

MAURITIUS TIMES

• A state is better governed which has few laws, and those laws strictly observed. -- Rene Descartes



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Interview : Jean Claude de l'Estrac

“Le gouvernement de l'Alliance doit se préparer à descendre de son nuage”

‘La situation économique est extrêmement difficile mais pas désespérée. Ce qu’il faudra à nos dirigeants, c’est du courage pour imposer une cure d’austérité.’

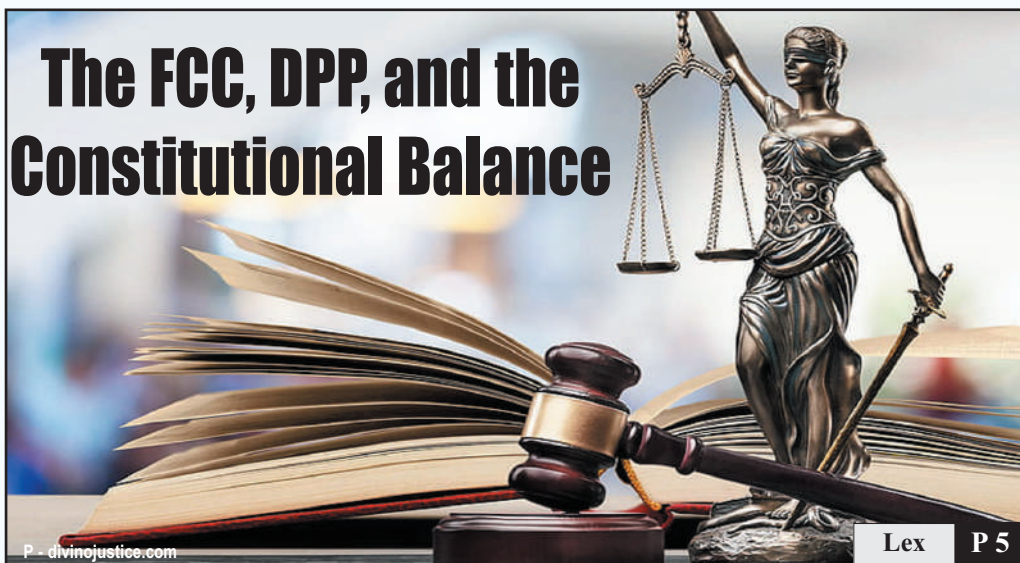
• “A day, not a week, is a long time in politics”

‘Qui aurait parié, il y a deux ans, que le leader du MMM deviendrait notre Premier ministre adjoint aujourd'hui?’

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Institutional Independence vs. Accountability

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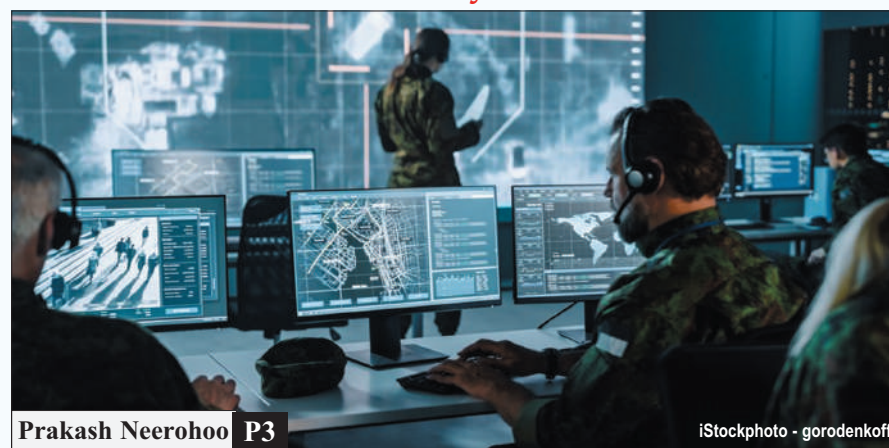
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Mauritius’ Stagnation in the Corruption Perception Index
A Test of Political Will

Mauritius has once again found itself in a state of stagnation in Transparency International’s Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for 2024. With a score of 51 out of 100, the country remains at the 56th position, unchanged from 2023. While this may suggest stability, the lack of progress is concerning, especially given the electorate’s expectations and the growing impatience among the population regarding the fight against corruption.

At first glance, maintaining the same ranking might not seem alarming. Mauritius is still among the top five least corrupt countries in Africa, trailing behind Seychelles, Cape Verde, Botswana, and Rwanda. However, a deeper analysis reveals an uncomfortable reality: Mauritius has been on a downward trend since 2012, when it had a score of 57. This persistent decline signals structural weaknesses in governance and a failure to implement significant reforms.

The CPI measures perceived levels of public sector corruption, drawing on multiple sources, including assessments from the World Economic Forum and the V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Index. In Mauritius, both indicators have declined, highlighting institutional fragility and a lack of transparency in governance.

Why Mauritius Has Failed to Improve

Several key factors have contributed to Mauritius’ stagnation in the rankings. A lack of transparency in public procurement over past years remains a major issue, as opaque processes create fertile ground for favouritism, nepotism, and fraud. Without a clear and accessible system that ensures fair competition, corruption risks persist.

Weak oversight institutions further exacerbate the problem. Regulatory bodies and anti-corruption agencies lack the necessary autonomy and resources to function effectively. The absence of robust enforcement mechanisms weakens the fight against corruption.

Political interference in governance is another persistent challenge, with private interests exerting undue influence on public decisions. The blurred lines between business and politics continue to fuel concerns about conflicts of interest.

Additionally, the absence of key legislative reforms — such as a Freedom of Information Act, political party financing laws, and stronger protections for whistleblowers — limits public scrutiny and hinders accountability.

Perhaps the most damaging factor is the perceived impunity for corrupt individuals, particularly high-ranking officials from previous administrations, who are not being held accountable. This perception fosters public distrust in the system and undermines confidence in governance.

Public Frustration and the Government’s Dilemma

The new government, elected on a platform of “rupture” and among other things anti-corruption, faces mounting pressure to act decisively. The electorate expects not only



strong rhetoric but also concrete actions leading to the prosecution and conviction of corrupt individuals, especially given the palpable public impatience. Many Mauritians believe that justice is taking too long, especially in high-profile corruption cases. The contrast between expectations and the slow-moving legal system is leading to frustration. While the rule of law necessitates due process, the government must find a way to demonstrate its commitment to fighting corruption without compromising legal integrity.

Ironically, some citizens are now urging the new administration to take the kind of aggressive action that they had condemned under the previous government. This contradiction illustrates the complexity of governance — while the people demand swift justice, a democracy operating under the rule of law requires careful and lawful proceedings.

Lessons from Top-Performing Nations

The countries leading the CPI rankings — Denmark, Finland, and Singapore — demonstrate that strong institutions, judicial independence, and a culture of accountability are fundamental to maintaining low corruption levels. Mauritius must learn from these examples and implement reforms that enhance transparency and accountability at all levels.

Denmark and Finland show that strong judicial independence and rigorous anti-corruption laws ensure that no one is above the law. Singapore’s strict enforcement of anti-corruption measures and a merit-based civil service system help minimize opportunities for bribery and favoritism. Similarly, New Zealand and Switzerland maintain high levels of transparency in public procurement and political financing, preventing undue influence from private interests.

Mauritius does not need to reinvent the wheel. It must adopt and adapt best practices that have been proven to work elsewhere.

Breaking Free from Stagnation

To break free from its stagnation, Mauritius must take decisive action in several key areas. Strengthening institutions is essential, and the Financial Crimes Commission must be given full independence and greater powers to investigate and prosecute corruption cases without political interference — unlike the limitations faced by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

Enacting key legislation, such as a Freedom of Information Act, political financing laws, and whistleblower protections, would significantly enhance transparency and accountability. At the same time, enhancing public sector integrity requires public officials to be subject to strict conflict-of-interest regulations and financial disclosure requirements.

Speeding up justice processes is also crucial. While due process must be respected, legal reforms can help expedite corruption cases without compromising fairness. Additionally, engaging civil society and the media is vital, as a free press and an active civil society are crucial allies in the fight against corruption. The government must create an environment where watchdog organizations can operate without fear.

A Test of Political Will

The fight against corruption is ultimately a test of political will. The new government has made bold promises, but promises alone will not be enough. The people of Mauritius demand action, and they will not be satisfied until they see tangible results.

If Mauritius continues to stagnate in the CPI rankings, it risks eroding public trust, discouraging foreign investment, and weakening its democratic institutions. On the other hand, a genuine commitment to transparency and accountability can restore faith in governance and set the country on a path toward greater economic and social progress.

The challenge is clear: Will Mauritius seize this opportunity to break the cycle of stagnation, or will corruption continue to cast a long shadow over its future? The answer lies in the actions taken in the months and years ahead.

Mauritius Times

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Prakash Neerohoo

Système de surveillance de masse

Un audit indépendant : Plus pertinent qu'une commission d'enquête

N'est-il pas légitime de se demander si ces commissions servent la transparence ou ne sont qu'une façade destinée à une diversion bien calculée?

Le Premier ministre Navin Ramgoolam a révélé, lors de la séance parlementaire du 5 février 2025, que l'ancien gouvernement MSM avait installé un système de surveillance électronique de masse au prix de Rs 5,2 milliards pour espionner la population à l'aide d'équipements sophistiqués capables d'intercepter des courriels, des conversations téléphoniques, des échanges sur les réseaux sociaux et des messages sur des applications sécurisées (WhatsApp, Signal).

Pour toute réaction, le MSM réclame par voie de communiqué une commission d'enquête pour faire la lumière sur cette affaire. Une commission d'enquête est-elle vraiment nécessaire? Notre réponse est d'emblée NON, comme nous allons le démontrer.

Contexte autocratique

D'abord, il est important de situer cette affaire dans son contexte approprié. L'installation d'un système de surveillance de masse faisait partie d'un processus autocratique au sein de la société mauricienne sous la férule du MSM. Ce parti avait non seulement capturé l'Etat et ses institutions à des fins politiques, incluant la

promotion d'une kleptocratie à tous les niveaux de l'administration publique, mais il avait aussi introduit un système de contrôle social pour verrouiller la libre expression des opinions. Il avait fait du délit d'opinion un crime.

Entre autres méthodes de contrôle, les contre-pouvoirs (presse, syndicats, radios privées) furent muselés; le Parlement fut réduit à une chambre d'enregistrement des vœux de la majorité despotique; la séparation des pouvoirs fut battue en brèche avec la neutralisation du bureau du Directeur des Poursuites Publiques (DPP) et la marginalisation d'autres institutions; des opposants furent traqués, persécutés et arrêtés sous des charges provisoires; et la société civile en général fut placée sous un régime d'espionnage avec notamment l'enregistrement obligatoire des cartes SIM dont les données furent stockées dans une base de données.

L'ampleur du dispositif de surveillance a été effectivement révélée au grand jour avant les élections grâce aux bandes sonores des conversations privées qui ont été divulguées par un lanceur d'alerte ('Missie Moustass'). Ces bandes sonores ont révélé non seulement

“Le gouvernement a l'autorité à travers ses institutions (police, FCC, ministère de la Justice) d'enquêter sur tous les aspects du système de surveillance avec diligence et promptitude. Une commission d'enquête serait pour le MSM une tactique dilatoire visant à retarder la conclusion de toute investigation en faisant trainer les audiences avec des témoignages de protagonistes contradictoires. Une telle commission ne pourrait que faire des constats, et tout acte, en apparence, criminel qui serait décelé devrait être référé à la police pour une enquête approfondie avant d'être l'objet d'une quelconque poursuite par les soins du DPP. On imagine donc le temps extraordinaire que cette commission prendrait pour terminer ses travaux...”

les conversations privées d'opposants politiques, mais aussi des complots ourdis en haut lieu par de hauts officiels de l'Etat pour piéger tel ou tel individu ou couvrir des homicides non élucidés par la police.

Investissement coûteux

L'investissement de Rs 5,2 milliards dans l'achat du système de surveillance, soutenu par un contrat d'entretien annuel au coût de Rs 355 millions par une société étrangère, était un acte conforme à l'esprit autocratique du gouvernement MSM. Aujourd'hui, le MSM veut noyer le poisson en demandant une commission d'enquête sur le système aussi bien que les révélations de 'Missie Moustass'.

Il avait déjà mis sur pied une commission d'enquête sur les bandes sonores le 25 octobre 2024 à quelques jours du scrutin national, mais le changement politique a court-circuité cette démarche. En effet, le présent gouvernement a le mandat incontestable de faire la lumière sur cette affaire dans le cadre de la loi sans recourir à une instance ad-hoc (commission d'enquête) qui utiliserait beaucoup de ressources et de temps sans nécessairement produire les résultats escomptés.

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● Suite en page 4



Pic - ETV Bharat

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Système de surveillance de masse

Un audit indépendant : Plus pertinent qu'une commission d'enquête

● Suite de la page 3

On imagine donc le temps extraordinaire que cette commission prendrait pour terminer ses travaux, probablement trois à cinq ans. Elle tiendrait le pays en haleine jusqu'aux prochaines élections législatives.

Le MSM aura beau jouer à la vierge offensée en parlant de la nécessité d'une enquête en toute indépendance et transparence sur le système de surveillance, mais le public n'a pas la mémoire courte. Son règne au pouvoir était l'antithèse même de la transparence. Il avait refusé une commission d'enquête sur des scandales financiers autrement plus graves tels que le démantèlement de la BAI, la vente d'avions d'Air Mauritius à bon marché, les prêts toxiques de la SBM et de MauBank à de petits copains, et les marchés publics d'urgence attribués durant la pandémie de Covid-19 sans aucun appel d'offres.

La commission d'enquête, un outil inefficace

L'histoire des commissions d'enquête à Maurice démontre que la commission d'enquête, dans la plupart des cas, n'a pas été un outil efficace pour crever l'abcès et prendre les mesures appropriées dans une situation donnée. Même lorsque certaines commissions (par exemple, la commission Rault sur la drogue en 1987 et la commission Lam Shang Leen sur la drogue en 2016) ont effectué un travail d'investigation appréciable, leurs recommandations n'ont pas été suivies d'actions concrètes.

Le «Task Force» mis sur pied sous la houlette de l'ICAC pour faire le suivi du rapport de la commission Lam Shang Leen n'a rien fait. Les personnes épinglées dans le rapport Lam Shang Leen ont toutes demandé une révision judiciaire du rapport et la Cour suprême leur a donné gain de cause dans certains cas. Résultat des courses: le trafic de drogue a connu une recrudescence remarquable au fil des années au point de devenir un véritable cancer de la société aujourd'hui.

D'autres commissions d'enquête n'ont pas connu un dénouement positif après leurs travaux. Par exemple, le rapport de la commission Caunhye sur l'ancienne présidente de la République Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, qui fut accusée de manquement à ses devoirs, est contesté devant le judiciaire. Le rapport de la commission Domah sur l'affaire Britam, une société de l'ex-conglomérat BAI qui fut vendue au Kenya, est aussi contesté par Roshi Bhadain, leader du Reform Party, devant la Cour suprême.

Diversión calculée

Ce qui est encore plus controversable, c'est la décision du gouvernement MSM d'instituer une commission d'enquête pour faire la lumière sur les circonstances dans lesquelles la State Trading Corporation (STC) avait alloué un contrat à la compagnie Betamax pour le transport de produits pétroliers en 2009 et pourquoi le contrat avait ensuite été résilié en 2015. Compte tenu du fait que l'affaire Betamax a été débattue en profondeur au tribunal d'arbitrage international de Singapour, en Cour suprême et devant le Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC) avec les résultats que l'on connaît, on comprend difficilement cette initiative de charger une



francebleu.fr/infos/faits-divers-justice

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instance ad hoc de se pencher à nouveau sur une affaire classée.

Instituer une commission d'enquête sur une affaire qui a été tranchée par la plus haute instance judiciaire, c'est mettre la charrue avant les bœufs. C'est tenter de reproduire en public un procès qui a été déjà jugé par le JCPC. A quoi sert cette commission si ce n'est de mettre en relief les rôles de certains protagonistes dans les tenants et aboutissants de cette affaire? Puisque ces protagonistes sont des hommes politiques dans des camps opposés, on peut prévoir le spectacle déferlant de témoignages contradictoires. Finalement on se demande si toutes ces commissions ne sont pas faites pour la galerie dans une entreprise de diversion bien calculée.

Audit ad-hoc

Il n'y a aucun doute que le système de surveillance fut installé illégalement car aucune loi ne permet l'espionnage massif des citoyens ou l'espionnage d'un individu sans le consentement d'une Cour de justice. Cependant, pour répondre à la tentative de diversion du MSM par sa demande d'une commission d'enquête, le gouvernement serait bien inspiré de demander à une autorité indépendante, en l'occurrence le Bureau National de l'Audit, de faire un audit ad-hoc sur le système de surveillance avec pour objet d'établir:

(a) Qui a autorisé l'investissement excessif de Rs 5,2 milliards dans le système de surveillance et Rs 355 millions dans le contrat d'entretien annuel?

- (b) Est-ce que les dispositions de la loi sur l'attribution des marchés publics pour un investissement aussi énorme ont été suivies à la lettre?
- (c) Comment le contrat de fourniture des équipements et de logiciels fut-il alloué – est-ce un contrat à source unique accordé à un fournisseur?
- (d) Sous quelle autorité la décision d'acheter le système fut-elle prise – celle du conseil des ministres ou celle du Bureau du Premier ministre?
- (e) Quelle était la source de financement du projet – le budget de la police ou le budget du Bureau du Premier ministre?
- (f) Est-ce que les fonds alloués au projet provenaient du budget national tel que sanctionné par la loi des finances?
- (g) Le système a-t-il été installé en violation d'une loi sur la sécurité publique ou d'une loi sur la confidentialité des données personnelles?

Le Bureau National de l'Audit pourrait faire cet audit avec des attributions spécifiques dans un temps raisonnable. Il ne s'agirait pas pour lui de juger si la décision (politique) d'acheter le système était bonne ou mauvaise, mais plutôt d'évaluer les procédures utilisées pour acheter les équipements et collecter les données personnelles afin de déterminer si elles étaient conformes à la loi du pays. Ce serait un audit de conformité (*compliance audit*).

