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# Mauritius News

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Truth & Justice

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## New Mauritian restaurant opens its doors in Thorton Heath



The Mauritian Bar and Restaurant was officially inaugurated in June in the presence of numerous Mauritian and UK personalities. The Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Stuard Collins, was the guest of honour for the evening.

Among the other guests were Sohun Ghoorah of the London office of the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority and his wife Toni, (left in the picture above), Mrs Roma Baldeo of Air Mauritius London office (sitting on the right), property developer Kamil Hossenbux (standing on right), Dav Poonoosamy, vice-president of the Croydon Chamber of Commerce (not in picture).

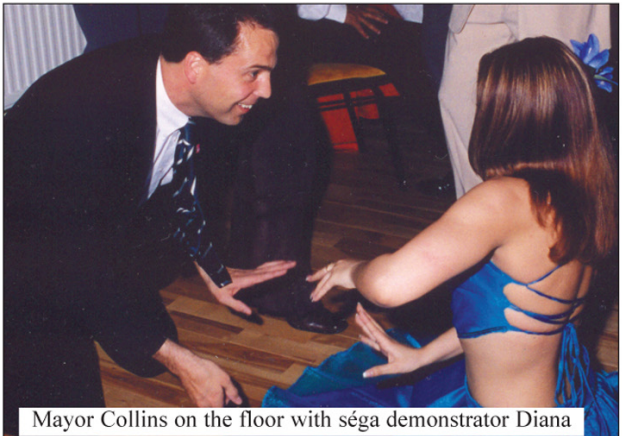
Priya and Rajiv Dabedeen (the owners) got the combination right in creating a truly Mauritian atmosphere for the opening celebrations with appropriate Mauritian food on the menu, the séga music provided by Slim, and the séga folkdance performed by Diana and Caroline.

As is the practice in these circumstances, the guests were invited to join the séga performers for a bit of hip hop and gyration, and the mayor was only too pleased to oblige. He really was of good cheer (as seen in picture below) together with all those present.

### Booking

One word of advice, before setting forth for the restaurant, tables must be booked in advance as the restaurant is still limited in its seating capacity. Rajiv Dabedeen told us he was planning to expand by taking over an adjoining premises to accommodate a larger number of diners, and provide a better venue for entertainment.

Another point that reviewers bear in mind is that taste differs from restaurant to restaurant, and the food cooked by the wife is always the best. The restaurateurs offering their own cuisine do their best to please every taste.



Mayor Collins on the floor with séga demonstrator Diana

## Industrial zone's concern over Budget

The Mauritius Export Processing Zone Association (MEPZA) said its members were not satisfied with measures announced for this sector in the June budget presented by Finance minister Paul Bérenger

MEPZA's director, Danielle Wong, said that the free zone industries were having difficult times because of tough competition from Asian countries and high costs of production, among other problems.

"We feel that the sector has been completely neglected by the government", she said.

Mrs Wong emphasized that people tend to minimize the problems in this sector while 5,000 jobs have been lost.

She said that the departure of major Hong Kong enterprises from Mauritius represents a warning to the industry.

"When these enterprises are leaving Mauritius, why US and European buyers would come to Mauritius?", she asked.

Mrs Wong dismissed arguments by the authorities that the free zone sector was not competitive enough.

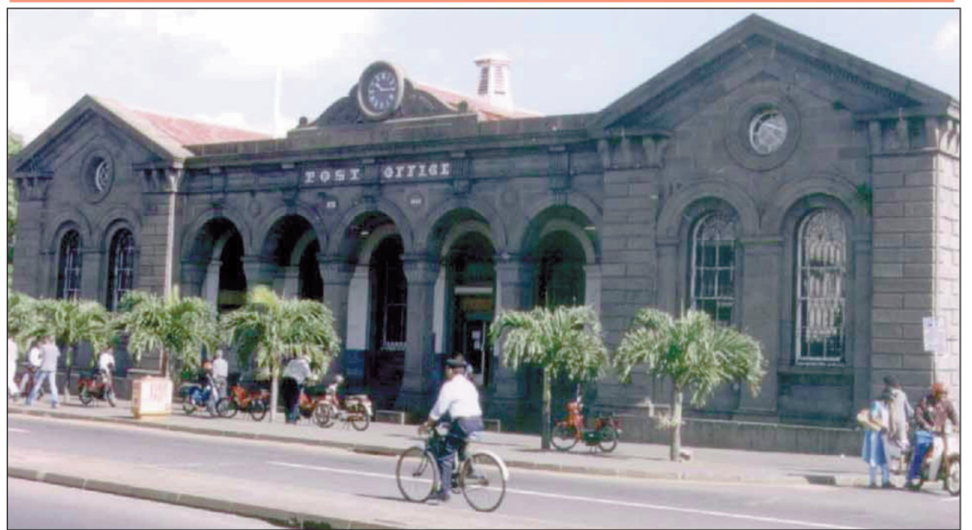
"It's easy to say so. They ask proof of competitiveness from the free zone industries only. What about the other sectors - the banks, the insurance companies, the port and the airport", the MEPZA's director asked.

According to her, there are high risks of social explosion in the island if appropriate measures are not taken.

"The free zone sector employs more than 80,000 people. Several thousands have been sacked; others would go in the coming months. This is a serious social problem", she said.

See more comments on the Budget on Page 3

## Misprints and mistakes



The Government Post Office (GPO) building by the Port Louis waterfront

A reader, considering the extent of misprints that occur in the paper, told us "please do be a bit more careful with your proof-reading." Well, we do our best with this proof reading exercise before going to the printers, but unfortunately we still find that the wrong versions are frequently printed.

On the other hand, as some workers find that the fault lies in their tools and not in themselves, we must say that one of the upgraded versions of the publishing software we are using is the worst that the company has put on the market. Even the printers agree to say so. This software causes a lot of confusion in texts saving.

What can we say more about this proof-reading exercise except to repeat what the Guinness Book of Records (1989 ed) says under the heading newspapers - **Most misprints**: "The record for most misprints in the The Times was set on 22 Aug 1978 when on Page 19 there were 97 in 5 1/2 single column inches. The passage concerned 'Pop' (Paul) V1." Well, what The Times can do, we seem to do as much, if not better!

### Mistakes and errors

When it comes to errors and mistakes, we may make mention of the famous error which in turn has made Mauritius famous in the world of philately. The two words Post Office on the GPO building (see picture above) were mistakenly engraved on the plate to print first stamps issued by Mauritius in 1847. This no legend, error there was. (See reproductions below).

But it is believed that the legend is about French watchmaker Joseph Osmond Bernard (an ancestor of renowned heart surgeon professor Barnard) who was given the job to engrave the plate with the words 'Post Paid'. The legend is that he forgot his brief.

On the way back to check with the official who entrusted the job to him, he saw the two words 'Post Office' on the GPO building which he took to be the very ones he was given. The rest is philatelic history. The Post Office stamp is one of the rarest and the most expensive in the world.

### Nelson Mandela Centre?

The Government Post Office has moved from this historic building which will now be named after Nelson Mandela, we are told. Why Nelson Mandela? It has been reported that the man snubbed Mauritius and ignored all personal invitations from the government for a State visit to the island while he was president of South Africa. It was only when he was to step down as President of his country that he attended an African summit in the country. Apparently, he never forgave Mauritius, considered as a sanction-buster during the Apartheid era. Already an prominent square by the Theatre of Port Louis bears his name!

The GPO building, birthplace of Commonwealth stamps (Mauritius being the first British colony to issue postage stamps in 1847), should become a Mecca for philatelists from all over the world and should bear a name more appropriate to the World of Stamps. Many people who have shown great interest in the philatelic history of Mauritius can fit the bill.

The stamps below are reproduced by courtesy of the Editions de l'Océan Indien from Alfred de Pitray's book: 'The Post Office Mauritius and its legend.'



POST OFFICE

POST PAID

'The Post Office and its legend', prefaced by Peter Ibbotson, also talks of the tale surrounding the engraving of the plate with the words Post Office instead of with Post Paid

Peter Chellen  
 Managing Editor

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## Noise is a major cause for complaint

According to the Central Statistical Office (CSO), on average 385 complaints were received yearly between 1994 and 1999. In its latest environment bulletin published in early April, the main complaint was noise, which accounted for over 25 per cent of all complaints received during that period.

"A marked increase was observed in 2000 when the number of complaints received was more than five times that of 1994. This was mainly due to the increasing awareness of the public to environmental issues and to the creation of the flying squad and the hotline to attend to complaints", the CSO said.

Commenting on the economic and social activities on the island, the Office said, from 1990 to 2000, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), had in nominal terms increased by about threefold from Rs 39,629 million to Rs 118,478 million.

"The share of agriculture in GDP dropped from 12.8 per cent in 1990 to 6.7 per cent in 2000, manufacturing also decreased marginally from 24.2 per cent to 23.8 per cent while that of financial and business services increased from 14.4 per cent to 18.1 per cent", it emphasised.

