

STOP – San Tous Ou Pensions

San Tous Ou Dignite

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STOP REPORT AND COMPLAINT

Submitted to: United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

Email: cescr@ohchr.org

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Geneva

Submitted by: STOP – San Tous Ou Pensions

Mauritius

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Date: 28 July 2025

Title: Violation of the Right to Social Security and Adequate Standard of Living through Unilateral Pension Reform in Mauritius

1. Introduction

This submission is made by STOP - San Tous Ou Pensions, a civic movement in Mauritius formed in response to the Government's announced Basic Retirement Pension (BRP) reform, which seeks to raise the eligibility age from 60 to 65 years. We believe this policy constitutes a violation of Articles 9 and 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

2. Mauritius' International Obligations

Mauritius ratified the ICESCR on 12 December 1973. As a State Party, Mauritius is bound to uphold:

- Article 9: The right of everyone to social security, including social insurance.
- Article 11: The right to an adequate standard of living, including food, clothing, housing, and the continuous improvement of living conditions.

These rights are subject to progressive realization - but States must avoid deliberate retrogression, especially without justified grounds or appropriate procedural safeguards.

3. The Issue: BRP Age Reform (BRP65)

In the 2025–2026 National Budget speech (17 June 2025), the Government announced its decision to raise the BRP eligibility age from 60 to 65 years, citing long-term fiscal sustainability.

This measure was:

- **Not included in the 2024 electoral manifesto** of the ruling coalition (Alliance du Changement);

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- **Omitted from the Presidential Address** to Parliament post-election;
- Introduced unilaterally, **without public hearings or impact assessments**;
- To be enacted **without consultation with civil society, trade unions, or pensioner groups, breaching ILO Convention 144 on tripartite consultation.**

4. Impact on Rights Protected by the ICESCR

a) Article 9 – Right to Social Security

- The BRP is a non-contributory pension, representing a lifeline for informal workers, deprived regions elderly, and women with no formal retirement scheme.
- Delaying access by 5 years risks total exclusion from income support for a significant population.
- The measure constitutes retrogression and was made without legal safeguards, violating General Comment No. 19 on the right to social security.

b) Article 11 – Right to Adequate Standard of Living

- The reform will severely affect access to basic needs like food, medicine, and housing for elderly people between the ages of 60–65, especially in underserved regions.
- There was no rights-based or socioeconomic impact analysis prior to the announcement.
- The justification offered—“fiscal pressure”—ignores the State's obligation to explore all alternative measures, including reforms to excessive political pensions and new revenue streams.

5. Unjust and Unequal Burden

While the elderly poor are told to wait:

- Politicians in Mauritius qualify for **lifetime pensions after only two parliamentary terms, with spousal continuation after death.**
- **No reform has been proposed for this costly privilege, funded from the same budget.**
- **This creates a structural inequality that violates the principle of non-discrimination under Article 2(2) of the ICESCR.**

6. Legal and Procedural Irregularities

- The reform to raise the BRP eligibility age - an issue of profound national and constitutional significance - **was not subjected to an independent parliamentary bill or dedicated legislative process.**
- Instead, it was slipped into the 2025–2026 Budget Speech as a general fiscal measure, bypassing the detailed scrutiny and public deliberation such a social security reform requires.
- **This approach minimised the visibility and importance of the reform, reducing a matter that affects the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of elderly Mauritians to a footnote in a financial policy document.**
- **The lack of a stand-alone debate or specific vote on this issue reflects a deliberate dilution of its democratic weight, contradicting the principles of transparency, participatory governance, and procedural fairness required under the ICESCR and outlined in General Comment No. 1 (para. 3) and No. 9.**

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7. Recommendations to CESC

We respectfully urge the Committee to:

- 1. Request an urgent explanation from the Government of Mauritius regarding this policy shift and the lack of consultation.**
- 2. Include this issue in its next List of Issues for Mauritius' periodic review.**
- 3. Remind Mauritius of its obligations under Article 9 and 11, and the principle of non-retrogression.**
- 4. Call for the suspension of the BRP age increase until a transparent, inclusive, and rights-based process is undertaken.**
- 5. Recommend a parliamentary pension reform to address equity and fairness before reducing benefits for the general population.**

8. Annexes

1. Budget Speech Extract – BRP65 Proposal (17 June 2025)
2. Letter from ITUC-Africa to the Mauritian Government (23 July 2025)
3. STOP Statement on Lack of Consultation and Inequity
4. Press Release – “Reform Must Start at the Top”
5. Testimonies from affected individuals (available upon request)

Submitted by:



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Mauritius

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Annexes:

STOP Statement on Lack of Consultation and Unjust Priorities in BRP Age Reform

STOP – San Tous Ou Pensions

27 July 2025

We, **STOP – San Tous Ou Pensions**, strongly denounce the Government of the Republic of Mauritius's decision to **raise the Basic Retirement Pension (BRP) eligibility age from 60 to 65 years**, a decision taken **without public consultation** and **without any electoral mandate**.