Prakash Neerohoo

Institutional Independence vs. Accountability

The FCC, DPP, and the Constitutional Balance

On 31 January 2025, Cabinet approved the introduction of the Financial Crimes Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, which aims to restore the prosecutorial powers of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) under the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) Act of 2023. This move mandates that no prosecution under the FCC or Declaration of Assets Acts can proceed without the initiation or consent of the DPP. While intended to ensure proper oversight, this decision effectively reduces the FCC to a passive investigative body, reminiscent of the now-defunct Economic Crime Office (ECO) and the perceived passive role of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) under former leadership. Does this shift strike the right balance between institutional powers, or does it compromise the separation of powers enshrined in the Constitution?

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* On 31 January 2025, Cabinet approved the introduction of the Financial Crimes Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, aimed at restoring the prosecutorial powers of the DPP under the FCC Act 2023. As a result, no prosecution under the Act or the Declaration of Assets Act can proceed without the DPP's initiation or consent. Effectively, this move reduces the FCC to a passive investigative body – much like the now-defunct ECO or the ICAC before it. Does this decision establish a proper balance of power among key institutions, or does it disrupt the constitutional separation of powers?

The FCC will not become a passive body. Under the ECO, several prosecutions were initiated by the DPP following investigations. It is worth recalling that the MSM-MMM government dismantled the ECO after it launched an investigation into a senior minister.

In contrast, ICAC under Navin Beekarry was widely perceived as passive, with his allegiance seemingly aligned with the former Prime Minister. This perception was reinforced by ICAC's inaction in high-profile cases such as Angus Road, St Louis Gate, and the Kistnen Papers. We must also remember how Beekarry told the Privy Council, in the Medpoint case appeal, that there was no case to answer.

* We previously highlighted that the FCC's decisions were beyond challenge, neither subject to judicial review nor open to legal action for gross malfeasance. Moreover, it had the absolute discretion to discontinue investigations into financial fraud or corruption, effectively granting an executive body unchecked authority. Was there truly no legal avenue for the judiciary to intervene and impose checks on this power?



“Under the Constitution, the Commissioner of Police (CP) is not subject to the orders of political figures, except for general directives that the Prime Minister may issue. It is the CP's duty to act independently. Similarly, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) enjoys full constitutional independence, and historically, all holders of the office have exercised their duties with scrupulous impartiality. Public opinion serves as a vital form of accountability, but in practice, this mechanism falters due to a largely passive and disengaged public...”

The FCC's decisions could and can be challenged through judicial review. However, under the previous regime, no one dared to bell the cat. Since the FCC's actions constitute administrative decisions, they are legally subject to judicial review.

The key hurdle, however, lies in establishing *locus standi*. Demonstrating a direct interest in the matter is not always straightforward, making it difficult for potential challengers to bring a case forward.

* The FCC has nevertheless an important role to play in the fight against financial crimes. Insofar as its future role is concerned, what will remain of the FCC's original mandate with the revised Bill?

“The Commissioner of Police (CP) can already be held accountable through parliamentary questions regarding his decisions. However, when it comes to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), it is unlikely that any parliamentary question on his actions would be allowed, given his complete constitutional protection. Creating an oversight body to scrutinize the decisions of the CP and the DPP would smack of political interference and could ultimately undermine their independence...”

It is not a question of any original mandate. The FCC Act has been amended to restore the DPP's prosecutorial powers, but beyond this, all offences remain unchanged. The FCC retains full authority to investigate past, present, and future offences.

* The debate over accountability vs. independence is particularly relevant for constitutional office holders such as the DPP and the Commissioner of Police, who operate with significant authority yet are shielded – at least on paper – from direct political influence. What mechanisms could be introduced to ensure their accountability without undermining their independence or making them subservient to the executive?

Under the Constitution, the Commissioner of Police (CP) is not subject to the orders of political figures, except for general directives that the Prime Minister may issue. It is the CP's duty to act independently. Similarly, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) enjoys full constitutional independence, and historically, all holders of the office have exercised their duties with scrupulous impartiality.

Public opinion serves as a vital form of accountability, but in practice, this mechanism falters due to a largely passive and disengaged public. However, both the CP's and the DPP's decisions can be challenged through judicial review, providing a crucial legal avenue for accountability.

☞ Cont. on page 6

Institutional Independence vs. Accountability

The FCC, DPP, and the Constitutional Balance

☞ Cont. from page 5

*** Would judicial oversight, parliamentary scrutiny, or an independent review body help strike the right balance? Could periodic reporting requirements or a system of checks and balances be introduced without compromising their constitutional mandate?**

There is no need for such a body. The Commissioner of Police (CP) can already be held accountable through parliamentary questions regarding his decisions. However, when it comes to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), it is unlikely that any parliamentary question on his actions would be allowed, given his complete constitutional protection.

Creating an oversight body to scrutinize the decisions of the CP and the DPP would smack of political interference and could ultimately undermine their independence.

*** Some countries have independent prosecutorial oversight bodies or parliamentary committees that oversee the work of the DPP. Would such a system be viable in Mauritius?**

Mauritius is a small country, and we must be cautious about creating oversight bodies for independent institutions, as this could risk undue interference. However, the FCC falls into a different category — it is an investigative body, not a constitutionally independent institution.

A parliamentary committee already exercises oversight over the FCC, though this does not extend to its investigations and decisions, ensuring a balance between accountability and operational independence.

*** Are there successful models we could learn from other common law jurisdictions with a view to balancing the independence of the DPP while ensuring accountability?**

In England, for example, the House of Lords has ruled the following:

“The Attorney-General has many powers and duties. He may stop any prosecution or indictment by entering a nolle prosequi. He merely has to sign a piece of paper saying that he does not wish the prosecution to continue. He need not give any reasons. He can direct the institution of a prosecution and direct the Director of Public Prosecutions to take over the conduct of any criminal proceedings and he may tell him to offer no evidence. In the exercise of these powers, he is not subject to direction by his ministerial

colleagues or to control and supervision by the courts.”

But in England there are many conventions that regulate the relationship between the DPP and the Attorney General.

Further the Privy Council giving a decision on the accountability of the DPP in Mauritius ruled:

A purported exercise of power would be reviewable if it were made:

1. In excess of the DPP's constitutional or statutory grants of power — such as an attempt to institute proceedings in a court established by a disciplinary law (see s 96(4)(a)).
2. When, contrary to the provisions of the Constitution, the DPP could be shown to have acted under the direction or control of another person or authority and to have failed to exercise his or her own independent discretion — if the DPP were to act upon a political instruction the decision could be amenable to review.
3. In bad faith, for example, dishonesty. An example would arise if a prosecution were commenced or discontinued in consideration of the

payment of a bribe.

4. In abuse of the process of the court in which it was instituted, although the proper forum for review of that action would ordinarily be the court involved.
5. Where the DPP has fettered his or her discretion by a rigid policy — e.g. one that precludes prosecution of a specific class of offences.

*** Should the appointment and tenure of the DPP and the director-general of the FCC be subject to a more transparent vetting process, perhaps with parliamentary approval?**

The DPP is appointed by the Judicial and Legal Service Commission, which consists of judges, providing a safeguard for the honesty and transparency of his decisions. This process ensures the DPP's independence from political influence.

However, regarding the Director-General of the FCC, there is room for improvement. Currently, the Prime Minister appoints the Director-General, and this process can appear politically influenced. It might be worth considering an amendment to the law to make the appointment more transparent and ensure that it is free from political pressures.

*** There is also the debate relating to public interest vs. legal autonomy. In what ways can the public have more insight into prosecutorial decisions without compromising judicial independence?**

When a court is deciding a judicial review case, it acts independently. The very nature of judicial review is to ensure that decisions are made within the bounds of the law, without compromising judicial independence.

In the Privy Council case cited earlier, the Privy Council made a bold statement, but this did not undermine its own independence, nor did it compromise the DPP's independence. Judicial review is a check on power and does not equate to interference; it simply ensures that decisions are subject to legal scrutiny.

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MARCEL CABON STATE SECONDARY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Sir Francis Herchenroder Street Beau Bassin
Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Marcel Cabon State Secondary School Parent-Teacher Association, to be held on Monday, 03 March 2025, at 12:00, at the Lecture Theatre, Marcel Cabon SSS.

AGENDA:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Welcome address | 2. Reading & approval of minutes of previous AGM |
| 3. Rector's Address | 4. President's Report |
| 6. Approval of estimates of budget 2025 | 5. Treasurer's report |
| 7. Election of new office bearers and members | 8. AOB |
- N.B.:** In the event that the AGM is cancelled under unforeseen circumstances or due to a lack of quorum, the AGM will then be held on Wednesday 17 March 2025.

The Secretary

A New Peace Initiative for Ukraine – Or Capitulation?



Anil Madan

President Zelenskyy of Ukraine warned that direct negotiations between the US and Russia, about ending Russia's war of aggression, but excluding his country that is the victim of that aggression, would be dangerous. "They may have their own relations but

talking about Ukraine without us – it is dangerous for everyone." Zelenskyy emphasized such a step would validate Putin's illegal invasion and "show that he was right" and give him "impunity" and "compromise."

Less than ten days later, President Trump had ignored Zelenskyy's concerns and announced that he has had an extended discussion with Putin about ending the war, and that he will continue to negotiate directly with Putin to that end. He announced that he would meet with Putin in Saudi Arabia, visit Russia and that Putin would visit the U.S.

One would expect that the prospect of peace, particularly one that involves getting a nuclear power to stop its acts of aggression, would generate applause and optimism, rather than cause geopolitical churn and turmoil. But "churn and turmoil" seems and understatement when we consider the seismic shift that this unorthodox approach by Trump has caused.

In April 2022, almost two years ago, I wrote: "We cannot yet define the contours that will mark the end of the war. At the most basic level, we do not know if Putin will agree to a ceasefire without significant concessions by Ukraine amounting to a de facto surrender or at the point when its cities have been reduced to ruinous rubble, its male population decimated, and its displaced women and children unable to return to their homeland and carry on their lives before a massive rebuild of infrastructure, homes, services, and civil society takes place. We do not know, except in broad generalizations what the terms of any ceasefire acceptable to the Ukrainians might be. What we know is essentially some of the Ukrainian and Russian wish lists. To underscore the point, we cannot tell if the Ukrainian leadership will survive the assault staged by Putin, nor foretell the shape of the nation that will emerge."

Two years later, in April 2024, I noted that Army General Christopher Cavoli, head of US European Command, the top general for US forces in Europe, testified to Congress that Ukraine will be "outgunned" ten to one by Russia within a matter of weeks barring fresh supplies of ammunition and weapons from the United States.

At that time, US Speaker Mike Johnson was heeding candidate Trump's calls to stall aid for Ukraine.

I reiterated in 2024 what I had said two years earlier, some six weeks after Putin started his attack: "My thought two years ago, that Ukraine would have great difficulty surviving the Russian assault is reinforced by the developments recounted above."

Most military and political analysts seem to agree that Russia is making creepingly slow progress, but progress nevertheless, in its assault on Ukraine and gaining territory. Although Ukraine has become proficient in drone warfare, it has severe manpower problems and whereas it could continue defending itself for some time, the prospects look dim.

Now, it appears that the US is abandoning Ukraine and perhaps Europe and Britain as well in the process. This could be viewed either as a realistic recognition of the dire situation facing Ukraine, or a transactional approach by Trump to secure critical rare earth minerals and supplies for the US, or simply as playing out Trump's off-expressed skepticism about NATO and that the Europeans are taking advantage of the US Secretary of Defense Hegseth, speaking in Europe,



"To give the devil his due, perhaps Trump genuinely believes that ending the killing and abating the threat of nuclear escalation are paramount considerations. Or it may be a simple realization that Ukraine cannot win and Russia will eventually grind it down. Zelenskyy's apparent willingness to concede territory, even if phrased as a face-saving 'swap' of one piece of Ukraine for another, suggests that he too realizes what the inevitable outcome will be..."

said the US would no longer "tolerate an imbalanced relationship" with its allies and reiterated Trump's call for NATO members to increase dramatically, their defense spending.

Hegseth added that the US wants, just as the Europeans do, a sovereign and prosperous Ukraine. "But we must start by recognizing that returning to Ukraine's pre-2014 borders is an unrealistic objective," he said. Hegseth dismissed the idea that Ukraine could recapture its lost territory: "Chasing this illusionary goal will only prolong the war and cause more suffering." And he added this coup-de-grace: "The United States does not believe that Nato membership for Ukraine is a realistic outcome of a negotiated settlement."

Whether Hegseth was referring just to Ukraine's loss of Crimea that Russia annexed in 2014, or to the portions of eastern Ukraine that Russia later annexed or occupies, is not clear. What is clear is that if Ukraine is to get peace on American and Russian terms, it must not only concede territory but give up dreams of joining NATO and gaining the security that Article 5 of the NATO charter provides. In 2023, President Biden and then Secretary of State Blinken declared that eventual NATO membership for Ukraine was a commitment and inevitable.

Hegseth's pronouncements do indeed reflect a tectonic shift in American policy towards Ukraine and indeed to Europe. Underscoring this, Hegseth revealed the new American view that Ukraine is essentially a problem for Europe, not the US. He called on European nations to provide the overwhelming share of funding for Ukraine.

Two of Hegseth's statements suggest that this new approach may be slightly nuanced and does not, in fact, represent a wholesale abandonment of NATO or Ukraine. First, the call for NATO members to spend more of defense does not suggest dissolution of that organization but rather of strengthening it. NATO has no purpose other than deterring Russian aggression and encroachment. Second, Hegseth did suggest that Ukraine should get security guarantees.

But it is fair to say that Hegseth's statements offer Russia major concessions even before Putin commits to any deal acceptable to Ukraine. With territorial cession conceded, NATO membership and continued American support off the table, Putin will get what he has long wanted, a weakened and neutral Ukraine with no prospect of NATO membership. Nor is it clear whether Putin will return Ukrainian children who were shipped to Russia. Or, for that matter, whether Russia will pay for the reconstruction of Ukraine's cities and infrastructure that Putin has destroyed.

Zelenskyy had stated that he is willing to discuss swapping territory with Russia in exchange for peace, but he has insisted that Ukraine must get strict security guarantees in return. "There are voices which say that Europe could offer security guarantees without the Americans, and I always say no," Zelenskyy said. He offered that it would be a "major mistake" to deploy British, French and other allied troops to guarantee Ukraine's security without involving the US.

Zelenskyy has also warned Britain and other NATO member countries to increase their defense spending to strengthen their militaries to deter Russia, or risk finding themselves at war and forced to devote all their resources to defense. Curiously, this echoes Trump's call for more defense spending by these countries, but for a different reason.

Hegseth snubbed Zelenskyy on this point too, rejecting the idea that the US would provide security guarantees to Ukraine. While acknowledging that a durable peace must include "robust security guarantees to ensure that the war will not begin again," Hegseth said that such security guarantees should be backed by "capable European and non-European troops". Further elaborating on de-emphasizing Ukraine's prospects of ever joining NATO, he added: "If these troops are deployed as peacekeepers to Ukraine at any point, they should be deployed as part of a non-Nato mission and they should not be covered under Article 5."

European reaction reflected dismay with the new US doctrine. The EU's foreign policy head said that Europe will continue to support Ukraine if it does not accept any American-Russian deal thrust on it. Trump's announcement and Hegseth's pronouncements have sparked European and British fears that Ukraine could be fractured and carved up and overall European security being undermined.

On the heels of Trump's announcement of his planned negotiations with Putin, the UK, the European Union and five other countries vowed to enhance support for Ukraine. They released this statement: "We are ready to enhance our support for Ukraine. We commit to its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of Russia's war of aggression. We share the goal to keep supporting Ukraine until a just, comprehensive and lasting peace is reached. A peace that guarantees the interest of Ukraine and our own."

So, what is really going on here? To give the devil his due, perhaps Trump genuinely believes that ending the killing and abating the threat of nuclear escalation are paramount considerations. Or it may be a simple realization that Ukraine cannot win and Russia will eventually grind it down. Zelenskyy's apparent willingness to concede territory, even if phrased as a face-saving "swap" of one piece of Ukraine for another, suggests that he too realizes what the inevitable outcome will be.

Perhaps this is just another example of Trump trying to secure a transactional advantage to gain access to rare earth minerals from Ukraine and perhaps even from Russia. Perhaps Trump sees America, Russia and China dividing the world into spheres of influence as his recent overtures about Greenland, the Panama Canal, and Canada reveal. Indeed, the Wall Street Journal has reported that China has apparently offered to host meetings between Putin and Trump. This may be China's way of staving off Trump's tariffs as it did in 2017 when Trump sought to have China pave the way for his talks with Kim Jong Un.

What seems clear is that Russia will not pay the price for its war of aggression beyond the economic suffering already visited on its populace. And it is ironic that America would be the nation to abandon the principle that sovereign nations should be secure in their territory. The previous agreements signed by the US to that effect mean nothing.

Cheerz...
Bwana

Jean Claude de l'Estrac

“Le gouvernement de l'Alliance doit se préparer à descendre de son nuage”

‘La situation économique est extrêmement difficile mais pas désespérée. Ce qu'il faudra à nos dirigeants, c'est du courage pour imposer une cure d'austérité.’

Dans l'interview de cette semaine, Jean Claude de l'Estrac analyse les défis économiques actuels, les dynamiques politiques en évolution et les enjeux diplomatiques majeurs auxquels Maurice est confrontée. Il souligne la nécessité pour le gouvernement de faire preuve de courage face à une situation économique difficile, tout en insistant sur l'importance d'une approche réaliste dans les négociations internationales. Il aborde également la stabilité apparente du climat politique actuel, tout en mettant en garde contre les défis potentiels à venir. Cette discussion offre une réflexion profonde sur l'état actuel de la nation et les voies possibles pour son avenir.

Mauritius Times: L'affaire des Chagos et le “deal” que le Gouvernement actuel cherche à négocier avec le Royaume-Uni et les États-Unis demeurent une préoccupation majeure pour Maurice, notamment depuis le retour de Donald Trump au pouvoir aux États-Unis. Quelle est votre analyse de la situation et de la gestion de ce dossier par le Gouvernement dirigé par Navin Ramgoolam?

Jean Claude de l'Estrac: Je serai prudent car nous ne savons pas encore ce que ce fameux «deal» contient concrètement. Ce qui est certain, c'est que la résolution des négociations s'est compliquée depuis l'arrivée de Donald Trump.

