



MAURITIUS BAR ASSOCIATION

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**Bar Council – Chairperson:** PRISCILLA BALGOBIN-BHOYRUL  
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**Co-Opted Members:** NAVINA PARSURAMEN, JEAN MICHEL AH SEN & YATIN VARMA

18<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Members,

**Communiqué: Ventilation system at the New Court House**

In February of this year, the Bar Council had made representations to the then Master and Registrar of the Supreme Court following the break down of the ventilation system at the New Court House building. The Council was informed at a meeting that there was no alternative than to replace the whole ventilation system which entailed a tender exercise.

The issue has regrettably remained unresolved with the consequence that a barrister reported to the Council that while conducting a trial in the Civil Division of the Intermediate Court, he suffered from severe dizziness due to the extreme heat. He only avoided more serious consequences thanks to the presence of his client and recovered after resting completely for approximately ten minutes. The Council has since received more complaints from members regarding the same issue.

The Council has also noted with concern that cases have had to be adjourned because of the unbearable heat. This hazard is accentuated by overcrowding and prolonged sittings resulting from shared courtrooms.

Given the urgency of the matter which will undoubtedly worsen with the official start of summer, the Council has renewed its representations to the current Master and Registrar, with the Chief Justice in copy, for the prompt replacement of the ventilation system which is necessary for the wellbeing of all stakeholders.

Pending the replacement, the Council has also requested that barristers be formally and exceptionally exempted from wearing the gown upon the relevant motion being made, and allowed breaks in Court as and when required to alleviate the degree of discomfort.

The Council will update you once it receives a reply from the Master and Registrar or any other relevant authority.

Yours sincerely,

**Bishan Ramdeneey**  
**Secretary of the Bar Council**