

A Chatbot for the Legal Sector of Mauritius Using the Retrieval-Augmented Generation AI Framework

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Abstract—Mauritius is known to have a hybrid legal system as the logical consequence of being both a former French and English colony. From its independence in 1968 to date, the legal environment has changed to reflect the constant need to provide a framework to address the country’s diverse needs. With over 1200 pieces of legislation available for consultation, including those which are no longer in force, it is very difficult to know all of them. Yet, there is a legal maxim that says, “*nemo censetur ignorare legem*”. In other words, ignorance of the law is no excuse. This study aims to provide a solution for professionals and non-professionals to have better access to the law through the development of a chatbot. A Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) chatbot system has been developed to achieve this objective. A RAG system is one that leverages the use of Large Language Models (LLM) to process a query and generate a response, while ensuring accuracy by performing similarity searches against documents stored in a vector database. A sample of 46 legal documents (acts and regulations) were retrieved from the website of the Supreme Court of Mauritius. They were broken down into chunks and stored as vectors in Chroma, a vector database. The chatbot combines and processes the queries with a text prompt, searches the relevant legal texts, and generates an appropriate response using OpenAI GPT-4o-mini or MistralAI Open-Mixtral-8x22B. Since most legal texts are in English, a translation layer is included for queries in French. Sources for the answers are also displayed for easy cross-validation. This chatbot will undoubtedly be a useful tool for the Mauritian people.

Keywords—Law; chatbot; retrieval augmented generation; large language model; OpenAI; Mistral AI

I. INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the technology that enables machines to mimic humans in performing complex tasks such as learning, solving problems, making decisions, and creativity. From its humble beginnings in the 1950s, when Alan Turing first introduced the Turing Test, to the recent explosion in popularity of generative AI [1], AI has had such an impact on our everyday lives that the European Union has even introduced a regulation recently on the use of AI [2]. The use of AI can be seen in a multitude of sectors, for example, in healthcare to detect skin cancer [3] or in education [4]. The legal field is no exception, and given the famous saying that none shall be ignorant of the law, there is a need to always improve access to justice for everyone.

Over the past few decades, our world has experienced rapid growth in the technological sector. Thus, there are a multitude of AI-related solutions that have been developed to tackle

issues all around the world. The importance of having a Legal Information Retrieval system (LIR) was emphasized by [5], where they focused on three kinds of LIR systems using NLP techniques, ontology-based approaches, and deep learning-based methodologies. Amato et al. [6] presented the conversational agent CREA2 designed for tasks in the legal domain, giving users advice on legal procedures or legal document drafting. It can also help in resolving disputes between individuals with regard to the European Union’s legislation. In Canada, Quedot et al. [7] investigated methods to create chatbots for immigration and corporate issues. Morgan et al. [8] delved into the creation of a chatbot framework to help children have a better understanding of their legal rights. Another interesting approach is from Alam et al. [9], where a chatbot model was created to predict the outcome of legal cases in New Zealand. Firdaus et al. [10] developed a Question-and-Answer bot on Telegram with regard to the Law on Information and Electronic Transactions in Indonesia. Devaraj et al. [11], Ioannidis et al. [12], Cao [13], and Nguyen [14] developed several solutions for the legal sector where LLMs were used.

All countries have different laws specific to them, including Mauritius, known for its hybrid legal system as a result of its long history of colonialism. The laws of Mauritius are drawn from a wide range of sources, such as the French Civil Code and the English Common Law [15]. The legal field in Mauritius has evolved significantly since the enactment of the Constitution in 1968. Over the years, Mauritius has introduced various laws and regulations to promote various sectors of the economy and to bring stability and justice to the country. However, the dynamic world in which we live experiences new events all the time, and this creates a need to regularly amend existing laws or implement new ones. This can be seen throughout the multitude of parliamentary processes [16]. Certainly, this dynamic legal environment poses a challenge to the population in general, especially to those who might not be well-versed in the legal field. It is difficult for most people to get a clear answer on legal matters without having to dig into lengthy government sources and legal databases or seek help from legal professionals.

There have not been any developments for an AI solution to address this problem in Mauritius. A Legal Information Retrieval System has been developed by study [17], which can be accessed at lawanswers.me. The platform enables users to input queries in natural language. The system processes these queries by extracting pertinent keywords and provides relevant sections of Mauritian law and Supreme Court cases from 1968

to 2017. Users can customise the number of results displayed and filter searches to show only case judgments or act titles. The platform is also accessible via mobile devices, ensuring user-friendly access to legal information.

Pudaruth et al. [18] also used deep learning techniques to classify 490 legislations in the Republic of Mauritius. The development of a chatbot for the legal field will ensure that any Mauritian citizen will have better access to justice, in particular, to the statutory provisions contained in the Acts of Parliament. By leveraging the use of LLMs, an RAG system will be developed to create a chatbot that can answer legal queries using natural language. The system will be fed with a list of relevant acts and regulations so that an appropriate response can be obtained by performing a similarity search on the query and the available documents. A successful implementation of this project will save hours or even days for the Mauritian population in getting their queries answered.

The paper proceeds as follows. An overview of the legal system of Mauritius is provided in Section II. Section III covers the related works. The methodology is described in Section IV, while the results are provided in Section V. Section VI concludes the paper.

II. BACKGROUND STUDY

“At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice, he is the worst.” (Aristotle). Since time immemorial, human survival and progress have always been attributed to the fact that Man is a social animal. From ancient tribes to the modern civilisations, mankind has always been associated with communal living, having one common component, rules and regulations. The Law has always been a key aspect of any society. It helps in maintaining the structure and safety in society. Without this pillar, society crumbles and gives rise to anarchy.

Mauritius is one of the countries with a hybrid legal system that encompasses both the French Civil Law and English Common Law. The country has been subjected to a long history of colonisation attempts, starting with the Dutch from 1598 to 1710, during which there was no administration of justice as we know it today. Later, from 1715 to 1810, the French colonised the island where they introduced their laws and jurisdiction to the country. A temporary “Conseil Provisoire” was set up in 1721 to deal with civil and criminal matters. In 1723, a “Conseil Provincial,” a court of First instance, was put in place to treat those issues, later replaced by “Conseil Superieur” in 1734, with appeals made to the “Conseil Supérieur de Bourbon.” A two-tier jurisdiction was then introduced in 1771 with a “Jurisdiction Royale” hearing cases at first instance, with the “Conseil Supérieur” being a court of higher instance, which were afterward renamed as “Tribunal de Première Instance” and “Tribunal d’Appel” respectively. When the British colonised the island in 1810, all prior judicial institutions were kept, but justice had to be delivered in the name of the King. In 1851, “La Cour de Première Instance” was abolished, and the Supreme Court was established in Mauritius, replacing the “Cour d’Appel,” but the right to appeal to the “Judicial Committee of the Privy Council” was maintained. Gradually, the system returned to a

two-tier judicial system with the establishment of the subordinate courts [19].

With this long history of colonialism, the Mauritian legal system draws from a wide array of sources to establish and enforce laws in the country. The French Civil Law, mainly for civil rights, criminal law, and commercial transactions; the English Common Law for evidence, tort, negligence, and health and safety; domestic legislations, that is, Acts of Parliament, customs, and international treaties and conventions [15]. Sitting on top of all laws in the country is the Constitution, also known as the supreme law, in which all the basic set of principles and laws of a country are written, such as determining the powers and duties of the government and the rights of the population. Any law deemed inconsistent with the Constitution is deemed to be void [20].

Without a proper system, all the laws might be meaningless and not be practiced at all; hence, the judicial system in Mauritius, the Judiciary, is one of the three main pillars of our country. This system is structured into two main tiers: the Supreme Court and the subordinate courts. The Supreme Court is composed of the Chief Justice, the Senior Puisne Judge, and twenty-three Puisne Judges and has unlimited jurisdiction to hear and determine any civil and criminal proceedings. It functions in a similar fashion to the High Court of England and has complete authority over all subordinate courts to ensure that proper justice is delivered. The Supreme Court functions both as a court of first instance and as an appellate court. As a first instance court, it is subdivided into multiple divisions, such as the Master's Court, Family Division, Commercial Division, Criminal Division, Mediation Division, Financial Crimes Division, and Land Division. Each division handles specific types of cases, such as financial crimes, land disputes, family matters, and commercial issues. Subordinate courts, on the other hand, typically handle less complex cases or involve claims of a lower monetary value and consist of the Intermediate Court, the Industrial Court, the District Courts, the Bail and Remand Court, and the Court of Rodrigues. Cases can be escalated to the Supreme Court from subordinate courts through appeals. Any decisions made by subordinate courts can be heard again and reviewed by the Supreme Court. Additionally, the Supreme Court has divisions specifically for civil and criminal appeals: the Court of Civil Appeal and the Court of Criminal Appeal. These divisions handle appeals from decisions of the Supreme Court in its original jurisdiction as well as from subordinate courts. In some cases, the decision from the Supreme Court can even be reviewed if an appeal is made to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The decision that will be taken by the Privy Council is then deemed the final one [21].