No Consultation. No Mandate.

This reform was:

- **Absent** from the **electoral manifesto** of the *Alliance du Changement* in the 2024 elections.
- **Absent** from the **Presidential Address** outlining government priorities after the elections.
- Announced **unilaterally** in the **2025 Budget Speech (17 June 2025)**, blindsiding the nation.
([Source: pmo.govmu.org](https://pmo.govmu.org))

Breach of Principles and International Obligations

The reform violates **ILO Convention No. 144 on Tripartite Consultation**, which Mauritius ratified in 1994. **No dialogue** was held with workers' organizations, trade unions, or pensioner groups - despite this being an international obligation.

Start Reform at the Top, Not the Bottom

Instead of targeting vulnerable elderly citizens who depend on the BRP to survive, **reform should begin at the top**:

- **Lifetime Parliamentary pensions**, granted after just **two terms as an MP**, remain **untouched**.
- Even after a politician's death, **their spouse continues to receive the pension**, draining public funds without any scrutiny.

This **double standard** is unacceptable when ordinary Mauritians are asked to sacrifice **five more years** before receiving a meagre pension.

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Impact on Vulnerable Groups

The BRP reform will:

- Hit **informal workers** and rural communities the hardest.
- Push many elderly people further into **poverty and ill-health** during their 60-65 age bracket.
- Undermine **universal social protection**, a cornerstone of Mauritius' welfare model.

STOP's Core Demands:

1. **Suspend the BRP age increase immediately.**
2. Launch a **parliamentary pension reform first** - eliminating lifetime privileges for MPs and aligning their benefits with fair pension policies.
3. Establish **inclusive national consultations** with civil society, trade unions and pensioner organizations.
4. Conduct a **human rights and fiscal impact assessment** to find equitable solutions.

Final Call to Government

Reforms must not be a **one-way street where the vulnerable pay first**.

We demand **fairness, transparency, and shared responsibility**. If the state can afford **lifetime pensions for politicians**, it can certainly honour its promise to ordinary citizens who have worked their entire lives.

STOP – San Tous Ou Pensions stands with the people:

San Tous Ou Dignite.

Dave Kissoondoyal

Founder STOP Movement - *San Tous Ou Pensions*

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Ministry of Finance Budget Extract on BRP Reform (June 2025)

In the **Budget Speech to the National Assembly (17 June 2025)**, the Prime Minister stated:

“In the Budget Speech, we have announced a major reform to the Basic Retirement Pension (BRP). ... The old age pension system in Mauritius has become fiscally unsustainable... The share of BRP in GDP currently stands at 7.8 percent, up from 1.9 percent in 2010... Without reform, expenditure on pension will crowd out critical investment in education, health and housing.

He further explained that raising the BRP eligibility age from **60 to 65** is necessary to align with the official retirement age and ensure fiscal sustainability.

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 28 July 2025

Issued by: STOP – San Tous Ou Pensions

Contact: info@stopm.org | +230 52578703

Location: Port Louis, Mauritius

REVEALED: BRP Reform Targets the Poor, While Lifetime Pensions for Politicians Remain Untouched

Mauritius – The civic movement STOP - San Tous Ou Pensions is calling out a shocking double standard in the Government of Mauritius' proposed Basic Retirement Pension (BRP) reform, which seeks to raise the pension eligibility age from 60 to 65 years.

While the elderly poor are being asked to sacrifice five more years of income security, politicians continue to receive lifetime pensions after just two terms as Member of Parliament—a benefit they enjoy in full, without delay or scrutiny. Even more troubling, these pensions continue to be paid to their spouses after their death.

“Before targeting our elders who have worked their entire lives, start by reforming the luxury pensions of politicians,” said Dave Kissoondoyal, founder of STOP. “This is not reform - it’s selective austerity, where sacrifice is demanded only from the bottom.”

