

LALIT's Proposals to Select Committee on Introduction of Kreol Language into Parliament

To: Clerk of the Assembly, Ms. Bibi Safeena Lotun, [committee@govmu.org]
National Assembly, Parliament House, Port Louis.

Dear Madam,

Submission for Select Committee on Kreol Language in the National Assembly

LALIT hereby submits its proposals for the introduction of Kreol Language into the National Assembly, together with brief argumentation, both included in this letter below. There are also, as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, an outline of *your* Chamber's fine history in the struggle for Kreol to be introduced in Parliament, and Appendix 2, which is an outline of *our* own history in LALIT of struggle on this precise issue.

LALIT's Proposal

The Constitution, as you know, at Section 49 reads: "**Official language:** The official language of the Assembly shall be English but any member may address the chair in French."

We propose the following Amendment of the Constitution be made so that the section reads as follows:

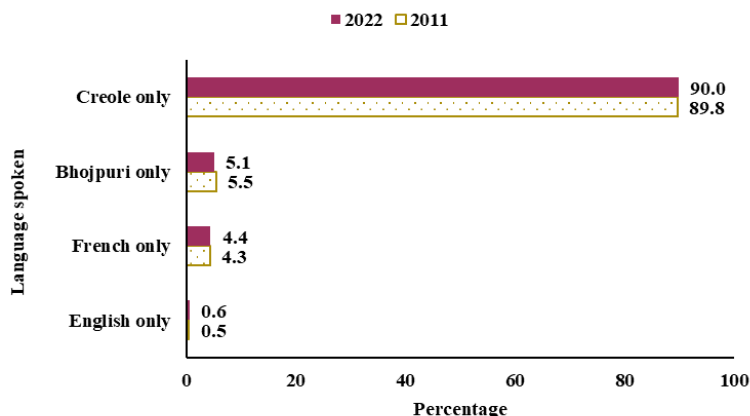
"Official language: The official languages of the Assembly shall be the Republic of Mauritius Kreol Language and English but any member may address the chair in French." We draw attention to the need to refer to the language in the somewhat elaborate form used in our drafting, so as specifically to include the part of our nation that resides in Rodrigues, Chagos and Agalega and shares a common national language, though with regional variations.

Argumentation as to *Why* language used is important

1. **Natural Means of Cognition:** Human Language, spelt with a capital "L", is the unique biological capacity humans have for understanding or comprehending our world, and we do this *collectively*. Our Language is thus much, much more than the clichéd: "Language is a means of communication". It is our innate capacity to structure the external input our brains receive via our senses of sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste, and to structure the internal input on our own bodily feelings and our own mental "thoughts". As such, it is the essence of our capacity to plan for the future collectively, and it is absolutely *natural*. The work of the National Assembly is for our elected delegates to plan together, collectively for the future of our nation state, and with other States, for the future of our mother earth, so this is clearly done in our natural language. This way what is now, as a matter of fact, the national mother tongue is also the best medium of cognition and communication in our National Assembly. It should definitely no longer be prohibited.

2. **Mother-tongue:** Kreol is the mother tongue of 90% of the people. This is a fact. The figures have risen year after year. Here they are for the past two official government Census results, after officers asked each and every household, one by one, all over the country what language they usually speak at home:

Figure 10 - Proportion of the population by language most often spoken at home, Republic of Mauritius, 2011 and 2022 Population Censuses



The continued banning of the mother tongue of 90% of us is not just an affront to democracy but an offense against our humanity, an offense of criminal proportions, one of the relics of the crime of colonization.

3. Vernacular: Kreol is not only the mother tongue of 90% of the people. Kreol is also the Mauritian vernacular for the *quasi totality* of the people. The vernacular is not the same as the mother-tongue. It refers to the language spoken in public spaces. In Mauritius Kreol is the vernacular. We use it amongst neighbours in our villages and towns, at work in our offices and factories, at the police stations, at work in the fields, in the mills, in workshops and cyber centres, in shops and supermarkets. It is used by small-planters, animal-rearers and fisherfolk every day, and in buses, on the Metro, at markets, in all the dispensaries and hospitals, at the Post Office, during children's break time and at the workers' messroom, at food stalls, at weddings and funerals, and on the sports' field and at the beach. We, quite literally, from the moment of birth in a hospital ward until the last breath we breathe in a hospital, speak Kreol.

So, Kreol is both the mother tongue of 90% of us, and also our near-universal "vernacular".

4. Attitudes of the People

We are fortunate to have two fine scientific surveys of the opinion of your electors on the question of the use of Kreol in the National Assembly, both of them conducted by the French-based firm SOFRES, one in 1977 and the other in 2009. Over that 30-year period the result was stable: Two-thirds of the people were, even then, already in favour. Curiously, in 1977, people in the rural areas, particularly small planters, were the most in favour!

In 2009, even before Kreol was taught in schools as a subject, when asked if they were in favour of Kreol being introduced "on a par with English" in the National Assembly, 67% were in favour, only 7% did not know. 9% are more-or-less against, and only 18% strongly against. SOFRES found that "the elite" are more against, more specifically, they write, "the lower the job category, the higher the proportion in favour." What is also interesting is that in order to better judge whether opinions "against" were based on fact, there were four other "supplementary" questions posed each responder. Only 20% knew there were Kreol-English and Kreol-French Dictionaries at the time. Only 7% knew that there was a course on Kreol at the University of Mauritius. Only 20% knew that the Catholic schools had introduced Kreol for "Prevok" classes. Only 13% knew that the Government had already recognized an official orthography called "Grafi Larmoni". Knowing the facts may have changed the opinion of those who did not know or who were more-or-less against. And today, of course, Kreol is taught in schools all over the Republic of Mauritius. There is an officially recognized dictionary. So, a survey may show a vast change. Also, the question could be posed in another way: "Should Kreol, the mother tongue of 90% of the people, continue to be excluded from the National Assembly?"