There are also multiple parties involved in any typical court proceedings. These include the judge, the lawyers, the plaintiff, the defendants, the jury, and witnesses. The judge is the one who will ensure the smooth running of the hearing and will give the final verdict. The plaintiff is the individual or entity who brought the case to a court to seek some form of legal remedy, while the defendants are the ones on whom the legal action is taken. Lawyers are also typically assigned to each of the two opposing parties and represent each of the parties. Witnesses are the ones who can provide testimonies on specific

events that occurred for the case being heard. The jury also forms an important part of proceedings in court. It consists of 9 random civilians between the ages of 21 and 65 that are tasked to identify the true evidence in specific cases [22]. The basic idea for having a system of jury is to ensure that the verdict of the case is what society would expect it to be.

It is a known fact that engaging in a lawsuit means, in most cases, the need to invest a lot of time, effort, and money. In this optic, it is necessary that not all legal matters need to be tried in a typical court of justice; hence, the Mediation Division of the Supreme Court has been established for this purpose [21]. Mediation is one way in which disputes can be kept out of courts to save time, money and prevent extra stress from all involved parties, and even giving a more flexible judgement. The key distinction is that mediation involves a neutral, independent third party who challenges the parties on their positions and assists them in finding a compromise. The decision is not taken solely by one person, but instead the parties are guided into reaching a proper decision to resolve their dispute [23].

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Legal chatbots are becoming very popular because they are now use artificial intelligence techniques to help people find relevant legal information. This section looks at some of the studies that have been done on legal chatbots. We also explain how they have been developed, how they work and what are their limitations?

Morgan et al. [8] delved into a chatbot framework that integrates machine learning, a dialogue graph and information to ease access for children about their legal rights. The user first initiates a conversation with the chatbot, and afterward, based on the dialogue graph and legal type, the chatbot identifies the legal circumstances being addressed by the user. The different parties in the conversation are identified, and based on this information, a case is created so that a legal advisor can take over. Since obtaining legal conversation in a child's way of speaking is difficult, the authors created fictional data from "artificial" statements that approximate the way a child talks and from "real" statements obtained from a study whereby adults imitated children's language. The dataset was divided into "speech act," such as greetings or affirmations, and "legal type," relating to the legal issues being tackled, such as abuse or cyber-crime. Throughout the conversation, the chatbot's neural network classified the messages as speech act or legal type to give the appropriate response. This is achieved through the tokenization of the messages and converting them into word vectors of 200 dimensions where semantic similarities can be computed. To encode the impact of word order in the different sentences, two Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) layers and a type of Recurrent Network Layer (RNN) were used, and the outputs were processed by a dense layer with a ReLU activation function. Finally, the sentences were categorised into one of the two classes by two parallel dense layers with a softmax activation. Named entities were also recognised and extracted from the conversation as these are used later in the generated report.

In the pre-chatGPT era, Queudot et al. [7] focused on enhancing access to legal information using chatbots for two different matters: for immigration issues and for legal issues related to the corporate environment in Canada. In both cases, the chatbots make use of the MLFlow and RASA frameworks. They made use of the MLflow framework for two purposes: to keep track of script execution for data collection, data preparation, model training, and evaluation and to simplify script executions with different values. For the first chatbot, the dataset used was obtained from 1088 different web pages from the Canadian Immigration and Citizenship help desk. Then, two different intent classifiers were used: the standard model in RASA using the StarSpace algorithm and a modified Information Retrieval (IR) inspired model. The StarSpace is an algorithm in RASA used in learning the embeddings for different entities in a supervised manner. There was not much difference in the performance of the two algorithms. In the second chatbot, the dataset used was two formulations for a series of 275 questions developed by the National Bank of Canada (NBC). Three approaches were used to compare the performance of the chatbot: the classic StarSpace Model, the IR variant of StarSpace, and the BERT transformer model. For the BERT model, fine-tuning a pre-trained model was more feasible rather than training a model from scratch. The results, in this case, were in favour of using the BERT model.

Firdaus et al. [10] focused on providing a legal chatbot to search for legal documents for the Law on Information and Electronic Transactions in Indonesia. NLP techniques were used for the chatbot development and Telegram, the messaging application, as it provides much support for chatbot development. For the system to understand the query of the user and understand the appropriate context, NLP components such as parser, lexicon, understander, knowledge base, and response generator are used. In case the query contains "non-standard" words, the Levenstein distance method is used to obtain the closest "standard" word that can be processed by the system. TF-IDF cosine similarity is then applied to compare user queries with the stored documents in the database to find the appropriate answers. Questions found directly in the knowledge base had a 100% match. Random questions showed an average of 77% match, and any questions that were still related to the knowledge base showed an accuracy of 83%.

Sansone and Sperlí [5] emphasised on the importance of having a Legal Information Retrieval (LIR) in the legal field given the increasing volume of Electronically Stored Information (ESI). Given the complexity of legal documents, efficient searching algorithms are required. The authors focused on three types of LIR systems: NLP techniques, ontology-based approaches, and deep learning-based methodologies. For each type of system, different models were tested, evaluated and categorised. NLP-based LIR approaches were further classified into three categories, rule-based, NLP-based and a combination of NLP and ontologies. The main limitation of this approach is the manual definition of rules required, which is hindered by the large size of the vocabulary and can introduce noise during analysis, hence affecting the accuracy of the results. Ontology-based approaches were classified into top-down and bottom-up strategies. Ontology refers to the way of organising and representing knowledge in

a particular domain. Key limitations of this approach include the few available domain-specific ontologies and the complexity involved in their maintenance and contextual dependencies. Deep-learning methodologies were classified into pre-trained embedding models, domain specific embedding models and hybrid embedding models. Limitations include the limited training samples available.

Amato et al. [6] presented an AI-powered conversational agent named CREA2, designed specifically for the legal domain. The purpose of the agent is to help in guiding users on legal advice and procedures and give recommendations in drafting legal documents. CREA2 also helps in resolving disputes between individuals pertaining to the European Union legislations. They also discuss the different approaches that they could consider in building the project, namely, intent classification, question-and-answer-retrieval and similar question retrieval. Given their relatively small amount of dataset, the last approach has been used. The system makes use of the Natural Language Processing (NLP) algorithm to interpret the user's questions and provide the required response. Sentence-BERT (SBERT) is used to compare the user's questions to the set of available questions in the dataset. SBERT works as follows. It first creates embeddings (vectors) for each pair of questions and then computes a score using the cosine similarity function. The scores are then sorted in a descending order, and the highest scoring one is selected as it provides the most appropriate response from the database. Data augmentation techniques are also used, given the relatively small training data size. The paraphrase-based utterance augmentation framework called Parrot is used to create variations for different questions available in the training dataset. Adequacy and fluency can also be controlled in the framework. Finally, the data are stored in JSON format in a question-answer format as separate strings. Two pre-trained models and a fine-tuned version of SBERT were used. The results demonstrated that the fine-tuned version of quora-distilbert-multilingual-v2 had a higher accuracy than all the other models.

Alam et al. [9] developed a chatbot that can predict the outcome of legal cases based on past cases made available to the system. Data from the New Zealand Employment Relations Authority (NZERA) was used. Data preprocessing was used on each PDF prior to the experimentation. This included using regular expressions to identify and extract paragraphs. A manual scan had to be done on each paragraph to identify the document preamble (P) feature and the case determinations (D) feature. Eventually, two kinds of data were found: Full Documents (FD) having both P and D features, and Full Documents with the result removed (FD - D) so that independent ruling can be done based only on the circumstances. For the semantic analysis, an unsupervised topic detection method called Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) was used. This enabled the creation of 10 topic-clusters each consisting of distinct features (d) and a number of top-words (n). Cosine similarity was further performed on the different clusters by keeping only words related to each cluster, performing tokenisation on the data and converting them to 128-dimensions word embeddings. For the predictive analysis, supervised learning was further performed on the data using

different deep neural network models and tested on both FD and FD-D data. Each model used the Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU) variant of the RNN on TensorFlow, trained for 26 epochs. Sigmoid and SoftSign activation functions were used to test each model. RNN was used as a based model to evaluate the performance of the different LDA parameters, namely, K, n, and d. In the semantic analysis with LDA and RNN, it was observed that having 5 LDA topics, 5000 features and 300 top words per topics provided the best results.

