

In Peace, Justice and Harmony

Our peaceful Mauritius was recently shaken by two incidents which have been rightly characterized as communal, by public opinion. One is the statement made by one Facebooker and supplemented by comments of other Facebookers on one community, while the other is an editorial from one high caliber journalist on a daily newspaper referring to another community. As if the number of crimes and accidents are by themselves not enough to tarnish the image of Mauritius, now we are having communal articles and blogs to stain further our reputation. While such incidents are not new to us, they have this time been widely covered by the written and spoken press. Luckily the incidents have been widely condemned by the public, and it's good sign.

Mauritius, being a rainbow nation with several communities constituting the kaleidoscope, is very well seen by the external world as a very peaceful country with a harmonious integration of its people of different faiths and origins. However as Mauritians, we have to bear in our minds that this integration while being successful is also fragile. It's like a porcelain jar that we have to handle with great care, which once broken cannot be fixed back again. This duty of care is for all us, i.e. political leaders, heads of associations and every individual. A single nasty comment or action which is targeted at one community or group will bring us back to these dark eras when there were lot of tensions in Mauritius which led to civil riots and commotions. Our young generation may not be aware of such sad pages of our history. If we are careful in our actions, we can avoid such circumstances.

With the speed of communication nowadays, the moment you post a comment on Facebook or any other blogs, it goes worldwide before you can even think back of your action. You will be amazed with the speed with which bloggers will start 'Like' and 'Dislike' your comments. If you have made a blunder, it may be too late. It's like the porcelain jar which you have let loose. We are all prone to such mishaps should we not be careful enough. Care should therefore be taken while

- a. Posting of comments in blogs,
- b. Reacting to comments and
- c. Sending, replying and forwarding emails.

The above recommendations apply as well to comments made on Pathirikai articles. We don't want to be seen as a communal media and any such reaction will tarnish the image of Pathirikai. As a Tamil online newspaper, we rather wish to contribute to the peace, justice and harmony of our rainbow nation.

Long Live Tamils.

Long Live Pathirikai.

Nandri, vanakkam.