5. Technical issues

As we all now know, in order to use computers for automatic transcription, the answer is in the actual experience of using the system. Computers learn by use. The data gets fed in every time an MP talks in Kreol and the elementary start-up system transcribes their speech or question or answer, with a human transcriber correcting, and thus increasing the amount of data, the system learns from "experience", as it were. The team of Parliamentary transcribers will need to be trained to "train the computer", while building up data over the first decade or so.

In addition, *Ledikasyon pu Travayer*, based on LALIT's immense data-base on our web-site (the largest Creole language data-base, we believe, in the world) has developed a Unified "Kreol Spellcheck", that members and others have been using for years as we draft in Kreol. This "Spellcheck" accepts words spelt in the common LPT orthography and the official government one, which is very similar to it.

6. Bhojpuri

If the Select Committee understands that its terms of reference extend to making a further proposal for later amendment, we propose that, as well as French, Mauritian Bhojpuri should be able to be used to address the chair. Bhojpuri is the second largest language that people speak usually at home. In the past, it was also a village vernacular, in half of the country, and in some areas still is. It deserves a place, alongside French, as a language that can be used. LALIT has long supported this stand, in fact since 1983, if not before.

Two Appended Documents

1. Past Members of Parliaments' fine contributions over the years to getting us so near the "finish line".
2. LALIT's contribution over the years to getting us so near the "finish line".

We can also submit further documentation on request. We would be happy for a delegation from LALIT to present our views, and respond to concerns of the MPs on the Select Committee.

for LALIT, Rada Kistnasamy and Lindsey Collen, 18 September, 2026.

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LALIT website: www.lalitmauritius.org

Appendix 1: Outline of the Rich History of Struggle in Parliament itself for Kreol in the National Assembly

(Document also available in its original Kreol language version on request)

Listwar Lalit Li Byin Byin Long – mem alinteryer Parلمان

Today all parties, whether in Government or Opposition, are in favour of the Kreol language taking its place as a language used for debate in Parliament. In fact, all the Deputies and Ministers who took the floor during the debate on the motion to establish the Select Committee to look into the introduction of the Kreol Morisien in Parliament used strong arguments in favour of the Kreol language. When it came to the vote, in the end there was a *unanimous* vote to establish this Committee. That is a good start.

Here it is worth remembering that for a long time there have been Municipal Councillors and also many, many MPs, who have spoken out in the National Assembly in favour of the Kreol language taking its legitimate place inside Parliament. In addition, there are even councilors and MPs that have dared to speak in Kreol, a form of direct action or passive resistance to this colonial relic that bans the language of the overwhelming majority of the people.

In fact, in 1922 a Port Louis Municipal Councilor, Mamode Ellam, from Action Liberale, dared to stand up and speak in Kreol at a session of the Port Louis Municipal Council, the oldest democratic body in the country, that dates back to 1790 during the French Revolution. And then in 1922, for 5 months there was a debate in the Council on whether he could speak in Kreol, but without coming to an agreement. Every time he took the floor, the Mayor ruled him "out of order". He persisted. A century has passed. Yes, 100 years.

From 1970 until today

In 1970, in one of his first speeches as MP, Dev Virasahwmy said there should be no barriers in the Assembly that prevent Deputies from expressing themselves in their mother tongue.

In 1977 MMM MP Azize Asgarally took the floor in a session of Parliament and made a long plea to denounce the Government's language policy against the Kreol language. He spoke out against anti-Kreol language prejudice and criticized the language policy in Parliament as anti-democratic and colonial.

And, what is more interesting is that the same year, Aneerood Jugnauth, as Leader of the Opposition (MMM), presented a private motion on 5 November 1977 for the Kreol language to be used in Parliament and for the necessary measures to be taken to amend the Constitution to make this a reality. Here is the text of his motion:

“This Assembly is of opinion that the Creole language should be authorised in the Legislative Assembly and that government should take the necessary steps to introduce appropriate legislation to amend the relevant section of the Constitution accordingly.”

In 1977, the same year, when the MMM took control of all municipalities, Kreol was used as the language of debate in the Municipal Councils for the first time. What happened was that *that* same year, Sylvio Michel of Organisation Fraternelle, presented a motion that Kreol be used in Council Meetings of the Beau-Bassin/Rose-Hill Municipal Council because one of those elected, his brother Elie Michel also in Organisation Fraternelle, was fluent in Kreol only. The motion was supported by the Mayor, Jean Claude de L'Estrac, and adopted.

In Village Councils, Kreol was always used, as a point of fact.

Regularly, Members of Parliament have asked Parliamentary Questions on the introduction of Kreol, keeping the subject on the agenda again and again. Each time, they received rather vague and evasive answers, showing the lack of reasoning behind the continued banning of the language that is the vernacular and is also the mother tongue.

And, since the beginning of this millennium, everything has accelerated.

In November 2004, the former Minister of Fisheries of Mauritius, Sylvio Michel, even wrote his resignation letter as Minister *in Kreol*.

In 2014 former MP and Minister, Stephan Toussaint, began his maiden speech with an introduction in Mauritian Kreol.