Le président des États-Unis est tellement imprévisible que personne ne sait ce que sera sa posture. C'est la raison pour laquelle j'avais estimé qu'il fallait clore les négociations au temps du président Biden même si les propositions du traité ne donnaient pas une entière satisfaction à Maurice.

* En effet, Trump est réputé pour son tempérament

“Le dernier obstacle en date brandi par les Américains et les Anglais est une stupidité. C'est ne rien comprendre à la géopolitique de l'océan Indien que de qualifier Maurice de satellite de la Chine. Si nous sommes le satellite de quelque puissance étrangère, c'est bien évidemment de l'Inde, l'Inde qui est, par ailleurs, le partenaire stratégique des Américains dans l'océan Indien, l'Inde qui possède une quasi-base sur le territoire mauricien...”



impulsif et imprévisible, comme l'illustrent ses récentes décisions concernant le Canada, le Groenland et le Panama. Le fait qu'il n'ait pas, jusqu'à présent, rejeté catégoriquement l'accord entre le Royaume-Uni et le gouvernement mauricien, tel que proposé par ce dernier, suggère qu'un “deal” reste envisageable. Partagez-vous cette analyse?

Oui, si «envisageable» veut dire «faisable». Je le pense d'autant plus que le dernier obstacle en date brandi par les Américains et les Anglais est une stupidité.

C'est ne rien comprendre à la géopolitique de l'océan Indien que de qualifier Maurice de satellite de la Chine. Si nous sommes le satellite de quelque puissance étrangère, c'est bien évidemment de l'Inde, l'Inde qui est - par ailleurs - le partenaire stratégique des Américains dans l'océan Indien, l'Inde qui possède une quasi-base sur le territoire mauricien...

Je suis sûr que l'ambassadeur américain à Port Louis a relayé l'information. Par ailleurs, je pense que Modi, qui est à Washington, devrait toucher un mot à Trump...

* Par ailleurs, alors que le gouvernement de Navin

Ramgoolam approche de ses 100 premiers jours, le climat politique semble relativement stable, sans frasques ni décisions controversées révélant des désaccords au sommet de l'État. Cette situation contraste avec le passé et paraît plus apaisée. Qu'en pensez-vous et comment l'expliquez-vous?

Il est évident que les deux principaux leaders de l'Alliance du Changement ont, chacun, mis beaucoup d'eau dans leur vin. Il y a peut-être deux raisons principales à cette cohabitation heureuse: d'abord, leur grand âge qui leur rappelle qu'il n'y aura

“Il est évident que les deux principaux leaders de l'Alliance du Changement ont, chacun, mis beaucoup d'eau dans leur vin. Il y a peut-être deux raisons principales à cette cohabitation heureuse. D'abord leur grand âge qui leur rappelle qu'il n'y aura pas pour eux de coup d'après s'ils devaient échouer. Ensuite, les sujets qui fâchent n'ont pas encore été débattus. Je pense au prochain budget ; je ne serai pas surpris de voir l'expression de quelques désaccords sur les mesures à prendre...”

pas pour eux de coup d'après s'ils devaient échouer.

Ensuite, les sujets qui fâchent n'ont pas encore été débattus. Je pense au prochain budget; je ne serai pas surpris de voir l'expression de quelques désaccords sur les mesures à prendre pour redresser la situation; je ne sais pas encore si tous sauront gérer l'impopularité car un certain nombre de ces mesures seront forcément mal vues. De ce point de vue, la présentation du prochain budget sera au fait le moment de vérité.

* La gestion des affaires publiques sous Ramgoolam semble plus prudente cette fois-ci. Peut-on y voir une nouvelle approche du leadership ou s'agit-il simplement d'une phase temporaire avant de potentielles tensions internes?

Beaucoup parmi ceux qui ont côtoyé l'ancien Ramgoolam trouvent que la nouvelle version est beaucoup plus agréable, plus à l'écoute. Du coup, ses partenaires ne contestent rien même quand certains de ses choix et décisions sont problématiques.

☞ Suite de la page 9

“A day, not a week, is a long time in politics”

‘Qui aurait parié, il y a deux ans, que le leader du MMM deviendrait notre Premier ministre adjoint aujourd’hui?’

☞ Suite de la page 8

De son côté, Bérenger, toujours aussi pointilleux, se montre plus conciliant. Il est désormais totalement respectueux des prérogatives du Premier ministre.

*** Au fait, si l'on se fie aux expériences passées, une alliance avec Paul Bérenger paraît difficilement viable à long terme. C'est du moins l'impression — voire la conviction — qu'avaient les anciens alliés du MMM. Cependant, les choses pourraient être différentes cette fois-ci. Mais, selon vous, quel serait le véritable ‘litmus test’ de la solidité du gouvernement actuel?**

Comme je vous l'ai dit tout à l'heure: c'est le prochain budget. J'ai souvenir de ce qui s'était passé en 1982. Maurice connaissait une grave crise économique. Le FMI avait été appelé à la rescousse. Cette institution avait proposé un programme d'ajustement structurel composé de mesures d'austérité.

Bérenger, le ministre des Finances, avait fait preuve de courage politique et était prêt à entériner in toto des mesures impopulaires pour sortir au plus vite de la crise, selon ses propres termes. Le Premier ministre, Anerood Jugnauth, lui, n'était pas de cet avis et il craignait les retombées politiques.

Ce sera une guerre ouverte et, finalement, la cassure.

Il faudra espérer que les mêmes causes ne produisent pas les mêmes effets...

*** À Maurice, où l'inflation, la dette publique et le coût de la vie pèsent lourdement sur la population, la capacité du gouvernement à gérer ces défis sera cruciale. Selon vous, comment la situation évolue-t-elle sur ce plan?**

La situation économique est extrêmement difficile, mais pas désespérée. Les mesures à prendre pour redresser la barre sont connues.

Ce qu'il faudra à nos dirigeants, c'est du courage pour imposer une cure d'austérité — n'ayons pas peur du mot — ce qui sera très mal reçue par une population droguée à l'argent public.

L'on voit déjà des marques d'impatience totalement déraisonnables chez une partie de la population. Mais c'est ainsi. Le gouvernement de l'Alliance doit se préparer à descendre de son nuage.

*** Il y a également l'impatience grandissante de la population à voir aussi derrière les barreaux ceux que les Mauriciens perçoivent comme des fraudeurs et des criminels. Il semble que la traque des suspects se met en place, qu'il s'agisse d'affaires de fraude, de corruption ou d'autres délits criminels, y compris des cas de mort d'homme. Votre opinion à ce sujet?**

Cette impatience-là se comprend même si elle est mal fondée. Au fait, certains reprochent au gouvernement de ne pas agir aussi brutalement que l'ancien gouvernement qu'ils viennent pourtant de sanctionner.

Mais il est certain que la population n'aura de cesse de réclamer l'emprisonnement des corrompus de l'ancien régime ; elle croit voir comme une indulgence politique à l'égard des malfrats clairement identifiés.

*** Au fait, la lutte contre la corruption a toujours été un enjeu majeur en politique. Selon vous, le gouvernement Ramgoolam dispose-t-il réellement de la volonté et des moyens nécessaires pour renforcer la**



“Beaucoup parmi ceux qui ont côtoyé l'ancien Ramgoolam trouvent que la nouvelle version est beaucoup plus agréable, plus à l'écoute. Du coup, ses partenaires ne contestent rien même quand certains de ses choix et décisions sont problématiques. De son côté, Bérenger, toujours aussi pointilleux, se montre plus conciliant. Il est désormais totalement respectueux des prérogatives du Premier ministre...”

transparence et combattre les abus?

Le discours est musclé mais les moyens me semblent dérisoires devant l'ampleur des délits identifiés.

Tant que quelques corrompus de haut rang ne se retrouveront pas derrière les barreaux, la population doutera de la volonté du gouvernement de vraiment combattre la corruption.

Elle finira par penser que ce gouvernement ne vaut guère mieux. Elle se trompe sans doute, mais il faut que le nouveau gouvernement agisse rapidement même s'il est vrai que le temps politique n'est pas celui de la justice.

*** L'environnement politique mauricien est souvent marqué par des tensions entre partis et une méfiance croissante du public envers la classe politique. Dans ce contexte, quelles stratégies le gouvernement Ramgoolam pourrait-il adopter pour restaurer la confiance**

et renforcer la gouvernance?

Pas une «stratégie» mais par des actions vertueuses répétées. Plusieurs décisions récentes semblent pointer dans la bonne direction. Quelques autres ont créé de la perplexité.

A tout le moins, ce Gouvernement a un gros problème de communication. À ce jour, il n'a pas expliqué et justifié un certain nombre de ses nominations, par exemple. Ce n'est pas la transparence annoncée.

*** Les prochaines élections municipales devraient se tenir prochaine-**

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ment, offrant au MSM et aux partis extraparlamentaires une opportunité de marquer leur présence sur l'échiquier politique. Comment envisagez-vous l'évolution de la situation sur ce front?

Il ne faut pas considérer les prochaines élections municipales comme un match retour. Strictement, les enjeux ne sont pas les mêmes ; il s'agit pour les électeurs d'élire des conseillers censés gérer leurs villes. Mais il est inévitable, en fonction des forces politiques qui brigueront les suffrages des citoyens et du taux de participation électorale, que les résultats soient analysés sous le prisme de la politique nationale.

Cela dit, je vois clairement la chance qui se présente aux partis extraparlamentaires. C'est une élection par arrondissement. S'ils se gardent d'ambitions démesurées, je vois un potentiel d'éligibilité pour un certain nombre de représentants de ces partis. Encore faut-il qu'ils sachent se positionner en fonction de la sociologie électorale...

*** Pensez-vous que le MSM puisse émerger de nouveau comme une force politique majeure sous son leadership actuel ? Ce parti a tout de même obtenu le soutien d'au moins 27% des votes en novembre dernier...**

Pas tout de suite, et pas à l'occasion des municipales qui ne sont pas le terrain politique favori du MSM. C'est trop tôt. Mais qui aurait parié, il y a deux ans, que le leader du MMM deviendrait notre Premier ministre adjoint aujourd'hui?

Qui a dit: 'A day, not a week, is a long time in politics'.



Paramanund
Soobarah

We are all celebrating the Laureate Season. Sincerest congratulations to all 48 of them. I cannot conceal my satisfaction that my own school (RCC) did so well, and I am equally happy that my other

school, MGI Moka, where I studied Tamil for two years and Sanskrit for three in adult education classes, did as well as it did. Not to detract from the credit rightly deserved by the laureates, at that level of performance there is very little difference in ability between the laureates and the runners-up. My sincerest congratulations then also to them, the runners up. To them I also offer my heartfelt sympathies: You have not been labelled "Laureate" but you are not in any way worse than them. Only the foolish will think so.

Old people always hark back to their own times, and I am no exception. When I joined RCC in January 1947, all new entrants to the school were summoned to the hall where we were addressed by the Acting Rector, Mr André Glover, about the various parts and systems of the school and about what was expected of us newcomers. (Rector T. Barnes, an Englishman, was away on leave at the time; when he finally turned up later in the year, we found him an awesome figure, and also one that remained largely unintelligible to us — his English was awful, compared to Mr Glover's, who was as clear as daylight.)

To come back to that memorable meeting in the hall, we were surprised to find a number of much older boys, some already sporting moustaches, in the last row. They were, we were informed later, the students of the Royal College in Port Louis who had completed their School Certificate, and had come to complete their Sixth Form at RCC. The fact was that in those days, only the RCC could run the Sixth Form (called "the English Scholarship" class) and produce laureates, of which there were only two — one for the classical side (Latin, Greek and that sort of stuff) and the other for what was still called the "Modern" side. There are more laureates today than there were students in both English scholarship classes combined. The St Joseph and St Esprit colleges were there, as also the Loreto Convent schools, but they could not produce laureates. By my time the Bhujoharry College in Port Louis and the New Eton College in Rose Hill had already established themselves. I have since watched the growth of our education — the initially slow development of private colleges. One small, personal, venture in Quatre Bornes was the Regent College, one of whose attendees was a boy from my own village (Palma) named Anerood Jugnauth.

The first developments in the number of laureates came when the special English Scholarship examinations were replaced by the Cambridge Higher School Certificate — a lowering of standards, according to many

at the time. Private secondary schools were authorised to offer HSC classes, and one new laureateship were created for them. Thereafter private secondary schools mushroomed, and they jointly produced a laureate every year. Initially these laureates did not perform too well, but one, Sanjay Jawaheer of New Eton College, later Dr Jawaheer, came up with distinctions in all three main subjects. In 1976 the Labour Party under Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam introduced free secondary education for all and created the Private Secondary Schools Authority. The number of laureateships were also increased gradually to what it is today. The former English Scholarships were renamed the Sir Ramgoolam Seewoosagur Scholarships.

Beyond reminiscing about the past, I also looked at the MES statistics of SC and HSC results. I could not review the 2012 HSC data as an essential component was missing. I did follow up the SC2012/HSC-2014 cohort, as well as the SC2022/HSC2024 cohort. One striking feature of these cohorts is the decline in the number of examinees: nearly 17,000 for SC2012 to just under 15,500 for SC2022. (They were down to only 12,500 in 2024). This must be a matter for concern for the authorities. Concerning the number of HSC examinees, the decline was more pronounced: nearly 10,500 in 2014, but only 7,500 in 2024. But here the rule concerning the number of Credits required for access to the examination may have played its part. A detailed examination may reveal the precise effect of that rule. The number of passes have declined similarly, from nearly 8,000 in 2014 to nearly 6,000 in 2024.

Student employability

Cutting through the verbiage of official statements, the mission of the national education effort is to improve the culture of learners and enhance their employability, and also, to the extent possible, to instill the desire in students to start their own ventures, not only commercial but also technical. One issue that often dictates the choice of subjects to be studied is the student's own view of what he is likely to be more successful in, regardless of its contribution towards his or her employability. The parent's advice is also often more concerned about culture than employability.

Sadly, one more element has crept into the task list of the education system, namely the control of substance abuse in educational institutions. In this matter the Central Government has a role to play: it must begin by introducing the mandatory

Education

The Ongoing Debate — Further Bits and Pieces



“Regarding student employability, an important constituency — one that sadly doesn't vote — is the employers, who could express their needs possibly through their Federation. Their input must be taken into account when framing education policies. Is the matter of the number of credits at SC level of any importance to them? And what about the matter of fluency in spoken English and/or French? They should clarify their views in writing to the Ministry of Education. There have reports of cases of University of Mauritius graduates who couldn't express themselves at job interviews. The Government is also an important employer; the various departments have their own set of qualifications for their recruits. It may be helpful to standardise the qualifications...”

death penalty for drug runners and life-time imprisonment for drug peddlers. The Police must also move from the role it had under the "Lakwizin" government of planting fake evidence on people critical of the government to one of real policing, namely, to seek out and arrest enemies of society.

Regarding student employability, an important constituency — one that sadly doesn't vote — is the employers, who could express their needs possibly through their Federation. Their input must be taken into account when framing education policies. Is the matter of the number of credits at SC level of any importance to them? And what about the matter of fluency in spoken English and/or French? They should clarify their views in writing to the Ministry of Education. There have reports of cases of University of Mauritius graduates who couldn't express themselves at job interviews.

The Government is also an important employer; the various departments have their own set of qualifications for their recruits. It may be helpful to standardise the qualifications where this can be done without detriment to the departments concerned. Primary school teachers, policemen and prison staff, nursing staff, clerical staff (of the Central as well as local administrations) and other similar personnel do

not usually require more than O-Level qualifications.

At least in my time (many decades ago) there was no official statement from the Central Establishment Division to the Ministry of Education about the likely needs of the government in the matter of educational qualifications. Each Ministry or Department put forward its own qualifications requirements as the need arose. No Ministry or Department put forward any requirements for basic spoken languages. All this must change if it hasn't already. Furthermore, unless and until all employers jointly stress the need for spoken language proficiency in their recruitment procedures to the Ministry of Education, the present sorry state of affairs will continue. The Ministry of Education must have clear guidelines from employers and the Civil Service about their entry-level educational requirements.

Popular examination subjects

The 20 or so most popular examination subjects have remained largely the same. Mathematics tops the list; Economics, Accounting and Business come next, followed by Chemistry and Physics; Biology comes towards the end.

☞ **Cont. from page 11**

Education

The Ongoing Debate – Further Bits and Pieces



“How reliable are the examinations? This is not to question Cambridge, but rather the MES. In the past when proof of irregularities in the conduct of examinations were presented to the Syndicate, they took action and reviewed the results. In the 2024 examinations, some students faced severe difficulties with the equipment provided for use in the Practical Physics paper at the St Esprit College Exam Centre. They protested during the exams, and also wrote a group letter to the MES the following day. There has been no response or acknowledgement from that institution as yet. Those were the days of the “Lakwizin” government and protests from people not connected to the ‘Kitchen’ did not matter...”

☞ Cont. on page 10

Then come subjects like Hinduism and Islamic Studies, and Hindi and Urdu. It will not serve much purpose to enumerate all the subjects, but comment is called for. Why is that Geography and History are not studied in Mauritius, except in very rare cases? These subjects are great contributors towards culture.

One subject that nobody offered in the 2024 HSC examination was Thinking Skills. This is a most interesting subject, and is good for both culture and employability, and success in it enhances the self-confidence of the student like none other. It is my surmise that Mauritian students avoid these subjects for lack of expressive ability in the English language. My surmise seems to be confirmed because no student dared to offer English Language as a subject, even though Literature in English is offered by many.

There remains one question which must absolutely be dealt with. How reliable are the examinations? This is not to question Cambridge, but rather the MES. In the past when proof of irregularities in the conduct of examinations were presented to the Syndicate, they took action and reviewed the results. In the 2024 examinations, some students faced severe difficulties with the equipment provided for use in the Practical Physics paper at the St Esprit College Exam Centre. They protested during the exams and also wrote a group letter to the MES the following day. There has been no response or acknowledgement from that institution as yet. Those were the days of the “Lakwizin” government and protests from people not connected to the ‘Kitchen’ did not matter. Those days are fortunately over, and for good, we hope.

