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Pou Casser Pas Pou Casser?

To break or not to break?

This question is being asked by many people



Two survivors of the old clans, MMM Leader Paul Bérenger and Labour Leader Navin Ramgoolam, have been there before, earlier this century. *Zotte ti casse banne* in another coalition.



25 years into the century, i.e. quarter of a century later, they are still at it. They are still at breaking point in another coalition. They have grown old together. They still cannot see eye to eye on various points.

It has been said of the MMM leader, Paul Bérenger, that he always finds himself very uncomfortable on the Government benches. He is a born Opposition character.

As soon as he set foot (or both feet) in Mauritius in 1969 from overseas studies, Paul Bérenger joined the student movement of Heeralall Bhugaloo, Club des Etudiants, founder and Principal of the Port Louis High School in Volcy Pougnet Street..

The Club des Etudiants of Heeralall Bhugaloo blossomed into the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM) of which he himself was the leader.

As will be characteristic throughout his career, newcomer Paul Bérenger soon got into trouble with the leader Mr Bhugaloo.

MMM Leadership

On Bhugaloo's leaving the party, Bérenger took over the MMM leadership. A first class strategist from the start, he soon managed to get rid of Eliézer François as negotiator of the Dockers' union, and he took over. He thrived on check-off for his sustenance. He was then unemployed.

From then on, there was no stopping of Paul Bérenger as a leader. It must, however, be mentioned that deputy-leader of the MMM, Anerood Jugnauth, got the better of him following the first MMM 60-0 victory of 1982.

Bérenger tripped. He put the crown on the head of his deputy leader who was appointed Prime Minister. Why did he do that? This is an enigma which remains to be solved over 50 years later but various theories were put forward about it.

To all intents and purposes, as leader of the MMM, Paul Bérenger, should have put the crown on his own head in June 1982 and be appointed PM. Did he make a mistake? He missed the opportunity of being the First non-Hindu PM of Mauritius.

Two Captains on one ship

This was the first occasion of the presence of two captains on the same sailing ship. No sooner Jugnauth was in office as PM, that he started having conflicts with Bérenger.

Within a few months of cohabitation, Anerood Jugnauth left the MMM to create his own party, the Mouvement Socialiste Militant (MSM). The MSM has been in the limelight since then.

The MMM and the MSM have been, on-and-off, on a Kiss & Kick, Kick & Kiss relationship since then, friend and foe, foe and friend. At the moment, MSM and MMM are foes.

Mauritius is at the very moment experiencing the Two-Captain predicament. MMM leader Paul Bérenger is in partnership with Labour leader Navin Ramgoolam in a coalition government with two

other two partners: Ashok Subron of Rezistans ek Alternative (ReA) and Richard Duval of the New Democrats (ND).

This 'Group of Four' is a bit at a loss with two maestros, Bérenger and Ramgoolam, conducting the band. Which conductor's baton to follow? The government is 12 months' pregnant with the rupture-baby inside the tummy. the rupture-baby will have to come out soon.

48 months of cohabition ahead

The coalition has another 48 more months to go. Could you see Bérenger and Ramgoolam carrying on kissing one another for the next four years? 'The waters will break' soon and the baby will be out or aborted. The population must get the midwife, i.e. the voters who put them there.

Some observers, like us, think it is a bad time for the government break-up with President Macron on the doorstep on a two day visit (20, 21/11). The local politicians have to keep the "linze sal" in-doors for a few more days.

It is reported that some MMM parliamentarian have made it known that they would not necessarily follow their leader, if a "cassure" should take place."

Suresh B. Coonjeebeeharry

Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam inaugurates SSR Sports Complex in Triolet



On 15 November, Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam inaugurated the SSR Sports Complex at Triolet.

The complex built to the tune of some Rs 200 million and covering over two acres, can accommodate approximately 350 people.