In April 2016, MP Franco Quirin asked Sir Aneerood Jugnauth, who was still Prime Minister at the time, where the project for the introduction of the Kreol language in Parliament was going. In its response, SAJ stated that there are several factors that need to be addressed before the project can be completed. And he even added that: If it was only on him, he would NEVER agree to introduce Kreol in the Assembly. NEVER! This is very shocking, and contradictory at the same time, because in 1977, he was the one who presented a private motion to introduce Mauritian Kreol in Parliament. The PT-PMSD government at the time, in 1977, as we know rejected the SAJ motion.

In 2017, MP Alan Ganoo, posed a PQ on the issue of Kreol in Parliament to the then new Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth. PM Pravind Jugnauth replied that the government would consider its introduction. This is very vague.

That same year, MP Alan Ganoo, even gave part of his speech in Kreol in Parliament. The Speaker, Maya Hanoomanjee, interrupted him, but did not say no, “No, Mr. Ganoo”, but rather said and note her nuance, “*Not yet, Mr Ganoo!*” The same Prime Minister, in his reply, declared that the Kreol language is a factor that unites the rainbow nation and that he will consider its introduction in the National Assembly when all the necessary conditions have been met. So, it had now become merely practical excuses.

In March 2018 MP Rajesh Bhagwan asked the Prime Minister if he would come up with a proposal to amend Section 49 of the Constitution and Standing Order 5, as well as rules of the National Assembly, so that the Kreol language could be used in the Assembly. The Prime Minister, in his reply, reassured members of the Assembly that the government will consider the introduction of Kreol when all the necessary conditions are met. So, it was still “conditions”.

By 2019, when MP Ganoo again asked a question, Deputy Prime Minister Collendavelloo answered that the Government will bring “necessary amendments to the Constitution and the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly”. But, still, he added that what is necessary is “a mastery of the language” as a condition to be able to “write and transcribe the proceedings of the Assembly”. He also used the pretext of IT which is a weak argument. In fact, in order to build the library, dictionary, and User Profiles that the software needs, it is necessary to use the Kreol language and accumulate this data. But, what is important is that any delay was put down merely to technical reasons.

In 2020, when MMM MP Reza Uteem asked his question on Kreol, Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth reiterated that the Government would consider the introduction of Mauritian Kreol in Parliament. Just as he had done the previous year, the Prime Minister replied: “I would like to reassure the Assembly, once again that the government will consider the introduction of Mauritian Kreol”. Then he repeated the same thing about his government's inability to handle technical matters.

In March 2024, then MP Arianne Navarre-Marie, now Vice Prime Minister and Chair of this Select Committee, asked then Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth to give an official updated report on the measures

taken to prepare for the introduction of Kreol in the Assembly. In his reply Pravind Jugnauth announced that there are several types of work that are necessary including training staff to learn Mauritian Kreol spelling, developing courses to learn reading and writing Kreol adapted for MPs and setting up a team of researchers to prepare the technical ground before Kreol is used in the assembly.

Since the new “*Lalyans Changement*” Government came to power, several Members of Parliament have spoken in Kreol in the Assembly.

In 2025, there was especially Joanna Bérenger, Junior Minister at the time, who courageously addressed the present Speaker Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra in Kreol until she refused to let her continue her speech in Kreol. And it was then that Speaker, herself, also courageously, who took the initiative, as Speaker, to work towards the introduction of Kreol in Parliament. So, it was two women MPs, appropriately, and though a minority of the actors in Parliament, who have taken the decisive move in favour of the “mother tongue”.

More recently in August during the debate to establish the Select Committee on the introduction of Kreol, MPs Francisco Francois and Deven Nagalingum delivered parts of their respective speeches in Kreol.

All this shows that the question of the use of Kreol in the National Assembly has remained permanently present on the agenda of parliamentary debate and has accelerated as pressure is rising from the masses of the people.

Appendix 2: LALIT's Contribution to the Struggle for Kreol in Parliament over the years

(English version of this document can be arranged)

Dokiman LALIT no. 1

Program LALIT lor Langaz (Pibliye 2024)

LALIT enn veritab pyonye dan servi langaz Kreol ekrit. Nu Revi mansyel depi lane 1976 ziska lane 2024, li an Kreol, e osi, pandan mem lepok, nu ekrir an Kreol dan tu nu liv Minits formel ki li pu Lasanble Manb, Komite Santral, Brans, Reynion Redaksyon.

Nu korespondans intern ek lokal an Kreol, osi byin ki nu dayeri dan nu syez.

Nu karne resi e nu liv kont, zot osi, zot an Kreol.

Akoz nu pran pozisyon kont kolonyalism ki nu ekrir dan langaz maternel. Akoz nu ena enn filozofi egaliter, anterm deklas, ki nu ekrir dan langaz maternel.

Me, plis ki tu, li aköz nu enn parti politik ki konpran ki langaz imin li zuti *natirel* atraver lekel nu lesPRI travay, e dan enn parti politik tu depann lor azir lor baz “fer nu lesPRI travay byin”, pu ki nu reysi gayn enn *konpreansyon an-komin*, setadir enn Program Politik.

Finn mem ena enn letid prezante dan Kolok LPT 2023 par enn manb LALIT lor relasyon intim ant langaz oral ek langaz ekrit dan devlopman nuvo lide politik.

LALIT finn sirmont sa obstak kolonyal, sa andikap yerarsi diferan langaz, ki gard enn “miray” dan nu latet ant langaz koze ek langaz ekrit, e ki antrav nu prop lisidite intelektuel, e nu prop kreativite anterm nuvo lide.

Lezot parti politik, *pa* finn fer tusala.

Depi formasyon LALIT, nu finn milite pu gard langaz maternel lor azanda politik, e li santral dan nu program delit. Anmemtan nu servi li, nu fer kanpayn *pu li servi partu*. Nu sirtu promuvwar li an form ekrit.