A Reform with No Mandate, No Consultation

- The BRP reform was not included in the Alliance du Changement’s electoral manifesto during the 2024 general elections.
- It was not mentioned in the Presidential Address to Parliament following the elections.
- It was introduced unilaterally in the 2025 Budget Speech, with zero consultation with trade unions, civil society, pensioners, or informal workers.
- The Government has violated ILO Convention No. 144, which Mauritius ratified in 1994, by failing to hold tripartite consultations on this major social protection reform.

The Real Impact

- Elderly Mauritians in the informal economy, with no private pensions, are being pushed into five extra years of labour, poverty, and illness.
- There is no income guarantees, and no health safeguards.

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- “Targeted support” remains vague, undefined, and retroactive at best.
- Meanwhile: MPs retire with lifetime pensions. Their widows and spouses inherit these benefits. No reform has been proposed for these publicly funded privileges.

STOP’s Demands

1. Immediate suspension of the BRP age reform.
2. Parliamentary pension reform first - eliminate unjust lifetime benefits and align MPs with standard retirement rules.
3. Inclusive consultation with stakeholders: trade unions, NGOs, and pensioners.
4. A rights-based impact assessment to ensure fairness and protect the vulnerable.

“Social protection is a right, not a privilege. And reform must begin with those who hold the most power, not those who have the least left to give.”

STOP – San Tous Ou Pensions stands firm in its message: San Tous Ou Dignite.

Statement by Dr the Hon Prime Minister
on Budget 2025-2026 – Pension Reform
at the sitting of the National Assembly
Tuesday 17 June 2025

Madam Speaker,

In the Budget Speech, we have announced a major reform to the Basic Retirement Pension (BRP). It is abundantly clear that the old age pension system in Mauritius has become fiscally unsustainable and financially unbearable by the reckless policies of the previous Government.

In our country, the present working generation shoulders the responsibility of funding the BRP expenses for the elderly generation. When present workers retire, it will be their turn to benefit from pensions and the future working generation will fund it.

When the number of workers is much higher than the number of older retirees, this system is relatively sustainable. But when the number of workers shrinks and the number of old age pensioners soars, the system

becomes fiscally unsustainable and financially unbearable.

Madam Speaker,

2. It is extremely rare for a country to provide old age pension to

- i) all persons who are only 60 years old;
- ii) those who have not contributed for their old age pension, as the BRP is a non-contributory pension;
- iii) everybody who attains the age of 60 irrespective of his income and assets

Mauritius, it seems, is the only such a very rare case.

Even in rich and advanced countries, the old age pension is paid much later than 60 years (often at 65 years). It is sometimes contributory and it is mostly means tested.

Precisely to ensure its fiscal sustainability and its fairness and equity across generations.

As a result of these three combined features in our old age pension, the BRP has become fiscally unsustainable and financially unbearable.

3. The following facts and figures demonstrate beyond any reasonable doubt the fiscal unsustainability of the BRP.

First, the share of BRP in GDP has increased from 1.9 percent in 2010 to 3 percent in 2015-2016 to 6.1 percent in 2020-2021. It currently stands at 7.8 percent of GDP. Without reform its share of GDP will continue to rise.

Second, the proportion of BRP in government recurrent expenditure has escalated from 9.6 percent in 2010 to 14.2 percent in 2015-2016. It then rose to 20.1 percent in 2020-2021, and has reached 24.5 percent in 2024-2025. Without reform, it will continue to absorb a higher share of recurrent expenditure.

Third, BRP as a percentage of government recurrent revenue has surged from 9.7 percent in 2010 to 15.2 percent in 2015-2016. It reached 21.4 percent in 2020-2021, and rose further to 30.6 percent by 2024-2025.

Without reform, its share of recurrent revenue will inexorably increase.

Fourth, in absolute terms, BRP has increased from Rs 5.97 billion in 2010 to Rs 13.1 billion in 2015-2016, then to Rs 27.9 billion in 2020-2021, and further to Rs 55.4 billion in 2024-2025.

Madam Speaker

In 14 years between 2010 and 2024/2025, spending on pension has ballooned by a staggering 828 %.

In only 4 years between 2020-2021 and 2024-2025, it has almost doubled from Rs 27.9 b to Rs 55.4 b.

It will likely reach Rs 100 b in 2035

How can this be sustainable ?

Without reform, the expenditure on BRP will sharply rise

Fifth, the population aged 60 and over has grown substantially from 186,400 in 2015 to 257,600 in 2024.

It will continue to grow as the population ages and will reach around 315,000 in 2038.