During the same period, the population increased by 11.6 per cent from 1,056,800 in 1990 to 1,179,100 in 2000, and the population density from 518 to 578 square km.

Between 1986 and 1995, the proportion of agricultural land dropped from 48.2 per cent to 46.4 per cent, and forestry land, from 35.1 per cent to 30.6 per cent whilst there was an increase in built-up areas from 13.4 per cent to 19.5 per cent.

The CSO said, that in the year 2000, the total forest areas was 56,629 hectares, of which 22,089 hectares were owned by the State and 34,540 hectares privately-owned.

Around 90 per cent of the island's agricultural land was for sugarcane plantation with the remainder being occupied by food-crops, tea and tobacco.

The CSO said the consumption of fertilisers for the year 2000 amounted to 67,044 tonnes, showing a decrease of 1,503 tonnes (-2.2 per cent) over 1990.

It added, while being an essential ingredient for the economic development and for the well-being of the population, energy-related activities were also a source of major concern for the environment.

"They are by far the most important contributors of air pollutants through the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases", the CSO said.

## Farmers and fishermen, victims of cyclone Dina still in distress four months later

The *Confédération des planteurs de Maurice* held a meeting at the Octave Wiehé auditorium recently to discuss measures to be taken following cyclone Dina and its effects on the island's agriculture.

Members of the Confederation said their plantations had been destroyed during the cyclone and they needed some compensation from the government to be able to start cultivating their land again.

Member Kreepallou Sunghoon declared that farmers had lost their investment during the cyclone and were not able to recuperate any vegetables. "They have no money and no food; they already owe money to the Development Bank of Mauritius, they no longer have any fund to invest on their plantations", he said.

On his part, the chairman of the Federation of fishermen's Associations, Mr Antonio Lamarque, criticised the government which, according to him, had not helped fishermen in the aftermath of the cyclone.

"Fishermen have not been able to fish for days and our boats and other equipment have been destroyed", he said. he has been asking for financial help from the government to enable fishermen to repair their boats and buy some equipment.

Statistics show that between 1990 and 2000, the total primary energy requirement of the country rose by 58.7 per cent, from 734 ktoe (a thousand tonnes of oil equivalent) to 1,165 ktoe, equivalent to an annual growth rate of 4.7 per cent.

Fuel oil, which represented 59 per cent of total energy used in 1990, dropped to 39 per cent in 2000. Consequently, a considerable rise in the use of coal and bagasse is noted in 2000 due to the production of electricity by independent power producers of the sugar industry.

In 2000, final energy consumption amounted to some 1,049 ktoe. The largest consumers were the transport and manufacturing sectors which accounted for 37 per cent and 34 per cent of the total consumption respectively. Between 1990 and 2000, final energy consumption increased on average by 4.2 per cent per annum.

The CSO says, "industrialisation, continuous economic growth and higher standard of living have led to a rapid increase in transport services over the recent years. A number of environmental problems are associated with transport, especially emission of carbon dioxide and other pollutants such as nitrogen oxide, volatile organic compounds, sulphur dioxide and particulates."

Concerning the transport sector, it indicated that the fleet of motor vehicles had nearly doubled between 1990 and 2000 from 123,545 to 244,018.

"This expansion has been accompanied by a similar growth in energy consumption and carbon dioxide emission in the transport sector", it added.

The CSO said between 1990 and 2000, total carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel more than doubled from 957 Gg to 2580 Gg.

Emissions from electricity production industries, manufacturing industries, transport and residential sectors increased by 244 per cent, 93 per cent, 138 per cent and 142 per cent respectively.

Giving statistics on water, it said on average, Mauritius receives 3,900 million cubic metres of rainfall every year. Some 30 per cent of this water is lost through evapotranspiration while surface runoff and ground water recharge account for 60 per cent and 10 per cent respectively.

"The water demand was estimated at 982 Mm<sup>3</sup> of which, 468 Mm<sup>3</sup> (48 per cent) were used for irrigation, 305 Mm<sup>3</sup> (31 per cent) for hydropower and 209 Mm<sup>3</sup> (21 per cent) for domestic and industrial purposes."

Around 85 per cent of the total water demand was met by surface water and the remaining 15 per cent, by ground water.

## Sex discrimination Bill announced

The Ministry for Women's Right, Family Welfare and Child Development has announced the introduction of a Sex Discrimination Bill to give effect to certain provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

According to an official of the ministry, the bill is meant for debates among the population before its introduction in parliament in a few weeks time.

"The bill is also destined to provide for the elimination of discrimination against any person on the ground of sex, marital status, pregnancy (including potential pregnancy) or family responsibilities in employment, professions, education, provision of goods, services and facilities, accommodation, disposal of property, sport, associations and clubs", he said.

A Sex Discrimination Commission will receive complaints regarding alleged infringements of the Act, and will have the power to make enquiries and determinations and promote recognition and acceptance within the community of the principle of the equality of men and women.

He said the Bill would also eliminate all forms of sexual harassment in the workplace, edu-

cational institutions and other areas of public activity.

"No employer, and no officer of an employer, shall sexually harass an employee or a person seeking employment from the employer. No principal shall sexually harass a contract worker. No officer or employee of an employment agency shall sexually harass another person in the course of providing, or offering to provide, any of the agency's services to that other person", he said.

He emphasised that the Sex Discrimination Commission would, receive complaints relating to alleged infringements of this Act, endeavour by conciliation to effect a settlement of the matter to which an alleged infringement relates, cause such enquires to be made into a complaint in such manner as it thinks fit, make such recommendations as it deems appropriate to any appropriate authority; referring any complaints to the Director of Public Prosecutions if it thinks fit to do so.

As regards to the offences, the official said, "any person who contravenes this Act shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months and to a fine not exceeding Rs 10,000."

## Freeport sets its priorities

The Mauritius Freeport has set its priorities and its objectives for the years 2002/2005. According to a strategic plan presented in March, the objective is to reach a new level of development that would insure its growth and its competitiveness.

One official said seven important priorities had been identified: the promotion of the freeport, the setting up of a regulatory body, the use of land near the airport, the development of partnership with the main actors of the freeport, the development of competences, the diversification of products and the orientation of the organisation towards clients' satisfaction.

He said the Mauritius Freeport Authority considers that an efficient and aggressive marketing of the freeport should be launched in order to promote the sector as a supply and a competitive transshipment centre in the region.

It also aims at encouraging international companies to use the logistics support set up in Mauritius.

The MFA should work towards making the centre a true regional centre for distribution and marketing for local and foreign companies. It should also see to it that maritime companies use Mauritius as a regional transshipment centre and that the services and facilities offered by the freeport be known around the world", he said.

## Mauritius ranks eighth in Africa on the FDI front

According to the World Investment Report for the year 2000, Mauritius was ranked eighth among African countries as far as Foreign Direct Investment was concerned.

The report said Mauritius obtained 275 million US\$ as FDI in 2000, against only 50 million USD a year earlier.

"This rise in the FDI was due to the sale of 40 per cent shares of Mauritius Telecom to France Telecom in 2000", the report said.

The report added that Angola ranked first with 1.75 billion US\$, followed by Egypt (1.25 billion US\$). Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia, Sudan, Ivory-Coast, Mauritius, Uganda and Lesotho follows on the list

## International petition for Le Morne to be declared a national heritage

The 'Collectif pour la préservation du Morne', an international petition to ask for the classification of Le Morne as a national patrimony was launched in March.

"This site in memory of slaves is a natural sanctuary. We are against any tourist project on it", members of the Collectif said.

Historians Vijaya Teelock, Yves Pitchen, Gabriel Sameon and others said, "there exist around the world several memory sites and Le Morne in Mauritius is one of them."

The Negative aspect of tourism development

## Construction set to spoil natural beauty of Mauritius

"To call a halt now to further hotels would also preserve the island's exclusivity which in turn would provide those financial rewards the commercial world lusts after."

From the rear balcony of an apartment on the top floor of Dattier, one of the newest developments in Flic en Flac, there is a spectacular view of Le Morne, marred only by the houses in between.

'Construction sauvage', said the electrician, busy in the apartment. I knew exactly what he meant. When I first visited this area with my Mauritian family in the late 1980's, we foraged for firewood on the very site now occupied by commercial development comprising a hotel, restaurants, shops and apartments that form an almost unbroken chain along the length of Route Cotière. Stretching back from this coast road are the patchwork of morcellements that have rapidly been devoured and from which grey concrete monoliths are now rising en masse from the once virgin landscape.

When complete, the occupants of this labyrinth of buildings will be denied any view other than that of the neighbours gazing into his life behind bars, due to the lattice work of iron grills installed for security in every urban window in Mauritius. This is domesticity on a paradise island.

### Negative tourism

Whilst one can justify the need to improve the housing conditions for many of the indigenous population, this insatiable appetite for residential construction is dwarfed by that of the hotel sector. Another four such luxury retreats for the well healed visitor were announced by the Minister for Tourism, the Rt Hon Nando Bodha, on Friday 7th December. If this trend continues unchecked then the net result could well be to destroy tourism not boost it.