We hereby ask the new Minister to ensure that the particular complaint we are referring to is thoroughly investigated and Cambridge be asked to carry out such reviews as may be necessary. The future of students must not be allowed to be adversely affected by the improper conduct of MES officials.

Paramanund Soobarah



YOUNG GRADUATE PROGRAMME 2025 (BOM/YGP2025)

13 February 2025

The Bank of Mauritius is inviting applications from young graduates for its Young Graduate Programme 2025.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PROGRAMME

A copy of the terms and conditions of the programme can be downloaded from the Bank of Mauritius website at <https://www.bom.mu/job-vacancies>.

MODE OF APPLICATION

Application forms should be downloaded from the Bank of Mauritius website at <https://www.bom.mu/sites/default/files/YGP2025Form.pdf>, and submitted through email, along with an updated curriculum vitae, a motivation letter and copies of all supporting documents for the position (National Identity Card, academic and certified professional certificates, evidence of any experience claimed), on human.resources@bom.mu or in a sealed envelope, with the job reference clearly marked on the top left hand corner of the envelope, addressed to:

**Human Resources Section
Bank of Mauritius
Sir William Newton Street, Port Louis**

Deadline for submission of application is Thursday 27 February 2025 at 16:00 hrs (local time).

- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview and they may be required to undergo any selection process which may be applicable for the programme.
- The selected candidates will be entitled to a monthly stipend and a refund of travelling expenses.
- Any person who, directly or indirectly, by himself or by other person and in any manner, influences or attempts to influence any decision of the interview panel or the Bank shall commit an offence and shall be automatically disqualified from the recruitment process and may be liable to criminal prosecution.
- The Bank reserve the right not to proceed with the programme without any obligation to give any reason to the applicant(s) of the grounds of their actions.

About the Bank of Mauritius

The Bank of Mauritius has as primary objective the maintenance of price stability and promotion of orderly and balanced economic development. Other objectives of the Bank are to regulate credit and currency in the best interests of the economic development of Mauritius and to ensure the stability and soundness of the financial system of Mauritius.

BANK OF MAURITIUS Sir William Newton Street, Port Louis, Mauritius

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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Profession YouTuber

YouTube abounds in the good, the bad and the ugly. The choice is ours to make...

A few years ago (before the Covid pandemic) I was at a birthday party and talking to a student who was in Form 2 or 3. She was quite articulate and fluent in English, and I happened to ask her whether she had given some thought about what she would like to do as a career. 'I am going to be a YouTuber' she replied confidently.

At that time, I had been using YouTube less frequently than I do now, and I hadn't the foggiest idea what being a YouTuber meant. I therefore didn't pursue the conversation further with this girl. I haven't met her again since so I don't know how far she has gone in her plan, in any case perhaps it's too early – or perhaps not, who knows! – since she would not have completed her secondary schooling to HSC level yet.

In fact, despite that girl's forthright assertion, on the spur of the moment I had thought she meant that as a hobby. But afterwards I asked myself whether she was serious, because how can one make a living from being a YouTuber? Practically all of us are simply users of media platforms without bothering about their nitty-gritty, such as how they are set up and what goes into the production of programmes and their diffusion to the public at large, the regulatory aspects, etc. Much like we run our cars without necessarily knowing about its mechanics, which we leave to the... mechanics if something goes wrong or for servicing.

Since then, however, my utilization of various YouTube platforms has expanded somewhat, triggered by the use of this medium during the Covid epidemic to obtain the latest information about the disease presented during focused panel discussions by experts – since it would take time to get such updates in the regular medical journals. In any case changes were taking place so rapidly in the understanding and guidance on the Covid situation that there was no other way to keep apace and put into practice accordingly. From Covid I then graduated to other, non-medical content of interest to me.

“Belatedly, I have come to appreciate what ‘likes’ and ‘subscribers’ are all about, as well ‘paywall’ and ‘ticketed’ access. In spite of which, it appears, leaks can take place, as indeed seems to have been the case here. Contents are being dumbed down to gain more subscribers, meaning more money, the common denominator that drives the ‘content creators’ of digital entertainment. They aim at popularity, either positive or negative, which means sick jokes that appeal most to the baser instincts...”

It is in line with my increased use of YouTube that my curiosity and interest to probe somewhat deeper into the phenomenon of YouTube and YouTubers has been aroused owing to a controversy that has erupted about a YouTuber in India, whose platform goes by the name BeerBiceps. Apparently during a live session he had asked a female contestant a question on sex matters that was deemed (according to an article in the MEDIA of Feb 12, 2025 by Salila Saffronista) to be ‘inappropriate and vulgar’, ‘lacking any sense of public decency or personal



“How can one make a living from being a YouTuber? Practically all of us are simply users of media platforms without bothering about their nitty-gritty, such as how they are set up and what goes into the production of programmes and their diffusion to the public at large, the regulatory aspects, etc. Much like we run our cars without necessarily knowing about its mechanics, which we leave to the... mechanics if something goes wrong or for servicing...”

respect’, and moreover the ‘controversial joke was not even original but was plagiarized from a Truth or Drink video by comedians Sammy Walsh and Alan Fang.’

The widespread public outrage that has been swift on social media has raised questions of ethical standards, of professionalism and originality in digital entertainment. These are being widely debated in several news channels in India, with condemnation of such vulgar, putrid humour that glorifies mediocrity and crass. The article under reference underlines the ‘extremely poor standards passing off perverse titillation and normalising incest as entertainment under the garb of freedom of expression and free press. Such unbridled media is bound to have long-term repercussions on Indian society leading to complete anarchy destroying basic morality and family values resulting in increasing violence, sexual abuse and exploitation of children, vulnerable women and the elderly.’ As a matter of fact, it should be clear to everyone that such content can impact society adversely and seriously everywhere.

No wonder therefore that legal action has been initiated against that person, his public apology deemed insufficient considering the gravity of the offence. I must say I was quite surprised to learn about the video session that has been taken to task because I had previously followed quite a few of that YouTuber's interviews on serious topics that included spirituality. Once such was a discussion with Sri M, a Guru from Kerala whose interventions on the Vedanta are as simple to understand as they are insightful and reveal the Truth and truths of our existence. How did BeerBiceps go off course, some are asking? Were his earlier ones on serious topics a façade to hide his true inclinations?

Belatedly, I have come to appreciate what ‘likes’ and ‘subscribers’ are all about, as well ‘paywall’ and ‘ticketed’ access. In spite of which, it appears, leaks can take place, as indeed seems to have been the case here. Contents are being dumbed down to gain more subscribers, meaning more money, the common denominator that drives the ‘content creators’ of digital entertainment. They aim at popularity, either positive or negative, which means sick jokes that appeal most to the baser instincts, hence pornographic or sexually explicit content attracts larger followings. Popularity doesn't go with quality, as politicians for example have repeatedly proved!

That incident and its consequences will follow their own course. On the other hand, it is a fact that there is much on YouTube that can truly enrich one's life and enlarge one's vision and give food for thought and reflection. For example, last night I was watching an interview of biologist Rupert Sheldrake, who is renowned for his work on the subject of ‘morphic resonance’, a hypothesis he has proposed to explain inheritance and development among living organisms. Cosmology and fundamental physics pertaining to the nature of reality are some other topics that greatly interest me, and which are superbly elaborated on YouTube by experts.

I have already mentioned Sri M, but there are also other gurus who expound as profoundly on spirituality, and its convergence with the scientific quest to arrive at the Truth of existence. Suffice it to search within, for there are guides willing to lead seekers to their inner being. As Sadhguru of Isha Foundation says, ‘the only way out is in.’

YouTube abounds in the good, the bad and the ugly. The choice is ours to make...



Nandini Bhautoo

Identity, Culture, and Language

Anjani Murden's 'Le Bhojpuri mauricien': Unveiling the Story of Bhojpuri in Mauritius

On Thursday 6th February 2025, saw the launch of Anjani Murden's book at Hennessy Park Ebene called 'Le Bhojpuri mauricien... Étude sociolinguistique du bhojpuri à Maurice: Histoire, situation, survie'. The book is a condensed version of her doctoral research conducted under the auspices of the Open University.

Anjani Murden has used classic sociolinguistic methodologies to assess the current situation of a language that is often compared to Creole, as it exists in a similar dyadic relationship with Hindi as Creole does with French. However, it is important to stress here that this equivalence is not totally correct. For whereas Creole was created as a language of contact in plantation societies, using the semantics of French and the basilectal grammar of African languages, early forms of Bhojpuri were already in use in North Eastern India, mostly among the rural folk, who brought their dialect with them in the middle passage of indenture. From there it has evolved by adopting new vocabulary, semantics and phonetics, while in turn infusing Creole with some of its own cultural colours, this process of mutual interconnection, being a natural process of dynamic language use and evolution over time.

Anjani Murden's book uses interviews, focus group discussions, ethnographic interviews, studied social variables in order to study the evolving attitudes to the language over the generations. One element which emerges is that Bhojpuri is very much related to affect and intergenerational intergroup relationship permitting bonding over the generations within the family circles. But the data seems to indicate a lessening of use. One of the worrying aspects which the sociological study highlights is that the old people have preserved the memory of their times through Bhojpuri. Once these speakers suffer the inevitable passage of time, we might lose precious knowledge about the past of lived communities and their narratives of struggle and survival.

Bhojpuri and the Indian Indenture System

It is good here that we remind ourselves that Mauritius is far from being the only territory where Bhojpuri is spoken outside India. The migration of Bhojpuri speakers to various colonies was primarily driven by the British colonial system of indentured labour, which replaced enslaved African labour after the abolition of slavery. Between 1834 and the early 20th century, thousands of Bhojpuri-speaking labourers were taken to sugarcane plantations in the Caribbean, Fiji, and Mauritius. These migrations not only led to the linguistic



Anjani Murden's 'Le Bhojpuri mauricien' launched by Minister Kaviraj Sukon

“Despite its linguistic decline, Bhojpuri remains a cornerstone of Indo-Mauritian identity, particularly in music and folklore. Bhojpuri folk songs, deeply embedded in Mauritian cultural traditions, narrate themes of migration, labour struggles, devotion, and festivities. These songs have been adapted into local musical styles and continue to be performed in religious ceremonies and festivals...”

have been simplified, aligning with Creole's more neutral grammatical structure. Derek Bickerton and Sydney Mintz say this is because the conditions of plantation contact forced users to resort to the basic grammar of present, past, future in wielding the new language, in a sense going back to the roots of language formation.

Code-switching between Bhojpuri and Creole is common, particularly among older generations who still retain Bhojpuri fluency.

Hybridization with Creole and decline of Bhojpuri

The sociolinguistic relationship between Bhojpuri and Creole in Mauritius is one of convergence and shift. Similar to the way Mauritian Creole emerged from contact between French and African languages, Mauritian Bhojpuri has integrated Creole elements, leading to a Creolized form of the language.

This hybridization has contributed to the erosion of Bhojpuri as an independent linguistic entity. Younger generations are increasingly shifting toward Creole as their primary spoken language, and Bhojpuri is often relegated to cultural and religious functions. Scholars like Sarita Boodhoo and Suchita Ramdin have highlighted the importance of preserving Bhojpuri cultural expressions, particularly in folk music

and cultural dispersal of Bhojpuri but also resulted in its transformation through sustained contact with European languages and local vernaculars.

Bhojpuri's evolution in Mauritius

Mauritius, home to a significant Indo-Mauritian population, became a fertile ground for the development of a distinct Bhojpuri dialect influenced by Mauritian Creole, French, and English. While Bhojpuri was historically a primary spoken language among indentured labourers and their descendants, it has gradually declined in usage due to socio-linguistic shifts and the increasing dominance of Creole in everyday life.

Mauritian Bhojpuri has experienced phonetic, grammatical, and lexical changes due to prolonged contact with Creole. For instance:

Many Bhojpuri words have been absorbed into Creole, such as “bhai” (brother), “roti” (flatbread), and “dal” (lentils).

The original Bhojpuri case system and verb conjugations

Feature	French-Creole Dyad	Hindi-Bhojpuri Dyad
Official Recognition	French is dominant, Creole gaining status	Hindi promoted in education; Bhojpuri marginalized
Language Shift	Creole replacing French in informal speech	Bhojpuri being replaced by Creole
Transmission	Creole learned as a first language	Bhojpuri not consistently passed down
Prestige	Creole increasingly accepted	Bhojpuri stigmatized as rural or outdated

and oral traditions.

Bhojpuri Customs and Songs: A Cultural Repository

Despite its linguistic decline, Bhojpuri remains a cornerstone of Indo-Mauritian identity, particularly in music and folklore. Bhojpuri folk songs, deeply embedded in Mauritian cultural traditions, narrate themes of migration, labour struggles, devotion, and festivities. These songs have been adapted into local musical styles and continue to be performed in religious ceremonies and festivals.

Sarita Boodhoo has extensively documented Mauritian Bhojpuri folk traditions, emphasizing their role in maintaining a link to ancestral heritage. Suchita Ramdin has also contributed to understanding how Bhojpuri customs have adapted in the diaspora, showing that while the language itself may be fading, its cultural impact remains strong.

Comparing Bhojpuri's diasporic trajectories

The fate of Bhojpuri in Mauritius reflects broader trends seen in other Bhojpuri-speaking diaspora communities:

Trinidad and Tobago & Guyana: Bhojpuri evolved into Trinidadian and Guyanese Hindustani, incorporating English and Creole influences. While still a cultural marker, these Bhojpuri variants are no longer widely spoken.

Fiji: Bhojpuri and Awadhi merged to form **Fiji Hindi**, which remains an official language and a vital part of Indo-Fijian identity.

Mauritius: Bhojpuri has been more extensively hybridized with Creole, leading to its gradual decline in everyday use, though it persists in cultural expressions.

Sociolinguistic parallels: Bhojpuri-Creole and Hindi-French Dyads

In Mauritius, Bhojpuri exists in a sociolinguistic dynamic similar to the French-Creole relationship. Both Bhojpuri and French were languages brought by migrants (Indian labourers and French colonizers, respectively), while their creolized forms (Mauritian Creole and Mauritian Bhojpuri) developed as vernaculars in response to linguistic contact.

Some key parallels and differences:

While Mauritian Creole has gained linguistic legitimacy, Bhojpuri continues to struggle for recognition and survival. Scholars like Boodhoo and Ramdin advocate for Bhojpuri's revitalization, recognizing its deep cultural significance despite its diminished spoken role. This is also the position taken by the scholar Anjani Murden.

The history of Bhojpuri in Mauritius is a story of migration, adaptation, and transformation. Though its everyday use has declined, its cultural legacy persists in music, religious practices, and identity formation. Building on the insights of her research and the work of scholars like Sarita Boodhoo and Suchita Ramdin, Anjani Murden's book underscores the importance of preserving Bhojpuri as a living heritage.

Russia could launch a war in Europe if...: Danish intelligence's big warning

Danish intelligence assessment comes amid Trump urging Putin to end the "ridiculous" war in Ukraine or face widespread US tariffs on its exports.

The Danish Defense Intelligence Service warned on Tuesday that Russia could be ready to launch a "large-scale war" in Europe within five years if the Kremlin perceives NATO, the US-led military alliance, as "weak".

"Russia is likely to be more willing to use military force in a regional war against one or more European NATO countries if it perceives NATO as militarily weakened or politically divided," said an intelligence report cited by Politico.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, accompanied by the head of the Chechen Republic, Ramzan Kadyrov, inspects NATO military trophies captured in the battles in Ukraine during his visit to the Russian Special Forces University in Gudermes, Chechen Republic, Russia.(AP File)

"This is particularly true if Russia assesses that the U.S. cannot or will not support the European NATO countries in a war with Russia," the report adds, warning that Russia is building its military to prepare for a possible war with NATO.

The threat assessment comes amid Donald Trump's repeated calls urging Putin to end the "ridiculous" war in Ukraine or face widespread US tariffs on its exports.

The agency has predicted three scenarios if the war in Ukraine stops or becomes frozen, with the Kremlin not having enough military capacity to fight a war with multiple countries at the same time.

The Danish intelligence report predicts that Russia would be able to trigger a war with a "bordering country" within six months and could launch a regional war in the Baltic Sea region within two years. It also predicts a large-scale attack on Europe in five years if the US decides to stay out of a potential conflict.

The warnings have been made without considering a potential increase in NATO defence capabilities. Since his first term, Trump had been urging the European allies to contribute more budgetary resources to NATO's budget, up to 5% of their GDP.

Trump also suggested that Washington could quit the alliance if the allies do not listen to his pleas, even suggesting that he would "encourage" Russia to attack any NATO member who did not meet its financial obligations.

USAID staffers contest accusations of insubordination as a lawsuit challenges the administration's efforts to dismantle the agency

The Trump administration will present an unforgiving argument for dismantling the US Agency for International Development to a federal judge Wednesday: USAID is rife with "insubordination" and must be shut down for the administration to decide what pieces of it to salvage.

The argument, made in an affidavit by political appointee and deputy USAID administrator Pete Marocco, comes as the administration confronts a lawsuit by two groups representing federal employees.

USAID staffers deny insubordination and call the accusation a pretext to break up the more than 60-year-old agency, one of the world's biggest donors of humanitarian and development assistance.

Accounts of USAID staffers filed Tuesday in support of the lawsuit revealed new details of the destruction of the agency.

That includes a sworn statement from a USAID staffer describing a specific leader in billionaire Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency teams allegedly directing USAID staffers on Monday in the immediate termination of about 200 USAID programs without proper authorisation or process.

US District Judge Carl Nichols, an appointee of President Donald Trump, dealt the administration a setback Friday in its dismantling of the agency, temporarily halting plans to pull all but a fraction of USAID staffers off the job worldwide.

Nichols is due to hear arguments Wednesday on a request from the employee groups to keep blocking the move to put thousands of staffers on leave as well as broaden his order. They contend the government has already violated the judge's order, which also reinstated USAID staffers already placed on leave but declined to suspend the administration's freeze on foreign assistance.

Trump and Musk's cost-cutting DOGE have hit USAID particularly hard as they look to shrink the size of the federal government, accusing its work of being wasteful and out of line with Trump's agenda.

In the court case, a government motion shows the administration pressing arguments by Vice President JD Vance and others questioning if courts have the authority to check Trump's power.

