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Mouthpiece of the Mauritian Diaspora. Every Overseas Mauritian is an ambassador for Mauritius

Monthly - 80p 29th year

Let's cheer up in spite of the gloom and doom



Regent Street, off Piccadilly Circus, by night

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Iqbal Latona, new Deputy High Commissioner, in post

Mauritius News is pleased to extend a welcoming hand to Iqbal Latona who took up his posting to the Mauritius High Commission as Deputy High Commissioner in September.

Mr Latona, 54, joined the Mauritius foreign service as a Second Secretary in 1988. He attended a six-months diplomatic training course the following year at the Foreign Service Training Institute of New Delhi, India.

After a spell of four years at the Ministry of External Affairs in Mauritius, he was posted to the Mauritius High Commission in Kuala Lumpur as Second Secretary. In 1996, he was promoted to the grade of First Secretary at the Ministry and took charge of the International and Regional Cooperation with Asia-Africa.

Next posting

His next posting was to be in South Africa in 1999 as Deputy Head of Mission at the Mauritius High Commission in Pretoria. In 2001, still in his capacity as First Secretary, he was assigned the responsibilities of the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mauritius mission to the United Nations in New York. He also acted as Coordinator of the Mauritius Delegation to the UN Security Council.

Back to HQ at the Ministry of External Affairs in Port Louis in 2002, his responsibilities comprised International Trade and Regional Cooperation. In 2004, he was assigned to the Mauritius Mission to the United Nations based in Geneva, Switzerland. He participated in the negotiations leading to the establishment of the United Nations Human Right Council.

After a tour four years in Geneva he was back



to HQ in Port Louis in 2008 to deal with Regional Cooperation and International Trade. In November 2010 he moved up another rung of the diplomatic service ladder to be appointed Minister-Counsellor, and to serve as Head of the Bilateral Directorate II—targeting Europe, the Americas and Australia.

Career Diplomat

A career diplomat has the great advantage of being given the opportunity to acquire extensive experience while serving in various countries as evidenced by Mr Latona's career so far. The diplomat attended, among other related courses and workshops, the Advanced Training Programme on Preventive Diplomacy and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa, the UNODC Workshop in The Seychelles on Terrorism and Piracy.

Since September of this year he has come to London with a wealth of experience to be the Deputy High Commissioner. He will be an asset to the London mission but still

To Page 3

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No free meal in any restaurant

With this issue MN enters its 29th year of publication. With so many overheads to meet, we regret that we cannot give free advertising space to clients, which they obtain from elsewhere, they say.

In fact that what we were told by a restaurant owner in north London who had asked us to come and see him. He does not serve free meals, does he?

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We'll elaborate on that in a next issue.



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Death in Paradise-

The shattering of an idyllic gem

The reputation of Mauritius may have momentarily been tarnished by the horrific murder of Mrs. McAreavey but for the majority of the British people, the island is still known as the 'Paradise Island'

By Mansha Haurdhan



Picture: Michael Marain for MN

Honeymoon models at the World Travel Market in November on the Air Mauritius/MTPA Stand

Mauritius has been labelled the 'Paradise Island' for holidaymakers, but in January 2010 a horrific murder shattered the idyllic reputation of the serene island.

Almost a year on from the heartbreaking murder of newlywed Michaela McAreavey, daughter of Mickey Harte (Gaelic football's high profile team manager), how has such a beautiful country that is heavily dependent on the Tourism Industry been affected?

According to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, around 100,000 UK tourists visit Mauritius every year. Several months after the tragic murder, Mauritius saw a slight decrease in the number of Irish tourists visiting the island.

With the safety of tourists visiting the paradise island in question, Mauritians across the world worried about the changing reputation of the popular honeymoon destination.

Mauritius is a small volcanic island and a popular holiday destination with British tourists who visit for the pampering hotel experiences, local cuisine and sunbathing on tropical beaches.