The reasoning is simple. Jeanine Wick, whose Villas Pointe Aux Roche at Riambel are to make way for a grander project of the Domaine St. Felix, argues, "With more and more hotels being built in Mauritius we will become like Majorca, then no-one will come here." An argument clearly aimed at the European market who would not travel 12 hours for three times the money just to be packaged into the gridlocked beaches of hotels standing shoulder to shoulder around the entire circumference of the island.

This may be extreme. Certainly some restraint has already been shown, especially in the case of the proposed development of Isle Aux Cocos by Naiade Resorts. But this has not deterred the projects in Savannah or the valley beneath the Domaine du Chasseur from proceeding.

"Between sky and sea laid a paradise ... an astounding site of unique beauty tucked away at the heart of an overwhelming vegetation revealing an authentic oasis of green and a special ground to encounter birds and harmonious wilderness." So begins the promotional literature for the Domaine, as penned by its proprietor, Alain O'Reilly. High praise drawn from his first encounter with this estate nesting in the south east of Mauritius. "A benign calmness overcame me at the sight of this ever-changing scenery always offering new outlines. The 'Domaine du Chasseur', although

far from modern civilization and stress is so near my wildest dreams."

Today those dreams include the development of a three billion rupee super luxury 80 room hotel, 80 self-contained villas, a marina and a championship golf course designed by Gary Player. Sitting in the Panoramour restaurant on the summit one could visualise the impact this construction might have on a hitherto unspoilt vista.

"A dream come true with the promise to safeguard the soul/essence of the Domaine," concludes the advertisement. Alain assures me that the Domaine, that I, and many lovers of nature know, will remain untouched. The proposals for the valley will be in keeping with environmental guidelines for 'green' development. The word that has also been adopted by Frederick Leon Robert Jnr when describing the plans for the coastal construction destined for the St. Felix domaine near Riambel.

### Preservation

'Far from the madding crowd' - ed beaches of the North, embraced to the South by unspoilt stretches of blue beaches and savage coastlines, sheltered by a fringe of evergreen hills surrounding it, is the district of Savanne," this is their scripted invitation to visit the estate.

It is clear that they have every intention of preserving vast swathes of the 6,000 acre estate in its natural condition. Even if to do so it is economically necessary to sell cross country tours to arguably the islands most spectacular waterfall locked within their private enclosure.

"Hiking along the Plaine Champagne road going through Macchabee forest and the Black River Gorges, the view over the South is breathtaking. Enshrined in the lush greenery of its cane fields gently undulating under the caress of the wind and the blue rollers breaking with all their might over the white panache of smoke, is the Domaine Saint Felix."

These authors may do well to re-read their own text before laying the foundation stones for yet more hotels. The real 5-Stars in Mauritius should be rewarded to the natural grandeur of the Black River nature park, the sweeping panoramas witnessed from the top of Grand Bassin, the fury of Souffleur and the many other physical features that once defaced by development can never be replenished.

These opinions are not voiced unilaterally. They are the collective thoughts of many Mauritians, lay people and professionals, including hoteliers, who unanimously aired their apprehensions whilst silently acquiescing to the economic realities. Behind all 'progress' is money. Not economics in its purest sense, but financial reward for the few. Because employing the economic argument of supply and demand should make the decision makers think again. With one or two exceptions the bulk of the Mauritian hotels enjoy only 65 per cent occupancy. To call a halt now to further hotels would also preserve the island's exclusivity which in turn would provide those financial rewards the commercial world lusts after.

Continued on Page 5



# The Delphis Bank Story

**Has the Bank of Mauritius taken too drastic a decision in closing down the Delphis Bank?**

**Has Mauritius been sending the wrong signal to foreign investors?**

**The new owner(s) of the Bank will be made known at the end of April following the tender invitation by the receiver/administrator. The Delphis bank will then be authorised to operate anew, it is being speculated.**

**If the interests of the depositors will be safeguarded, what will happen to the interests of shareholders? The Bank of Mauritius has taken a very serious decision in stopping an on-going concern from trading as a result of which all shares could be wiped out.**

So many figures about loans of all sorts, bad debts, loss etc being quoted by the Mauritian press in regard to the Delphis Bank that Finance Minister (and PM in the wings) Paul Bérenger said that what was being reported in the newspapers could not be relied upon.

A good number of our readers are affected by the demise of the Delphis Bank for the mere fact that their deposits in the Bank have been frozen, and messages received from Mauritius tend to indicate that the situation remains very confused about the fate of the Bank.

Because we have been carrying advertising for the the Delphis Bank in our publication, numerous UK Mauritians have invested in its shareholding scheme and deposited money in its savings accounts. We are being approached by readers to know about development affecting the operation of the bank. Only yesterday (Friday, 5 April) a telephone call informed us that a former top man of Delphis has put his (UK) house, in Millionaires' Row, Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire, on sale for £7m (to pay back a loan from the Bank?). In all our editorial on the Delphis we have always slanted towards investment in Mauritius.

Numerous readers believe that Mauritius Island has been sending the wrong signal to foreign investors that no investment is safe in the country as a result of the drastic action of the Bank of Mauritius (BOM) forcing the Delphis Bank to cease trading at the stroke of a pen. Yet, in a message about the Country's Cyber Island project, Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth stated

lighted at the very outset. All these facts must be of paramount importance to be brought up at the highest level.

## Shareholders' appeal

Some major overseas shareholders appealed to PM Sir A. Jugnauth to intervene which he refused to do. This could well be understood because the PM's and the FM's will have both been consulted by the Governor of the Bank of Mauritius prior to the Delphis Bank being stopped from trading. Those shareholders are said to be having recourse, now, to the Supreme Court of Mauritius against the Bank of Mauritius in its decision to revoke the licence of the Delphis Bank, it is reported. A court action is likely to take some time to finalise.

Mr Bérenger equally told the National Assembly that in neighbouring South Africa, three banks have been forced to close down, and their shareholders have appealed against this decision. He said that Mauritius was watching closely the event in South Africa. Does that mean that Mauritius will simply go by the South African decision in relation to the suspension of the Delphis activities?

Mr Bérenger's uneasiness about the Delphis goes back to 10 years ago when that Bank purchased the Union Bank's interests as a result of its closure by the Bank of Mauritius and when he, himself, was in Government. He made this fact known in the Assembly when crossing swords with Opposition leader, Navin Ramgoolam. Mr Bérenger stressed that this acquisition took place at a time when the Bank of Mauritius was not independent of the Ministry of Finance.

## Why close down the Delphis Bank?

What many depositors from England have been asking is why close the Delphis Bank just because two directors have committed some blunders, as indicated by the BOM communiqué. It would be more logical and appropriate to take action against the directors and not against the Bank itself, jeopardising in the process the interests of thousands of depositors and shareholders, throwing hundreds of employees out of work, while at the same bringing down the reliability of Mauritius as a financial centre. It is argued here in London that the borrowers will have provided collateral security for the loans obtained. Why close down

the Bank then? The Bank has over five billion rupees worth of assets, and a capital reserve of 683 million rupees, why did they close the Delphis?, the UK depositors want to know. The Bank of Mauritius's communiqué talked of "loans irregularly granted" and not of irregularities. Irregularities would have been a matter for the police.

## No rogue trading

A total of some £600 million have been lost by the Allied Irish Bank over a period of five years as a result of an alleged fraud by a currency dealer of the Bank. Nobody has even thought of closing down the AIB. Yet, in Mauritius nobody has stolen any money from the Delphis Bank and there has been no rogue trading, so why did they close the bank? Many depositors' savings are at risk, and so are the shareholders' investments. They should not be found in such a situation. Shareholding is a bit of a gamble, everyone agrees to say. A shareholder is expected to lose his investment if a company goes bust, but the Delphis



Delphis HQ in Port Louis

Bank has not gone bust. So why should shareholders be expected to lose their investment in the Bank at the whims of the Bank of Mauritius? This cannot be right, surely. No one is saying whether the assets of the Delphis, shareholding comprised, will be handed over on a plate to a prospective buyer.

The greatest misunderstanding, we are told, is that a meeting of the Board of Directors with the Governor of the Bank of Mauritius was scheduled for mid-March, but well before that meeting the Governor revoked the licence of the Delphis Bank on March 8. Why could not the BOM have waited?

## Not a first

The revocation of the Delphis Bank's licence was not



Customer service at the Delphis

a first in the banking history of Mauritius, it is pointed out. Yet, it was a first in that it was a fully operational institution with very good prospects to suffer such a fate.

**Peter Chellen**  
Managing Editor



Delphis office in London Mayfair

"Mauritius brings together the ideal conditions that makes it an attractive location for doing business."

A month has elapsed since the closure order was issued on the Delphis by the Bank of Mauritius, and yet the Receiver/Administrator designated by the Supreme Court of Mauritius, Mr Raj Thacoar, has still to decide what will become of the Delphis and how its assets are to be disposed of. Rumour has it that at least 10 interested parties have expressed the wish to take over the running of the bank.