Devaraj et al. [11] created a chatbot capable of answering questions based on documents made available to it. The chatbot was divided into three parts. Langchain, an open-source NLP framework that enables LLMs to be combined with external data, was used in the creation of the chatbot's custom knowledge. It breaks down the different documents into small chunks and stores them as vectors in a vector database, using Open AI's text embeddings. When provided with a prompt, it is compared with the data in the vector store using the cosine similarity function to determine the most appropriate response. A Flask Application was created as the backend for the entire application. It can be hosted on a server, thus enabling the query processing feature to be used remotely. Flask was used because it is lightweight, it provides for RESTful API support, Python integration and it is scalable. To make the system user friendly, the authors also designed a mobile application. Kotlin was used for the backend and XML for the frontend.

Ioannidis et al. [12] took advantage of the potential that LLM offers to create generative AI solutions regarding regulatory compliance for businesses. These were a horizon scanning tool, an obligations generator tool, and an LLM-based expert system. For the horizon scanning tool, web scraping was performed periodically on different websites that relates to the different regulatory news to fetch and store up to date information in a database. In the study, Australian regulatory bodies' websites were scraped. GPT prompts were then applied to the scraped data so that the following can be performed: generate a 150 words summary of the data, categorise the level of impact of the regulatory update as either low, medium or high and generating hashtags for easy identification of the scraped data. For the Obligations Generator, a prompt is always used along with the legislations, made available to the system, to generate a summarised list of obligations that a company should comply with. It was noticed that GPT-4 did a better job than GPT-3.5 in understanding the prompt and writing the text. The lists generated were then stored in a local database before being processed further to remove duplicate obligations using the cosine similarity measure. GPT-4 was also used to create an expert consultation tool where users can converse with the chatbot, and the latter responds in accordance with legislation or obligations available to it. This part of the system made use of the LangChain framework and embedding tool from Open AI. The authors also mentioned that LLMs are prone to hallucination. To combat this issue, a "human in the loop" system is used whereby a human verify and validate any output from the LLM before pushing them to the database.

Cao [13] highlighted how LLMs can easily answer general questions but sometimes struggle to give an appropriate answer

in specific topics such as medical or law consultations. For such kind of scenarios, the author investigated a Task-Oriented Dialogue approach so that the AI agent can ask appropriate questions to the user so that it can properly diagnose the issue encountered by the user. A multi-agent, with GPT4 as base LLM, was used. It is made up of different parts: a chat agent, a Topic Manager, a Topic Enricher, and a Context Manager. Each LLM used is provided with a different and well detailed prompt so that they can perform their actions. The Topic Manager has the user query, the action list, the status of the topic stack, and the chat history. All of these enable the topic manager to plan and make the appropriate decision throughout the conversation. The Topic Enricher uses the current topic and enriches it based on the current dialogue context. With the context provided by the context manager, the chat agent can generate an answer.

Nguyen [14] from the National Institute of Informatics in Japan gave a brief overview of LawGPT, a chatbot that provides legal assistance, since the model developed is protected by a non-disclosure agreement. LawGPT 1.0, uses a similar architecture to GPT-3, that is, a transformer architecture which enables a better understanding of the context of a sentence provided, by weighing the importance of different words in the sentence. Being a fine-tuned model of GPT3 on a large corpus of legal texts using standard deep learning techniques, such as stochastic gradient descent and backpropagation, LawGPT is designed for the legal context. Evaluation of LawGPT involves answering legal questions, generation of legal documents and the legal advice it can propose. The author mentions that the results were highly positive. However, no specific implementation details about LawGPT were to be found in the paper as the model is protected by a non-disclosure agreement.

Medeiros et al. [24] exploited the use of LLMs to create AI tools for obtaining answers from a car manual. Three approaches were selected by the authors, and in each case, the LLM models from the GPT-3 family were used, and a chunk size of 1000 and a chunk overlap of 20 were used. The performance of each was evaluated using different kinds of prompts, namely zero-shot, one-shot, and few-shot. For Doc Chatbot, the user directly interacted with the chatbot by typing the questions in a Python notebook. LlamaIndex and LangChain libraries were used to build the chatbot to interact with the PDF documents. Open AI API and the text-davinci-003 model are used to create embeddings. It was found that the bot showed low accuracy by providing accurate answers for only 1 out of 4 evaluated questions across different prompts. The cost for each question and pair was between 0.03 and 0.04 USD. In Ask Your PDF, a user-friendly interface was created to interact with the chatbot using the Streamlit tool. The LangChain library is used in the chatbot development and to interact with the PDFs. Open AI API and the text-davinci-003 model are used to create the embeddings. Here, the bot demonstrated average accuracy by providing accurate answers for 2 out of 4 evaluated questions when using the zero-shot prompt. The cost for each question and answer was between

0.02 and 0.03 USD. The Question-and-Answer System had a user-friendly interface, with the frontend built using React and the backend with FastAPI and a vector database called Qdrant. Libraries used were LangChain and the Sentence Transformers. Open AI API and all-mpnet-base-v2 model was used to generate the embeddings. However, it was noticed that the bot had a low accuracy, but it had a much lower cost of operation averaging below 0.005 USD for each question and answer.

This review on legal chatbots shows that these tools are getting more advanced due to massive progress in the field of artificial intelligence. Furthermore, these studies show how LLMs are being used for different purposes. For example, some legal professionals are using it to answer legal queries while others are using it to sift through information quicker and more accurately. Nevertheless, since the laws of each country are different, we still need to develop a customised system for the judiciary of Mauritius.

IV. METHODOLOGY

To make the laws of the Republic of Mauritius more accessible, a chatbot with a Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) system is proposed. Contrary to traditional rule based chatbots, our solution leverages the power of generative AI such that a human-like conversation can be achieved. The general structure of the system is as follows: legal texts, acts, and laws are fed to the system in the form of PDF documents. The PDFs are broken into chunks, and each chunk is converted into vectors using an embedding algorithm. A chunk size of 1000 characters with an overlapping of 80 was initially used. Chunk overlapping is important as a sentence can be split into two chunks, which can have an adverse effect on the generator in understanding the proper context of that sentence. To create the embeddings, the *mistral-embed* model has been used for MistralAI Open-Mixtral-8x22B while the text-embedding-ada-002 model has been used for OpenAI GPT-4o-mini. These embeddings are then stored in the Chroma vector database. The user inputs his query, which is embedded and compared with documents in the vector database. An answer is generated based on the contents of the selected documents. The decision to use a RAG system was mainly due to its ability to minimise hallucinations, provide contextually accurate answers while maintaining a level of transparency by showing what documents are used to generate a response.

By consulting a legal professional, it was found that there is a multitude of acts and regulations that are not properly updated and that the acts only are not sufficient as sources of information. Given the huge amounts of acts and regulations available, two acts, namely the Employment Relations Act and Worker's Rights Act, were selected. All the regulations supporting these two acts were also selected. A few other general and relevant acts, such as the Constitution, the Civil Code, and the Data Protection Act, were also made available to the system. The full list of legal documents used are listed in Appendix 1. The architectural diagram of the RAG system with the tools and technologies used is illustrated in Fig. 1.

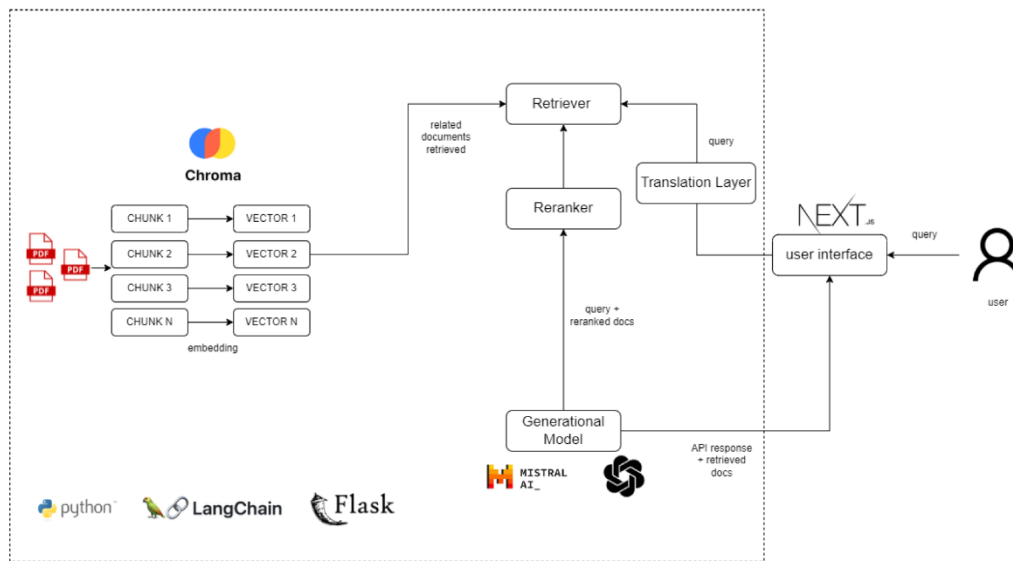


Fig. 1. Architectural diagram of the RAG system.