E nu finn gayn buku viktwar. Langaz Kreol finn rant dan lekol kuma size. Ena buku liv an Kreol. Mwins dimunn opoz li.

LALIT ena lintere pu langaz maternel aksepte partu parski li ed nu program. Sa, li parski langaz maternel li nu zuti *natirel* pu konpran lemond, e nu bi se pu sanz lemond, e pu sanz lemond, fode nu devlop enn konpreansyon an-komin lor kimanyer lemond opere e lor kimanyer sanz li, fode tom dakor lor enn seri “demand” ki form parti nu program. Fode dimunn konpran lor ki baz li pare pu mobilize, e pare pu servi rezonnman pu popolariz demand parmi lezot dimunn. Tu sa kalite *refleksyon-an-preparasyon-pu-aksyon* la, li fer byin selman dan langaz maternel.

1. Kreol ek Bhojpuri bizin dekrete “Langaz Nasyonal”

Fode Konstitisyon Repiblik Moris dekret, dan kad proses dekolonizasyon, ki Kreol Repiblik Moris ek Bhojpuri Morisyin nu langaz nasyonal.

2. Bizin lev banning langaz Kreol dan Lasanble Nasyonal e dan lezot instans demokratik

Fode langaz Kreol nepli interdi dan Parlman. Langaz Kreol bizin servi dan linstans demokratik prinsipal, setadir dan Lasanble Nasyonal. Kumsa li enn siyn ki li nepli kolonize, ki nu, nu nepli kolonize. Zordi, kan MBC fer transmisyon direk TV seki pase dan Parlman, fode pa depite *pa gayn drwa* koz langaz ki so elekteur koze lakaz, e ki li li-mem li koze lakaz.

Kan lev interdiksyon la, li enn siyn ki langaz klas travayer, li egal a langaz lezot travayer dan lemond.

Deza, plizir nu manb ti dan lekip ki fini fer tradiksyon Stennding Orderz, an Kreol. Fode anmemtan servi Kreol dan Parlman, anmemtan devlop kote teknik. Fode pa krwar kapav devlop kote teknik avan. Sa 2 zafer la mars ansam prezizeman aköz bizin kree enn data-beys ki tultan pe agrandi pu ki sistem kompyuter vinn pli adep. Antuka fode pena kriter langaz kolonizater u literesi pu vinn depite.

*Langaz Kreol bizin osi servi dan lezot instans demokratik, ki li Konsey Minisipal ubyin Distrik, Rodrigues Island Council, nuvo Agalega Council ek Chagos Islands Council.” 11-Ziyet-2024

Link: <https://www.lalitmauritius.org/modules/documents/files/LalitMauritius-28f0b864598a1291557bed248a998d4e.pdf>

Surs: Program LALIT pu Eleksyon Zeneral 2024 – Sapit lor Program lor Langaz

Dokiman LALIT no. 2

BIZIN ARET INTERDIKSYON LANGAZ KREOL DAN PARLMAN (Pibliye 2020)

LALIT kondann Guvernman Jugnauth aköz li pe kontiyn gard interdiksyon langaz Kreol depi Lasanble Nasyonal. Nu akiz li fer ditor demokrasi. Nu akiz li prolonz kolonizasyon. Nu akiz li antrav liberte dexpresyon. Guvernman, par lavwa Premye Minis, finn reponn 4 kestyon Parlmanter, enn sak lane pandan 4 an. E sak fwa li klèman enn eksersis “*delaying tactics*” byin kalkile, ki li an 2017, 2018, 2019 ubyin 2020.

Ondire Guvernman Jugnauth pe tret pa zis Parlman, me osi lepep Repiblik Moris, kuma inbesil. Seki evidan: Li pa ule pey pri politik ki definitivman pu ena si zame li kareman pran pozisyon kont servi langaz Kreol dan Lasanble Nasyonal. Li kone 3/4 dimunn anfaver introdri langaz Kreol. Anmemtan, li pa ule pran risk politik nonpli ki li frwas dimunn dan elit parmi sa 30% ki pa an-faver langaz Kreol. Alor, li prefer res dan enn Lasanble Nasyonal ki tuzur *kolonize*, tuzur kurbe divan swadizan siperyorite Angle-Franse.

Pa zis sa Guvernman la. Tu Guvernman o-puvwar depi Lindepandans finn refiz fer sa muv de-kolonizasyon inportan la. Zis kote Minisipal ek Distrik, MMM an 1977 ti introdri Kreol kuma enn opsyon. Lerla, li finn vinn kapon kuma leres.

Pli bizar ankor. Tu Lopozisyon depi Lindepandans, zot osi, pa vreman fer okenn muv.

Ena enn muv, par exanp, ki byin fasil ki zot ti kapav pran dan enn fason konserte: enn par enn, pandan nerport ki intervansyon dan Parlman, zot kumans koz bon Kreol, e kontiye ziska Spiker met zot awt-of-order. Sa-mem ki apel aksyon non-vyolan, rezistans pasiv. Samem ki zuti kle dan lager pu de-kolonizasyon. E, li marse. Li marse sirtu kan trwa-kar popilasyon deryer u. Me, Lopozisyon tultan fer minimem nesaser pu evit akizasyon ki li pa pe fer naryin. Pa plis.

