



SEVENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENTARY

DEBATES

(HANSARD)

(UNREVISED)

FIRST SESSION

MONDAY 02 DECEMBER 2019

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THE CABINET

(Formed by Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth)

Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth	Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity
Hon. Ivan Leslie Collendavelloo, GCSK, SC	Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities
Hon. Mrs Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun	Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology
Dr. the Hon. Mohammad Anwar Husnoo	Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government, Disaster and Risk Management
Hon. Alan Ganoo	Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail
Dr. the Hon. Renganaden Padayachy	Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development
Hon. Nandcoomar Bodha, GCSK	Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
Hon. Louis Steven Obeegadoo	Minister of Housing and Land Use Planning
Hon. Mrs Fazila Jeewa-Daureeawoo, GCSK	Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity
Hon. Soomilduth Bholah	Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives
Hon. Kavydass Ramano	Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
Hon. Mahen Kumar Seeruttun	Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance
Hon. Georges Pierre Lesjongard	Minister of Tourism
Hon. Maneesh Gobin	Attorney General, Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security
Hon. Yogida Sawmynaden	Minister of Commerce and Consumer

	Protection
Hon. Jean Christophe Stephan Toussaint	Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation
Hon. Mahendranuth Sharma Hurreeram	Minister of National Infrastructure and Community Development
Hon. Darsanand Balgobin	Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation
Hon. Soodesh Satkam Callichurn	Minister of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training
Dr. the Hon. Kailesh Kumar Singh Jagutpal	Minister of Health and Wellness
Hon. Sudheer Maudhoo	Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping
Hon. Mrs Kalpana Devi Koonjoo-Shah	Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare
Hon. Avinash Teeluck	Minister of Arts and Cultural Heritage
Hon. Teeruthraj Hurdoyal	Minister of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Mr Speaker	Hon. Sooroojdev Phokeer, GOSK
Deputy Speaker	Hon. Mohammad Zahid Nazurally
Deputy Chairperson of Committees	Hon. Sanjit Kumar Nuckcheddy
Clerk of the National Assembly	Lotun, Mrs Bibi Safeena
Adviser	Dowlutta, Mr Ram Ranjit
Deputy Clerk	Ramchurn, Ms Urmeelah Devi
Clerk Assistant	Gopall, Mr Navin
Clerk Assistant	Seetul, Ms Darshinee
Hansard Editor	Jankee, Mrs Chitra
Parliamentary Librarian and Information Officer	Jeewoonarain, Ms Prittydevi
Serjeant-at-Arms	Pannoo, Mr Vinod

MAURITIUS

Seventh National Assembly

FIRST SESSION

Debate No. 02 of 2019

Sitting of Monday 02 December 2019

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Port Louis, at 11.30 a.m.

The National Anthem was played

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY – COMMITTEES – COMPOSITION

- (1) COMMITTEE OF SELECTION
- (2) PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
- (3) STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE
- (4) HOUSE COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I have a few announcements to make with regard to the appointment of the Sessional Select Committees pursuant to Standing Order 69 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly 1995.

Committee of Selection

With regard to the Committee of Selection chaired by my good self, hon. Members are kindly being informed that following consultations held with Members of the Assembly, I have nominated the following Members to serve thereon –

1. Honourable Ms Naveena Ramyad
2. Honourable Soobeersingh Dhunoo
3. Honourable Patrice Kursley Armance
4. Honourable Rajesh Anand Bhagwan
5. Honourable Gilles Fabrice David
6. Honourable Rameswar Doolub
7. Honourable Ashley Ittoo
8. Honourable Joseph Buisson Léopold
9. Honourable Dhananjay Ramful

Furthermore, kindly be informed that at a meeting of the Committee of Selection held under my chairpersonship on Friday 29 November 2019, the said Committee has nominated Members to serve on the following Sessional Select Committees as indicated hereunder –

A. Public Accounts Committee

1. Honourable Ms Naveena Ramyad, Chief Government Whip
2. Honourable Rajanah Dhaliah, Parliamentary Private Secretary
3. Dr. the Honourable Muhammad Ismaël Rawoo, Parliamentary Private Secretary

4. Honourable Jean Francisco François, Parliamentary Private Secretary
5. Honourable Mohamad Salim Abbas Mamode
6. Honourable Rameswar Doolub
7. Honourable Mohamed Ehsan Juman
8. Honourable Muhammad Reza Cassam Uteem

Furthermore, I have today appointed Honourable Charles Gaëtan Xavier-Luc Duval, GCSK, Chairperson of the said Committee.