Generally, there is a low level of crimes in Mauritius, which made the murder of Michaela McAreavey so shocking. Mrs. McAreavey was found dead in the bath by her husband, John, on January 10, 2011, a day of Irish national celebration and almost a fortnight after their marriage. It is alleged that she had been strangled to death by three Mauritian hotel workers at the Legend Hotel in Grand Gaube, north of the island.

It is believed the men murdered Mrs. McAreavey after she disturbed a robbery in her hotel room as she went to get a packet of biscuits. A local court ruled that there was sufficient evidence to try the two men accused of the murder.

After the murder, the British Foreign Office did not issue any warning or advice against travelling to Mauritius. However on their website they did state that although crime levels are low in Mauritius, visitors should be aware that incidents of theft, assault and rape do occur. In October 2011, their website reported that most crimes are non-violent, although the use of weapons is evident in some burglaries.

Paul Snowton, a Far East Sales Consultant from Kuoni Travel said that the UK market of travellers to Mauritius had not declined since the murder. "My product manager, Sheena Paton, spoke directly to the hotel and they said they have not seen any decrease in bookings to the resort because of the murder. They also said it is seen as an isolated incident which could have happened anywhere. However, the hotel did advise that the Irish market for tours to Mauritius has declined."

Mauritius has always been a favourite honeymoon hotspot for newlyweds, however the question is whether the murder has discouraged newly married couples from honeymooning on the island.

Natalie Clark, recently engaged to Steven Carrington, is excited as any bride about her future wedding. When it comes to honeymoon destinations the south-west London bride-to-be has a long honeymoon wish-list.

"I would love to go somewhere hot and tropical, somewhere like St. Lucia or the Maldives. I have thought about honeymooning in Mauritius as it's such a beautiful island, but after hearing about the murder of the Irish honeymooners it has put me off.

"I'm not sure if I would feel relaxed enough to trust the hotel staff after such an incident, and who wants that feeling on their honeymoon? I may holiday in Mauritius after I'm married but I wouldn't want to as a newly-wed."

Although some holidaymakers are wary of travelling to Mauritius, the murder has not fazed a number of Brits who want to travel to Mauritius. Claire Edmondson, a student from Canterbury University, has always wanted to travel to Mauritius.

"I think I would feel safe travelling to Mauritius as the murder was an isolated incident and don't believe it'll happened again, although I would be wary of which hotels I should stay. I would make sure I read the hotel reviews before making any booking," she said.

Though The death of Mrs. McAreavey is a heartbreaking end to an Ireland's fairytale marriage, Kamila Haurdhan, a British-born Mauritian from south-west London, is still proud to say she is Mauritian. "Mauritius is such an exotic and diverse paradise island and it has undergone dramatic developments the past few years and become very touristic."

The tragic end to Mrs. McAreavey's life stands in stark contrast to the happy memories Kamila, who reminisces about her holidays in Mauritius. "My first really vivid memory of the island is when I was about five years old, and my twin sister and I were bridesmaids at our cousin's wedding.

"That's why I was shocked about the murder and saddened for the couple and their family as they were only just starting their lives together, soon after their wedding."

British, Brussels bureaucrat and proud

by Andy Tarrant



Britain's tabloids and right-wing broadsheets have rarely missed an opportunity, and have manufactured many, to attack Europe's civil servants in Brussels. Notoriously, Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, was told "Up Yours Delors" on the front-page of the Sun in November 1990.

The Commission and its staff are routinely painted as an alien and malignant force. According to the latest Eurobarometer opinion polling, only 21% of British people now trust the European Commission (under half of the European average). Given this level of mistrust, Mauritius News has taken an opportunity to have an off-the-record discussion with a senior European Commission official of British nationality.

We wanted to see what an official's perspective was on working in Europe, negotiating with the British government and dealing with the British press. In exchange for a detailed and candid conversation, we were willing to offer anonymity to Mr X.