The user starts by selecting the desired LLM and then types his question on the user interface. LangChain is selected as the LLM framework because of its ability to provide context aware outputs. It also provides all the necessary tools and structures to facilitate the integration and management of large language models into applications. This causes the frontend to call the Flask API to pass the question to the backend. The query then passes through a translation layer to convert the text in English (if it was in French), otherwise it is directly converted into a vector form. The query is then used by the vector store retriever and searches for a number (K) of related documents in the vector database using the cosine similarity search.

The retrieved documents also go through a reranker, where they are processed again to select the top N documents. The top K documents in the retrieved documents may not all be as relevant to the question. For instance, it is possible that a relevant document was given a lower score. Thus, a reranker has been used to circumvent this issue. The reranker assigns a

new score to each document and retrieve the top 3 documents by default. However, in our case, we increased this threshold to 10 by modifying the source file in the Flash ReRank library. This helps the system in having a larger context to generate an answer. These documents are then sent alongside the query to the generational model so that an appropriate response can be obtained. The final response alongside the sources of answer is sent back to the frontend and displayed on the screen. In contrast with ChatGPT or other similar software, the queries and answers will be specific to the documents made available to the application that is in the context of the legal sector of Mauritius only.

The user interface is made up of the following: a home screen, a chat panel, a sidebar to select the LLM for the conversation, a text box, a send button, and a source button to check which documents are considered for the answer. The user interface is shown in Fig. 2. The libraries used in the backend are shown in Table I.

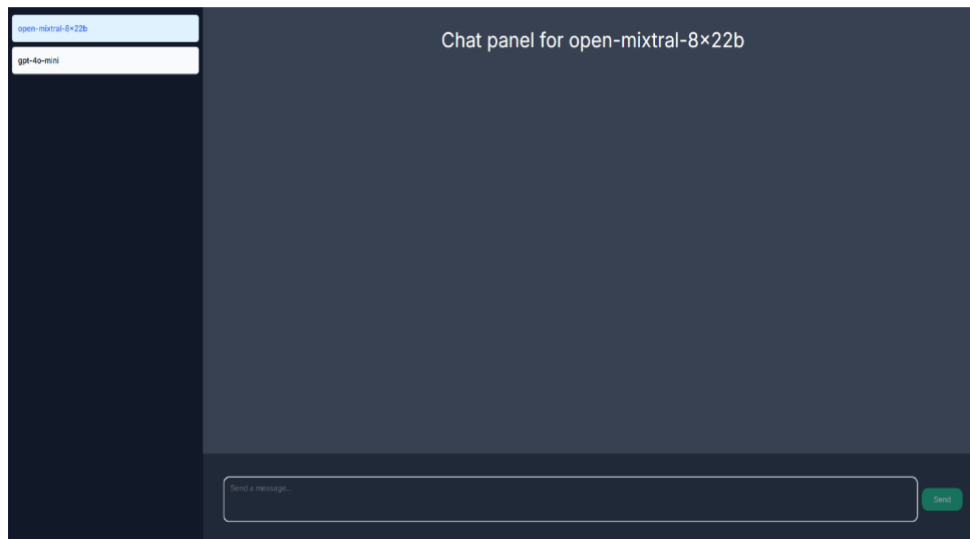


Fig. 2. Chat panel for the system.

TABLE I. BACKEND LIBRARIES

Library Name	Description
mistralai	Mistral AI Python library
openai	Open AI Python library
chromadb	Chromadb Python library
langchain	Bare minimum requirements of LangChain for Python
Langchain_mistralai	LangChain integrations for Mistral AI
Langchain_Open AI	LangChain integrations for Open AI
Langchain_community	Contains third-party integrations
Pypdf	Free and open-source pure Python PDF library to parse PDF files
Flask	Lightweight WSGI web application framework
Flask-cors	Flask extension for handling Cross Origin Resource Sharing (CORS)
Python-dovenv	Enable use of the .env file
FlashRank	Flash ReRanker library
Langdetect	Library to detect the language used

The libraries used in the frontend are shown in Table II.

TABLE II. FRONTEND LIBRARIES

Library Name	Description
Next	Next js react library
React	React library for JavaScript
React-dom	Entry point to the DOM and server renderers for React
React-markdown	React component to render markdown
Next-ui	Next JS library having beautiful components
Tailwindcss	CSS framework
Github-markdown-css	The minimal amount of CSS to replicate the GitHub Markdown style

For the frontend, the React framework and Next JS have been used. The following components were created to build the user interface: (a) Source Modal: This is a pop-up that can appear when the source button is pressed to view sources, (b) nav-links: This contains the navigation links to switch between LLMs, (c) Message: This is the component used to display

messages sent by the user and received by the chatbot, (d) ChatSideBar: This is the Side Bar component where the user can switch LLMs and (e) Chat: This is the main chat component that displays the textbox, sidebar and chat components.

V. RESULTS AND EVALUATION

To perform the evaluation of the RAG system, a User Acceptance Test (UAT) was performed by a legal professional, a third year LLB student and a non-technical user. They asked questions to the chatbot and evaluated if the received answers match the expected answer. Initial testing showed that many questions were not properly answered. This made us to fine-tune the chunking overlap parameter to 200 and re-embed the document so that each chunk provides more context to the chatbot.

Both systems were able to provide relevant responses in most cases. However, it was observed that the model from Mistral AI (open-mixtral-8x22b) performed better when the query was in French, and the responses were located in French documents. The system was evaluated by three users: a legal professional (LP), a final year LLB student (LLB) and a Mauritian citizen (MC) without any formal legal background. The legal professional extended valuable help in improving the system by sharing the relevant documents for this system. He found that the system was satisfactory and will indeed help to improve access to justice in our country.

The LLB student also mentioned that both systems met his expectations for both basic and more specific legal questions sections, but he was of the opinion that the model from Mistral AI consistently provided more detailed, structured, and comprehensive answers than the model from Open AI. Notably, the model from Mistral AI excelled in explaining the duties of a company secretary, the procedure for incorporation, and employee protections under the Worker's Rights Act, offering greater depth and alignment with the relevant laws. As regards the third evaluator, he found the system to be very user-friendly and helpful.

The list of questions and answers from the various testers, together with their expected answers and remarks on the system, are provided in Appendix 2. Table III summarises the list of questions and answers from the three evaluators.

TABLE III. SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS

#	Question	User	gpt-4o-mini	open-mixtral-8x22b	Comments
1	I have been in employment with ABC since January 2024. Am I entitled to special leave?	LP	correct	correct	
2	What is a labour contractor?	LP	correct	correct	
3	Je suis convoqué à un comité disciplinaire dans une semaine. Comment savoir si le comité est valablement constitué?	LP	incomplete	incomplete	No mention of right to be accompanied.
4	Mon employeur ne respecte pas ma vie privée. Quels sont les moyens dont je dispose pour me protéger ou pour le dissuader?	LP	incomplete	incomplete	No mention of Code Civil and DPA.
5	I intend to cease business as a Company. How can I terminate the employment of staff?	LP	incomplete	incomplete	Mistral AI is better.
6	Quel est le salaire minimum à ce jour dans la République de Maurice?	LP	correct	correct	
7	What are my obligations as an employee?	LP	correct	correct	Implied obligations not mentioned.
8	I would like to hire the services of my nephew who is 15 years old. Can I do so?	LP	correct	correct	

9	I would like to transfer shares I hold in Company FEDER to my brother. What do I need to do?	LP	correct	correct	Registrar office not mentioned.
10	What does section 3 of the Constitution of Mauritius, which guarantees the right to life, liberty, and security of a person, balance individual freedoms with the state's responsibility to maintain public order and safety?	LLB	correct	correct	Model from Mistral AI is better.
11	Which section and chapter of the Constitution caters for the freedom of expression?	LLB	correct	correct	
12	What does the Constitution states about the powers of the President of Mauritius?	LLB	correct	incomplete	
13	What are they key duties of a company secretary under the Mauritius Companies Act 2001?	LLB	wrong	correct	
14	Can you explain the procedure for the incorporation process of a company under the Companies Act?	LLB	correct	correct	Model from Mistral AI is better.
15	What are the legal requirements for a company to hold an Annual General Meeting in Mauritius?	LLB	wrong	correct	
16	What are the key provisions under the Mauritian Workers' Rights Act for protecting employees against unfair dismissal?	LLB	correct	correct	Model from Mistral AI is better.
17	Can you explain the legal requirements for paid leave entitlements under the Workers' Rights Act?	LLB	correct	correct	
18	What does the Workers' Rights Act say about the right to severance allowance in cases of redundancy in Mauritius	LLB	correct	correct	Model from Open AI is better.
19	What are the lawful risks of creating a fake Instagram profile to profit from others?	MC	correct	correct	
20	Puis-je forcer mon fils a travailler sans le payer si j'ai besoin d'aide dans mon business?	MC	correct	correct	