Equally the ratio of older persons will rise considerably with the ageing population. From around 20 % today to 30 % in 2051.

Without reform, our pension system will run out of money if the current demographic trajectory persists.

Sixth, the fertility rate has dropped sharply over the years. From 5.9 in 1960 to 2.8 in 1980, 1.57 in 2010 and 1.34 in 2024.

It is now well below the replacement rate of 2.1. This indicates a declining population and this trend will accelerate in the future.

Without reform, there will be far fewer workers to support far more pensioners.

Seventh, the number of workers will continue to decline while the dependency ratio will rise, thus decreasing the ratio of working individuals to pensioners.

The ratio of workers to pensioners has declined from 3.9 in 2015 to 2.7 now and is expected to further fall to 2 in 2035.

Without reform, the smaller working population will have to bear a growing burden of contributions to finance the pensions of the many more retired.

Eighth, life expectancy at 60 years has increased for both men and women.

Life expectancy of men at 60 has risen from 13.4 in 1962 to almost 17.92 in 2022. For women it has gone up from 16.3 years in 1962 to 21.75 in 2022. It means that Government has to fund non contributory pension for a much longer period for both men and women.

Without reform, it will be very challenging to fund pension for more people with higher number of pension years.

Ninth, to give the House a sense of the financial burden, BRP payments in the last fiscal year exceeded the total Government spending on education, health, and housing combined.

Without reform, expenditure on pension will crowd out critical investment in education, health and housing.

Tenth, to finance this increasingly rising expenditure, Government has had to borrow massively, thus raising the public sector debt to an alarming level of 90 per cent of GDP.

Without reform, debt will continue to rise as a share of GDP.

Eleventh, debt servicing has risen sharply and is the second most important expenditure after pension. It amounted to a staggering Rs 21.8 billion in fiscal year 2024-2025.

Without reform, the country will spend a rising share of its expenditure on debt servicing thus crowding out key priorities.

4. As early as 2015, the IMF in an expert report, projected that by 2050, expenditure on BRP would be at an unsustainable 8 percent of GDP. Because of the irresponsible decisions taken by the previous

Government, we are already at 7.8 percent now, that is around 25 years ahead than projected by the IMF.

Madam Speaker

5. No politician likes to make unpopular decisions. However unchecked and unreformed, rising expenditures on BRP will significantly penalise our children and grand children.

This is about intergenerational fairness and equity.

So we have no choice than to act responsibility.

I fully understand that pension reform can be an unpopular choice for today's voters, presenting a dilemma for politicians sensitive to public opinion and also those engaged in reckless populism and unbridled demagoguery.

For all the reasons mentioned above, pension reforms are vital to rebalancing the burdens across present and future generations in a fair and equitable manner. This may entail short-term costs for long-term sustainability.

It is also why it is imperative that the general public is aware of pension reform and the challenges faced in the future

Madam Speaker,

6. There is an utter confusion in the mind of many people between a contributory and a non contributory pension. A contributory pension plan requires the beneficiary to pay into the plan from his salary (like occupation pensions). In a non-contributory pension plan the beneficiary does not contribute for the benefit he receives.

7. The BRP is a non-contributory pension. There is no contribution from beneficiaries. It is funded from the Consolidated Fund.

As such, all increases in the BRP can only be financed through higher debt or higher taxes.

8. Under a contributory pension system, an employee can choose to retire earlier than the prescribed retirement age and benefit from a reduced pension.

9. This does not apply to the BRP which is non-contributory. Eligibility to BRP is typically not based on employment history or prior contributions, but rather on factors such as age and residency. In other countries it also depends on income and asset of beneficiaries.

10. Let me also clear another confusion about the retirement age.

The budget has not changed the retirement age.

The retirement age was 65 and remains 65.

Flexibility for early retirement for those in specific sectors has not changed for contributory pension.

We are only aligning the entitlement to BRP with the retirement age.

In order to ensure its fiscal sustainability

Madam Speaker,

11. The dire financial predicament we have inherited demands immediate and decisive fiscal consolidation.

Without prompt corrective measures, we risk to follow the trajectory of countries such as Sri Lanka and Greece, nations that delayed essential reforms and ultimately faced severe financial crises, forcing them to accept tough, externally imposed bailout conditions.

12. The previous Government's legacy bears troubling similarities to those examples. Their pattern of unchecked and reckless spending has placed our public finances in dire straits. As a result, our national debt is projected to rise to Rs 642 billion by the end of June 2025, equivalent to 90 percent of GDP, highlighting the urgent need to restore fiscal discipline and rebuild economic resilience.