Kan ti ena forum LPT an Mars 2020, zis avan lokdawn, LALIT ti propoz sa. Mem si reprezantan Travayis Cader Sayed-Hossen ti dir, “Kifer pa?” reprezantan MMM, Paul Bérenger finn refiz konsider sa. E Patrice Armance pu PMSD, osi, finn refize. Kestyon se kifer? Kifer zot refize? Eski zot parti finn vinn reprezantan sa klas sosyal ki kont langaz Kreol? Sa klas sosyal ki anfaver Angle-Franse? Bizin mansyone ki, pu enn wi, pu enn non, zot pare pa zis pu konfront Spiker, me zot pare pu fer work-awt. Alor, Lopozisyon, san enn pistonaz, li pa pu enn alye efikas dan lalit pu introdri langaz Kreol.

Me anfind-kont, Guvernman zordi ki pli an-tor ki tu. Anu get so sinema sa dernye 4 an la:

2017: Sinema kumanse an 2017. Kan Depite MP Ganoo poz enn kestyon, Premye Minis Jugnauth reponn kumkwa Guvernman pu konsider introdri Kreol dan Parlman, i.e. Government “*will consider its introduction in the National Assembly*”. Byin bon. Mem li dan fitir.

Jugnauth anmemtan pretann ki tu Parlmanter bizin deza aprann metrize langaz Kreol (develop a “*mastery of the language*”) avan introdri langaz Kreol. Lerla Pravind Jugnauth azut enn ta argimantasyon bet lor IT: “*Apart from the language issue, other arrangements, both administrative and logistical, especially in terms of appropriate IT*

hardware and software, will have to be put in place before contemplating the introduction of Mauritian Creole language in the National Assembly.” Alor, pu rezon sanse IT, bizin tini labuzi ruz.

2018: Ariv 2018, kan Depite MMM Bhagwan poz kestyon, Pravind Jugnauth reponn parey, kumkwa li *“reassure the House that Government will consider the introduction of the Kreol Morisien”*. Tuzur dan lefitir. Li kontiyn repet ankor ki fode Parlmanter ek staf metriz langaz Kreol avan (*“develop a mastery of the language”*). Li donn detay sann kut la, dan so delaying tactic, *“We need to have a specialised software platform in Kreol which would have to be compatible with the existing Digital Recording Voice to Text platform presently being used by the National Assembly which enables the posting of the unrevised version of the Hansard of a sitting within 24 hours. In addition, the officers of the Hansard Unit of the National Assembly will have to be trained in Kreol language for the purpose of transcribing and editing the proceedings of the National Assembly.”* Argimantasyon bankal persiste, mem brode. Enn an inn pase. Nu tuzur, bizin tini labuzi ruz.

2019: Ariv 2019, kan Depite MP Ganoo poz kestyon, Depyuti Premye Minis Collendavelloo reponn: Guvernman pu amenn *“necessary amendments to the Constitution and the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly”*. Me, tuzur, li azute: Seki nesese se *“the mastery of the language”* kuma enn kondisyon pu kapav *“rediz e transkri derulman Lasanble”*. Li al pli lwin avek detay, *“Moreover, since the software uses artificial intelligence to build up its library, dictionary and User Profiles, the prerequisite will be a standardisation of the Kreol Morisien in terms of orthography, grammar and vocabulary.”* Asterla, li kumans devwal febles so pretext IT. Pu kapav batir sa libreri, diksyoner, e User Profiles, fode servi langaz Kreol e akimil sa data la.

2020: Ariv 2020, kan Depite MMM Reza Uteem poz kestyon, Pravind Jugnauth re-iter ki Guvernman pu konsider introdiksyon Kreol Morisyin dan Parlman. Dan lefitir, tuzur. *“I wish to reassure the House, once again, that the Government will consider the introduction of the Kreol Morisien.”* Lerla li re-repet mem zafer lor inkapasite so guvernman okip zafer teknik.

Zame li pa met dibut kit Komite Teknik pu okip sa travay la.

Zame li pa met enn taymfrem.

Li zis kontiyn-mem kuyonn li-mem, kuyonn Parlman, kuyonn lepep Moris.

Ena zis 2 argiman prinsipal dan tu sa verbyaz Premye Minis la.

Premye, tu sa koze repete-repete lor sanse *“bizin metriz langaz Kreol avan servi li dan Parlman”*, li enn betiz grotesk. Tu Parlmanter deza servi langaz ki apenn zot metrize, setadir Angle-Franse. E sa, li normal ki zot pa metriz Angle-Franse, aköz sa de langaz la pa zot langaz maternel, li pa mem vernakiler Repiblik Moris, e zame pa servi zot dan miting, program TV ek radyo, ni mem dan reynion pu rod vot lor lekel zot eleksyon dan Parlman depenn. Par definisyon, dimunn metriz zot prop langaz maternel pli byin ki langaz ki aprann dan leköl. Pu aprann lir-ekrir, li pran enpe lapenn. Me, dapre LALIT, bann Depite pa pu gayn difikilte, etan done zanfän dan fers, segonn, trwazyem, etc pe reysi metriz li.

Dezyem argiman, li lor amenazman teknik. Kuma nu finn dir, fode servi langaz Kreol dan Lasanble, kumans gayn baz-done pu IT (ki fasilite transkripsyon oral ziska ekrit). Pu pretann lekotrer kuma Jugnauth finn fer, li enn siyn swa so linnyorans lor kimanyer kree enn data-beys, swa so movez-fwa.

Detutfason, pandan 40 an par la, pu tu derulman Lasanble Nasyonal, transkrayber ti pran not par lame, lerla al tip li apre. Zot ti travay enn shift kurt, aturderol. Alor, pandan bann premye lane, kan pe *“antrenn”* sofwer par furni li buku, buku data, bizin ena enn dub-sistem. Li sinp. Par lame, lerla tipe (ubyin anrezistre, lerla al tipe kuma transkrayber Lakur deza fer) anmemtan ki par enn sofwer spesyalize ki pran Kreol oral fer li vinn dizital. Kapav fer sa dan mwins ki 24-er.