"The President's powers in the realm of foreign affairs are generally



A federal court will hear the Trump administration's harsh case for destroying the US Agency for International Development on Wednesday: USAID is beset by "insubordination" and needs to be shut down so the government can determine what parts of it to keep.(Bloomberg/Aaron Schwartz)

vast and unreviewable," government lawyers argued.

USAID staffers and supporters call the aid agency's humanitarian and development work abroad essential to national security.

They argue each step of the administration's breakup of USAID has been unnecessarily cruel to its thousands of workers and devastating for people around the world who are being cut off from clean water, life-saving medical care, education, training and more since Trump signed an executive order on Jan. 20 freezing foreign assistance.

"This is a full-scale gutting of virtually all the personnel of an entire agency," Karla Gilbride, attorney for the employee associations, told the judge last week.

The American Foreign Service Association and the American Federation of Government Employees argue that Trump lacks the authority to shut down the agency without approval from Congress. Democratic lawmakers have made the same argument.

In an affidavit ahead of Wednesday's hearing, Marocco, a returning USAID political appointee from Trump's first term, presents without evidence a description of agency workers stalling and resisting the administration's orders to abruptly cut off funds for programs worldwide and subject each one to a rigorous review.

In the face of "deceit," "noncompliance" and "insubordination," USAID's new leaders "ultimately determined that the placement of a substantial number of USAID per-

sonnel on paid administrative leave was the only way to ... faithfully implement the pause and conduct a full and unimpeded audit of USAID's operations and programs," Marocco stated.

Staffers deny resisting the funding freeze. They argue that the cutoff of money and resulting collapse of US-funded programs abroad, the shutdown of the agency's website and lockout of employees from systems made it impossible for those reviews to take place.

Nichols also agreed last week to block an order giving thousands of overseas USAID workers who were being placed on administrative leave 30 days to move back to the US on government expense.

Both moves would have exposed the workers and their spouses and children to unwarranted risk and expense, the judge said.

Nichols pointed to accounts that the Trump administration had cut off some workers from government emails and emergency alert systems they needed for their safety.

"Administrative leave in Syria is not the same as administrative leave in Bethesda," the judge said last week, referring to the Washington, DC, suburb.

Nichols cited statements from agency employees who had no home to go to in the US after decades abroad, who faced pulling children with special needs out of school midyear and other difficulties.

'No water to drink, flush loo': London residents suffer massive water shortage due to major pipe burst

Thousands of South London residents have been suffering from water shortages after supply to several postcodes was impacted due to a major pipe burst.

The pipe burst affected six major postcodes, causing widespread disruption and frustration among London residents, Thames Water confirmed.

The areas most impacted include Crystal Palace, Sydenham, and surrounding neighbourhoods, with postcodes SE19, SE20, SE23, SE26, SE27, and SW16 all reporting a complete loss of water or severely reduced water pressure.

Efforts on to fix water supply

Following the pipe burst, Thames Water deployed engineers who have been working through the night to fix the issue.

However, the company is also dealing with a separate leak at the Crystal Palace pumping station, which is further complicating efforts to restore the water supply.

Meanwhile, Thames Water has implemented a temporary solution by redirecting water through alternative pipes to maintain supply to as many



London pipe burst: Thames Water employees carry out repair and maintenance. (Representational Image)(REUTERS)

properties as possible.

London residents don't have water to drink, flush loo

As a result of the water pipe burst, South London residents are struggling with basic necessities like drinking water, flushing toilets, and washing.

"We had no water for washing and flushing or even drinking this morning. We've had periodic issues with supply in the winter – lots of burst pipes but this is the longest we've had no supply for a long time," Micon Metcalfe, a local who lives in West Norwood, told Metro UK.

Metcalfe further said the company has not provided any clear timeline for when the issue will be resolved.

Business owners are also feeling the effects of the outage. Gjergj Pjedij, the owner of Roasted Bean café in Crystal Palace, said that water pressure issues impacted business for the past few days.

"We've had problems with our water at the cafe in the past, a couple of Saturdays back now. While the pressure seems fine for us this morning, it really impacted business at the time," Metro UK quoted him as saying.

Pope Francis slams Donald Trump's migrant deportations: 'Will end badly'



US President Donald Trump and Pope Francis meet at the Vatican, May 24, 2017.(Reuters File)

Pope Francis said that he has followed closely the major crisis that is taking place in the United States with the initiation of a program of mass deportations

Pope Francis warned US President Donald Trump's administration on Tuesday that plans to mass deport illegal migrants "will end badly" and criticised the program for hurting their "inherent dignity".

The Catholic head priest addressed the recent crackdown on illegal immigrants in the US in a letter to American bishops, who had criticised the deportations for harming the most vulnerable sections of society.

"I have followed closely the major crisis that is taking place in the United States with the initiation of a program of mass deportations. The rightly formed conscience cannot fail to make a critical judgment and express its disagreement with any measure that tacitly or explicitly

identifies the illegal status of some migrants with criminality," Francis wrote.

The Pope has been a constant advocate of migrant rights, demanding countries to protect people fleeing conflicts, poverty and climate disasters and integrate them into their societies. He has also urged governments to take measures that are in consonant with their capacities.

While noting that countries have the right to defend themselves and keep their communities safe from criminals, Francis also criticised the recent migrant crackdown by the Trump administration.

"That said, the act of deporting people who in many cases have left their own land for reasons of extreme poverty, insecurity, exploitation, persecution or serious deterioration of the environment, damages the dignity of many men and women, and of entire families, and places them in a state of particular vulnerability and defenselessness," he wrote.

The Pope sought to differentiate between policy to regulate legal migration and deliberate expulsion of people purely based on their illegal status.

"What is built on the basis of force and not on the truth about the equal dignity of every human being begins badly and will end badly," he said.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said last week that more than 8,000 people had been arrested in immigration enforcement actions since Donald Trump assumed presidency on January 20.

(With AP inputs)

To hire 1 employee, first fire 4 people: Donald Trump to US government agencies

US President Donald Trump, who is on a mission to cut government spending, has issued a new directive to government agencies and asked them to work with Musk

In his latest bid to slash government spending, US President Donald Trump has directed government agencies across the country to work with his 'First Buddy' and billionaire Elon Musk to cut their workforce, news agency Bloomberg reported.

According to a White House fact sheet, Trump has ordered agency heads to coordinate with Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to "significantly reduce the size of the government" and "limit hiring to essential position".

The fact sheet said agencies would be allowed to hire only one employee for every four workers they fire. Agencies exempted from this directive include those in law enforcement, national security, immigration, and public safety roles.

It's unclear if DOGE has the authority to enact mass layoffs in government agencies yet.



Donald Trump has entrusted Elon Musk to work on rapidly finding billions of dollars by slashing government spending and increasing efficiency.(Bloomberg)

Musk defends cost-cutting

Musk on Tuesday made a rare appearance in the Oval Office alongside Trump to defend his approach, which has involved young staffers fanning across agencies, obtaining access to sensitive computer systems and employee data, and in some cases shuttering offices and placing workers on leave — all in an effort to reduce the size of government.

The billionaire industrialist said without providing evidence that Treasury Department systems lacked "basic controls," including measures preventing money going to entities on a "do-not-pay list."

"It's like just a massive number of blank checks just flying out of the building," Musk said.

Trump asserted DOGE had uncovered "billions and billions of dollars in waste, fraud and abuse", again without substantiation.

Musk, who has posted dozens of alleged examples of government fraud and waste on X, told reporters some of the things he said will turn out to be false and ought to be corrected.

Trump's plans for mass firings follow a voluntary "buyout" plan pushed by Musk, which faces a legal challenge. The latest push is also sure to trigger lawsuits from federal workers and their unions, potentially stymieing Trump's plans to cull the government bureaucracy.

From the Pages of History - MT 70 Years Ago

5th Year No 295

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 22 April, 1960

• Fanaticism obliterates the feelings of humanity. — Edward Gibbon

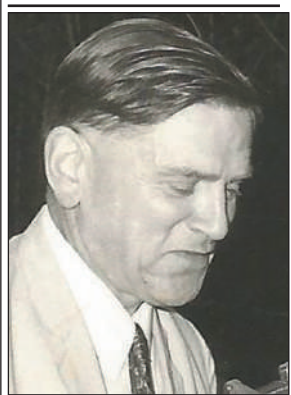
Developments in, and news from, other parts of the Commonwealth indicate that the present Whitehall Government is not whole-heartedly behind its proclaimed policy of colonial emancipation. Nor is it being as generous towards all colonies as one would expect. Let us examine one or two cases in point.

British Honduras has just been the scene of two inquiries and reports. One was an electoral report presented by Sir Hilary Blood, tending to the political development of the colony. Sir Hilary, when in Mauritius, advocated proportional representation so that all shades of political opinion would have — he claimed — the opportunity of representation in Council. This proposal was rejected, due to the powerful anti-PR advocacy of the *Labourites*. In British Honduras, however, Sir Hilary did not recommend the introduction of proportion into the voting system; one wonders why.

If Sir Hilary were convinced of the necessity of proportional representation as a *principle*, one would have expected him to suggest its introduction into all colonies where he was sent as a constitutional or electoral adviser. If, however, he was not so convinced, why did he recommend it for Mauritius some years ago? Was, after all, the PR proposal for Mauritius simply a device (as at the time we suggested in these columns) to prolong the capitalists' power and to keep the Labour Party out of power? The differing proposals for Mauritius and British Honduras would seem to add support to this.

Also, from British Honduras comes an economic report from Mr Jack Downie, a senior economic adviser from the Treasury. Mr Downie recommended certain levels of services and expenditure in the hope that they would be called upon to provide for a greater number of people than the present population of British Honduras. In other words, Mr Downie was expecting that the immigration programme would be fulfilled. The cost of his proposals amounted to 41.5 million dollars, say Rs 97 million or £8.5 million. At this stage, H.M. Government has agreed to grant 5.75 million dollars, about Rs 12 million or a little more than £ 1.25 million, over the next four years.

In other words, Whitehall is prepared to underwrite the British Honduras development plan over the next four years to the extent of rather more than one-eighth of its cost; this is in addition to the total of £5.5 million granted to the colony since 1945. And the total population of British Honduras is only 85,000! No one wishes to detract from the importance of ending or ameliorating the extreme poverty of the country, but the fact remains that the country has been treated extremely generously, more generously per-



Peter Ibbotson

haps than any other colony, since the war; and it can justifiably be argued that it is time for other colonies to be treated equally generously. Mauritius, for one, could do with treatment on an equally favourable financial scale.

The favourable treatment of British Honduras stems, I would suggest, from a desire to stave off incipient Communism. At one time, when Guate-

mala was governed by a democratic government headed by President Jacobo Arbenz, the Colonial Office trumped up allegations against the People's United Party (PUP) in British Honduras, alleging that the PUP was seeking to tie up with the allegedly Communist government of Guatemala. Since then, there has been a revolution in Guatemala, and with United States aid the dictatorship of Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes has usurped power. Little is heard, therefore, of the 'Communist' tendencies of the PUP nowadays, but the fear of a very left-wing government remains, hence the desire to give plenty of financial aid so as to buy off the poverty-stricken Hondurans.

Speaking of Sir Hilary Blood, it is noteworthy that he is being kept very busy now that he has "retired". From British Guiana, he goes to Zanzibar; there to consult representative members of the Legislative Council and other leaders of public opinion and to make thereafter recommendations for constitutional advance. But he is inhibited from recommending proportional representation in Zanzibar, for his terms of reference in reviewing the present constitutional position definitely lay down that "there should be no change for the present in the franchise", i.e. there should be no change in qualifications for having a vote, and no change in the method of how one exercises that vote.

If the Colonial Office is tender towards British Honduras, the same cannot be said for its attitude towards British Guiana. The series of talks between H.M. Government and British Guianese leaders recently held in London, ended in compromise and deadlock. Dr Cheddi Jagan said after the conference had ended: "We are far from satisfied... We came here with a mandate for independence. We are going back still as Colonials with a Crown Colony status. The result of this conference is clearly imposition by discussion... We hold ourselves free at all times to take all constitutional measures to achieve independence as quickly as possible." Dr Jagan's ministerial colleagues Hon Benn and Hon Rai concurred with this; so,

did his fellow MLC's on the constitutional delegation, Mr Burnham and Mr Singh.

Very slowly the British government is moving towards a realisation that British Guiana wants independence within the Commonwealth, but it is delaying the grant of independence as long as possible. If the Guianese political parties lose patience, then HMG will be able to suspend the constitution once more and say: "There you are, look how right we were to withhold independence from such an irresponsible bunch of hot-

heads." But the British Guiana talks have given Guiana one thing, at least, which Mauritius lacks — the title of Premier for the MLC who in the Governor's judgment was best able to command the confidence of a majority of members of the Council, with the other Ministers appointed on the advice of the Premier. Prorogation, and dissolution of Council would also be on the advice or request of the Premier.

So, although British Guiana is being discriminated against in the matter of having independence delayed without good cause, we see how its proposed constitution is nonetheless in advance, in some particulars, than the constitution of Mauritius.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES AT THE BANK OF MAURITIUS

13 February 2025

1. The Bank of Mauritius (Bank) invites sealed bids from eligible local bidders for the provision of catering services at the Bank.
2. The requirements and scope of the Request for Proposal can be downloaded from the Bank of Mauritius website at <https://www.bom.mu/procurement/notice-of-tender>.
3. Bids in sealed envelopes, clearly marked "RFP – Provision of Catering Services at the Bank of Mauritius" on the left-hand corner and addressed to –

The Chairperson, Tender Committee
Bank of Mauritius
Sir William Newton Street
Port Louis, 11328

should be deposited in **Tender Box B**, located in the Banking Hall, Level 3 of the Bank of Mauritius, by 15:00 hrs (local time) on **5 March 2025**, at latest.

BANK OF MAURITIUS Sir William Newton Street, Port Louis, Mauritius

Telephone: +230 202 3800

Email: communications@bom.muWebsite: www.bom.mu

School suspensions and expulsions linked to long-term depression, study finds

Each year, nearly 5 million students in the U.S. face suspension or expulsion. While intended as a disciplinary measure, exclusionary practices may have unintended consequences on students' mental health.

Published in *Advances in Life Course Research*, the study provides strong evidence that being removed from school increases the likelihood of depression, with effects persisting into early adulthood.

Rising Use of Exclusionary Discipline

Since the 1970s, school suspensions and expulsions have increased by about 50%, largely due to zero-tolerance policies. Once reserved for severe infractions like violence, drug use, or weapons possession, these measures are now commonly used for more subjective behaviors, such as defiance or disrespect.

"Boys, economically disadvantaged students, and Black, Latino, and Native American youth are disproportionately affected," noted lead researcher Alexia Angton, assistant professor of sociology and criminology at the University of Arkansas.

Tracking Mental Health Over Time

The researchers analyzed data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health), which follows 20,000 individuals from adoles-

cence into adulthood. Their findings showed that students who were suspended or expelled reported significantly higher depressive symptoms.

- **Depression levels spiked in adolescence and persisted into early adulthood.**
- **While symptoms slightly decreased in the late teens and early 20s, they surged again in the early 30s, the latest available data in the study.**

These results align with broader research showing that early exposure to stress -- whether at home or in school -- can contribute to long-term mental and physical health challenges.

A Call for Reform

Co-author Michael Niño, director of the Arkansas Health Equity and Access Lab, emphasized the need to examine school-based stressors alongside adverse childhood experiences at home.

"Most research has focused on household adversity, but we know very little about how school discipline impacts long-term health," Niño explained.

Another study by Niño, published earlier this year in *Socius*, found that suspension and expulsion also correlate with poorer physical health from adolescence through middle age.



Rethinking School Discipline

With six out of 10 U.S. schools still relying on exclusionary discipline, experts argue that reform is necessary.

"What can we do to reduce the negative effects of suspension and expulsion?" Angton asked. "Broadly speaking, we need meaningful changes in school discipline policies."

Co-authors of the study include Shauna Morimoto, professor of sociology and criminology at the University of Arkansas, and Kazumi Tsuchiya, assistant professor of public health at the University of Toronto.

As schools reconsider disciplinary strategies, research like this highlights the urgent need for approaches that prioritize both structure and student well-being.



Where does black fall on the color spectrum? A color scientist explains

Black doesn't appear in the visible spectrum of electromagnetic radiation. So why do we still see it?

People love the rainbow of ROYGBIV colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. Human eyes perceive visible light as this array of colors.

You may notice that some colors you can perceive aren't part of the classic rainbow, though. Where is black, for example?

I'm an associate professor of color science, a field that combines physics and perception. Color scientists are interested in learning more about human vision and applying that knowledge to make color systems -- such as in cameras, screens or lighting systems -- work better.

To understand where black falls on the color spectrum, first consider what light actually is.

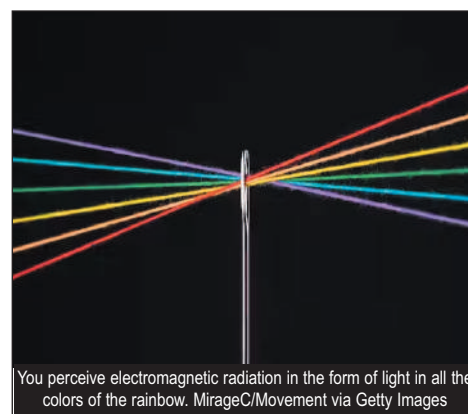
Light is radiation visible to the human eye

Light is energy called electromagnetic radiation. It's made up of a stream of energy particles called photons.

Each photon has its own energy level. There are two characteristics you can use to describe a photon. Its frequency is how fast it vibrates back and forth -- or oscillates -- as it travels. And its wavelength is the distance between those oscillations in space.

As photons with wavelengths within a range of about 400–700 nanometers stream into your eyes, your brain perceives them as light. Scientists call these photons visible radiation. You perceive photons with different wavelengths as different colors.

Photons outside that range of wavelengths are invisible to human eyes. Shorter wavelength energy includes ultraviolet, X-ray and gamma radiation,



while longer wavelength energy includes infrared and radio waves.

Shades and intensities

Color perception is also affected by the quantity of photons -- what physicists call the power -- at different visible wavelengths. More photons means more powerful light, which looks brighter. A very vivid color consists mostly of photons of similar wavelength. For example, a pure red may consist of photons that all share the same wavelength near 620 nanometers.