13. There is a very high risk of the country being downgraded if there is no fiscal consolidation. I wish to remind the House that a downgrade to junk status would have very serious implications on the cost of borrowings, our financial services sector, the value of the rupee, investments, FDI, and the economy as a whole.

14. We simply cannot afford a downgrade from investment status to junk status.

Madam Speaker,

15. As a responsible government, we could not ignore the risks posed by our unsustainable pension system – not only to public finances but also to the well-being of our elderly population.

16. We have no choice than to reform our shockingly unsustainable pension system. Unreformed, there would be no financial resources to pay for future pensions, even for those above 65 years.

17. There is hardly any country that has the rare combination of providing old age pension to all those above 60, without any contribution and without a means test.

18. In fact, several developed countries have embraced two of the following three measures:

a) extension of the retirement age to 65 and beyond.

- b) introduction of a contributory element in the system with exemptions for low income earners.
- c) adoption of means-tested systems for old-age pensions so as to allocate public resources more efficiently and equitably and target support to those in need.

In these systems, eligibility for a pension or the amount received is based on household income and/or assets. Countries such as Australia, Canada, Japan, South Korea and Chile use means-tests as an eligibility criteria for old age pension.

Madam Speaker,

d) In light of the devastating legacy left by the previous administration, we had no choice but to confront the urgent need for pension reform head on. However, we remain deeply mindful of the challenges the most vulnerable may face under the proposed changes and are committed to addressing their concerns with compassion and empathy.

e) As a democratic Government, we have heard these concerns. As a compassionate Government that is committed to stand by the most vulnerable at all times, we have decided to establish two Inter-Ministerial Committees to examine the matters related to the Basic Retirement Pension.

f) The first Committee will explore potential income support for individuals aged between 60 and 65 who will become ineligible as a result of the reform and whose main or sole source of income is the BRP. This will cover a range of beneficiaries such as housewives, retirees and workers with low occupation pension, all who rely mainly or solely on the BRP.

g) This Committee will be chaired by myself and comprise the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities, Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations, Minister of Industry, SMEs and Cooperatives, Junior Minister of Finance and Junior Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity.

h) The second Committee will examine potential support for individuals who are unable to work due to health-related disabilities. The Committee will be chaired by the Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity and comprise the Minister of Housing and Lands, the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, Minister of National Infrastructure, Minister of Health and Wellness and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

Madam Speaker,

19 The escalating financial burden on future generations from an ageing society is a challenge faced by most countries.

If the current demographic trajectory of Mauritius persists, then our pension system will simply run out of money.

Let me be very candid.

The BRP system is a time bomb that is fast ticking away. However, it is unfortunate that many do not seem to really

care as they will no longer be around when the bomb will explode.

Worse Madam Speaker,

A highly respected professional actuary has stated that “this time bomb has already exploded.

We now face the urgent and uphill task of containing the damage.”

Consequently, pension reform is absolutely critical

It aims at enhancing fiscal sustainability

At the heart of this reform is the imperative to establish parity between what each generation pays and receives, thereby promoting fairness in intergenerational burden-sharing.

Thank you.

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Breach of Principles and International Obligations

The reform violates **ILO Convention No. 144 on Tripartite Consultation**, which Mauritius ratified in 1994. **No dialogue** was held with workers' organizations, trade unions, or pensioner groups - despite this being an international obligation.

Start Reform at the Top, Not the Bottom

Instead of targeting vulnerable elderly citizens who depend on the BRP to survive, **reform should begin at the top**:

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- Even after a politician's death, **their spouse continues to receive the pension**, draining public funds without any scrutiny.

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The BRP reform will:

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- Push many elderly people further into **poverty and ill-health** during their 60-65 age bracket.
- Undermine **universal social protection**, a cornerstone of Mauritius' welfare model.

STOP's Core Demands:

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3. Establish **inclusive national consultations** with civil society, trade unions and pensioner organizations.
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Dave Kissoondoyal

Founder STOP Movement - *San Tous Ou Pensions*



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23rd July 2025

O/R:334/2025/GS/AK/Int

Dear Mr Prime Minister,

**Subject:Concerns against Mauritius' recent upward Retirement Age Review:
African Workers call on the Government of Mauritius to Respect ILO Convention
144 on Tripartite Consultation in Law and Practice**

I convey to you, Mr. Prime Minister, the warm courtesies of the African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa www.ituc-africa.org) and wish to refer to the subject.