VI. CONCLUSION

Developing a chatbot tailored for the legal sector of Mauritius is a significant step in making legal information more accessible to both legal professionals and non-legal professionals. The dynamic and hybrid nature of the Mauritian legal system makes it challenging for anyone to have easy access to legal information. The large number of acts and regulations available on the Supreme Court website also adds up to this difficulty. And yet, ignorance of the law is not an excuse. There is currently no AI-enhanced tool which provides the population with fast and easy access to Mauritian laws. In an optic to tackle this shortcoming, existing AI-related solutions in other countries were reviewed and a RAG system, which leverages the use of LLMs to generate answers and real time retrieval from relevant documents, has been proposed and provided as a novel solution for the Republic of Mauritius. In our solution, we proposed using two different LLMs, gpt-4o-mini from OpenAI and open-mixtral-8x22b from Mistral AI. This enabled us to compare the answers obtained from each model. A re-ranking algorithm was also used to enhance the RAG system by analysing retrieved documents and to decide on the most appropriate documents to be used in the answer. The solution aims at addressing several issues, such as, the difficulty in accessing legal information in Mauritius for non-legal professionals, given how online answers can be too generic and how time-consuming legal research can be. Mauritius being a bilingual country, our system can also converse in both French and English. To further assess how the system performs, a legal professional provided assistance by asking relevant questions to the system and evaluating the answers obtained. While the system is very promising and improves access to legal justice in Mauritius, there are limitations that were observed, such as the heavy reliance on the quality and completeness of legal documents made available to the system. The system can be enhanced in the future by providing accurate and updated legal texts. Judicial cases can be added to the system to provide more context. This

study showcased how it is possible to bring forward an innovative AI solution to bridge the gap between the public and legal information, by making it more accessible to them.

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Occupational-safety-and-health-act-2005.pdf
Office Attendants (Remuneration) Regulations 2019.pdf
Pre-Primary School Employees (Remuneration) Regulations 2019.pdf
Printing Industry (Remuneration) Regulations 2019.pdf
Private Hospitals and Other Related Health Services (Remuneration) Regulations 2019.pdf
Private Secondary Schools Employees (Remuneration) Regulations 2019.pdf
Private Security Services Employees (Remuneration) Regulations 2019.pdf
Private-recruitment-agencies-act-2023.pdf
Public Transport (Buses) Workers (Remuneration) Regulations 2019.pdf
Registration-duty-act-1804_6.pdf
Road Haulage Industry (Remuneration) Regulations 2019.pdf
Salt-Manufacturing Industry (Remuneration) Regulations 2019.pdf
Social-contribution-and-social-benefits-act-2021.pdf
Tailoring Trade (Remuneration) Regulations 2019.pdf
The-National-Minimum-Wage-Amd-Reg-24.pdf
Travel Agents and Tour Operators Workers (Remuneration) Regulations 2019.pdf

APPENDIX I

A Consolidated Version of the Employment Relations Act 2008 as at 27 July 2024.pdf

A Consolidated Version of the Workers' Rights Act 2019 as at 27 July 2024.pdf

- Attorneys' and Notaries' Workers (Remuneration) Regulations 2019.pdf
Baking Industry (Remuneration) Regulations 2019.pdf
Banking-act-2004.pdf
Banks Fishermen and Frigo-workers (Remuneration) Regulations 2019.pdf
Blockmaking, Construction, Stone Crushing and Related Industries (Remuneration) Regulations 2019_.pdf
Catering and Tourism Industries (Remuneration) Regulations 2019.pdf

APPENDIX 2

1. I have been in employment with ABC since January 2024. Am I entitled to special leave?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

Based on the previous context, you would not be entitled to special leave yet. According to the regulations, an employee must remain in continuous employment with the same employer for a period of 12 consecutive months to be eligible for special leave. Since you have been employed since January 2024, you need to wait until January 2025 to qualify for special leave.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

Based on the previous content, if you have been continuously employed with ABC for a period of 12 consecutive months, then you are entitled to special leave. However, as you started your employment in January 2024, you would need to wait until January 2025 to be eligible for special leave. The specific entitlements for special leave are outlined in the context, which include 6 working days' special leave on full pay for the occasion of the celebration of your first civil or religious marriage, 3 working days' special leave on full pay for the occasion of the first civil or religious marriage of your son or daughter, and 3 working days' special leave on full pay on the death of your spouse, child, father, mother, brother, or sister.

Expected answer:

According to the legal provisions currently in force, special leave is granted to a worker who has been in continuous employment for 12 consecutive months. A worker who has been in employment for a period of less than 12 consecutive months shall not be entitled to special leave.

2. What is a labour contractor?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

A labour contractor is defined as a person who is engaged in the recruitment and supply of migrant worker to work with a hirer employer.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

A labour contractor is a person who is engaged in the recruitment and supply of a migrant worker to work with a hirer employer.

Expected answer:

A labour contractor is defined as "a person who is engaged in the recruitment and supply of a migrant worker to work with a hirer employer". A labour contractor must be registered with the Ministry of Labour. A labour contractor may supply a migrant worker to work with a hirer employer in any approved sector of economy. The Labour contractor shall remain the Employer of the migrant worker after the latter is placed at the seat of a hirer employer. Also, the labour contractor is compelled under law to keep a register of the placement of a migrant worker with each hirer employer retaining its services.

3. Je suis convoqué à un comité disciplinaire dans une semaine. Comment savoir si le comité est valablement constitué ?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

Pour savoir si le comité disciplinaire est valablement constitué, vous devez vérifier les éléments suivants:

Composition du Comité:

Le comité doit être composé d'au moins une personne indépendante.

Quorum :

Il doit y avoir un quorum, ce qui signifie que le nombre minimum de membres requis pour que le comité puisse prendre des décisions doit être présent.

Objections :

Si vous ou votre syndicat avez des objections concernant la composition du comité, vous devez les soumettre à l'employeur dans les 24 heures suivant l'information sur les membres nommés.

Si ces conditions sont remplies, le comité peut être considéré comme valablement constitué.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

Pour savoir si le comité disciplinaire est valablement constitué, vous devez vous assurer qu'il est conforme à l'article 14 de la législation en vigueur. Selon cet article, le comité doit inclure au moins une personne indépendante et être guidé par les principes de justice naturelle. En outre, en tant que travailleur, vous avez le droit de contester toute personne faisant partie du comité disciplinaire et de soumettre vos objections, ainsi que les motifs de ces objections, à l'employeur au plus tard 24 heures après avoir été informé du nom des personnes nommées pour entendre l'affaire.

Expected answer:

Il faut que le comité soit présidé par une personne indépendante. La personne convoquée devant le comité doit répondre aux charges énoncées dans la lettre de convocation et peut se faire accompagner par un représentant syndical, un homme de loi (avocat) ou les deux ou par un officier du Ministère du Travail, des ressources humaines et de la Formation. Il doit s'écouler au moins sept jours entre la notification/convocation et la tenue du comité disciplinaire.

4. Mon employeur ne respecte pas ma vie privée. Quels sont les moyens dont je dispose pour me protéger ou pour le dissuader ?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

Vous avez le droit de demander réparation pour les griefs liés à votre emploi. Voici quelques moyens que vous pouvez envisager :

Faire un signalement:

Vous pouvez signaler le non-respect de votre vie privée à votre supérieur hiérarchique ou à un responsable des ressources humaines.

Recours à un syndicat:

Si vous êtes membre d'un syndicat, vous avez le droit d'être représenté par un représentant syndical qui peut vous aider à défendre vos droits.

Procédures formelles:

L'employeur doit établir des arrangements avec les syndicats pour permettre aux travailleurs de soulever des griefs et de les résoudre de manière équitable et rapide. Vous pouvez demander à connaître ces procédures.

Demande d'information:

Si vous avez besoin d'informations concernant vos droits ou les politiques de l'entreprise relatives à la vie privée, vous pouvez demander ces informations à votre employeur.

Saisir le Tribunal:

Si votre employeur refuse de fournir des informations ou ne respecte pas vos droits, vous pouvez faire une demande auprès du Tribunal pour obtenir une ordonnance.