In the National Assembly a few days ago, Finance Minister Paul Bérenger said that the Delphis would soon be put back on rail as a going concern. But the Bank was a going concern when its licence was revoked, as we pointed out in our March edition.

Opposition leader Navin Ramgoolam has been asking the FM whether dividends were being paid to shareholders prior to revocation. FM Bérenger, though at first said he had no information to this effect, subsequently declared that dividends were paid by the Delphis to shareholders, as we stated in our March article. MP Xavier Duval, a qualified accountant, affirmed in the House that the Bank was solvent, which we high-

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### COMMANDER OF THE ORDER OF THE STAR AND KEY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN - C.S.K.

GUJADHUR Yatemani - For contribution in the field of banking and finance. GUIMBEAU Maxime Henri Patrick - For contribution in the field of agriculture. JOHNSON Marie-France Hugues - For services rendered to the education sector. MARDEMOOTOO Manogaran - For contribution to social development. SOOKUN Hurrydwar - For contribution in the field of business

### OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF THE STAR AND KEY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN - O.S.K.

DILMAHOMED Dr Mohammad Houssein Ismael - For services to the community. GOVIND Pandit Sadaseewoo - For contribution to the promotion of language and culture. KURRUMCHAND Dayanand - For the promotion of safety and health standard. MATABADAL Ajamil - For contribution to the promotion of language and culture. RAMDOYAL Professor Ramesh Dutt - For commendable service in the Education Service. SEEBOO Soorianariana - For contribution to the promotion of the Tourism Sector. SEW SEN LEE Jean - For services to the community and the promotion of culture. SUBRAMANIEN Sivalingum - For long and commendable service in the Public Service. TEELWAH Parmanund - For services to the community.

### PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL - P.D.S.M.

BASANT RAI Nundlall - For long and distinguished service in the field of social security. HO-MAN CHEONG Joseph Sylvio - For long and distinguished service in the Public Service. KALLA Abdool Cader Mamode Cassim - For contribution in the education sector. LAM THUON MINE Lam Cheng - For long and distinguished service to the Agricultural Sector. RAGOONADEN Sachooda - For long and distinguished service at the Meteorological Services. RAMJEEAWON Aniroodh - For long and distinguished service in the Public Service. RAMNAUTH Dr Dev Banshal - For contribution in the fields of education and culture. VYAPURY Joseph Marcelin - For long and distinguished service in the field of social security

### MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE STAR AND KEY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN - M.S.K.

BHADHOODEENKhan Antoine Georgy - For voluntary social work. DAVID Lady Mary - For contribution to the promotion of arts and culture. GOOLJARRY Cassam - For contribution to the promotion of tourism. KOONJUL Narain - For contribution to the promotion of culture. LAMARQUE Aimé Edward - For community services. LISIS Jean Michel Alex - For community services. PRUDENCE Ms Eliane - For contribution to the development of the Co-operative Movement in Rodrigues. SANYASI Narainsamy - For voluntary social work. TAUCOORY Mewanand - For the promotion of arts and culture. VEERARAGOO Pakiree - For the promotion of arts and culture (also known as Claudio Veeraragoo). VENKATASAWMY Doorganah - For contribution in the field of education

### PRESIDENT'S MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL - P.M.S.M.

ANTHONY Saul Joseph Manicon - For meritorious service in the Co-operative Sector in Rodrigues. FRICHOT Serge - For long and meritorious service to the Education Sector. GOBHARDHUN Basdeo - For long and meritorious service in the Public Service. GOOLAUB Bissoondial - For contribution to the Education Sector. JEETOO Gianduth Toontoon - For long and meritorious service to the Education Sector. LECORDIER Michel Hugues Pierre - For meritorious service in the Police Force. NAYIKOO Madev - For meritorious service to the Education Sector. NOBIN Karl Mario - For long and meritorious service in the Police Force. RAMCHURN Lutchmeernain - For long and meritorious service to the Co-operative Sector. ROOPAH Cressun - For contribution to the development of the Co-operative Movement. RUNGHEN Pyneesamy - For long and meritorious service in the Postal Services. SEETAH Hurrynarain - For contribution to the Education Sector. SUNNEECHURRA Oozageer - For long and meritorious service in the Police Force. TAJOO Azize Ahmud - For long and meritorious service to the Education Sector. VIRAMALAY Louis Judex - For long and meritorious service to the Education Sector

### PRESIDENT'S BADGE OF HONOUR

ARLANDA Ms Marie Décy - For voluntary social work. BEEHARRY Suthedeo - For voluntary social work. CAUNHYE Ahumud Siddick - For voluntary social work. HOSSENACCUS Mahboob - For voluntary social work. KEENOO Hareff - For voluntary social work. KIAM MAN SAO Ms Ah Chew - For voluntary social work (also known as Ah Yam Chee). LI YUEN FONG Chi Koy David - For contribution in the field of sports. MOORGHEN Mrs Therese Sybille Gascienne - For long and meritorious service in the Public Service. PROAG Seetulpersad - For long and valuable community service. VYAPOOREE Marday Modeliar - For contribution to the promotion of culture.

### PRESIDENT'S CERTIFICATE OF HONOUR

BALGOBIN Nundoochand - For long and meritorious service in the Public Service. CHINPIEL Ramsamy - For long and meritorious service in the Public Service. DIGPAUL Ramnarain - For long and meritorious service in the Public Service. HURREEBUN Narainduth - For long and meritorious service in the Public Service. OTHELLO Georges Raphael - For meritorious service. PEREANEN Mardaymootoo - For long and meritorious service at the Cabinet Office (also known as Jocelyn PEREANEN). RAMKISSOON Heeralall - For meritorious service. SEERUTTUN Bhye Farook - For meritorious service

## Mauritius wants to be the mediator between India and Pakistan

Foreign affairs minister Anil Gayan suggested while on an official visit to Pakistan last month, that Mauritius could play the role of a mediator between India and Pakistan in a bid to ease the tension between the two countries.

He made such a suggestion to his Pakistani counterpart, Abdul Sattar. However, Deputy Indian High Commissioner in Mauritius, Atul Khare, told the local press that there was no need for Mauritius to intervene between India and Pakistan.

## Creation of business forum between Mauritius and South Africa

South African High Commissioner in Mauritius, Louis Mguni, announced the creation of a business forum between Mauritius and South Africa. The forum will be chaired by Gane Joonas, well-known businessman.

The objective is to promote commercial relations between the two

countries, encourage investments and promote tourism, Mguni said.

According to him, the forum will regroup individual businessmen, Mauritian firms that trade with South Africa and also South African firms.

A South African trade fair is scheduled in Mauritius April next.

## NGO calls for the preservation of islet

The local NGO, SAPO (Solidarité-Anti-Pollution-Ouest) has called for the preservation of the Bénitiers islet (île aux Bénitiers), situated on the western coast of the island, from hotel exploitation.

One of the activists of SAPO, Karl Lamarque, said fishermen, economic operators and inhabitants in the region have been mobilised to stop hotel development on this islet.

Hotel development on this islet

aux Bénitiers constitutes a crime against the environment and also a rape of our natural heritage, he said.

According to him, the group's action was not motivated by the fact that hotel development would embarrass fishermen but because hotel development on the Bénitiers Islet was a true crime against the environment of Mauritius.

Lamarque said a petition against hotel development on the islet was being circulated among the tourists who go picknicking on the islet.

## Murder suspects arrested

The Mauritian police have identified three prime suspects in connection with the murder of a taxi driver, Mr Idriss Hossenbocus, aged 65, of Souillac, which occurred during the night of 10 March.

The alleged suspects are Louis Jean Marc Jacques aged 32, his wife Marie Savrina Jacques 28 years old, and his friend Marie Claire Prehagg, known as Kamla, 30 years.

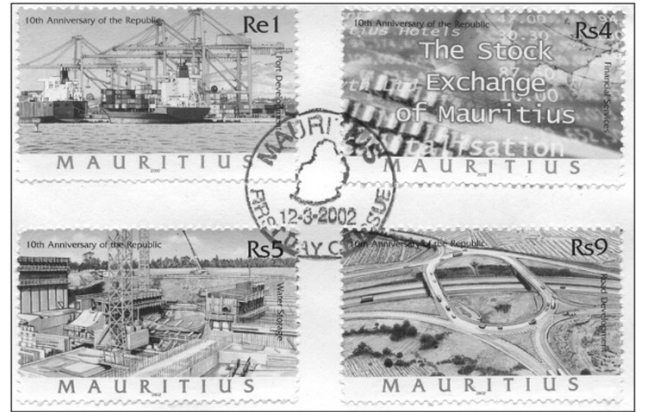
After a two-week intense search by the police, all the three suspects, along with a fourth one, an inhabitant of Curepipe, were arrested on

30 March. The man, who is now considered as the main suspect, has been provisionally charged with murder whilst the two women will have to answer to a provisional charge of harbouring a criminal. The suspects will be taken to Court again on 8 April next.