B. Standing Orders Committee

With regard to the Standing Orders Committee, chaired by my good self and which is also served by the Honourable Deputy Speaker –

1. Honourable Sooroojdev Phokeer, GOSK, Mr Speaker – Chairperson
2. Honourable Mohammad Zahid Nazurally, Deputy Speaker
3. Honourable Shakeel Ahmed Yousouf Abdul Razack Mohamed,
Opposition Whip
4. Honourable Soobeersingh Dhunoo, Deputy Chief Government Whip
5. Honourable Rajesh Anand Bhagwan
6. Honourable Mrs Marie Sandra Monia Mayotte

C. House Committee

With regard to the House Committee, chaired by the Honourable Deputy Speaker –

1. Honourable Mohammad Zahid Nazurally, Deputy Speaker -
Chairperson
2. Honourable Christian Harold Richard Duval
3. Honourable Ashley Ittoo
4. Honourable Mrs Subhasnee Luchmun Roy
5. Honourable Mrs Marie Joanne Sabrina Tour
6. Honourable John Michael Tzoun Sao Yeung Sik Yuen

D. Broadcasting Committee

1. Honourable Georges Pierre Lesjongard, Minister of Tourism
2. Honourable Maneesh Gobin, Attorney General, Minister of Agro-
Industry and Food Security

3. Honourable Mrs Kalpana Devi Koonjoo-Shah, Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare
4. Honourable Serge Gilbert Bablee, Parliamentary Private Secretary
5. Honourable Mohamad Salim Abbas Mamode
6. Honourable Sayed Muhammad Aadil Ameer Meea
7. Dr. the Honourable Mahend Gungapersad
8. Honourable Mrs Subhasnee Luchmun Roy
9. Honourable Mrs Marie Sandra Monia Mayotte

E. Parliamentary Gender Caucus

With regard to the Parliamentary Gender Caucus, chaired by my good self and which is also served by the Honourable Deputy Speaker as Deputy Chairperson –

1. Honourable Sooroojdev Phokeer, GOSK, Mr Speaker – Chairperson
2. Honourable Mohammud Zahid Nazurally, Deputy Speaker – Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Soobeersingh Dhunoo, Deputy Chief Government Whip
4. Honourable Mrs Teenah Jutton, Parliamentary Private Secretary
5. Honourable Ms Marie Genevieve Stephanie Anquetil
6. Honourable Patrice Kursley Armance
7. Honourable Ms Joanna Marie Bérenger
8. Honourable Gilles Fabrice David
9. Honourable Rameswar Doolub
10. Honourable Ms Eileen Karen Lee Chin Foo Kune
11. Honourable Ashley Ittoo
12. Honourable Joseph Buisson Léopold
13. Honourable Mrs Subhasnee Luchmun Roy
14. Honourable Mrs Marie Sandra Monia Mayotte
15. Honourable Mrs Marie Arianne Navarre-Marie
16. Honourable Mrs Marie Joanne Sabrina Tour
17. Honourable Ranjiv Wochit

Thank you.

OBITUARY - MR BABOORAM MAHADOO

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is with deep regret that we have learnt of the demise of Mr Babooram Mahadoo, former Member of Parliament, on Saturday 23 November 2019 at the age of 85.

Mr Mahadoo was born on 08 July 1934 in the village of New Grove. He attended Windsor College in Rose Belle for his secondary education. He pursued tertiary education and obtained a Diploma in Professional Journalism from the Jersey School of Journalism in United Kingdom. He also held a Diploma in Social Studies and a BA degree in Sociology from the Mauritius Institute of Education.

Later, Mr Mahadoo was awarded a MA degree in Diplomatic Strategies from the University of Westminster in the United Kingdom.

In 1960, Mr Mahadoo started working as teacher at the Windsor College in Rose Belle. He left in 1965. From 1966 to 1983, he worked at the Eden College in Rose Hill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Mr Mahadoo joined active politics in 1981. He contested the 1982 General Election under the banner of MMM-PSM Alliance in Constituency No. 16 – Vacoas and Floreal and was elected Third Member. He served as Minister of Arts, Culture and Leisure. Mr Mahadoo again stood as candidate for the 1983 General Election in the same Constituency under the banner of MSM-Labour Party Alliance and was returned as Second Member for the said Constituency. In 1986, he was appointed Minister of Local Government.

Mr Mahadoo also contested the General Election in 1987 in Constituency No. 16 under the banner of the MSM-Labour Party Alliance and was successfully returned. He was then appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary, a post which he held until 1991.

From 1992 to 1996, Mr Mahadoo served as High Commissioner in the United Kingdom. In 1997, he was appointed to serve as Commissioner at the Public Service Commission, a post which he held until the year 2000.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Mr Mahadoo had a passion for literary works. He authored a book entitled “The Eternal Legacy”, which was published in 1991. As a freelance journalist, he also wrote articles in the daily newspaper “*The Sun*”. The “*Bhagvad Gita – Message of Heroism*”, by Mr Mahadoo, was launched in 2014.