Il est important de documenter tous les incidents et de conserver des preuves de toute violation de votre vie privée.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

Selon le contexte fourni, il est interdit de divulguer des informations qui peuvent causer un préjudice aux intérêts de l'entreprise ou d'un travailleur, ou qui sont des informations personnelles liées à la vie privée d'un travailleur, à moins que le travailleur ne consente à la divulgation de ces informations.

Si votre employeur ne respecte pas votre vie privée, vous pouvez demander à votre employeur de cesser cette pratique. Si l'employeur refuse de cesser cette pratique, vous pouvez alors déposer une plainte auprès de l'autorité compétente, telle que le Tribunal. La loi prévoit également que le Tribunal peut ordonner à l'employeur de fournir des informations si cela est nécessaire pour les négociations collectives, à condition que les informations demandées ne relèvent pas des exceptions prévues par la loi.

Enfin, si vous estimez que votre employeur a violé vos droits en matière de confidentialité, vous pouvez également engager des poursuites judiciaires contre lui.

Expected answer:

Tout justiciable est titulaire du droit à la vie privée. Ce droit est garanti par la Constitution. De plus, le droit à la vie est reconnue dans le code civil. En cas de non-respect de la part de l'employeur, il est possible de saisir le tribunal

compétent. Il est aussi possible de rapporter le cas au ministère du Travail ou encore le Data Protection Office.

5. I intend to cease business as a Company. How can I terminate the employment of staff?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

To terminate the employment of staff when ceasing business as a company, you must follow these steps:

Written Notice: You must give written notice to the Director-General specifying the date on which the cessation will take effect.

Notice to Employees: You must inform your employees about the termination of their employment. According to the provisions, you must state the reason for the termination at the time of notifying them.

Notice Period: Ensure that the notice period is not less than 30 days, unless you opt to pay the employees the amount of remuneration they would have earned during the notice period.

Severance Allowance: Pay severance allowance to workers who have been in continuous employment for a period of not less than 12 months, as specified in the relevant sections.

Consultations: Consult with trade unions and provide reasonable notice to them as well, as well as to the Ministry responsible for labour.

Assistance in Job Search: Consider offering help to workers in finding other jobs in cooperation with the Ministry responsible for employment.

By adhering to these steps, you can ensure that the termination of employment is carried out in compliance with the relevant legal provisions.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

To terminate the employment of staff due to the cessation of business, you must follow the guidelines outlined in the provided context. Here are the key steps:

Provide reasonable or prescribed notice to the workers, to the Ministry responsible for labour and industrial relations, and to the trade unions concerned.

Consider introducing schemes for voluntary redundancy, retirement, transfer to other departments within the undertaking, and a phased rundown of employment.

Establish which workers are to be made redundant and the order of discharge.

Offer help to workers in finding other jobs, in cooperation with the Ministry responsible for employment.

Decide how and when to make the facts public, ensuring no announcements is made before the ministry, the workers, and their trade unions have been informed.

Please note that termination of employment without justification, where the ground of termination is other than economic, technological, or structural grounds, is deemed unjustified. Therefore, it's crucial to follow proper procedures and provide adequate notice to all relevant parties.

Lastly, it's important to issue a certificate of employment to each workers whose employment has been terminated or who has been resigned. The certificate should be provided within 7 days of the termination of employment and should include the specified particulars.

Expected answer:

The cessation of business is governed by the Companies Act 2001 and the Insolvency Act 2009. The legal framework regarding the termination of employment on grounds of redundancy is set in the Workers' Rights Act 2019. An employer is obliged to refer the matter to the Redundancy Board if it employs 15 persons or more. The Supervising Officer must be informed of the intended cessation of business if there are 14 persons or less.

6. Quel est le salaire minimum à ce jour dans la république de Maurice ?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

Le salaire minimum à ce jour dans la République de Maurice est de 16,500 roupies par mois, applicable à partir du 1er janvier 2024.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

Le salaire minimum à ce jour dans la république de Maurice est de 16,500 roupies.

Expected answer:

Le salaire minimum est aujourd'hui fixé à Rs. 15,000. Cependant, toute personne étant salarié se voit percevoir un salaire minimum de Rs. 16,500, ce qui inclut le Cost of Living Allowance fixe par voie d'arrêté ministériel en Janvier 2024.

7. What are my obligations as an employee?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

As an employee, your obligations include:

Taking Reasonable Care:

You must take reasonable care for your own safety and health, as well as for the safety and health of others who may be affected by your actions or omissions at work.

Understanding Your Contract:

You should ensure that you understand the terms of your contract of employment and abide by them.

Familiarizing with Grievance Procedures:

You need to make yourself familiar with any arrangements for dealing with grievances and other questions that may arise from your contract of employment and utilize them when necessary.

Special obligations:

If you belong to a profession, you may have additional obligations that arise from your membership, which you must fulfill.

Membership Obligations:

If you are a member of a trade union, you must fulfill the obligations you voluntarily undertook upon joining the union.

These obligations are essential for maintaining a good working relationship and ensuring a safe and productive work environment.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

As an employee, you have several obligations. These include:

Satisfying yourself that you understand the terms of your contract of employment and abiding by them.

Making yourself familiar with any arrangements for dealing with grievances and other questions which may arise out of your contract of employment, and making use of them as and when the need arises.

If you belong to a trade union, fulfilling the obligations which you have voluntarily undertaken on joining the trade union.

Not taking any actions in your professional capacity, which would conflict with the standard of work or conduct laid down for your profession, particularly if that action would endanger public health and safety, the health of an individual needing medical or other treatments, or the well-being of an individual needing care through personal social services.

Taking reasonable care for the safety and health of yourself and other persons who may be affected by your acts or omissions at work.

Abiding by any special obligations arising from membership of a profession, which may include obligations with regard to health, safety, and welfare, over and above those which are shared by the community as a whole.

Expected answer:

The obligations of an employee are set in a contract of employment whose terms must be in line with the provisions to be found in the Workers' Rights Act 2019. There are implied obligations which stem from the provisions of the Mauritian Civil Code- these include the duty of loyalty, the duty of

confidentiality, the obligation to perform work personally, the duty of diligence while performing his or her assignment.

8. I would like to hire the services of my nephew who is 15 years old. Can I do so?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

According to the provided context, you cannot employ a young person who is under the age of 16. Therefore, you cannot hire your nephew who is 15 years old.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

According to the provided context, a person who is of the age 16 years or more shall be competent to enter into an agreement and shall, in relation to the agreement and to its enforcement, to be deemed to be a full age and capacity. Therefore, as your nephew is 15 years old, he cannot legally enter into an employment agreement. Additionally, no person shall employ, to continue to employ, a young person in work which is likely to jeopardize his health, safety, or physical, mental, moral or social development.

Expected answer:

No. The law provides that any person having attained the age of 16 may be employed.

9. I would like to transfer shares I hold in Company FEDER to my brother. What do I need to do?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

To transfer shares, you hold in company FEDER to your brother, you need to follow these steps:

Prepare a Transfer Document that includes:

Your full name and address as the transferor.

Your brother's full name and address as the transferee.

The name of the Company FEDER and its registration number.

The number and description of shares being transferred.

The consideration for the transfer.

Sign the Document: Both you and your brother must sign the transfer document, certifying the transfer of shares.

Conditions of Transfer: Ensure that the transfer is accepted subject to the same conditions attached to the shares at the time of transfer.

Notify the Company: Submit the signed transfer document to Company FEDER's registered office as part of the transfer process.

Compliance with Regulations: Make sure to comply with any other regulatory specific requirements specific to share transfers in Mauritius.

It's advisable to consult with a legal professional to ensure all necessary steps and legalities are adhered to.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

In order to transfer shares, you hold in Company FEDER to your brother, you will need to follow the process outlined in the provided context. However, please note that the context does not provide a comprehensive guide to the share transfer process. Based on the available information, here are the general steps you need to follow:

Complete a transfer of shares form, which should include the following details:

Full Name of Transferor (you) and your full address

Full Name of Transferee (your brother) and his full address

Name of the company in which the shares are held (Company FEDER)

Company No.: (you will need to provide the company registration number)

Number and description of shares transferred (you will need to specify the number of shares and their type)

Consideration (if applicable)

Both you (the transferor) and your brother (the transferee) will need to sign the transfer of shares form.

The transfer or issue of shares is subject to the same conditions as attached to such shares. Please ensure that you understand these conditions before proceeding with the transfer.

Depending on the company's requirements, you may also need to provide additional documentation or meet certain conditions. It is recommended that you contact Company FEDER for further guidance on their specific requirements for transferring shares.