The victim's body, partly burnt, was discovered at Dubreuil in Moka district, two days after the murder. It appears that the murderer had killed his victim by stabbing him through the heart before attempting to burn his body. The motive for such a heinous crime is not yet known.

## Stamps of Mauritius

### Commemorative issue for the 10th Anniversary of the Republic of Mauritius on March 12



To mark the 10th Anniversary of the accession of Mauritius to Republic status, the postal service issued a set of four commemorative stamps. The set comprises of stamps of the Re1, Rs4, Rs5 and Rs9 denominations.

Mauritius opted for the status of a Republic, after gaining independence twenty-four years previous. The satus became effective on 12 March 1992. The President of the Republic succeeded Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Second as head of state. The Legislative assembly was renamed National Assembly and all references to the crown was made in the State.

The themes chosen for the stamps relate to Port Development on Re1, Financial Services on Rs4, Water Storage on Rs5 and Road Development on Rs9.

#### Re1 - Port Development

The development of Port Louis as a hub of the Indian Ocean for trade, warehousing and distribution has led to the construction of numerous quays to accommodate the transshipment of merchandise. The last decade has seen an increase in container handling.

The stamp shows the three quay cranes installed in Port Louis.

#### Rs4 - Financial services

The Stock Exchange of Mauritius (SEM) was set up in 1989 to further democratise access to the stock market. Since then it has witnessed many changes, the last one being the introduction of The Stock Exchange of Mauritius Automated Trading System (SEMATS) in 2001. It enables local and international investors an opportunity to obtain market information and data on a real time basis. An electronic trading system has also allowed investors to trade online through brokers.

The stamp is a composition showing the use of information technology in the stock market.

#### Rs5 - Water Storage

This stamp features the construction of The Midlands Dam, which will be used mainly for irrigating the Northern Plains. The reservoir will provide 41 million cubic metres of water annually, which will be distributed among, agricultural, domestic, tourist and industrial use in the North. The Midlands Dam is scheduled to be completed by December 2002.

#### Rs9 - Road Development

Huge investments are being made for the improvement of road infrastructure, due to the increasing number of vehicles using the roads. Carriageways and new link roads to bypass congested areas are being built and existing roads are being widened to make the traffic flow fluid.

The stamp portrays the roundabout at Réduit, a major point of exchange for traffic from the centre of the island.

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## The Negative aspect of tourism development Construction set to spoil natural beauty of Mauritius (from page 2)

### Construction sauvage

Raymond d'Unienville, a respected solicitor residing in Curepipe, said he and his wife never went to Grand Baie because of the commerciality. Indeed, when my wife was a child she would walk with her grandmother around the coast from Mon Choisy without encountering a soul. The rapid development is not attractive, as it has given no consideration to aesthetics. Approached from the featureless plains of Goodlands that gradually evolves into a concrete jumble. A similar mistake is now in the making in Flic en Flac where Sheela, the owner of the apartment in Datier, observed that there appears to be no officially conceived urban plan which should include the provision for communal areas, parklands, even playgrounds for the young and the young at heart. Mauritius villages mature into towns without education.

Now even that majestic outcrop of Le Morne could become scarred by the construction of a cable car. Mr Francis Piat's 'Green' project is being awarded the additional endorsement of having the site officially declared "a lieu de memoire." A memorial site where people would come and learn more about slavery and pay respect to the former slaves. A special place where silence and meditation will rule in memory of our slave ancestors,' Mr.Piat, said, a museum will be erected at the base and a restaurant constructed on the summit alongside a memorial.

"I sincerely and deeply believe that this nation must pay respect to the former slaves who suffered so much," Mr.Piat continued, "My project is the only practical one submitted so far."

Unfortunately his proposal would not pay homage but would be sacrilege. No matter from which direction one comes upon the vision of Le Morne it is the very nature of it standing stark and foreboding against the sky and sea that is the true memorial to those who died so tragically there, which should be preserved at all costs.

Leaning towards support of the cable-car project a government insider posed what he conceived as a rhetorical question, 'How (else) do people get up there?' - to pay their respects. They could, of course, emulate their ancestors suffering and climb up there. A far more fitting tribute that would afford those who made the sacrifice a greater understanding of what their forebears endured. The descent, however, I would suggest should not be so rapid or final.

Mauritius, that promotes itself as a paradise island, should conserve what natural paradise remains. If not, then those who seek to despoil it for short term material gains may well suffer the long term consequences of falling from grace with the same degree of fatality as those 'ancestors' who leapt from Le Morne rather than face retribution

Tim Purcell

## La 8e Édition de MINEDAF à Maurice en décembre

Maurice accueillera en décembre prochain la 8e édition de la Conférence des ministres de l'Éducation des États-membres d'Afrique (MINEDAF VII). L'objectif de cette conférence est de renforcer la coopération multidimensionnelle pour le développement de l'éducation en Afrique.

"Il s'agit aussi de coopération entre pays africains eux-mêmes que celle entre les pays africains et les partenaires au développement", a déclaré un officiel au ministère de l'Éducation.

Il a dit que MINEDAF VII annonce des enjeux cruciaux et se présente non comme une simple conférence de plus à ajouter sur la liste "mais comme le point

de transition d'une période à une autre."

Selon lui, malgré les avancées réalisées depuis la Conférence mondiale sur 'l'Éducation pour Tous' tenue en 1990 en Thaïlande, 100 millions d'enfants, dont une majorité de filles restent exclus de l'éducation à travers le monde.

"Il urge de trouver une solution satisfaisante à la situation de ces enfants, si on veut leur épargner le sort des 875 millions d'adultes analphabètes recensés actuellement à travers le globe, étant entendu qu'au niveau de ces chiffres, l'Afrique se distingue négativement", a-t-il souligné.

## L'UE finance les petites et moyennes entreprises

L'Union Européenne a accordé une somme de Rs 58 millions en vue de souscrire au capital des petites et moyennes entreprises mauriciennes à hauteur de 49%.

La Banque de Développement de Maurice (BDM) et la Corporation d'Investissement d'Etat contribueront chacune Rs 10 millions à cette démarche. Selon un officiel mauricien, les entreprises en question peuvent obtenir de l'aide pour améliorer leur processus de production, leur système de gestion et de marketing, entre autres.

"Si l'entreprise se trouve devant un besoin urgent de formation de son personnel les responsables de l'exécution du programme vont l'aider à concevoir un plan de formation

avec la participation d'une institution spécialisée locale", a déclaré l'officiel.

Il a ajouté que ce programme de soutien exige que l'entreprise participe financièrement à ce projet de développement.

"Une petite entreprise employant pas plus de 10 personnes et dont les chiffres d'affaires ne dépassent pas Rs 3 millions obtiendra une aide financière représentant 75% du coût ou un maximum de Rs 150,000. Une entreprise de taille moyenne, soit entre 11 et 150 employés et dont les chiffres d'affaires ne dépassent pas plus de Rs 80 millions bénéficiera de 50% du coût et un maximum de Rs500,000. Une entreprise peut recevoir une subvention maximale de l'ordre de Rs2 millions pour divers projets", a-t-il déclaré.

## Une page d'histoire: Personnalité du passé Curé, le redoutable lutteur, le démocrate intrépide ...

"Il ne peut exister à Maurice, un autre genre de nationalisme que le nationalisme mauricien et je crois y avoir contribué en groupant sous une seule bannière la grande majorité de mes compatriotes d'origines différentes"

Dr Maurice Curé, 14 décembre 1938

### 1ère Partie

L'évènement le plus marquant de la première moitié du 19ème siècle est, sans conteste, le soulèvement de la masse, la classe ouvrière. Tôt ou tard, la protestation contre le système électoral restreint était attendue car il ne donnait pas de chance égale à tout un chacun de briller par son talent politique.

Mais toute la classe ouvrière se réveilla lorsque le Docteur Maurice Curé, battu aux Elections Générales, alla à sa rencontre pour chercher support en vue de se venger sur les capitalistes; les forces cachées et les aspirations de la masse se réveillaient tout à coup. Une révolte venait de naître ...

Dr Curé, le combat politique Maurice Curé, lauréat de 1907 du prestigieux Collège Royal, fut sans conteste, celui qui appela les grandes forces du travail à la contestation.

Il eut une carrière politique qui



Maurice Curé, founder Labour Party

semblait être connue par les mêmes esprits que furent Rozemont, Anquetil, Ollier ou Ramgoolam. Le 23 février 1936, le Parti Travailleuse fut créé par le Docteur Maurice Curé et le Pandit Sahadeo fut le premier secrétaire général du parti.

Emmanuel Anquetil, le Pandit Sahadeo Rama et le Docteur Maurice Curé ont défendu de façon remarquable les principes du Parti Travailleuse et leur apport a une valeur permanente. Maurice Curé était avant tout un meneur, un cerveau, un organisateur. Il prenait toutes les décisions importantes, élaborait les demandes, passait des résolutions.

Il voulait que la classe ouvrière de l'île Maurice jouisse des mêmes droits et conditions de travail comme ceux recommandés à la conférence du Bureau International du Travail. Il avait l'audace de lancer un défi aux autorités de la classe blanche en créant le Parti Travailleuse.

