mauritian patient to receive a better treatment in our hospitals. I would like to tell you that the Welfare State was created by the Labour Party. This is a principle which will never be put in question. What we need to do is to stop all waste and be more efficient.

One of the most serious challenges we face today is the ageing of the population. People do not realise that in a few years one third of the population will be over 60 years old. This will have a serious impact on our social and economic development.

Additional Burden

We have to say that this represents today an additional burden on our young people. I found that we had to look at our pension scheme. As the government, we had to make a decision. Otherwise, we would reach a time when no one would receive any pension.

Today, what we spend on old age pension is more than the budget for education, health and housing put together. I say it again, comrade Paul and myself, are not here to become popular but we are here to redress our country as we said during the electoral campaign. With us, it is not the popular measures that are important, it is to put the country on the way for the future.

There is one subject which we would like to mention. Today, there are major obstacles to development in our country. It's the shortage of labour. It's just because the population is ageing, the active population is decreasing. In all sectors of the economy, we must turn to foreign labour who are doing a good job. They are helping us in our economic activities. I thank the foreign workers who are sacrificing their family life to come to work from 26 December to the new year.

We must concentrate our efforts to make 2026 The Year of the Economy. All of us, together, the entrepreneurs, all workers, we must marry our efforts to defend our economic situation, our quality of life in 2026 and after. We should consolidate and strengthen our economy in order to improve quality of life of all Mauritians. It is not only the government who is concerned. All the population is concerned in order that Mauritius may not become a Junk State.

Foreign Investors

We are working on several files, we have already presented to you our strategy for the future, we must look for foreign investors to bring new technology which we do not have. We need strategic partners in areas where we lack the expertise.

You will thank us. It is crucial for Mauritius to develop the capacity to confront all shocks and economic turbulence which will cause to move backward. You remember that the first action that the Bank of Mauritius took was to stabilise the rupee.

We have put order in our finance to make sure that Mauritius does not fall within the category of the Junk State which would lead the way to bankruptcy.

We shall modernise our system. We have to review our Higher Access Policy and negotiate a strategic alliance in the interest of Air Mauritius. We shall also modernise our system so that we do not have to get into long queues when we arrive in Mauritius. We have to review all procedures and red tape which slow down our development.

I have set up a committee which has already started operating to see what should be done to eliminate all obstacles especially administrative. We have to understand that a salary increase without progress, it's a country that is going backward.

Editor's note: Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam's speech on 01.01.26 lasted for nearly one hour. Above extract is only part of the delivery.