LALIT byin diferan depi tu sa parti ki dan Guvernman aturderol, lerla dan Lopozisyon aturderol, e ki rod enn manyer pretann zot pe fer kiksoz pu ki langaz Kreol rant dan Parlman, kan anfet zot pa anfaver e pe sabot so introdiksyon, me dan enn fason surnwa. Guvernman fer sa par fer nu trap labuzi ruz. Lopozisyon fer sa par poz kestyon, me refiz pas a laksyon kot so Depite kareman pran laparol formelman, e an-ord, dan langaz Kreol, ziska Spiker bizin rann so lekor kuyon, intervenir sak fwa. E piblik pe truv tusala an-direk.

Ala, pozisyon LALIT dan so Program 2019, ki finn stab depi so premye priz pozisyon an 1982 kan li forme kuma enn parti politik:

- * Langaz Kreol bizin servi dan Lasanble Nasyonal lor pyed-egalite avek Angle.

- * Inn ler pu dekoloniz tu linstitisyon Leta.

- * Kifer depite bizin kontiyn koz an Angle uswa Franse dan Parlman sirtu kan zot layv-enn-dayrek lor TV, alor ki gran mazorite zot prop elekter pa konpran sa 2 lang etranzer la byin? LALIT anfaver drwa tu depite exprim zot lib dan langaz Kreol, dan langaz lepep. Bizin sanz lalwa pu kapav servi langaz Kreol, Angle uswa Franse pu

deba dan Parlman. Anmemtan bizin sanz Konstitisyon pu anlev bann antrav pu vinn depite kuma kalifikasyon literesi. Kifer enn kandida bizin konn koz ek lir enn lang etranzer, Angle, pu li kalifye pu vinn depite. Sa li anti demokratik parski li exklir buku kandida ki dan klas travayer. *23 Ziyet 2020*

Surs: Websayt LALIT pibliye le 25.07.2020

Dokiman LALIT no. 3

LALIT's Program on the Constitution of The Republic of Mauritius (Pibliye 2023)

* The mother tongues Kreol and Bhojpuri, our collective means of thinking, must be protected from the present banning in schools, including from banning as medium of text-books and evaluation exercises. The main news bulletins must be given in good spoken Kreol and Bhojpuri, as part of the right to information. All aspects of the judiciary must be understood in Kreol, and interpretation available, on request, in Bhojpuri. The banning of Kreol and Bhojpuri in the National Assembly and other official instances must be lifted, as must language and literacy qualifications for election.

Link: <https://www.lalitmauritius.org/modules/documents/files/LalitMauritius-8efb100a295c0c690931222ff4467bb8.pdf>

[Source: Extract from "Chapter One of 20 Chapters of our Electoral Program, published now 10 May 2024, based on years of meetings. It goes hand-in-hand with our book "Filozofi LALIT" and booklet "Stratezi LALIT", Both published in 2023 and based on our 6-day Congress of 2022."]

Dokiman LALIT no. 4

"Langaz Kreol (Pibliye 2019)

"Plis ki nerport ki lot parti politik, LALIT finn milite pu gard langaz maternal lor azanda politik. E nu finn gayn buku viktwar. Langaz Kreol dan lekol ziska Grad 7.

Langaz Kreol finn popilarize par LALIT so piblikasyon, trak, lafis, lor plis ki 40 an. Nu finn donn kudme LPT ar lagazet ebdomader apel Dorad (Moris ek Rodrig) pandan enn an. Asterla langaz maternal bizin servi pu anseyn size konteni dan lekol, setadir dan liv texbuk e servi li dan lexame (li kapav akote versyon Angle, apel sa dual medyom); langaz Kreol bizin enn opsyon pu tu depite dan Parlman; langaz Kreol bizin kapav servi pu minits lasosyasyon. Zordi, okenn parti tradisyonel nepli koz kont langaz Kreol. Zot swa ferm zot labus, swa propoz mezir timid. Me, kan u vot pu LALIT, u pe dir, mo pe vot pu dinite mo prop langaz maternal"

Link: <https://www.lalitmauritius.org/modules/documents/files/LalitMauritius-f2fc990265c712c49d51a18a32b39f0c.pdf>

Surs: Revi LALIT No. 139 - Edisyon Spesyal Eleksyon Zeneral 2019 - Program LALIT ek Bilan LALIT 2014-2019 c 12.10.2019

Dokiman LALIT no. 5

Political Broadcast on Kreol Language 2019 (Translated into English: Pibliye LALIT Website 5 Nov 2019)

“Good evening!

“In LALIT we believe that all languages have the right to live freely. All languages are equal.

But, successive Governments since Independence have promoted English and French to the detriment of Kreol. Whether Labour, PMSD, the MMM or MSM, they all repress the Kreol language, they all bar Kreol from being a medium in schools. They ban Kreol from Parliament.

“This, even though, throughout the electoral campaign, they will speak to you almost entirely in Kreol. The minute elected, they bow down to the old colonial laws that despise our language.

This means despising the 94% of the people who in the last Census said they usually speak Kreol at home.

“Over the past five years, the MSM-ML Government has used all manner of technical excuses for not allowing Kreol to be spoken in Parliament. The Mentor Minister announced he didn’t agree at all, going as far as to say this would be “ridiculous”. He seems to have forgotten that in 1977, when he was Opposition Leader, it was he, himself, who proposed a motion for the introduction of Kreol into Parliament. At the time, he agreed. He thought it was a serious matter. It is. What is ridiculous is when he and other Minister and MPS go on speaking English in Parliament live on TV, in a language is that not ours. [The legal advisers of the MBC did not accept this bit about Aneerood Jugnauth saying that it was “ridiculous” without having the exact citation! We are publishing the original words, because that is what he said.]