Once the transfer of shares has been completed and registered, your brother will become the new shareholder in Company FEDER.

Expected answer:

You should sign the statutory share transfer form. Then, the transfer shall be registered with the Registrar General Department. Once approved by the Registrar General Department, a certified copy of the transfer form shall be submitted to the Corporate Business Registration Department to have the records amended.

10. What does section 3 of the Constitution of Mauritius, which guarantees the right to life, liberty and security of a person, balance individual freedoms with the state's responsibility to maintain public order and safety?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

Section 3 of the Constitution of Mauritius recognizes and declares that fundamental rights and freedoms that exist without discrimination, but it also emphasizes that these rights are subject to respect for the rights and freedoms and for the public interest. This means that while individuals have the right to life, liberty, and security, these rights must be balanced against the state's responsibility to maintain public order and safety. Therefore, any limitations on these rights must be reasonable and justifiable in a democratic society, ensuring that the enjoyment of individual rights does not prejudice the rights and freedoms of others or the public interest.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

Section 3 of the Constitution of Mauritius guarantees the right to life, liberty, and security of a person, but this protection is subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest. This means that while individuals have certain fundamental rights and freedoms, these rights are not absolute and may be limited to ensure that the enjoyment of these rights by an individual does not prejudice the rights and freedoms of others or the public interest.

The Constitution further provides that no person shall be deprived of his life intentionally, save in execution from a sentence in a court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been convicted. However, a person shall not be regarded as having deprived of his life if he dies as a result of the use of such force as is reasonable justifiable for the defence of any person from violence or for the defence of property, in order to effect a lawful arrest or to prevent the escape of a person lawfully detained, for the purpose of suppressing a riot, insurrection or mutiny, or in order to prevent the commission by that person of a criminal offence, or if he dies as a result of a lawful act of war.

Therefore, the Constitution of Mauritius balances individual freedoms with the state's responsibility to maintain public order and safety by allowing for limitation on individual rights and freedoms in certain circumstances, such as defence, public safety, public order, public morality, or public health. These limitations are designed to ensure the enjoyment of individual rights and freedoms does not prejudice the rights and freedoms of others or the public interest.

11. Which section and chapter of the constitution caters for the freedom of expression?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

The freedom of expression is catered for in Section 12 of Chapter II – Protection of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of the Individual of the Constitution.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

The freedom of expression is catered for in Section 12 of Chapter II of the Constitution.

12. What does the constitution states about the power of the President of Mauritius?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

The Constitution states that:

The executive authority of Mauritius is vested in the President, who may exercise this authority directly or through subordinate officers.

The President acts in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet or a Minister, except in cases where the Constitution requires the President to act according to the advice of someone else or in his own judgement.

The President has the power to appoint the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and other Ministers, as well as Junior Ministers, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister.

The President is also responsible for keeping informed about the general conduct of the government and may request information from the Prime Minister regarding government matters.

Overall, the President plays a crucial role in the governance and administration of the country, guided by the advice of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

The constitution states that the executive authority of Mauritius is vested in the President. Unless otherwise provided in the Constitution, that authority may be exercised by the President either directly or through officers subordinate to him. However, this section does not preclude persons or authorities, other than the President, from exercising such functions as may be conferred upon them by the law. Additionally, the President, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, may appoint Junior Ministers from among the members of the Assembly to assist Ministers in the performance of their duties.

13. What are they key duties of a company secretary under the Mauritius Companies Act 2001?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

I do not have an answer.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

Under the Mauritius Companies Act 2001, the key duties of a company secretary are:

To ensure that the company complies with the requirement of the Act and its constitution.

To keep and maintain the minutes of all meetings of the Board and the shareholders.

To keep and maintain the register of directors and officers and the register of shareholders.

To ensure that the company's accounting records are kept as required by the Act.

To ensure that the company's annual returns are submitted to the Registrar.

To ensure that the company's name is properly displayed at its registered office and at all other places where it carries on business.

To ensure that the company's common seal is kept in safe custody.

To carry out all other duties as may be required by the Act or the company's constitution.

The company secretary may also be required to act as a director or liquidator of the company in certain circumstances.

14. Can you explain the procedure for the incorporation process of a company under the Companies Act?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

The procedure for the incorporation process of a company under the Companies Act is as follows:

Right to Apply: Any person may apply for the incorporation of a company, subject to the provisions of the Act.

Application submission: The application for incorporation must be sent or delivered to the Registrar.

Required Form: The application must be in a form approved by the Registrar.

Signatures: Each applicant must sign the application.

Accompanying Documents: The application must be accompanied by:

A document, in a form approved by the Registrar, signed by every person named as a director or Secretary, containing their consent to be director or Secretary.

A certificate confirming that the person is not qualified from being appointed or holding office as a director or Secretary of a company.

Once these steps are completed and the Registrar is satisfied with the application, the company will be incorporated under the Act.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

Incorporation Process of a Company under the Companies Act in Mauritius:

Application: The first step in the incorporation process is to file an application with the Registrar of Companies. The application should include the following:

The proposed name of the company

The company's objects of purposes

The company's registered office address

The name, addresses, and occupations of the company's directors and secretary

The name and address of the company's auditor

Payment of fees: Along with the application, the applicant must pay the prescribed fee for incorporation.

Issuance of Certificate of Incorporation: If the Registrar is satisfied that the application meets the requirements of the Act, he or she will issue a Certificate of Incorporation, which signifies that the company is duly incorporated and registered under the Act.

Post-incorporation obligations: After incorporation, the company must comply with certain post-incorporation obligations, such as holding its first board meeting, appointing an auditor, and filing an annual return with the Registrar.

Exemptions: Certain companies, such as small private companies and companies registered under the Small and Medium Enterprise Act, are exempt from filing financial summaries with the Registrar for a specified period.

15. What are the legal requirements for a company to hold an Annual General Meeting in Mauritius?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

I do not have an answer.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

Question: What are the legal requirements for a company to hold an Annual General Meeting in Mauritius?

According to the Companies Act of Mauritius, a company is required to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) within 18 months of its incorporation and subsequently, once at least every calendar year and not more than 15 months after the last AGM.

For a company incorporated outside Mauritius, if it is not required by the law of its place of incorporation or origin to hold an annual meeting of shareholders and prepare a balance sheet, it shall prepare and file with the Registrar a balance sheet within such period, in such form, and containing such particulars and annex thereto such documents as directors of the company would have been required to prepare or obtain if the company were a public company.

Additionally, a company is required to file an annual return with the Registrar within 28 days of the date of the annual meeting of the company or within 8 weeks after the date of the annual meeting for a company that keeps a branch register outside Mauritius. The annual return should be completed and signed by a director or Secretary.

The annual return should contain the matters specified in the Tenth Schedule provided that where matters required to be stated are in each case unchanged from the last preceding annual return, the annual return may simply refer to the last preceding annual return.

The company must also send a copy of the annual report to every shareholder of the company not less than 14 days before the date fixed for holding the annual general meeting of the shareholders. However, the Board of a company shall not be required to send an annual report to a shareholder where the shareholder has given notice in writing to the company waiving the right to be sent a copy of the annual report or copies of annual reports of the company generally, and the shareholder has not revoked that notice, and a copy of the report is available for inspection by the shareholder in the manner specified in section 227.

A public company shall deliver a copy of its annual report to the Registrar for registration at the same time as it delivers its financial statements to the Registrar under section 215.

16. What are the key provisions under the Mauritian Workers' Rights Act for protecting employees against unfair dismissal?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

The key provisions under the Mauritian Workers' Right Act for protecting employees against unfair dismissal include:

Assessment of Performance: Employers must assess workers on their workmanship, and this assessment should be recorded.

Reprimanding Procedure: If a worker cannot fulfil their obligations, the employer may reprimand them initially before initiating disciplinary actions. This can include a verbal warning, followed by a documented verbal warning and a written warning.

Disciplinary Actions: If no improvement is noted after a period of 6 months, the employer may take disciplinary action, which should be commensurate with the gravity of the case.

Lapse of Sanctions: Any sanctions imposed for minor misconduct shall lapse after one year if there has been no recurrence.

Protection against Dismissal for Minor Misconduct: Workers cannot be dismissed for reasons related to minor misconduct.

Complaint Procedure: Workers may make complaints against their employer regarding any employment-related issues, and the supervising officers is required to investigate these complaints.

These procedures aim to ensure their fair treatment and due process for workers facing disciplinary actions or dismissal.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

The key provisions under the Mauritian Workers' Right Act for protecting employees against unfair dismissal are as follow:

Now workers shall be dismissed for reasons related to minor misconduct.

Every supervising officer is responsible for providing guidance to workers for their performance at work.