Soudain, il y eut un réveil sans précédent de la classe ouvrière si bien que le Gouvernement n'avait d'autre choix que d'accepter les changements et de céder aux demandes de la population. La réforme de la constitution pour assurer la représentation de la classe ouvrière fut une revendication majeure du Parti Travailleuse.

Le parti s'est aussi battu pour l'octroi d'une pension aux personnes du troisième âge. Le suffrage universel pour tous les adultes avait été officiellement demandé par le Docteur Maurice Curé lors de sa déposition devant la Commission Hooper après les grèves sanglantes dans l'industrie sucrière.

En effet, 1937 fut l'année des grandes grèves où les travailleurs, sous la férule du Parti Travailleuse et avec l'aide de Bissoondoyal, combattaient dans un remarquable esprit d'unité et de solidarité. Les remous des Syndicats au mois d'août de 1937 ont forcé le Gouvernement à modifier les conditions d'emploi des travailleurs à la demande du Dr Curé.

Une Commission d'Enquête menée par Hooper recommanda des salaires plus élevées aux travailleurs ainsi que la création



by Kessini Murugesan

d'un Bureau du Travail. De plus, il était désormais légal pour les travailleurs de se syndiquer.

En 1938, la loi du Travail approuvait la formation de mouvements syndicaux. Ramgoolam entretint des contacts réguliers et permanents avec le Dr Curé et le Pandit Sahadeo, et à leur requête, faisait valoir leurs points de vue au Conseil Législatif.

Parallèlement, le Gouverneur Sir Bede Clifford n'appréciait pas que Curé prit la paternité des réformes apportées dans le domaine du travail. Il semble que le Gouverneur voulait partager la gloire obtenue dans la réalisation des réformes.

Il essaya de dominer le Parti Travailleuse en se servant du poison communal pour éloigner les travailleurs Indiens du Docteur Curé, un membre de la population générale. Comment Dr Curé pouvait-il être "indophile", défendre les intérêts des Indiens?

Le Gouverneur semait la division et se servait de la conjoncture pour projeter en avant certains intellectuels Indiens. Sir Clifford tint le Dr Curé et le nouveau Parti Travailleuse responsables des nombreuses revendications qui affectèrent les plantations.

Curé déclara ouvertement la guerre contre les Oligarques. En effet, les travailleurs étaient d'opinion que les conflits dans l'industrie sucrière ont apporté une plus grande crédibilité au Parti Travailleuse qui rassembla plus de 20,000 sympathisants au Champ de Mars le 1er mai 1938.

A cette date, Curé avait été rejoint par Harryparsad Ramnarain qui renforçait les bastions rurales avec la création de "Agricultural Workers Union". On pourrait dire que le Dr Curé a devancé l'élite de la communauté hindoue en réussissant à railler autour de lui des sympathisants de la classe ouvrière hindoue.

Il manquait un dirigeant de la taille de Rémy Ollier ou De Plévizt, un homme de la masse, un prolétaire pouvant faire face aux défis. Même les Arya Samajists étaient impatients et voulaient se rallier derrière quelqu'un, peu importe le groupe ethnique; ainsi ils acceptèrent le Dr Curé, une personne de couleur.

Le porte-parole de la classe ouvrière fut arrêté et traduit devant un tribunal après les grèves qui eurent lieu. Le verdict de la Cour fut certes favorable à Curé, mais l'insuffisance de la peine avait pour le plaignant le caractère d'une humiliation.

Contre les assauts qui venaient de toutes parts, Maurice Curé cessait le combat contre lui, l'ingratitude avait sorti toutes ses flèches. Et pour rendre la douleur plus amère, il devait, de sa retraite, voir quelques uns de ses protégés de la dernière heure porter leur loyauté jusque sur la tribune de la faction la plus conservatrice de l'opinion locale. Ainsi l'exigeaient les stratégies du combat politique.

La deuxième et dernière partie de cet article paraîtra dans notre prochain numéro



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## Happy 6th Birthday to Melvin Manikkam

who was 6 years old on 2nd April 2002.  
Lots of love from Daddy Vidya, Mummy Padmini and all

## VAT will go up

Finance Minister and Deputy PM, Paul Bérenger, announced at a press conference that VAT will go up from the present 12% for the simple reason that the government will need to reduce the budget deficit which is estimated at 7.8% of the gross national product.

The nation will have to wait until the Finance Minister's budget speech to know the exact amount of the increase but he made it known that the measures will be tough.

The country is at a critical juncture, he said, and massive investment is required in the fields of education, information technology, housing, communications, environment etc.

The Opposition Labour Party has criticised the government's negative economic performance and finds no justification that VAT should be inflated by Finance Minister Bérenger.

The Civil Service Federation states that Paul Bérenger has disqualified himself as Finance Minister as a result of the proposed VAT increase and the Delphis Bank scandal. The Federation's chairman argues that a reshuffle of the Cabinet is necessary and the Finance Minister should be shifted to forestall a social crisis in the country.

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## Association Chrétienne des Mauriciens à Londres (ACML) celebrates 35th anniversary

**In the early sixties, soaring unemployment in Mauritius and the idea that the grass is greener in England, drove many of us Mauritians to leave our beloved country to seek fortune here. The immigration "open Door" policy to Mauritians then and the cushion provided by the Social Security benefits immediately after arrival, were other factors that pushed the hesitant ones to make the move.**

After our arrival here, we soon realised that, after all, life is not a bed of roses here: many of us who were mollycoddled at home by our parents and, hence, shielded from cooking, washing, shopping etc, found ourselves on our own having to cope not only with these daily chores, but also with our work and, for some, evening classes too.

Life was a constant struggle in a country whose environment, climate and culture were totally alien to us. Some, naturally, did make their way back home, but the majority, the resilient ones stayed on despite the hardships.

Among these, many regular churchgoers on Sundays were attracted to the Notre Dame de France Church, where the mass, said in French, gave them 'le sentiment d'appartenance' and also the opportunity to meet other Mauritians after the service, just like they used to do in Mauritius.

These Sunday meetings gradually attracted more Mauritians and one of them, the late Antoine Marcel, had the inspiring idea of forming a Group to help each other mutually and also, to help any newly-arrived Mauritian finding his feet here. So, after a plausible recruitment drive by Antoine, Paul Mamedy and a few others, the ACML was formally launched in 1967.

Thus was born the ACML and, based at the Notre Dame de France Church, it gave us the 'god-sent' opportunity to meet over a drink, at least once a week, to share in our own language, our various experiences of the week.

Since then, 35 years on, the ACML has gone through many ups (let's forget the downs). Indeed, it has had the honour of welcoming and entertaining many VIPs such as: HRH the Princess Anne (14 March 1972), Sir Seewoosagar and Lady Ramgoolam, Sir Aneerood and Lady Jugnauth, His Eminence

the Cardinal Margéot, Sir Satcam and Lady Boolell, Sir Gaetan Duval and Xavier Duval, the past and present Mauritian High Commissioners, priests from Mauritius for our annual Père Laval mass etc.

For their services to Notre Dame de France Church, both Antoine Marcel and his wife Maud were twice decorated by the Pope; our former legal adviser, Me Michel Koenig and our Aumônier, Père Jacques Coupet were both made Chevaliers de la Légion d'Honneur.

But, the ACML really excels in charitable activities. Immediately after the riots in February 1999, it was the first association here to launch, in Mauritian newspapers, an appeasement appeal to our compatriots; it also raised £3,000, through collections for the victims of the riots.

At a meeting in Government House after the last general election, our Prime Minister took some time off from his busy schedule to thank an ACML delegation for its praiseworthy activities, not only within the Mauritian community, but also in the promotion of our 'rainbow' identity in our adopted country.

Throughout these years the ACML has remained alive to the social and spiritual needs of its members and, within its means, has always sought to help any unfortunate Mauritian knocking at its door for help. Every year, the ACML makes, among others, a donation to the Père Laval Centre in Mauritius and also to the Société de St Vincent de Paul in Leicester Square, which counts many Mauritian pensioners among its members.

Nowadays, the ACML remains apolitical and, despite its name, welcomes as member any Mauritians, without distinction of colour, religion, community, socio-economic status and sex. Its attachment to the Notre Dame de France Church is as strong as ever, its members are all volunteer to help the Church in any way; its management committee members are all volunteers, freely devoting a lot of their times and efforts, in the furtherance of the ACML aim to help other Mauritians in dire straits. We organise visits to the sick either at home or in hospital to alleviate their sufferings or loneliness; when asked, we can also arrange for spir-

itual visits by a priest or nun.

Not surprisingly, the ACML popularity, rightly acquired through its celebrations of Mauritian and family events and its benevolent actions, is widespread and at times makes the envy of others. We wish to appeal here to all like-minded Mauritians to join us at ACML in our benevolent activities; membership costs only a miserly £5. per year. This is vital for its survival; we must not allow what is an asset to our community to disappear.