A stream of photons with a wider range of wavelengths will appear as a paler, less saturated color. White light, such as natural daylight, consists of photons with wavelengths spread fairly evenly across a wide range of the visible spectrum. LEDs and other electric light sources are not quite as uniform across the spectrum, but they still appear white or achromatic, meaning without color.

Mixtures of wavelengths combine and appear as new colors. The human visual

system interprets pure red light and pure green light combined as yellow. Add in pure blue, and this mix of radiation appears white. Scientists and engineers take advantage of this quality in display devices, which are able to create a huge range of perceived colors by mixing the primary colors red, green and blue.

Black on the color spectrum

While there's no black in a rainbow, photons anywhere in the electromagnetic spectrum can be seen as black. Or in some cases, they can't be seen at all!

Radiation within the visible spectrum can appear black if it is low in power -- more specifically, lower in power than its surroundings.

Additionally, radiation outside the visible range of wavelengths appears black to our eyes. For example, infrared radiation appears black because it is invisible to humans.

Perception is subjective

Our eyes detect the wavelength and power of the light, but our brains interpret it. So color perception always depends on the context.

People are good at adapting to a wide range of light levels, from sunlight to starlight. So our perception of color and brightness depends on what's around and what we've been looking at recently. If you step from outdoor daylight into a dark theater, at first you probably perceive the whole environment as black, and you may even have trouble finding your way.

However, your visual system immediately begins to adapt to the low light level.

Soon, visual details begin to emerge. What appeared black now has different levels of lightness and color.

Consider the optical illusion that consists of a light rectangle next to a dark rectangle. Each rectangle contains a circle. The circles appear to be different shades but in fact are identical. Against the light background, the circle is dark enough to appear black. Surrounded by the black background, it becomes clear that the circle is merely dark gray. Even when you know the circles are the same, it's hard to believe because the effect of the surrounding background is so strong.

You might be asking yourself, how dark must a color be to appear black? Another way to ask the question is, how low in power must the physical light be in order to look black?

For a visual answer, look at a gradient from dark gray to black. Where in the gradient is the boundary, or threshold, at which you call it black? What if you dim your display or view the screen in a much brighter or much darker environment? Probably the best answer for how dark it must be is, "It depends."

Color perception is a fascinating topic, and we color scientists are continuing to uncover details of how the human visual system works while also applying our knowledge to many other useful things, including dyes, cameras, printers, LED lighting systems and AR/VR displays.

Michael J. Murdoch

Associate Professor of Color Science, Rochester Institute of Technology



Laughter is the Best Medicine

God and the Seat of Power

After passing on, George Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump arrive for an interview with God. God asks Bush, "What do you believe in?" Bush replies, "I believe in the free market and a strong American nation!"



God nods approvingly and says, "Great, come sit on the chair to my right."

Next, God turns to Obama. "And what do you believe in?"

Obama responds, "I believe in the power of democracy, helping the poor, and world peace."

God smiles. "Well done, come sit on the chair to my left."

Finally, God looks at Trump. "And what do you believe in?"

Trump smirks and says, "I believe you're sitting in my chair."

Protestant and Catholic

A small boy was walking home down a dirt road after attending church one Sunday afternoon when he met a little girl coming from the opposite direction.

"Hello," said the small boy.

"Hi," replied the little girl.

"Where are you heading?" asked the boy.

"I've been to church, and I'm on my way home," she

answered.

"I'm also on my way home from church. Which church do you go to?" he asked.

"I go to the Protestant church down the road," the little girl replied. "What about you?"

"I go to the Catholic church at the top of the hill," said the boy.

Since they were heading in the same direction, they decided to walk together. Along the way, they came to a low spot in the road where spring rains had flooded the path. There was no way to cross without getting their clothes wet.

"If I get my new Sunday dress wet, my mom is going to skin me alive," said the little girl.

"My mom will tan my hide too if I get my new Sunday suit wet," the small boy added.

"I tell you what," said the girl. "I think I'll take off my clothes, hold them over my head, and wade across."

"That's an excellent idea! I'll do the same with my suit," said the boy.

So they both undressed, waded across, and reached the other side with their clothes still dry. As they stood in the sun waiting to drip dry before dressing again, the small boy finally remarked: "You know, I never realized before just how much difference there was between a Protestant and a Catholic."

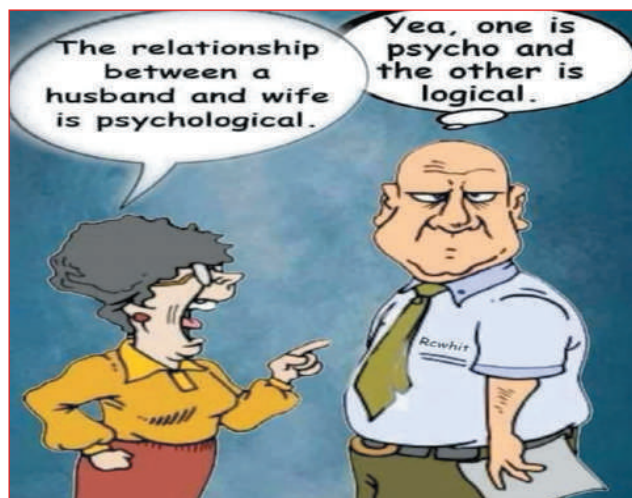
When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.

Why did the pilot go to the psychologist? He thought he was *plane* crazy.

Why did the genie see a psychiatrist? His emotions were all *bottled up*.

I am alive...

At a party attended by celebrities, an elderly gentleman walked on stage with the help of a stick and sat down.



The host asked, "Do you still visit the doctor often?"

The old man replied, "Yes, I go quite often!"

The host inquired, "Why?"

The old man chuckled and said, "Patients should visit the doctor often. Only then can the doctor survive!"

The audience burst into applause at his witty response.

The host continued, "Do you also visit the pharmacist regularly?"

The old man nodded, "Of course. The pharmacist also has to live."

This drew even louder applause from the audience.

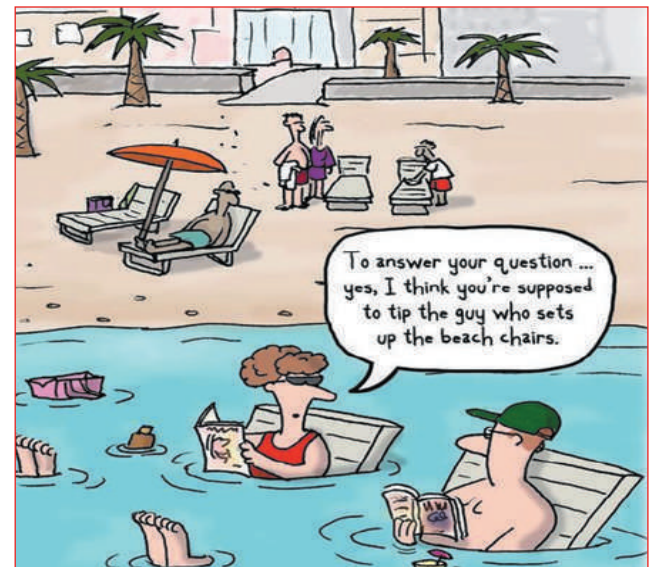
The host then asked, "Do you actually take the medicine the pharmacist gives you?"

The old man grinned and said, "No! I often throw it away because I also have to live!"

The audience erupted into laughter.

Finally, the host said, "Thank you for coming to this interview."

The old man replied, "You're welcome! I know you also



have to live!"

The crowd cheered and laughed even more.

The host asked one last question: "Are you active in your WhatsApp group?"

The old man replied, "Yes, I send messages regularly because I also want to live! If I don't, people will think I'm dead, and the group admin might delete me!"

This witty response left the audience laughing and clapping for a long time.

Innocence at its best!

A 6-year-old son, after listening to a story about a king, said:

Son: Mom, I also want 5 wives! One will cook, one will bathe me, and one will sing.

Mom: And one will put you to sleep, right?

Son: No, Mom, I'll still sleep with you!

The mom's eyes filled with tears... "God Bless You, My Child."

Mom: But who will sleep with your five wives?

Son: Let them sleep with Daddy.

Now, Daddy's eyes were completely filled with tears...

Union of Employees of Ministry of Agriculture and other Ministries Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the said association which has been scheduled for Friday, 28 March 2025, at 12:00 hrs at the seat of Government Teachers Centre, Quatre Bornes.

AGENDA:

1. Welcome address by the President
2. Reading and Approval of Last Minutes of Proceedings
3. Matters arising
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Executive Members and Auditors
7. A.O.B.

14 February 2025

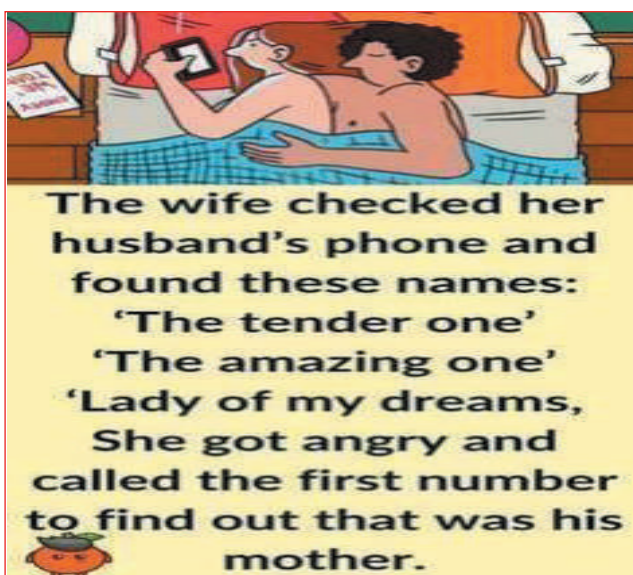
Notice for Building & Land Use Permit Application

Notice for Permission for Land Use

Take notice that I, **Sayyad Moytaub**, will apply to the **District Council of Grand Port** for a Building and Land Use Permit for a proposed hydroponic farm at Grand Port Road Nouvelle France.

Any person feeling aggrieved by the proposal may lodge an objection in writing to the above-named Council within 15 days as from the date of this publication.

14 February 2025



The Happiest Man on Earth

Life-changing lessons from a man who experienced hell yet chose happiness

The happiest people often aren't those with the easiest lives, but those who choose to find joy regardless of circumstances. When I first opened *The Happiest Man on Earth* by Eddie Jaku, I was profoundly moved by a Holocaust survivor who chose happiness as an act of defiance against darkness. Eddie's journey — from enduring the depths of human cruelty to declaring himself "the happiest man on earth" — is more than inspiring; it's a testament to the resilience of the human spirit.

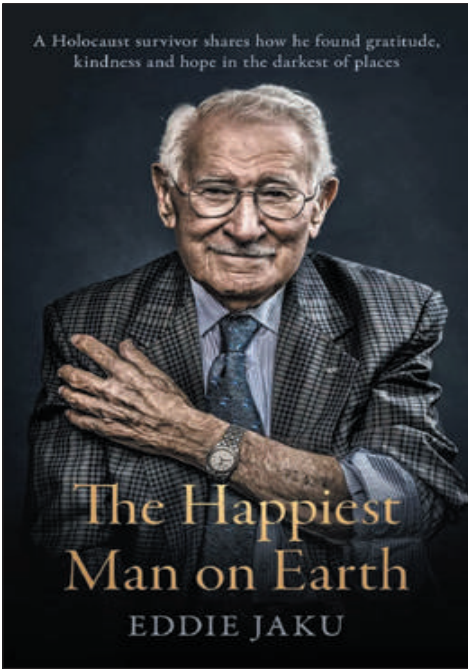
What strikes me most is how Eddie transformed unimaginable suffering into a message of hope and joy. At 100 years old, he shared wisdom forged in humanity's darkest moments, not learned from books or meditation retreats. His words carry the weight of someone who has seen the worst of humanity yet chose to believe in the best.

Happiness is a Choice and a Duty

Choosing happiness isn't about denying pain—it's about refusing to let darkness have the final word. Every morning you wake up is a gift. Even a difficult meeting becomes a reminder that, like Eddie, you can find joy in simply being alive for another day.

Life is Precious and Fragile

After losing 13 family members in the



Holocaust, Eddie understood the true value of every breath. The small irritations that ruin your day fade away when you remember how precious mere existence is. Take a moment to appreciate simple wonders — a warm cup of coffee, a child's laughter, or the gentle caress of sunlight.

Friendship Can Save Your Life

Eddie survived partly because of friends who shared bread when he was

starving. In our hyper-connected yet often lonely world, nurturing real, deep friendships is vital. That friend you've been meaning to call might be exactly who you need today.

Kindness is the Richest Currency

Even in the darkest times, Eddie witnessed acts of kindness that kept hope alive. Small gestures — a smile, a helping hand, a moment of compassion — can change someone's world. Your kindness might be the light someone desperately needs.

Family is Life's Greatest Treasure

Having lost so much, Eddie rebuilt his life around family. The family dinners you might often skip are more than meals; they are moments that build the very foundation of your life.

Work Gives Life Purpose

In his darkest moments, Eddie's skill as a mechanic kept him going. Today, meaningful work isn't just about earning a living — it's about contributing, growing, and creating value for others. That job you sometimes complain about might just be your anchor in life's storms.

Knowledge is Power That Can't Be Taken Away

Eddie's education was his lifeline when everything else was stripped away.

Learning is not just about obtaining degrees; it's about becoming stronger, wiser, and more capable. Every skill you acquire becomes an integral part of who you are.

Tomorrow Can Always Be Better

Even in Auschwitz, Eddie held onto hope for a better tomorrow. When life feels overwhelming, remember that every sunset brings a new dawn. Your current struggles do not define your final story.

Love Triumphs Over Hate

Despite experiencing humanity's worst, Eddie chose love. In his view, hate poisons the hater more than the hated. Sometimes, forgiving someone who wronged you can free you more than seeking revenge.

Gratitude Transforms Everything

Eddie found joy by appreciating each day as a precious gift. Starting your day by noting just three things you're grateful for can shift your entire perspective and transform how you experience life.

Let Eddie Jaku's life be a powerful reminder: no matter the hardships we face, choosing joy is a revolutionary act. His story encourages us to embrace life with gratitude, cherish our relationships, and find strength even in the darkest moments.

Only Time Can Understand Love

Once upon a time, on an island, all the feelings lived together: Happiness, Sadness, Knowledge, and all the others — including Love.

One day, it was announced that the island was going to sink, and everyone needed to leave. All the feelings prepared their boats and set off. Love, however, decided to stay until the very last moment.

When the island started sinking, Love realized he needed help.

Wealth passed by in a magnificent boat. Love called out, "Wealth, can you take me with you?"

Wealth replied, "No, I can't. My boat is full of gold and silver — there's no room for you."

Love then saw Vanity and asked, "Vanity, please help me!"

Vanity responded, "I can't, Love. You're all wet and might ruin my boat."

Sadness was nearby, so Love turned to her. "Sadness, let me go with you."

Sadness sighed, "Oh, Love, I'm so sad I need to be alone."

Happiness also sailed past, but she was so caught up in her joy that she didn't even hear Love calling.

Suddenly, a voice called out, "Come, Love, I will take you." It was an elder. Overjoyed, Love climbed into the boat, but in his happiness, he forgot to ask the elder's name.



When they reached dry land, the elderly went on her way. Curious, Love approached Knowledge and asked, "Who was the elder who helped me?"

"That was Time," Knowledge replied. "Time? But why would Time help me?" asked Love.

"Because only Time understands how valuable Love truly is," said Knowledge.

The Beauty of Complexity

Reflections by Victoria Erickson

Holding Space for Others

"Sometimes someone isn't ready to see the bright side. Sometimes they need to sit with the shadow first. So be a friend and sit with them. Make the darkness beautiful."

* * *

Embracing Aging

"I love getting older. My understanding deepens. I can see what connects, I can weave stories of experience and apply them. I can integrate the lessons. Things simply become more and more fascinating. Beauty reveals itself in thousands of forms."

* * *

The Alchemy of Discovery

"What if I told you that if you simply mix starlight, solitude, silence, and softness, you may just learn everything you've ever needed to know about everything you hadn't known?"

* * *

Experiential Travel

"Let's not travel to tick things off lists, or collect half-hearted semi-treasures to be placed in dusty drawers in empty rooms. Rather, we'll travel to find grounds and rooftops and tiny hidden parks, where we'll sit and dismiss the



passing time, spun in the city's web, 'til we've surrendered, content to be spent and consumed. I need to feel a place while I'm in it."

* * *

Self-Worth and Belonging

"And you cannot build a home for your worth inside of another being."

* * *

Returning Stronger

"And sometimes you find yourself back where you started, but stronger and softer all at once. Swim inside the ocean of tenderness, yet build boundaries on the sand. An open heart is a paradise to protect."

* * *

Craving Depth in Connections

"Be around those who crave new galaxies in you. The light through your veins. Poetic science. Wider vision."

Fixes for Everyday Aches and Pains

Simple treatments for 14 common issues

Our bodies can experience discomfort from a variety of everyday causes—from sprains and strains to headaches and nerve pain. Whether it's the result of a sports injury or the wear and tear of daily life, these common aches and pains can impact your quality of life. Below, you'll find practical advice and simple treatments for 14 common issues, as medically reviewed by Tyler Wheeler, MD. With early intervention and proper care, you can often ease your discomfort and get back to enjoying life.

1. Sprains and Strains

Sprains involve a stretched or torn ligament, while strains refer to a stretched or torn muscle or tendon. Both conditions cause swelling and inflammation, and sprains can sometimes result in bruising, whereas strains may trigger muscle spasms.

Treatment Tips:

- Use the RICE method (Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation) for early treatment.
- Take an over-the-counter (OTC) pain reliever.
- See a doctor if you experience numbness or tingling, are unable to move a joint, or if the pain doesn't improve within a week.

2. Tension Headache

Tension headaches often feel as if a tight band is squeezing your head.

Treatment Tips:

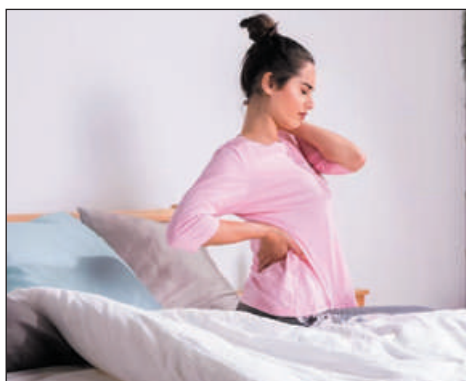
- Use OTC painkillers.
- Rest and stay hydrated.
- Additional strategies include gentle massage, stress reduction, and avoiding caffeine.