“LALIT wants the laws changed so Kreol can be used in Parliament on an equal footing with English.

In schools, our children must be free to learn their Maths, Science, Geography and other content subjects, through our mother tongue.

“It is a constant LALIT struggle to promote and fight for the recognition of Kreol.

Since 1976 we have both used written Kreol and promoted it. We have published newspapers, books, magazines and so on in Kreol. Our program for the election is in Kreol. Our members are active in associations that use Kreol, and that teach adults literacy in the mother tongue. We do this because we love the Kreol language. But also, and specially, because we want the working class to become stronger, and *power to the people!*. We want more people to experience political struggle and to participate in the political life of the country. To be able to be part of all the struggles against inequality, against the destruction of agricultural land, against the pollution that capitalism is causing the environment. That is LALIT’s politics. That is the aim of our program.

“By contrast, the MSM, Labour, PMSD, MMM seek to keep the existing system in place. They don’t want the working class to be stronger. They don’t want power to the people. This is why they keep the peoples’ language out of Parliament.

“Language plays the key role in our very capacity to reason, as well as in our thinking and creativity. Our capacity to think abstract thoughts develops easier, faster and to a higher level, when through the mother tongue. All research proves that children learn to think better through the mother tongue. That’s why UNESCO promotes mother tongue based education. That’s why the Ombudsperson for Children recommends this in her 2018 Report.

“The Kreol medium means that text books and exam papers will be in Kreol. An English version can stay alongside. Having Kreol as medium will take the stress off the PSAC exams. To make children learn through a language that is not naturally theirs is to do them violence.

When Kreol is suppressed in schools, it harms children. It does cognitive harm, as well evidently as emotional and cultural harm. Each year 30% of children, after 6-7 years of school, can neither read nor write. Not in English, French or Kreol. The other who pass on a knife-edge, learn by heart. Even those with four As, get them by rote learning.

“All parents want their children to acquire high level English, as well as other languages. Today there are important advantages to this.

"But for this, the child needs a solid basis, a scaffolding, in the mother tongue. Then, one builds on this. LALIT favours a mother-tongue-based multi-lingual education.

"The education policies that Labour, PMSD, MMM, MSM apply when in power does not help children develop, nor does it raise the level of education in the country. Even the MSM-ML Government's Reform Plan shows no sign of improving the level of education, though it has decreased competition to some extent. In fact, there seems to be a regression in PSAC results last year. Over 50 years since Independence, it is now time to decolonize all State institutions. We must remove all the barriers that prevent the Kreol language from progressing and developing freely. Whether in Parliament, or in schools.

"If you agree with this, vote LALIT's candidates, in all constituencies. Voting for LALIT means voting for the advancement of Kreol. Thank you."

Source: LALIT Website 5 Nov 2019

Dokiman LALIT no. 6

Poster Campaign "*Langaz Lepep bizin rant dan Parlman*" launched in 2015 in context of introducing live broadcast of National Assembly proceedings, and continued into 2017.



"Last week LALIT ran a new poster campaign reading "The People's Language must Enter Parliament". *Langaz Lepep bizin rant dan Parlman*.

"LALIT has long run a campaign to lift the ban on the mother tongue, Mauritian Kreol, in Parliament. The National Assembly language, according to the Independence Constitution of 1968 that sorely needs amendment, is "English". We want this to be amended to the languages are "English and Kreol". We agree that French, as the status quo states, is also permitted for addressing the Chair in the National Assembly, to which Mauritian Bhojpuri should be added.

"It is particularly important for Kreol to be allowed in Parliament now in 2017, because the MBC TV has this year begun for the first time to give live coverage to the National Assembly sessions. This move towards more democracy is made rather empty when foreign languages are the only ones allowed in the National Assembly. Since MPs and Ministers speak mostly in English, and sometimes French, people do not know what they are saying. Many MPs, quite normally, have a less-than-precise competence in these two languages, themselves. So, as well as the usual kinds of duplicity, elected members can hide behind their imprecise mastering of the language they use, and their electors imprecise knowledge of the languages.

"Gradually LALIT's campaign has near universal acceptance. All major political parties are in favour. The Prime Minister has said there are only some technical issues. We, in LALIT, are convinced that these technical issues (assuming it means a fortnight's training of stenographers, and the gradual translation of basic texts into Kreol, starting with the Constitution and the NA's standing orders) can be resolved simultaneously with the lifting of the banning of our language."

LALIT website, LALIT Website 21 Oct 2015 and 24.11.2017

Dokiman LALIT no. 7

LALIT calls on Speaker and Leader of The House for Kreol to be Official in Parliament (Pibliye 30 Dec 2014)

To: The Leader of The House, Hon. Sir Aneerood Jugnauth
The Speaker, Hon. Maya Hanoomanjee

Dear Sir, dear Madam,

Since the *Alliance Lepep* has come to power, and since the new Government intends that, when appropriate, the National Assembly be broadcast live on MBC TV, and