Admittedly, the ACML would not be celebrating its 35th anniversary today, were it not for the continuous support of its past and present members, friends, sponsors and the hierarchy at the Notre Dame de France church.

Therefore, we would like to express here our sincere gratitude and thanks to everyone of them. However, for their assiduous devotion to the ACML, our special thanks must be dedicated to the late Antoine Marcel and Lucien Charlotte who were respectively, its President, and last but not least all the past and current management committee members, who have been long serving and zealous members of the ACML.

On the 11th May, let's all celebrate, in joy and in pride, the ACML 35th anniversary. Who knows? In so doing by joining us that evening, you could win two return tickets to Mauritius.

These tickets have been graciously donated by Air Mauritius, especially for the occasion, and will be raffled during the evening. The serial number on your dance ticket will give you a 'free entry' to these raffles and could be your lucky number that

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**Saturday 11th May, 2002**

from 8pm to 1.30 am

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sets you and your other half (or a friend) on the way to Mauritius. (For new memberships and dance tickets, please contact any ACML committee member as soon as possible).

Good luck to one and all on the 11th May and long live the ACML, the doyenne of all Mauritian Associations outside our paradise island.

**Edouard Pun Sin**  
pp ACML Management Committee Members.

### Obituary

#### Marie Emmeline Pompon 1920 - 2002

Nous avons appris avec beaucoup de chagrin que notre chère amie, Emmeline Pompon s'est éteinte le mardi 12 mars 2002 à l'âge de 82 ans.

Rappelons qu'Emmeline était non seulement la doyenne des membres de l'ACML, mais elle était aussi, durant de longues années, membre du comité de direction de l'association. Son soutien, sa contribution et ses conseils, durant ces années, nous ont été bien utiles et on aidé à faire de l'ACML ce qu'elle est pour la communauté Mauricienne aujourd'hui.



éait à saisir pour jouir le bonheur familial au sein de sa grande famille. A Maurice elle s'entourait de ses proches, surtout de sa filleule Fatima Chuttoo.

Toujours joviale, elle vivait pleinement et sereinement sa vie, mais finalement des accros de santé l'ont frappé fatalement. Nous voulons ici témoigner toute notre reconnaissance et notre gratitude de son soutien indéfectible à l'ACML; nous tenons aussi d'assurer à tous les membres de sa grande famille de notre fidélité à sa mémoire et de notre union de prières.

Avec la tristesse qui nous habite, nous présentons les sincères condoléances de tous les membres de l'ACML aux familles et amis cruellement éprouvés par le départ éternel d'Emmeline.

**Edouard Pun Sin**  
Scrétaire ACML

En somme, elle comblait d'amitié, d'amour et de générosité tous ceux qui l'entouraient. En dépit de toutes ses activités sociales et charitables, elle était aussi à la quête permanente d'une vie familiale pleine et heureuse; régulièrement, elle s'entourait donc de ses enfants, petits enfants, arrières petits-enfants et ses proches - pour elle toute occasion

### Young cyclist fights for his life

**15-year old Navin Chunjubragdoo is in a coma at the SRRN Hospital at Pamplemousses following an accident with a bus at Long Mountain.**

According to medical report the lad suffered a fracture of the skull with serious damage to his blood vessels. Police is investigating. The victim is reported to be the only son of a family who emigrated to Australia eight years ago. He returned to Mauritius recently on his own.

### Attorney General and Police Commissioner sued for moral damages

**In a prosecution against Attorney General Emmanuel Leung Shing, Police Commissioner Ramanooj Gopalsing and a policeman, Rajcoomar Aubeeluck is claiming damages of Rs 500,000 for unlawful arrest.**

The claimant avers having been arrested, handcuffed and presented in Court in the company of an Habitual Criminal (HC) on March 25. He was arrested on the ground that he had failed to pay a fine of Rs 400, including costs, inflicted upon him on May 30 last year and which he affirms having paid.

Mr Aubeeluck also complains of having been detained in a cell for two hours in the company a HC and brought to court later with the criminal and other detainees.

The plaintiff says that he is possession of a receipt from Rose-Hill District Court to confirm that he paid the fine on February 25 of this year. It was thanks to the intervention of his lawyer, Me Pazhany Rangasamy, that he was eventually released.

### Chagossian leader will meet Mandela

**Chagossian leader Olivier Bancoult and his lawyers are meeting members of the ruling ANC on a visit to South Africa.** They also have an appointment with former South African President Nelson Mandela to talk about issues affecting their conditions as uprooted people from the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean

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Labour Day	Wednesday, 1 May
Assumption of Virgin Mary	Thursday, 15 August
Ganesh Chaturthi	Wednesday, 11 September
Indentured Labour Day	Saturday, 2 November
Divali	Monday, 4 November
Eid-ul-Fitr *	Friday, 6 December or Saturday, 7
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**Mauritius Christian Fellowship to all Nations.** Monthly Worship  
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For all social and business functions, please ring Michael on 07932 658 587

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## DEATHS

Every entry published below contains the only information communicated to us. Mauritius News sympathises with the mourning families.

### MAURITIUS

Joseph Roland GODER-Rose Hill - Feb 22. Ww Rajwantee RAMFUL-b.Mohabeer-80 yrs-Feb 10. Jaswantee LALLBEEHARY-73 yrs-Q.Bornes-Feb 24. Mrs Bashir(Swaleha)JAUNBACUS- Feb 28. Soopayen VELLAMURDEN-100 yrs-Reduit-Feb 2 7. Savoundron(Retnama)Ramsamy CHETTY-P.Louis-Feb 26. Vytheelingum CHELLEN-76 yrs-Port Louis-Mar 2. Sewchand Bhagwansingh JOOSERY-Q.Bornes-Feb 26. France Raphael NARSOOMAMODE-Q.Bornes-Mar 2. AhFan(Pan Hing)NG POON HING-83 yrs-Q.Bornes-Mar 8. Marie Edwige KISHTOO-90 yrs-La Tour Koenig-Mar 7. Deoparsadsing(Iswar)NAPAU-61 yrs-Feb 28. Lisebie Simone DESVEAUX-b.Java-R.du Rempart-Mar 2. Claude Gerard ANDY -Cassis,Port Louis- Jan 27. Mrs Jeanne EASTON-b.Lan Yee Chiu-70 yrs-Mare Gravier,B.Bassin-Mar 8. LAM SIN SUM-76 yrs-Port Louis-Mar 7. Dr Raymond LAM SHANG LEEN - Curepipe - Mar 2. Abdool Latiffe MOHOBOOB- Port Louis- Mar 4. Lalah Keerpamun(Tony)JUGEE-66 yrs-Q.Bornes-Mar 6. Ww Raoul LI WAN PO- Rose Hill - Mar 1. Ww Balmik DABY-b.Mundil-Pierrefonds- Mar 5. Anjalay(Appaye Samougon)Tiroumale CHETTY-96 yrs Belle Vue Maurel-Feb 23. Marie Josiane BAVAJEE-49 yrs-Mahebourg-Mar 5. Ww NG KWET KING(Ah King Ah Saow)-75 yrs- Port Louis-Mar 4. Dharam VENKATASAWMY-52 yrs- Feb 20. Vadivel(Rajen)VEERASOO-55 yrs-Port Louis-Feb 20. Hajee Shabir Ahmad Hassam MAC-TOOM - Mar 5. Narainsamy Soopaya(Samougon-Mince)MOONIEN-72 yrs-Port Louis-Feb 18. Frances Maryse Paulette PROSPER-60 yrs-P.Louis-Mar 2. Hajee Younoos(Inous)Abdool MOEDINE-P.Louis-Feb 23. Jean Guy(Guyto)NORMAND-78 yrs-Port Louis-Feb 25. Joseph Roger ANDY - Cassis, Port Louis - Feb 28. Perianen(Retnon)RAMSAMY-76 yrs Cassis,P.Louis-Feb 24. Beelasing(Rajen)DABEE-54 yrs-Vacoas-Mar 23. Ranjeet DUNPUTH-79 yrs- Mar 8. Valleemay(Ati)VYDELINGUM-Stanley, R.Hill-Mar 12. Poo-See(Young Fen)LEONG KOW-76 yrs-P.Louis-Mar 23. Soopoo(Acca Tanga)VENKATACHELLUM-MAMOONDEE NADAS-Rose Hill-Mar 10. Emraz(Balram)JHAMNA-60 yrs-Mar 1. Vijay Padmanathan SANGEELEE - Rose Hill - Mar 16. Ellamah Saurty VENCATASAMY - Mar 17. Ludhor Ramdoyal(Raj)BEEHARRY - Mar 15. Comrasamy(Anne Canda)PERUMAL-Port Louis-Mar 14. Mrs Dewookoo(Janabhai)CANANEEA - Mar 10. Mirella CHEDUMBRUM PILLAY-40 yrs-R.Hill-Mar 11. Krishnah(Biga)GOOROOSAMY-57 yrs-Q.Bornes-Mar 22. Mootoocoomara S.SEEVARAMEN-88 yrs-B.Rose-22 Mar. Louis Antoine TALA-82 yrs-C.Chapelon, P.Lauzun-Mar 23. Francis LEROI-59 yrs-Beau Bassin-Mar 21. Maud GENTIL - Pamplemousses - Mar 14. Mrs Cyril ROSSE-b.Yolande Hector-76 yrs-Mar 18. Ww Basantee LILLOO - b.Seeraz - 66 yrs - Mar 10. Goinsamy(Goinda)SOBEN-77 yrs-St Julien d'Hotman-Mar 8. Ww Renee TECKSON-b.Clairon-92 yrs-Rose Hill-Mar 21. Valentine IYACOOTE- b.Aroekum-90 yrs-B.Bassin-Mar 20. Anne Gislaine LAMY-Rose Hill - Mar 15. Paul Ah Kee WONG TAK WAN-74 yrs-B/Tombeau-Mar 17. Ww Tangavel(Baggee)RAMALINGUM-b.Vallacotee-77 yrs-Rose Hill-Mar 17. Shakeel Mahmood PARAK-26 yrs-Port Louis-Mar 10. Francis GEORGES- 67 yrs - Sainte Croix,Port Louis - Mar 10.