3. Migraine

Migraines are characterized by throbbing pain, usually on the front or side of the head, and can be accompanied by nausea and sensitivity to light.

Treatment Tips:

- They eat less but achieve more, focusing on quality nutrition.
- They consistently mentor their teams, ensuring alignment with the vision and values of their organization.
- They hire cautiously and fire decisively.



- Rest in a dark, quiet room.
- Use an ice pack to numb the pain or a heating pad to relax tense muscles.
- OTC pain relievers may help if taken early, while some people might require a prescription for treatment or prevention.

4. Toothache

Toothaches can be caused by decay, cracked teeth, broken fillings, or gum disease.

Treatment Tips:

- Consult a dentist if the toothache persists for more than a couple of days to prevent infection or other complications.
- Remember that tooth pain can sometimes be linked to other issues, such as sinus infections, TMJ disorders, or teeth grinding.

5. Neck Pain

The neck is particularly vulnerable to sprains and strains, which often result in temporary discomfort.

Treatment Tips:

- Practice good posture to help prevent neck pain.
- Most neck pain resolves on its own, but persistent issues may require medical attention.

6. Back Pain

Back pain can be dull or sharp and may last for months. It can be triggered by factors such as age, being overweight, lifting improperly, or underlying conditions like arthritis or even cancer.

Treatment Tips:

- Use OTC medications, hot and cold packs, exercise, yoga, or massage.

- If back pain persists or worsens, consult your doctor for further evaluation.

7. Frozen Shoulder

This condition is characterized by stiffness and pain in the shoulder, often worse at night and during everyday tasks.

Treatment Tips:

- Engage in exercises and physical therapy to improve range of motion.
- Note that frozen shoulder primarily affects people between 40 and 60, with a higher incidence among women and those with diabetes.

8. Tendinitis and Bursitis

Both conditions involve pain around a muscle or joint, often due to overuse or injury.

Treatment Tips:

- Follow the RICE method for initial relief.
- Contact your doctor if the pain and swelling worsen or if there is any redness or warmth around the affected area.

9. Arthritis

Arthritis encompasses over 100 diseases that cause joint pain, swelling, stiffness, and limited motion.

Treatment Tips:

- Although arthritis is typically not curable, symptoms can be managed through medications, lifestyle adjustments, and regular consultations with your doctor.

10. Stomachache

Stomachaches may arise from indigestion, gas, constipation, or other digestive issues.

Treatment Tips:

- OTC medicines can help alleviate discomfort temporarily.
- Seek medical advice if the pain is sudden, severe, or accompanied by alarming symptoms such as vomiting blood or bloody stool.

11. Sciatica

Sciatica is characterized by shooting pain, often due to a pinched nerve in the lower back. Symptoms include weakness, numbness, and a burning or tingling sensation in the leg.

Treatment Tips:

- Rest and engage in gentle exercise.
- If the pain persists or is accompanied by severe symptoms, consult your doctor.

12. Nerve Pain

Nerve pain can present as tingling, burning, numbness, or weakness, and may be associated with conditions like uncontrolled diabetes or shingles.

Treatment Tips:

- Management strategies include medications, physical therapy, and dietary improvements.
- Persistent or severe symptoms should be evaluated by a healthcare professional.

13. Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, often related to repetitive hand movements, can cause tingling and numbness in the fingers.

Treatment Tips:

- Rest and avoid activities that strain the wrist.
- Gradually introduce yoga or physical therapy once initial symptoms subside.
- Consider medications that reduce swelling if necessary.

14. Sore, Swollen Feet

Foot pain, often resulting from prolonged standing, unsupportive footwear, or conditions like plantar fasciitis, can be alleviated with rest and proper care.

Treatment Tips:

- Rest and elevate your feet.
- Use ice for 15–20 minutes at a time.
- Wear compression stockings and supportive shoes, and take breaks when possible.
- Stretching can help alleviate the pain associated with plantar fasciitis.
- Consult your doctor if the pain is severe or persistent.

By following these guidelines, you can effectively manage many common aches and pains. Remember, if your discomfort is severe, persistent, or accompanied by other concerning symptoms, it's always best to consult a healthcare professional for personalized advice and treatment.

The Laws of Monumental Leadership

Robin Sharma
Humanitarian + Leadership Missionary

In a world where attention spans are fleeting, I want to ensure that what I share with you is meaningful, robust, and transformative. I encourage you to study these laws deeply, share them with your team, and apply them in your leadership journey.

- They eat less but achieve more, focusing on quality nutrition.
- They consistently mentor their teams, ensuring alignment with the vision and values of their organization.
- They hire cautiously and fire decisively.

- They pursue mastery in their craft, studying the greats and improving incrementally each day.
- They focus on emotional healing, clearing their hearts of anger, shame, and regret to maximize creativity, productivity, and decency.
- They don't take themselves too seriously, knowing humor makes them more relatable.
- They aim for dynasties, not just championships.
- They stay humble, always maintaining the curiosity of a beginner.
- They ask powerful questions and regularly seek "why."
- They know when to let go of difficult employees who hinder progress.
- They lead without a title, relying on character, results, and optimism instead of formal authority.
- They foster team cohesion by creating opportunities to bond over meals and shared experiences.
- They journal frequently, understanding that clarity

breeds mastery and writing fosters deep thinking.

- They obsess over details, ensuring excellence in even the smallest things.
- They build legendary cultures, knowing that while competitors can copy products, they cannot replicate the soul of an organization.
- They smile often.
- They lean into fear, knowing growth requires discomfort and courage.
- They prioritize becoming better people, knowing their business can only rise as high as they do.
- They serve the world well, leaving it better than they found it.

True leadership is not about power, titles, or accolades. It's about impact, authenticity, and service. Study these principles, practice them daily, and you'll become not just a remarkable leader, but a monumental one.

Vicky Kaushal's film sells over 200,000 tickets in 48 hours

Chhaava is set to release in theatres on February 14



The much-anticipated historical epic *Chhaava* is set to hit theatres on February 14, and its advance bookings are already showing impressive numbers. In just 48 hours, over 2 lakh tickets have been sold across India, with PVR Inox alone reporting strong sales.

The advance booking figures highlight

the immense anticipation surrounding the film and the excitement of the audience.

As *Chhaava* continues to gain momentum nationwide, all eyes are now on its opening day collections, which are expected to be massive.

On Sunday, Vicky Kaushal shared a series of pictures and videos, giving fans a glimpse into his intense preparation for the role. From gym workouts to horse riding and even mastering stick twirling, Vicky's dedication is evident.

The first frame showed Vicky in gym attire, holding a water bottle. The following slide captured his shirtless workout break. A shot of the weighing scale revealed his weight at 100.5 kilograms. Vicky was also seen burning calories on a training cycle. One of the most impressive clips featured Vicky twirling a stick with remarkable precision, while another showed him mastering horse riding.

In an authentic touch, Vicky even got his ears pierced for the role.

Directed by Laxman Utekar, *Chhaava* will release on February 14. In addition to Vicky Kaushal and Rashmika Mandanna, the film stars Akshaye Khanna, Ashutosh Rana, Divya Dutta, Vineet Kumar Singh, and Diana Penty in key roles.

Karan Johar Calls for Gender Equality in Cinema 'Women's Films Outperforming Male-Led Movies'

Filmmaker Karan Johar believes it is high time the industry addresses gender representation in films. In a recent interview, he highlighted a notable shift in the box office, where female-led films are consistently outperforming those led by male stars, reports Hindustan Times.



Karan shared his insights during an interaction on Lilly Singh's podcast. When asked about the significance of gender politics in cinema, he stressed the need for filmmakers to exercise self-censorship and ensure responsible storytelling.

"If we can get our politics right... I'm not saying cinema should always be about social messaging. It's about entertainment, visual spectacle, and joy. But you can achieve that without endorsing problematic gender politics or outdated social norms," Karan stated. "There's no censorship that can fix this — it has to come from within. A film may still be a

blockbuster despite flawed messaging, but is that really a victory? I'm not so sure."

The director expressed pride in the success of films like *Stree 2* and *Gangubai Kathiawadi*, both of which saw strong box office performances.

"When Alia Bhatt did *Gangubai Kathiawadi*, it was a milestone moment. The film's success was driven entirely by her performance, and it opened to bigger numbers than many male-led films. This proves that a woman can successfully carry a film," he said. "Men often justify pay disparity by claiming they generate higher revenue, but now we're witnessing women's films opening stronger than some of the biggest male-led projects."

Karan Johar's upcoming projects

Currently, Karan is working on *Nadaanian*, which will introduce Saif Ali Khan's son, Ibrahim Ali Khan, alongside Khushi Kapoor. The film, directed by Shauna Gautam — who previously assisted Karan on *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani* — will release directly on Netflix.

Meanwhile, Karan's latest production, *Jigra*, co-produced with Alia Bhatt and starring Alia in the lead role, did not perform well at the box office.

Sridevi didn't speak to Boney Kapoor for six months after his proposal

Behind the glitz and glamour of Bollywood lies a tale of love, heartbreak, and redemption. Filmmaker Boney Kapoor recently opened up about the emotionally turbulent phase when he confessed his love to legendary actress Sridevi despite being married with two children at the time.

In an interview with ABP Live, Boney Kapoor revealed how his proposal to Sridevi initially backfired.

"When I proposed to her, she didn't speak to me for six months. She said, 'You're married with two kids, how can you talk to me like this?' But I said what was in my heart, and fortune favoured me," Boney candidly shared.

It wasn't an easy path for the producer, who was married to Mona Shourie Kapoor at the time and had two children — actor Arjun Kapoor and Anshula Kapoor.

Honesty Amidst Complexity

Boney emphasized that he was always transparent about his feelings and intentions. He maintained honesty not only with Sridevi but also with his first wife, Mona.

"Nobody's perfect. I wasn't perfect. I was already married... But I never hid things. (Mona) remained my friend right till the end. It's always better to be honest with your partner, and similarly, you also have to be honest with your children," he said.

Boney highlighted the importance of transparency in relationships, suggesting that long-term bonds thrive on trust and openness.

The Evolution of Love and Marriage

Reflecting on relationships, Boney remarked that true understanding between partners evolves over time.



"Understanding between a couple should increase with every passing year. Lovey-dovey relationships without any differences don't last long. It's only after seven years that people begin to reveal who they really are," he noted.

Boney also shared that he plays multiple roles in his children's lives — "I am my children's friend, I am my children's mother, I am my children's father."

A Blended Family and Healing Wounds

The separation from his first wife Mona and his eventual marriage to Sridevi in 1996 left emotional scars on Boney's children from his first marriage, especially Arjun Kapoor.

In a recent interview with Raj Shamani, Arjun reflected on that difficult period:

"My parents split up when I was 10 years old. At the time, I didn't realize how deeply it would shape me. My father was busy with two big films, *Prem and Roop Ki Rani Choron Ka Raja*. We never had a normal father-son relationship where he'd pick me up from school. It wasn't that he didn't try, but the separation left a mark."

Over time, both Boney and Arjun have worked on healing their relationship, and the family has slowly found ways to reconcile and rebuild trust.

A Timeless Love Story

Despite the rocky start, Boney Kapoor and Sridevi's love story became one of Bollywood's most iconic romances. The couple welcomed two daughters — Janhvi Kapoor and Khushi Kapoor — both of whom have followed their mother's footsteps into acting.

Sridevi's untimely passing in 2018 left a void in Boney's life, but he continues to honour her legacy through their children and his work.

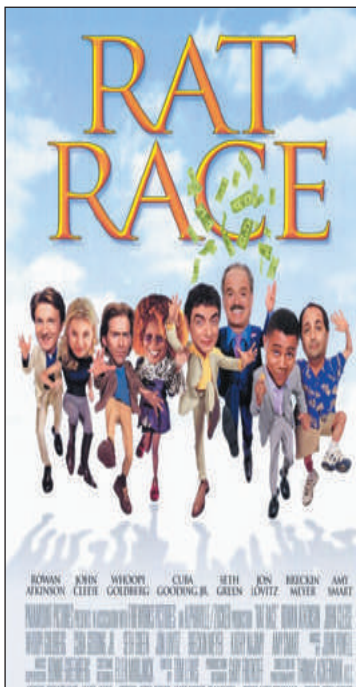
"I was in love with her, I am in love with her, and I will be in love with her till my dying day," Boney said with deep emotion.



Vendredi 14 février - 20.10



Samedi 15 février - 20.10



Dimanche 16 février - 21.40



Programme TV



SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 14 février	07.30 Serial: Briarpatch 08.37 Les Riches Pleurent Aussi 09.35 Film: A Star Is Born 11.30 Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.40 Tele: Wildflower 13.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 14.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Film: The Thaw 17.30 Your Love Is My Fortune 18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.00 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: Just Married 22.01 Tele: Wildflower 22.46 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 23.12 Mag: Red Carpet 00.05 Serial: Billions 01.03 Serial: Le Chemin Du Destin 01.28 Mag: Hollywood	06.00 Nou Later Nou Lamer... 06.26 Local: En Forme 07.33 Rodrig: Nou La Ter 10.30 Rodrig: Saver Lokal 12.00 25e Edision Festival Kreol 13.05 Nou Later Nou Lamer... 13.31 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 14.18 Local: Artisan 15.14 Local: En Forme 16.29 Local: Ti Zistwar Zanfan 18.00 Seiral: Passion And Power 18.30 Les Riches Pleurent 19.25 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir... 19.45 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik 20.57 Local: Dance Fever 22.53 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Journal Kreol Rediffusion 23.20 Local: En Forme 23.34 Local: Couleur Marine 00.29 Local: Saver Lokal 00.29 Local: Saver Lokal	07.00 Mag: Tenali Rama 07.13 Gadget Guru Ganesha 08.09 Local: Amrit Vani 10.00 Serial: Agniphera 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Aaradhna Starring: Sharmila Tagore, Rajesh Khanna, Sujit Kumar 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.30 Loca: Mati Ke Mol 19.00 Local: MBC Prod 20.00 Local: Khel Khiladi 20.30 Serial: Vidrohi 21.00 Film: Hum Hai Hero Cast: Shakti Kapoor, Shahbaaz Khan, Viraj Bhatt 23.14 Serial: Mere Sai 00.06 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya	07.00 Mag: Border Crossing 09.13 Doc: Japan At Crossroads 10.52 Mag: Rev Special 11.32 Mag: Shift 11.49 Mag: Carnet De Sante 12.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.00 Doc: GYM Boys-Why Young... 14.24 Doc: Nomads Of Benin 15.00 Les Aventures Du Petit... 15.26 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.46 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 16.21 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.02 Serial: Hiccup AND Sneezee 17.30 Mag: Eco India 18.00 Doc: Europe's Oak Trees 18.42 Mag: Arts Unveiled 19.28 Mag: Vous Et Vous 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 20.50 Doc: Legendary Giants 21.31 Doc: Greek Islands 22.18 Doc: My Body, My Gut	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 14.55 Serial: Doree 15.30 Film: Teri Meri Kahani Cast: Shahid Kapoor, Priyanka Chopra 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.01 Udaariyaan 19.32 Dharam Patni 20.01 Mithai 20.31 Shrimad Ramayan 21.01 Anupamaa 21.31 Mere Sai 22.01 Keh Doon Tumhein 22.30 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 22.59 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Teri Meri Kahani Cast: Shahid Kapoor, Priyanka Chopra 02.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
samedi 15 février	04.07 Serial: Briarpatch 04.49 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani 06.19 Tele: All The Flowers 06.45 Serial: Pearson 08.10 Serial: Blue Lights 09.19 Serial: Briarpatch 09.53 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani 10.47 Serial: F.B.I 11.30 Tele: All The Flowers 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Serial: Seal Team 13.25 Tele: Barbarita... 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Radha Krishna 15.21 Film: Just Married 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa... 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: Rat Race 21.57 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani 22.52 Tele: Sublime Mensonge	06.00 Local: Couleur Marine 06.46 Local: Retrovizer 07.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard... 08.56 Local: Lir - Ekir Kreol 10.10 Local: J'ai Faim 10.35 Local: Dance Fever 12.05 Rodrig: Koze Zom 13.05 Local: Nos Aines 13.27 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 13.38 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik 14.47 Local: Retrovizer 15.00 Local: Tous Egaux 15.56 MBC... 60 Ans De Service... 16.30 Local: Dance Fever 18.05 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.20 Local: Magazine De L'Emploi 19.40 Rodrig: Kot Nou 20.06 Local: Les Petits Genies 20.30 Festival Internasional Kreol 21.30 Local: En Toute Intimite 22.00 Rodrig - D'Jam	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness 08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog 10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol 12.55 Local: Khel Khiladi 14.00 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 14.30 Mag: Talaash 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Film: Dil Ne Jise Apna Kaha 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Saying Radha Krishna 18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan 19.00 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 19.15 Serial: Virasat 20.00 Local: Bollywood Express 21.00 Film: Jail Cast: Manoj Bajpayee, Neil Nitin Mukesh 23.11 Local: Puranya Pakwan	06.00 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 07.07 D.Anime: Croco Doc 08.23 D.Anime: Earth To Luna! 09.56 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 10.19 Serial: Penny Su M.A.R.S 10.55 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover... 12.44 Doc: Legendary Giants 13.29 Doc: Greek Islands 15.08 Les Aventures Du Petit... 15.26 D.Anime: Patamuse 16.16 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.02 Serial: Hiccup AND Sneezee 17.30 Doc: Preserving Peatlands 18.05 Mag: In Good Shape 18.30 Doc: Top Dive Sites 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 20.50 Mag: Skuld 21.40 Film: King Kong 00.44 Doc: Shades Of Shame 01.26 Doc: The Dark Side Of Bright 02.08 Mag: In Good Shape 02.34 Doc: Top Dive Sites	08.00 Dharam Patni 09.49 Gadget Guru Ganesha 10.02 Mithai 12.00 Udaariyaan 14.10 Anupamaa 16.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 17.36 Vidrohi 18.30 Film: De Dana Dan With: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif and Suniel Shetty  21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein 21.32 Gadget Guru Ganesha
dimanche 16 février	03.25 Serial: The Last Kingdom 05.32 Serial: Gout De L'amour 06.21 Tele: All The Flowers 06.50 Film: Rat Race 08.40 Serial: Airwolf 09.26 Film: Monolith 10.48 Serial: F.B.I 11.30 Tele: All The Flowers 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Film: Rat Race 15.22 Film: Mortal Engines 17.30 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il... 19.18 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal Televisé 20.10 Film: Meet Joe Black 22.59 Serial: Airwolf 23.45 Le Journal 00.20 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 02.58 Mag: Red Carpet	06.30 Local: Coin Jardin 07.05 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 09.05 Local: Les Petits Genies 10.11 Local: Metie 11.01 Local: Artizan 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.40 Festival Internasional Kreol 16.40 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin 17.13 Local: Les Petits Genies 17.40 Local: En Toute Intimite 18.05 Serial: Entre Justice Et Vengeance 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.24 Local: Info En Langue... 20.15 Local: Les Klips 21.10 Local: Exceptionnelles 21.36 Local Production MBC 2 22.15 Local: Lir - Ekir Kreol 22.40 Local: Clin D'oeil 23.20 Local: Coin Jardin	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness 08.26 Local: Puranya Pakwan 08.52 Live From Ganga Talao 12.00 Film: Sanam (1997) 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 17.00 Bollywood Express 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Planet Bollywood 19.30 Local: Tohar Rashi 20.31 Serial: Porus 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein 21.30 Serial: Crime Patrol 22.15 Serial: Naagin 22.54 Serial: Bahubali 23.33 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man... 00.37 Planet Bollywood 01.04 Local: Humni Ke Sitaare 01.34 Local: Tohar Rashi 02.26 Film: Sanam (1997)	08.23 D.Anime: Earth To Luna! 09.07 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 09.33 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes 09.49 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! Cory... 10.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 10.55 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover 11.55 Mag: In Good Shape 12.26 Doc: Top Dive Sites 12.52 Mag: Afrimaxx 15.00 Les Aventures Du Petit... 15.11 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 15.35 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 15.46 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 16.21 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.03 Serial: Hiccup AND Sneezee 18.00 Doc: Ageless Gardens 18.30 Doc: Submerged Universe 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.00 Tele: All The Flowers 21.40 Film: Bad Boys For Life Cast: Will Smith, Martin Lawrence, Vanessa Hudgens	00.00 Mithai 01.49 Udaariyaan 03.40 Anupamaa 05.55 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 08.00 Tenali Rama 08.12 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 10.22 Kundali Bhagya 12.11 Rajaa Betaa 14.10 Doree 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya 18.38 Film: Mubarakan Cast: Anil Kapoor, Arjun Kapoor, Ileana D'Cruz 21.00 Mahabharat 21.49 Tenali Rama 22.05 Dance India Dance Super Moms 22.48 Rajaa Betaa 00.37 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
lundi 17 février	02.20 Tele: Wildflower 03.09 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent 04.21 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 05.02 Serial: Amour Secret 06.45 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man 07.51 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent 08.35 Film: Meet Joe Black 11.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.17 Tele: Wildflower 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 14.10 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man 15.00 Samachar 15.20 Film: The Quake 17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Samachar 18.46 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.07 Serial: Doree 20.10 Serial: Hawaii 20.55 Serial: For Life 21.45 Tele: Wildflower 22.34 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune	07.00 Local: Itinerer Moris 09.45 Local: Clin D'oeil 10.01 Local: Exceptionnelles 10.33 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 12.00 Local Nu Rasinn 12.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.21 Rodrig - Zenn Aktif 15.02 Local: Exceptionnelles 16.00 Local: Les Klips 16.39 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.07 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.30 Le Magazine De L'emploi 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 20.30 Local: Tous Egaux 21.01 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 22.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 22.35 Local: Les Grands Moments 22.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Journal Kreol 23.20 Local: Itinerer Moris	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 07.00 Tenali Rama 07.12 Gadget Guru Ganesha 07.23 Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 Local: Planet Bollywood 08.27 Local: Humni Ke Sitaare 08.57 Local: Tohar Rashi 09.40 Serial: Bahubali 10.20 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man... 11.30 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Gaban 15.21 Serial: Radha Krishna 15.30 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 15.50 Kundali Bhagya 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.30 Radha Krishna 18.57 Local: Hindi Sahitya 20.42 Serial: Ramayan 21.07 Film: Do Waqt Ki Roti With: Feroz Khan, Sanjeev Kumar, Reena Roy 23.27 Serial: Mere Sai	06.25 Doc: Submerged Universe 07.24 Mag: Arts Unveiled 08.30 Doc: My Family Lies 09.16 Ali And The Sound Of The... 10.43 The Language Of Whales 11.29 Doc: Ageless Gardens 11.51 Doc: Submerged Universe 12.49 Mag: Arts Unveiled 13.09 Doc: Wild Isles 15.00 Les Aventures Du Petit... 15.27 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.34 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 15.46 D.Anime: The Deep 16.20 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.04 D.Anime: Hiccup And Sneezee 17.30 Doc: Superfood Berries 18.00 Mag: Eco Africa 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 21.05 Film: Doom Cast: Karl Urban, Dwayne Johnson...	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.51 Doree 15.25 Film: Paathshala Starring: Shahid Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor  18.00 Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dharam Patni 20.05 Mithai 20.33 Shrimad Ramayan 21.09 Anupamaa 21.32 Mere Sai