Committed to social life, Mr Mahadoo has contributed enormously to the advancement of the youth. He was also involved in other social works during his lifetime. He has been an active member of the Indradhanush Sanskriti Parisad and a life member and the Vice-President of the Organisation of Diaspora Initiative.

Mr Speaker, Sir, on 12 March 2017, Mr Mahadoo was elevated to the rank of the Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean, for his contribution in the political and social fields.

Mr Speaker, Sir, may I request you to kindly direct the Clerk to convey the deep condolences of the Assembly to the bereaved family.

The Leader of the Opposition (Dr. A. Boolell): Mr Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the tribute paid by the hon. Prime Minister to the late Babooram Mahadoo.

My first encounter with this easy-going gentleman was in 1987 when I made my entry in this august Assembly. He was a smart politician and his nomination as Commissioner to London was a big feather in his political cap. He was much appreciated in the circle of diplomats.

Mr Speaker, Sir, please direct the Clerk to convey our deep condolences to members of the bereaved family.

Thank you.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I associate myself to the tribute paid to late Mr Babooram Mahadoo, former Member of Parliament, by the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Leader of the Opposition and I direct the Clerk of the National Assembly to convey to the bereaved family the deep condolences of the Assembly.

PAPERS LAID

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Papers have been laid on the Table.

A. Ministry of Financial Services and Good Governance

- (a) The Securities (Brokerage Fees for Debentures) (Amendment) Rules 2019. (Government Notice No. 243 of 2019)
- (b) The Securities (Brokerage Fees for Exchange Traded Funds on Foreign Underlyings) (Amendment) Rules 2019. (Government Notice No. 244 of 2019)
- (c) The Securities (Brokerage Fees for Government of Mauritius Securities and Bank of Mauritius Securities) (Amendment) Rules 2019. (Government Notice No. 245 of 2019)
- (d) The Securities (Licensing) (Amendment) Rules 2019. (Government Notice No. 246 of 2019)
- (e) The Financial Services (Consolidated Licensing and Fees) (Amendment No. 3) Rules 2019. (Government Notice No. 247 of 2019)
- (f) The Private Pension Schemes (Body of Persons) Rules 2019. (Government Notice No. 248 of 2019)
- (g) The Private Pension Schemes (Governance) (Amendment) Rules 2019. (Government Notice No. 249 of 2019)
- (h) The Securities (Authorisation of Foreign Investment Dealers) (Amendment) Rules 2019. (Government Notice No. 250 of 2019)

B. Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage

The Annual Report of the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund for the period January 2016 to 30 June 2017. (In Original)

MOTIONS**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS - MR
PRITHVIRAJ SING ROOPUN – ELECTION**

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I move the following motion standing in my name –

“That, pursuant to section 28 of the Constitution of the Republic of Mauritius, Mr Prithvirajsing Roopun, be elected President of the Republic of Mauritius.”

The Deputy Prime Minister rose and seconded.

The motion was, on question put, agreed to.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I declare Mr Prithvirajsing Roopun elected President of the Republic of Mauritius. On behalf of the Assembly and in my own name, I offer Mr Prithvirajsing Roopun my sincere congratulations and wish him a fulfilling career.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to say a few words on the newly elected President of the Republic of Mauritius, Mr Prithvirajsing Roopun.

Mr Roopun attended secondary school at New Eton College in Rose Hill and worked as a Mathematics teacher at Eden College.

Mr Roopun was qualified as an Attorney at Law and was admitted to practice since 1986. He is also a holder of a Masters Degree in International Business Law from the University of Central Lancashire, UK.

For nearly 15 years, Mr Roopun had been a member of the Board of Examiners of the Council of the Legal Education and also lectured at the Faculty of Law of the University of Mauritius.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Mr Roopun joined politics in 1983 and stood as candidate for the first time in 1995. He was first elected in Constituency No.14, Savanne and Black River in the 2000 General Election. He held the position of Deputy Chief Government Whip till 2004.

In 2005, he was appointed Minister of Local Government and Solid Waste Management.

Mr Roopun was elected in Constituency No. 9, Flacq and Bon Accueil in the 2010 General Election. He served as Deputy Speaker between 2010 and 2012.

Mr Roopun also represented Mauritius as Member of the PAN African Parliament from 2010 to 2014, where he was Deputy Chair of the Committee of Transport, Industry, Communications, Energy, Science and Technology.

From December 2014 to January 2017, Mr Roopun served as Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment. From January 2017 to November 2019, Mr Roopun served as Minister of Arts and Culture.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sure that Mr Roopun has the required attributes to discharge his new State duties as President of the Republic and that he will contribute immensely in crafting a better future for our nation. I wish him well and congratulate him heartily.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

(Applause)

**VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS - MR MARIE CYRIL
EDDY BOISSÉZON - ELECTION**

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I move the following motion standing in my name –

“That, pursuant to section 29 of the Constitution of the Republic of Mauritius, Mr Marie Cyril Eddy Boissézon, be elected Vice-President of the Republic of Mauritius.”