- * Since Kreol is the main language of “lepep”,
- * Since *Ledikasyon pu Travayer* had a Survey conducted by SOFRES in 2009 which showed that 67% of the people are in favour of using Mauritian Kreol in the National Assembly, only 18% are strongly against, and 9% somewhat against. This was despite the survey also showing, in another question, that only 20% of people knew there were Kreol dictionaries in existence!
- * Since Kreol is now taught as a subject in its own right, in schools, and has been for three cohorts,
- * Since Court Transcribers have led the way by following a course in written Kreol, organized by the *Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies*,
- * Since the MIE has a Kreol Unit headed by Dr. Nita Ragoonundhun, preparing text books in Kreol,
- * Since the University of Mauritius and the Open University offer courses in and on Kreol at graduate level,
- * Since the theoretical linguists, in particular Prof. Dany Adone and Dr. Fabiola Henri, have done the groundwork on elucidating the Mauritian Kreol grammar we all already use naturally,
- * Since there is a national orthography prepared by, inter alia, Dr. Vinesh Hookoomsing and Dr. Arnaud Carpooran,
- * Since there is a growing body of literature in Mauritian Kreol,
- * Since *Ledikasyon pu Travayer* was in 2013 awarded the UNESCO Linguapax Prize for promotion of the mother-tongue, Kreol,
- * and since there are full-length dictionaries, and a grammar handbook prepared by Dr. Daniella Police,

We call on your Government, which, together with the OPR, now has a 3/4 majority, to introduce a Bill for a Constitutional Amendment at the first Sitting of the National Assembly, so that the Official Languages of the National Assembly become both English, as it is at present, *and* Mauritian Kreol, while French can still, as it is now, be used for addressing the Chair.

This means, in technical terms, amending the Constitution to add the letter and words in square brackets:

Section 49: The official language[s] of the Assembly shall be English [and Mauritian Kreol] but any member may address the chair in French.

We believe that, if approached in good faith, that the political parties in the Opposition will agree to the Amendment.

In practical terms, the Hansard Stenographers will need a one-week training course. The Open University, MIE, LPT, or the University of Mauritius, can probably organize one, or the Speaker can perhaps call on an individual pedagogue to run such a Course.

We suggest that the Minister of Justice calls for volunteers (like the Kreol Speaking Union, academics, associations) to translate *The Constitution*, immediately, and *Erskine May: Parliamentary Practice*, over the next 6 months (all 500 pages), into Kreol. The Speaker and Deputy Speaker will need to set up a small committee of lexographers with knowledge of both English and Kreol, to discuss “Parliamentary” and “unParliamentary language”.

This process of decolonization and further democratization will also be a unifying factor for “the people” of the country.

We thank you for considering this.

Yours sincerely,

Rada Kistnasamy
for LALIT, 29 December, 2014

Source: LALIT Website 31 Dec 2014

Dokiman LALIT no. 8

LALIT lor Reform Elektoral (Pibliye 2014)

“Pu tu dimunn kapav poz kandida ek vinn depite:

— Tir tu antrav kuma baryer literesi, langaz pu vinn kandida ek depite; sa pu demokratiz Parlman.”

“Pu dekoloniz Parlman – Introdwir langaz Kreol kuma medyom Parlman akote langaz Angle.”

Link: <https://www.lalitmauritius.org/modules/documents/files/LalitMauritius-57ae35c98205091e18d1140e9f38cf.pdf>

Surs: Revi LALIT No. 116 – Septam 2014 Spesyal Eleksyon – Program LALIT 2014

Dokiman LALIT no. 9

Langaz Maternel (Pibliye 2010): Bizin servi kuma medyom dan lekol, dan Parlman ek dan minits Lasosyasyon anrezistre.

Surs: Trak LALIT: Program LALIT ek so Bilan Politik 5 an 26.04.2010

Konteni Trak ki LALIT pe distribye depi Vandredi 23 Avril 2010.

Dokiman LALIT no. 10

LALIT’s 5-Year Report & Program (Pibliye 2005-2010); *Prepared as General Elections Approach in 2010*

“5. The Kreol Language and Equal High-standard Education for All

“LALIT has been closely associated for 30 years with the struggle for the use of the mother tongue/s in school, the National Assembly, Parliament and all official business.”

Link: <https://www.lalitmauritius.org/modules/documents/files/LalitMauritius-045117b0e0a11a242b9765e79cbf113f.pdf>

Published on-line later, 15 October 2011

Dokiman LALIT no. 11

“Pu drwa demokratik pli fondamantal ki ena LANGAZ KREOL EK BHOJPURI PARTU (Pibliye 1987)

“Demokratizasyon pli profon an seki konsern lavi tulezur se Program LALIT pu servi langaz Kreol ek Bhojpuri partu. Langaz Franse bizin gayn enn stati lor pye degalite avek tu lezot langaz ansestral, e retir li depi so plas siperyer. Langaz Angle bizin res langaz internasyonal ki servi dan Moris, parski li pe vinn preske iniversel, amezir langaz Franse retresi ziska li pe servi zis dan ansyen koloni Franse.”

Surs: Labrez - Program Lalit Eleksyon 1987 - Paz 8

Dokiman LALIT no. 12

“LALIT requests active support for the inclusion of further fundamental rights in Chapter II of Constitution of Mauritius” [Published in 1987 in the context of the Constitutional Amendment for the advent of a Republic]

[Among the 10 rights to be added:]

“6. The right to use the Kreol and Bhojpuri languages written and spoken, in all walks of life.”

Surs: LALIT Edoc - Open Letter – 17 Sep 1987

Dokiman LALIT no. 13

Program LALIT – LABREZ – Ziyet 1983 (Pibliye 1983)

Parmi tem Mobilizasyon Prioriter: “Manifeste pu ful rekonesans langaz Kreol e Bhojpuri lor radyo, TV e dan tu laspe lavi (ledikasyon, Parlman, etc).

Surs: Labrez 1983, Paz 107