Mardi 18 fevrier - 20.10



Mercredi 19 fevrier - 21.00



Jeudi 20 fevrier - 22.17



Programme TV



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 18 fevrier 05.15 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 05.56 Serial: Amour Secret 08.22 Tele: All The Flowers 09.15 Film: Doom 11.31 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Wildflower 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.40 Tele: Passion And Power 15.25 Film: 47 Metres Down 17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.58 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: Les Faussaires De Manhattan 21.55 Tele: Wildflower 22.45 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 23.30 Le Journal 00.05 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani	07.41 Local: Saver Kiltirel 10.27 Local: Mangeons Veg 11.00 Local: Arsiv MBC 12.00 Rodrig Mo Pei 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.34 Rodrig: It's My Day 14.05 Rodrig Prog: Feminin Pluriel 15.05 Local: Fee Main 15.38 Local: Mangeons Veg 16.57 La Journee Sous Le Regard 16.55 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.29 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.04 Journal Kreol 19.24 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 20.04 Local: Avant Scene 20.44 Local: Priorite Sante 21.00 Local: Paroles Agricoles 21.35 Local: Le Mag 22.30 Local: Profil 22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard	07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama 07.26 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G 08.10 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein 10.07 Kundali Bhagya 11.41 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.01 Film: Chingari 15.21 Other Serial: Radha Krishna 15.30 Serial: Sajjanwa Bairo Ho Gaile Hamar 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Tark Vitark 19.00 Local: Bhajanavali 20.30 Serial: Ramayan 21.00 Film: Hatyara Cast: Moushumi Chatterjee, Vinod Khanna, Rakesh Roshan 23.30 Serial: Mere Sai 00.22 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 00.45 Mahashivratri Sandesh 00.53 Local: Tark Vitark	06.00 Mag: Eco Africa 07.23 Mag: In Good Shape 07.49 Mag: Travel 08.04 Mag: Tomorrow Today 11.28 Mag: The 77 Percent 12.26 Mag: In Good Shape 13.00 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.31 Mag: Washington Forum 15.00 Les Aventures Du Petit... 15.25 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.45 D.Anime: The Deep 16.16 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.30 Mag: Eco Africa 18.00 Mag: REV 18.30 Mag: Healthy Living 18.45 Mag: Red Carpet 19.30 Mag: Global US 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 20.50 Tele: Seref Meselesi 22.03 Mag: Business Africa 22.29 Mag: Euromaxx	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Doree 15.30 Film: Luv Phir Kabhie Cast: Saurabh Roy, Arijita Roy, Meghna Patel & Narendra Bedi 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dharam Patni 20.06 Mithai 20.29 Shrimad Ramayan 21.07 Anupama 21.29 Mere Sai 22.04 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se 22.34 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 23.04 Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Luv Phir Kabhie Cast: Saurabh Roy, Arijita Roy, Meghna Patel & Narendra Bedi
mercredi 19 fevrier 06.01 Serial: Amour Secret 06.53 Serial: Columbo 08.07 Tele: All The Flowers 09.30 Film: Les Faussaires De Manhattan 11.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Wildflower 13.14 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.37 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.15 Serial: Seref Meselesi 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Tele: Seref Meselesi 17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Serial: Doree 19.20 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.10 Serial: Under Pressure 21.00 Serial: The Last Kingdom	07.08 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin 08.05 Local: Avant Scene 09.30 Local: Le Mag 11.00 Local: Profil 12.00 Local: Inspiration 12.39 Local: Son Ladan Mem 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Ragard 13.41 Local: Priorite Sante 14.30 Local: Nu Rasinn 15.19 Local: A Nou Kwi 16.00 Local: Glwar Dantan 16.30 Rodrig Prog: Kot Nou 17.00 Local: Music Tour 18.00 Tele: Passion And Power 18.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Local: Rodrig Spor 20.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 20.30 Local: Toc Toc Doc 21.30 Local: Groov'in 22.25 Local: Mots & Ecrits 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard	07.00 Tenali Rama 07.13 Gadget Guru Ganesha 07.33 Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 Local: Tark Vitark 10.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Lover Boy Cast: Rajiv Kapoor, Meenakshi Sheshadri, Anita Raj 15.20 Serial: Radha Krishna 15.33 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 15.53 Radha Mohan 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.00 Local: Kala 20.00 Local: Virasat 20.30 Maha Shivratri 2025 21.24 Film: Mohabbat Ki Jung 22.55 Serial: Mere Sai 23.47 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya	07.00 Mag: Made In Germany 08.15 Mag: Euromaxx 10.19 The Illusion Of Abundance 11.32 Mag: Healthy Living 12.29 Mag: Global US 13.21 Mag: Euromaxx 15.01 Les Aventures Du Petit... 15.34 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.35 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 16.20 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.04 Serial: Hiccup And Sneezee 18.30 Mag: Business Beyond 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.30 Doc: A Mediterranean... 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Doc: Choices 21.05 Film: Rat Race 22.35 Mag: Close Up 23.22 Mag: Focus On Europe 23.48 Doc: I Survived Auschwitz	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Doree 15.30 Film: Deewana Mastana Cast: Anil Kapoor, Govinda, Juhi Chawla 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.02 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dharam Patni 20.00 Mithai 20.31 Shrimad Ramayan 21.00 Anupamaa 21.28 Mere Sai 22.05 Keh Doon Tumhein 22.20 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 22.51 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Deewana Mastana Cast: Anil Kapoor, Govinda, Juhi Chawla 02.00 Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Udaariyaan
jeudi 20 fevrier 06.01 Tele: Amour Secret 08.25 Serial: All The Flowers 08.51 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent 09.43 Film: Rat Race 11.33 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Wildflower 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.15 Serial: Entre Justice Et Vengeance 15.25 Film: Les Affamuers 17.18 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.56 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: Rock On 2 Stars: Albert Mawrie, Arjun Rampal, Farhan Akhtar, Shraddha Kapoor 22.38 Tele: Wildflower	06.50 Local: Metie 08.27 Local: Toc Toc Doc 08.45 Local: En Forme 10.34 Local: Saveurs Plus 12.00 Local: Mots & Ecrits 13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.31 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 14.36 Local: Agir Ensemble 14.56 Local: Metie 17.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.10 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.31 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig Prog: Komanter 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.45 Local: Evasion 21.00 Local: Le Mag 21.52 Local: Groov'in 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Journal Kreol	07.00 Tenali Rama 07.23 Lambu G Tingu G 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 12.18 Film: Teri Maang Sitaron Se Bhar Doon Cast: Nutan, Padmini Kolhapure, Raj Kiran 15.18 Samachar 15.48 Sajjanwa Bairo Ho Gaile... 16.18 Agnipheera 17.48 Radha Krishna 18.18 Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 18.49 Mahashivratri Sandesh 20.56 Serial: Ramayan 21.26 Serial: Shiv Shakti 21.56 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 22.26 Mag: Dharam Yatra 22.52 Mere Sai 23.44 Wagle Ki Duniya	07.47 Mag: Choices 08.31 Doc: Focus On Europe 10.22 Doc: Bitcoin In Latin America 11.09 Mag: Afrimaxx 12.05 Mag: Arts Unveiled 13.06 Mag: Close Up 13.23 Mag: Focus On Europe 15.00 Les Aventures Du Petit... 15.12 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 15.25 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.34 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 15.47 D.Anime: The Deep 16.20 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 16.55 Serial: Hiccup And Sneezee 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: Shift 18.42 Mag: Carnet De Sante 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 22.03 Film: Save Me From Everything	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Doree 15.25 Film: English Vinglish Stars: Sridevi, Adil Hussain, Mehdi Nebbou 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dharam Patni 20.00 Mithai 20.24 Shrimad Ramayan 21.02 Anupamaa 21.34 Mere Sai 22.01 Keh Doon Tumhein 22.29 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 23.05 Rajaa Betaa 23.31 Film: English Vinglish Stars: Sridevi, Adil Hussain, Mehdi Nebbou



Jeudi 20 fevrier - 15.30

Stars: Sridevi, Adil Hussain, Mehdi Nebbou



Jeudi 20 fevrier - 20.10

Stars: Albert Mawrie, Arjun Rampal, Farhan Akhtar, Shraddha Kapoor



A New Mauritius: A Vision for Transformation

'Mauritius must move forward, breaking free from political stagnation, economic limitations, and social decay'

On February 7, 2025, Dr Jyoti Jeetun, Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning, delivered a landmark address to the National Assembly, outlining the Government Programme for 2025-2029. Her speech, a blend of personal reflection and national vision, served as a call to action for a "New Mauritius," one characterized by economic resilience, social justice, and a renewed sense of national purpose. Jyoti Jeetun's address acknowledged the nation's current challenges, from economic stagnation and failing infrastructure to eroding public trust and a talent drain, while simultaneously presenting a comprehensive plan for transformation. This introduction sets the stage for a deeper dive into the key themes of her speech, including economic revitalization, strengthening the financial services sector, addressing the talent crisis, and restoring trust in public institutions, all culminating in a vision for a prosperous and equitable future for Mauritius.

A Personal Journey Reflecting National Aspirations

Jyoti Jeetun's journey, from humble beginnings in Triolet to holding a key ministerial position, epitomizes the transformative power of education and perseverance. Her personal experience mirrors that of many Mauritians — facing socio-economic challenges yet propelled by determination and ambition. This connection between personal growth and national development set the tone for her call to action: Mauritius must move forward, breaking free from political stagnation, economic limitations, and social decay.

Despite past achievements, Jyoti Jeetun highlighted the pressing issues facing Mauritius today:

- A faltering economy with high inflation and a cost-of-living crisis.
- Failing infrastructure, an unreliable water supply, and an overburdened healthcare system.
- An energy sector on the brink of collapse and a transportation network marred by high fatality rates. Erosion of public trust in institutions due to nepotism, corruption, and lack of transparency.
- Brain drain, with young, talented Mauritians leaving for better opportunities abroad.

These challenges demand bold, decisive action. The people, she declared, have voted for change, for an end to moral and economic decay, and for a government that delivers on its promises.

Economic and Institutional Rebuilding

A key pillar of Jyoti Jeetun's address was the government's commitment to economic revitalization. The recently maintained but downgraded Moody's rating (from Stable to Negative) serves as a stark warning. The government has an 18-month window to implement critical reforms to stabilize the economy, reduce deficits, and manage public debt responsibly.

Concrete steps include:

- Fiscal consolidation through increased tax and non-tax revenues.
- Rationalization of government spending while



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ensuring social support.

- Steering Mauritius away from a consumption-driven economic model toward one rooted in production, innovation, and value creation.

The Ministry of Economic Planning has been reinstated to chart a clear, long-term vision for national development, aligning sectoral policies and resources for sustainable growth. Mauritius must adapt to a rapidly evolving global landscape — post-Covid economic shifts, climate change, technological advancements, and the rise of populism. The government's vision extends to 2050, with an ambitious roadmap designed to position Mauritius as a resilient and forward-thinking nation.

Strengthening the Financial Services Sector

Jyoti Jeetun underscored the critical role of financial services, now the largest contributor to GDP at 13.8%. The Mauritius International Financial Centre (IFC) holds immense potential but faces operational inefficiencies and reputational challenges. Her Ministry is committed to:

- Enhancing the competitiveness and attractiveness of the financial sector.
- Eliminating bureaucratic red tape and improving

service delivery.

- Strengthening anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-financing of terrorism (CFT) frameworks to ensure continued compliance with international standards.
- Expanding trade and financial ties with India while exploring new opportunities in Africa and beyond.

Addressing the Talent Crisis

A significant concern is the exodus of skilled professionals. Jyoti Jeetun acknowledged that Mauritius is in a state of "national emergency" regarding talent retention. The government aims to:

- Implement policies to attract and retain skilled professionals.
- Encourage the return of Mauritian expatriates.
- Foster an education system aligned with the demands of a modern economy.

Restoring Trust and Opportunity

Jyoti Jeetun's vision extends beyond economics to the very fabric of Mauritian society. She emphasized the need to rebuild trust in public institutions, ensuring integrity, transparency, and fairness. Her vision includes:

- A governance framework that rewards hard work and discourages corruption.
- Support for small businesses, entrepreneurs, and self-employed professionals.
- Equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender, race, or background.

A Grand Mission for a New Mauritius

The Minister's address concluded with an impassioned call for national ambition and unity. She envisions a Mauritius where:

- The education system equips young people for the future.
- The healthcare system meets the needs of all citizens.
- Governance is based on honesty, decency, and integrity.
- Economic policies drive growth while ensuring social justice.

Jyoti Jeetun urged the nation to embrace this grand mission, to work together to change Mauritius' narrative, and to write a new chapter of innovation, opportunity, and shared prosperity.

The time for transformation is now. A new Mauritius, built on strong foundations and bold vision, is within reach.

(This article is based on the Minister's speech in the National Assembly on February 7, 2025.)

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