### OVERSEAS

Maxime L.C.LAN YAN ON-75 yrs-Australia-Feb 26. Ww Louisa TUYAU-b.Jean Francois-89 yrs-Sydney-Mar 8. Amanullah K.N.AUBDOOL(Tibye)-67 yrs-Makkah,Arabia-Mar 6. Luc Rene Eddy NAPAUL-63 yrs-Welling,Kent,England-Mar 3.Ww Jeannette FEVRIER-82 yrs Melbourne, Australia-Mar 18. Mrs Marie Emmeline(Biline)POMPON-82 yrs-London-Mar 12. Mrs Brigitte RENELLE-b.Plydor-71 yrs Liege,Belgique-Mar 5.

Mr Luke Eddy Napaul of Cheam aged 63yrs, passed away on 3rd March 2002. He will be sadly missed by all members of his family in the UK and Mauritius.

Bala Appadoo of Catford aged 67 died on March 13 after a long illness. Mourned. Deepest to the bereaved family from friends.

Mrs Emmeline Pompon died on March 12 at Tottenham. Mourned by all members of her family.

## Penfriends

Note: Listing for penfriends costs £3 for insertion in one issue. Please write to Mauritius News with payment. Maximum number of 35 words including address

### How to reply

(1) Where the complete address of the correspondent is printed please send your reply direct to him/her.  
 (2) If a MN box number is used, please insert your reply in an envelope on which you write only the box number allocated to the correspondent. Then seal and send this envelope in another one addressed to Mauritius News, 583 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 3JD who will forward. Absolute discretion assured.

- Mauritian male of the Peterborough area wishes to correspond with a lady for a long-term relationship. Write to Box 1/177.
- 30 years old Oriental female, WLTM Mauritius Chinese, Seychellois / Creole, age 28-45, with loyal and traditional values. Photo preferred. Contact P.O. Box 39300, London SE13 7ZB
- 46 years old Mauritian male, 5'11" tall, in full employment, own house and car, seeks lady friend between 36-56 for long lasting and happy relationship and for marriage. Write to Box No 1/176 as per above instructions
- 43 years old, Divorced, smart, good looking man, govt service, likes to keep fit, cinema, travelling wishes to meet a sincere, caring lady for lasting relationship. Photo appreciated. Write to Box No 2/176 as per above instructions
- 37 years old Hindu male, nurse manager, own house would like to correspond with Asian girl (25 to 35). Write to P.O. Box No 1/175 as per above instructions.
- 5'9", working, own house, car. I am looking for a lady friend between 36-56 for long lasting relationship, love happiness for marriage. Write to P.O. Box No 1/176 as per above instructions.

- Miss Joaquina Assuncao Noronha, 50 yrs, Almedia Sousa ,29-3 Frente, 1350-007 Lisboa, Portugal. I am a bookbinder who is divorced. I enjoy literature, art and nature. I would like to correspond with a gentleman who is polite, reliable, honest and cultured, aged between 50 and 65.
- Miss Sidonie Anatlice, 29 yrs, Lot 12G Bis Parcelle 11/44, Andranomadio, Tamatave 501, Madagascar. I am a single lady who enjoys sports and listening to music. I am a tourist guide by profession and I am looking for a male penfriend aged between 35 and 45 for friendship and culture..
- Miss Dhorene-Sarah Zaza, 23 yrs, 60 Pamplemousses Road, Ste.Croix, Port Louis, Mauritius. I would like to get to know male penpals aged 21-30 world wide for friendship
- Miss Radha Bodhi, 35 yrs, Coal Mine, Sangre Grande, Trinidad. I enjoy reading, nature and would like to write to a gentleman aged 40 to 54 with the same interests for friendship and possibly romance..
- Miss Susan Edwards, Age:33 yrs, PO Box 4520, Debe, Trinidad. I like reading and travel, therefore I'd like to correspond with someone who enjoys these pastimes too..
- Miss Claudia Fiard, 40 yrs, G.P.O Box 324, Port Louis, Mauritius. My hobbies include listening to various kinds of music, going to the cinema and reading. I would like to make contact with a gentleman aged between 40 and 53 for a lasting friendship over the ocean..
- Miss Carrina Rose, 20 yrs, 1 Avenue Citronel, Cité Michael Leal, Paille , Mauritius. Young Lady seeks correspondence with young man aged 18-25 for friendship or marriage.
- Ms Violetta Vinnik, 25 yrs, ul. K. Libnekhta 29 -Dnepropetrovsk 49029 Ukraine. I am a divorced lady who has an interest in cooking and horse riding. I would like to correspond with a sincere gentleman aged 30-45 who must also love children for a lasting friendship.
- Miss Renita Gamboa, 19 yrs, c/o Sitio Panaghi-Usa Chapel, Zone 6-103 San Isidro Talisay, Cebu 6045, Philippines. I am a young lady who is looking to broaden my horizons by making contact with people worldwide. I would like to make friends from different countries and learn about different cultures. If you would be interested then please start by writing to me!

### PENFRIEND APPLICATION FORM

To publish your message in this paper, complete and forward the form below to Mauritius News. *All the details you give will be published, including any address unless otherwise stated and a Box Number requested.*

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## Religious testimony

### The Mauritian Christian Fellowship's Miracle child

Ghislaine Cavaree is no ordinary mother. As she believes that the birth of her son was due to her trust in God.

Ghislaine, a member of the Mauritius Christian Fellowship, had been married for 8 years and was unable to conceive. Both Ghislaine and her husband were left discouraged and lost hope after numerous medical tests and investigations confirmed their worst nightmare. Ghislaine felt alone and went into a state of depression.

During this sad time, Ghislaine attended one of the Fellowship's prayer meetings, where she asked Pastor Steven to pray that she be free of her depression and despair. Two weeks later Ghislaine was shocked to hear Pastor Steven praying to God for her to have a child, although Ghislaine had not requested this.

Ghislaine believes it was this belief and trust in God that had resulted in her pregnancy. Although initially shocked and overjoyed with the news, the doctor considered her to be at a very high risk due to her age.

Nevertheless, Ghislaine remained in high spirit and continued to praise and trust in Jesus. Her



determination and courage has today provided her with a beautiful, healthy boy, Christopher, who is now 3-years-old. Ghislaine, still declares that in her time of sorrow, God gave her Joy.

The Mauritian Christian Fellowship: Christ for All Nations, is held at: Streatham Baptist Church, Levin Road, Streatham, SW16.

Worship is held on every second Sunday. The next service will be on Sunday 14th April.

You can contact Pastor Steven on: 0208 7672 9184

### Land for Sale

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Mon Choisy Court is a luxurious project of 9 apartments currently under construction each consisting of 2 bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, a lounge & dining room, a kitchen & utility area and a private terrace & balcony. You will be able to choose the tiles, sanitary fittings, paint colour, etc, within the range given by the promoter for the next few months only.

**FEATURES**

- Swimmin pool • Air-conditioning • Covered Car Park • Security Post • Central TV Antenna • Interphone Systems • Standby Generator • Coloured Aluminium Openings • External crushed tyreolean finish \* Others. For more information, please contact:

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### Property Development

**LE COMFORT IMMOBILIER LTEE**

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**Park Opera (an urban oasis): The benefits**

- 24 hrs security with full service concierge
- Electric main gates with video entry phone to apartments
- Only 15% deposit with 2 years to pay
- No registration to pay • No notary fees to pay
- No agent fees to pay • Free underground allocated car park

**OUR MARKETING STRATEGY**

The promoters are using a new concept in allowing apartments. We are now recruiting high calibre marketing persons for the above prestigious project to sell as "Bouche à l'Oreille" and establish priority list. Very high fees will be paid for every apartment sold.

**For brochures Ring: Alan Smith**  
**(Marketing Manager) 0208 651 5643 or 07970 289 073**