The Deputy Prime Minister rose and seconded.

The motion was, on question put, agreed to.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I declare Mr Marie Cyril Eddy Boissézon elected Vice-President of the Republic of Mauritius. On behalf of the Assembly and in my own name, I offer Mr Marie Cyril Eddy Boissézon my sincere congratulations and wish him well in shouldering his new responsibilities.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to say a few words on the newly elected Vice-President of the Republic of Mauritius, Mr Marie Cyril Eddy Boissézon.

Mr Boissézon attended secondary school at Saint Joseph’s College in Curepipe and subsequently taught Accountancy at the same institution.

Mr Boissézon holds a Diploma in Purchasing and Supply Management and a Diploma in Business Practice from the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators.

In 1991, he was elected Municipal Councillor at the Municipal Council of Vacoas/Phoenix and served as Deputy Mayor from 1991 to 1993.

Mr Boissézon was elected in Constituency No. 12, Mahebourg/Plaine Magnien in the 1995 General Election. He represented the National Assembly in the ACP/EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in 1996 and 1997.

Mr Boissézon was elected in Constituency No. 15, La Caverne/Phoenix in the 2014 General Election, and served as Parliamentary Private Secretary up to 2017.

In January 2017, he was appointed as Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Mr Boissézon is known for his contribution as a social worker and had a rich career in the Private Sector, mainly in the fields of Logistics, Human Resources and Administration.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sure that Mr Boissézon will discharge his new State duties as Vice-President of the Republic diligently.

I wish him well and congratulate him heartily.

(Applause)

END-OF-YEAR MESSAGE

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, in keeping with tradition, before moving for the adjournment of the Assembly, I wish to say a few words.

First of all, I congratulate you once more upon your election to the high office of Speaker. I also extend my congratulations to the Deputy Speaker and to the Deputy Chairperson of Committees for their election as such and to all hon. Members upon their election to serve the Assembly, especially those who have been returned for the first time.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you for presiding over the business of the Assembly.

My thanks also go to the Clerk of the National Assembly, the Deputy Clerk and the Clerk Assistants and all the other officers appointed to serve the Assembly, including the Serjeant-at-Arms and members of the Police Force on duty within the precincts of the Assembly.

Mr Speaker, Sir, may I kindly request you, on behalf of the hon. Members and in my own personal name, to present the Season's Greetings to His Excellency, the President of the Republic and Mrs Roopun and to His Excellency, the Vice-President of the Republic and Mrs Boissézon.

I convey to you, Mr Speaker, Sir and to your family, our best wishes for a Merry Christmas 2019 and a Happy New Year 2020. I also extend my best wishes to the hon. Leader of the Opposition and his family and to all hon. Members and their families.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I also wish to express my best wishes to the Clerk of the National Assembly and all other officers of the Assembly.

Thank you.

(11.50 a.m.)

The Leader of the Opposition (Dr. A. Boolell): Mr Speaker, Sir, festive season is on its way and I cannot be seen to depart from tradition. On behalf of the Opposition, let me, first of all, convey greetings to the beautiful people of a great little country; Season's Greetings to you, Mr Speaker, Sir, and to your family.

I associate myself with the Season's Greetings expressed by the hon. Prime Minister to his Excellency, the newly elected President of the Republic, Mrs Roopun and their family, to the newly elected Vice-President, Mrs Boissézon and their family.

Of course, I convey Season's Greetings to the Prime Minister, to Mrs Jugnauth and members of their family, to our friends sitting on the front bench and backbench, and I am pleased also to extend best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk and the two Clerk Assistants, the attendants who are always attending upon us and to all civil servants who are involved and work in the precincts of the Assembly.

So, let me again grasp this opportunity and wish all our friends Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and may God bless our great little country.

Thank you.

(11.51 a.m.)

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I wish to associate myself with the Season's Greetings expressed by the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Leader of the Opposition to His

Excellency, the President and to Mrs Roopun and their family and to His Excellency, the Vice-President and Mrs Boissézon and their family.

I will, with great pleasure, convey the message to them. In my own name and on behalf of the Clerk and officers of the National Assembly, I thank the hon. Prime Minister for his kind words and good wishes.

I am pleased to extend my best wishes for a Merry Christmas 2019 and a Happy New Year 2020 to the hon. Prime Minister and to Mrs Kobita Jugnauth and members of their family, to the hon. Leader of the Opposition and all hon. Members and members of their respective families.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Friday 24 January 2020 at 4.00 p.m.

The Deputy Prime Minister rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker: The House stands adjourned.

At 11.53 a.m., the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Friday 24 January 2020 at 4.00 p.m.