ITUC-Africa is a pan-African workers organisation representing 18 million workers in 52 African countries, including Mauritius. We write to express our deep concern regarding the Government of Mauritius' decision to unilaterally raise the age for payment of the basic retirement pension from 60 to 65 years without meaningful consultation with the social partners.

Mauritius ratified ILO Convention 144 on Tripartite Consultation in 1994, which places a clear obligation on the State to hold effective consultations with employers' and workers' organisations on labour and social policy matters. Unilateral decisions of this magnitude, which directly impact the lives and livelihoods of workers and pensioners, undermine the principles of social dialogue and tripartism that are at the heart of the ILO.

Furthermore, Mauritius is a growing and model African democracy that encourages citizens' participation in governance arrangements and processes. Although the government may see the need to consider such a decision, its responsibility and accountability obligations nonetheless require it to genuinely and inclusively consult with critical stakeholders before making such a decision. We are informed that consultation and stakeholder participation in arriving at this decision were never considered.

We therefore strongly urge your government to :

1. Respect its international obligations under ILO Convention 144.
2. Withdraw the decision to change the age of eligibility for the basic retirement pension as this decision was reached without consultation and consent.
3. Engage in genuine tripartite dialogue with the representative workers' and employers' organisations in Mauritius to find fair, pragmatic and sustainable solutions.

We stand in solidarity with the Confédération des Travailleurs des Secteurs Public et Privé (CTSP), our other trade union affiliates in Mauritius and the working people of Mauritius in defending their fundamental rights. We commend and applaud their steadfast commitment to the use of social dialogue and negotiation in resolving industrial disputes.

Mr Prime Minister, we hope that your government will take immediate corrective measures to uphold Mauritius' commitment to the ILO and its conventions.

As we rely on your favourable consideration towards resolving our concern, we appreciate your acceptance of our assurance of high regard.

Yours sincerely,



Akhator Joel Odigie
General Secretary
ITUC-Africa

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 28 July 2025

Issued by: STOP – San Tous Ou Pensions

Contact: info@stopm.org | +230 52578703

Location: Port Louis, Mauritius

REVEALED: BRP Reform Targets the Poor, While Lifetime Pensions for Politicians Remain Untouched

Mauritius – The civic movement STOP - San Tous Ou Pensions is calling out a shocking double standard in the Government of Mauritius' proposed Basic Retirement Pension (BRP) reform, which seeks to raise the pension eligibility age from 60 to 65 years.

While the elderly poor are being asked to sacrifice five more years of income security, politicians continue to receive lifetime pensions after just two terms as Member of Parliament—a benefit they enjoy in full, without delay or scrutiny. Even more troubling, these pensions continue to be paid to their spouses after their death.

“Before targeting our elders who have worked their entire lives, start by reforming the luxury pensions of politicians,” said Dave Kissoondoyal, founder of STOP. “This is not reform - it’s selective austerity, where sacrifice is demanded only from the bottom.”

A Reform with No Mandate, No Consultation

- The BRP reform was not included in the Alliance du Changement’s electoral manifesto during the 2024 general elections.
- It was not mentioned in the Presidential Address to Parliament following the elections.
- It was introduced unilaterally in the 2025 Budget Speech, with zero consultation with trade unions, civil society, pensioners, or informal workers.
- The Government has violated ILO Convention No. 144, which Mauritius ratified in 1994, by failing to hold tripartite consultations on this major social protection reform.

The Real Impact

- Elderly Mauritians in the informal economy, with no private pensions, are being pushed into five extra years of labour, poverty, and illness.

STOP – San Tous Ou Pensions

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- There is no income guarantees, and no health safeguards.
- “Targeted support” remains vague, undefined, and retroactive at best.
- Meanwhile: MPs retire with lifetime pensions. Their widows and spouses inherit these benefits. No reform has been proposed for these publicly funded privileges.

STOP’s Demands

1. Immediate suspension of the BRP age reform.
2. Parliamentary pension reform first - eliminate unjust lifetime benefits and align MPs with standard retirement rules.
3. Inclusive consultation with stakeholders: trade unions, NGOs, and pensioners.
4. A rights-based impact assessment to ensure fairness and protect the vulnerable.

“Social protection is a right, not a privilege. And reform must begin with those who hold the most power, not those who have the least left to give.”

STOP – San Tous Ou Pensions stands firm in its message: San Tous Ou Dignite.