The centre offers a wide range of sports facilities, including courts for volleyball, handball, basketball, futsal, and badminton, as well as areas for beach volleyball and handball, a bouldrome, and a jogging track. Plans are also underway for a future expansion that will include a swimming pool.

In his address, the Prime Minister recalled that the inauguration of this sports facility forms part of the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of SSR. He highlighted Government's commitment to expanding sports infrastructure across the country to empower citizens, particularly the youth, and to encourage regular participation in physical activities. He also pointed out the vital role of sports in combating non-communicable diseases, namely diabetes, affecting a growing number of children and adolescents.

According to Dr Ramgoolam, initiatives like the SSR Sports Complex form part of a broader national strategy to enhance the quality of life for all Mauritians. Fostering development across various sectors remains a priority, with progress, community engagement, and public health serving as central pillars of Mauritius' long-term growth and well-being, he added.

For his part, Minister Nagalingum underlined that Mauritius has gained increasing international ac-



claim through the success of its athletes. He encouraged young people to participate more actively in sports, stressing that the country's progress in this field must be sustained.

The Minister also announced that the Ministry of Youth and Sports, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Human Resource, is developing a key initiative to integrate sports into the school curriculum, with the aim of strengthening sports culture from an early age.

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World Diabetes Day - 14 November

Health Minister Bachoo calls for prevention and early action



A plea to renew the shared responsibility to act early, support every generation, and protect the Nation from the long-term consequences of diabetes was made by the Minister of Health and Wellness, Mr Anil Kumar Bachoo, in Ebène.

The Minister was speaking at the launch of activities organised by the Ministry of Health and Wellness in context of the World Diabetes Day 2025. Activities comprise medical check-ups, screenings, exhibitions and counselling on non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The Junior Minister, Mrs Anishta Babooram, and the World Health Organisation Country Representative in Mauritius, Dr (Mrs) Anne-Marie Ancia were present on the occasion.

In his address the Minister stated that this symbolic day unites the global community in its shared commitment to preventing and controlling the most press-

ing health challenges of our present time. Underlining this year's theme, 'Diabetes Across Life Stages', he pointed out that diabetes can affect us at any age and that our response must therefore be comprehensive and continuous.

With regard to the alarming situation of the high prevalence of diabetes in Mauritius, Mr Anil Kumar Bachoo pointed out that in 2025 alone, 2709 Mauritians lost their lives to diabetes, representing 22.3% of all deaths. One in five adults in Mauritius live with diabetes, and about one quarter of those suffering from diabetes are unaware that they have the condition, he said.

He furthermore indicated that during the 2025 National School Screening Programme, around 490 secondary school students were identified as pre-diabetic, while 32 were found to already have diabetes. This, he said, clearly shows that diabetes can affect anyone from childhood to adulthood, adding that prevention, timely screening and healthy habits remain the strongest defences.

Reiterating the Ministry's strategy which is anchored in prevention, detection and quality care, translating in key measures such as health campaigns, the increase of Sugar Tax and the setting up of five Regional Diabetes Centres, Mr Bachoo recalled the responsibility of each and every one in adopting healthy habits.

On her part Dr Anne-Marie Ancia highlighted the urgency to take prompt actions to prevent the rise of diabetes, to mitigate the suffering of people, the community and the Nation, recalling that the NCD also negatively impacts the health services and Governments' health budgets. Elaborating on the prevailing situation in Mauritius, she noted with concern that around 700 amputations are carried out on a yearly basis among which 89% are due to diabetes.

According to Dr Ancia, emphasis should be laid on prevention, early diagnosis and treatment as key measures to prevent the worsening of the condition and avoiding health complications.

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Editor's Note: In the above report, as regards diabetes, we are made aware of the need for prevention and early action.

Well, how do we do that? How does the Government help people to achieve this?

The article also states that Dr Anne-Marie Ancia "highlighted the urgency to take prompt actions to prevent the rise of diabetes, to mitigate the suffering of people, the community and the Nation." Here again, are there centres or clinics where such facilities are dispensed?