Where a worker's work is reported to be unsatisfactory, the supervising offer shall inform the worker of this weaknesses and expected standards of work required of him.

The employer shall assess the worker on this workmanship and the assessment shall be recorded.

Where the worker cannot fulfil his obligations within the terms of this contract of employment, the employer may reprimand the worker in the first instance before initiating disciplinary actions in accordance with the Workers' Right Act 2019.

The worker may initially be sanctioned by way of a verbal warning followed by a documented verbal warning and a written warning.

Where no improvement is noted after a period of 6 months, the employer may, following disciplinary proceedings against the worker, take such disciplinary action which may be commensurate with the degree of gravity of the case.

Any sanction imposed under paragraphs (4) and (5) shall lapse after a period of one year where there has been no recurrence.

A worker shall be entitled to his basic wage during the period of suspension.

The worker shall be reinstated without prejudice and without loss of pay or other privileges if the alleged act of misconduct is not proved.

Any disciplinary committee set up to provide an opportunity to a worker charged with an act of misconduct to give his explanations shall, in his proceedings, be guided by the principles of natural justice.

Where the employer considers that the worker may have to answer a charge of misconduct which may lead to his summary dismissal, the employer shall appoint a disciplinary committee, consisting of at least one independent person, to hear the worker and make its recommendations.

The worker or the union may contest any person forming part of the disciplinary committee and shall submit his or her objections together with the reasons for the objections.

These provisions ensure that employees are protected against unfair dismissal and that any disciplinary action taken against them is fair and just.

17. Can you explain the legal requirements for paid leave entitlements under the Workers' Rights Act?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

Under the Workers' Right Act in Mauritius, the legal requirements for paid leave entitlements are as follows:

Annual Leave: Every employee who has worked for the same employer for 12 consecutive months is entitled to 20 working days of annual leave during each subsequent 12-month period of continuous employment. Employees who have worked for 6 consecutive months are entitled to one day of annual leave for each subsequent month of continuous employment, up to the twelfth month.

Sick Leave: Employees who remain in continuous employment for 12 consecutive months are entitled to 21 days of sick leave on full pay during the following 12 months. Employees who have worked for 6 consecutive months and have been present on all working days during that period are also entitled to sick leave.

Maternity Leave: Female workers are entitled to 16 weeks of leave on full pay upon providing a certified copy of the relevant Court order and a copy of the child's birth act.

Leave for Family Care: Workers can be granted leave with pay to care for their child, parents, or grandparents with healthcare-related issues, subject to certain conditions.

Notice for Leave: Employees must give at least 9 days' notice when applying for leave exceeding one day.

Payment for Unused Leave: If an employee does not take or is not granted all the leave they are entitled to, they shall be paid a normal day's wage for each day of unused annual leave at the end of the 12-month period.

Restrictions on Leave: No leave shall be granted during the period from December 20 to January 7, except at the employer's discretion.

These provisions ensure that employees have the right to take necessary leave while also providing guidelines for employers regarding the management of such leave.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

Under the Workers' Rights Act of 2019, every worker, other than a part-time worker, who remains in continuous employment with the same employer for a period of 12 consecutive months shall be entitled, during each subsequent period of 12 months while they remain in continuous employment, to 20 working days' annual leave.

Additionally, every worker shall be entitled to 2 days' leave in every year, in addition to the leave specified in subsection (1) or any other enactment, or any agreement, collective agreement or award of the Tribunal or an arbitrator.

The leave specified in subsection (1) or (2) may be taken on a full day, half day, or such shorter period as agreed between an employer and a worker.

Furthermore, a worker who wishes to take more than one day's annual leave consequently shall, except where reasonable cause is shown, give their employer at least 48 hours' advance written notice.

Lastly, an employer shall pay to a worker a normal day's wage in respect of each day's leave still due to them at the end of the period 12 consecutive months, where the worker has not taken or has not been granted by the employer, all the leave the worker is entitled to under the subsection (1), (2) or (5). However, during any period of 12 consecutive months, a worker has not requested for annual leave or where the request has not been granted the worker may opt to have the remaining leave accumulated and inform their employer in writing of their option

18. What does the Workers' Rights Act say about the right to severance allowance in cases of redundancy in Mauritius

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

The Workers' Right Act 2019 provide specific provisions regarding severance allowance in cases of redundancy. Here the key points:

Justified Reasons for Redundancy: If the Board find that the reasons for the reduction of the workforce or closing down are justified, it may not order the employer to pay severance allowance.

Unjustified Reasons for Redundancy: If the reasons are found to be unjustified, the Board shall order the employer to pay the worker severance allowance at the rate specified in section 70(1).

Calculation of Severance Allowance:

For every period of 12 months of continuous employment, a worker is entitled to a sum equivalent to 3 months' remuneration.

For any additional period of less than 12 months, the worker is entitled to a sum equal to one twelfth of the amount calculated for the 12-month period multiplied by the number of months of continuous employment.

Deductions from Severance Allowance: Employers may deduct contributors payable to the Portable Retirement Gratuity Fund from the severance paid to the worker.

Interest on Severance Allowance: The Court may order an employer to pay interest on the severance allowance at a rate not exceeding 12 percent per year from the date of termination to the date of payment.

These provisions ensure that workers are compensated fairly in the event of redundancy, depending on the justification of the employer's actions.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

The Workers' Right Act 2019 in Mauritius provides for the payment of severance allowance in cases of redundancy. According to section 70(1), a worker is entitled to severance allowance if:

(a) the worker has been continuously employed for not less than 12 months with the employer on a contract of indeterminate duration and that employer terminates the agreement in circumstances specified in section 70(1); or

(b) the worker has been employed under on more fixed-term contracts with the same employer for a total period of not less than 12 months and the employer terminated the agreement in circumstances specified in section 70(1).

The amount of severance allowance payable is calculated based on the last complete month of the worker's employment on a full-time basis or, where applicable, a monthly rate circulated over a period of 12 months before the termination of the agreement.

However, no severance allowance shall be payable to a migrant worker or a non-citizen employed under one or more contracts of fixed duration at the expiry of their contracts. Additionally, no severance allowance shall be payable where a worker and an employer enter into an agreement under section 13(1) and the agreement comes to an end, unless otherwise agreed by the parties.

In cases where the employer intends to reduce the workforce or close down, the employer must give notice to the Board. If the Board finds that the reasons for the reduction of the workforce or the closing down are unjustified, it shall order the employer to pay severance allowance to the worker at the rate specified in section 70(1). However, if the Board finds that the reasons for the reduction of the workforce or the closing down are justified, it may order the worker to proceed to leave without pay for a specified period, instead of terminating their employment.

19. What are the risks of creating a fake Instagram profile to profit from others?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

Creating a fake Instagram profile to profit from others can lead to several risks, including:

Misuse of Fake Profile: Under Act 2021584, making use of a fake profile to cause harm is an offence. If convicted, the individual could face a fine not exceeding one million rupees or penal servitude for a term not exceeding 20 years.

Cyberbullying: If the actions associated with the fake profile involve harassment or intimidation, it could be classified as cyberbullying, which also carries a penalty of a fine not exceeding one million rupees and penal servitude not exceeding 20 years.

Cyber Extortion: If the profile is used to demand money or goods by threatening them, it constitutes cyber extortion, leading to similar penalties.

Fraudulent Activities: Engaging in fraudulent activities, such as deceiving others for personal gain, can result in charge under laws related to electronic fraud, which carry significant penalties.

Unauthorized Disclosure: If the profile is used to disclose personal information without consent, it could lead to legal repercussions related to unauthorized disclosure of information.

Overall, the creation and use of a fake profile can expose individuals to severe legal consequences under various cybercrime laws in Mauritius

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

Creating a fake Instagram profile to profit from others falls under the offence of "Misuse of fake profile" as per the provided context. The risks associated with this offence are:

On conviction, being liable to a fine not exceeding one million rupees.

On conviction, being liable to a penal servitude for a term not exceeding 20 years.

20. Puis-je forcer mon fils à travailler sans le payer si j'ai besoin d'aide dans mon business?

Open AI gpt-4o-mini:

Non, vous ne pouvez pas forcer votre fils à travailler sans le payer. Selon le contexte fourni, un enfant ne doit pas être considéré comme employé pour un travail qui pourrait nuire à sa santé ou à son développement. De plus, toute forme de travail doit être appropriée et ne pas interférer avec son éducation.

Mistral AI open-mixtral-8x22b:

Non, vous ne pouvez pas forcer votre fils à travailler sans le payer. Le droit du travail en vigueur à Maurice stipule que tout travailleur doit être payé pour son travail. De plus, le salaire doit être payé à intervalles mensuels, sauf si les parties conviennent d'un paiement à des intervalles plus courts.