The role of the European Commission is slightly different to that of a national civil service. In one respect it is weaker, in one stronger. The weakness is that it cannot propose laws on any subject, only on those subjects where every single national government has agreed in principle that a European solution is more efficient than 27 different national laws. This agreement is incorporated in a Treaty. When the European civil servants (known as "fonctionnaires") propose a specific European law in an area included in a Treaty, it then has to be passed by at least a three quarters majority of all the national governments and the European Parliament. Mr X says that "It can be very difficult to find a compromise that works for everyone, but when you do, it is immensely satisfying." He recognises that "... this process of compromise can be culturally difficult for those politicians or national media who expect that legislation should just be a mirror image of the laws and traditions of their own country."

Fonctionnaires in place
The strength is that the Commission has a unique right to propose draft legislation. Neither the Council (the body in which the countries are represented), nor the Parliament can propose legislation. This gives the Commission an ability to bargain with the Council and the Parliament. For this reason, each of the countries is usually keen to encourage their nationals to join the Commission. They would like to have fonctionnaires in place who are sympathetic to their specific national sensitivities.

Mr X is unimpressed by the idea of the Commission as an alien force which is insensitive to Britain's needs and does not recognise its attributes. "Reading the British press, you might not realise that officials of British origin are over-represented in the highest ranks of the European Commission". Mr X puts this success down to two factors. First, most British governments have been "assiduous" at encouraging bright British civil servants to take the exams to become fonctionnaires and then in backing them when the highest positions are negotiated between countries. Second, "a British university education equips you very well for work in the European Commission. It trains you to focus in on a problem and to come up with a workable solution. Studies elsewhere can be a bit too theoretically focussed."

Mr X is concerned that there is a gap coming in British representation at senior levels. Responding to the eurosceptic mood in the United Kingdom, the Brown government had abandoned the UK's European faststream programme. The consequence was a dramatic fall in the number of British civil servants going to Brussels. Perhaps surprisingly, given his history as an arch Eurosceptic, William Hague, the current foreign secretary, has been instrumental in reviving the scheme.

Mr X expects the situation to improve again, "but for a period after my generation of British fonctionnaires retires, senior Brits will be thin on the ground." It seems that euroscepticism may have had the impact of weakening Britain's influence in Brussels.

His main concern with the very consensual form of decision-making practised in the EU is that it may not be rapid enough to respond in crises. His view is that when national politicians put in place decision-making processes at EU-level, they should also think about how they might function in the event of emergencies as well as in normal times. "This may have to include more rapid moves to majority voting in crises. In practice this would mean that more compromises would have to be made." Given that the UK is one of those countries where politicians and media do expect that European laws should always look like our own, it suggests that we are likely to oppose effective crisis-management systems.

Role of Commission
This might seem a surprising development, as we also hold a national self-image of ourselves as pragmatists. He is very proud of the role the Commission has played. "I joined the Commission [in the 1970s] because I thought it was a force for good, ensuring peace and stability in Europe. It has stayed true to this. It has played a critical role in managing the mostly stable transition of central and eastern Europe from Communism. At the cost of 1% of GDP for the member countries, it is incredibly good value. In the absence of the European Union, imagine the forces that could have been unleashed today in the context of the current deep financial crisis - currency wars and protectionism leading to volatile nation states jostling for temporary advantage and undermining their collective economic position...and the political consequences which could have flowed from this." Here he is referring to the chain of events which occurred in Europe in the 1930s.

In his view, the British government has one of the best ambassadorial operations on the ground in Brussels. "The British representation is extremely well organised for keeping national politicians informed and for putting forward Britain's views to the Commission and to the European Parliament". He says that the Achilles heal of this formidable organization is that inflexibility can be forced upon it when legislation is under negotiation. This, in his view, tends to have little to do with the substance and more to do with the "irresponsibility and ignorance of the British media". This is also partly, in his view, "a failure of political leadership on the part of all British politicians". They have "not only failed to take on the prejudices of the newspapers. They have often actively fuelled it. Agreeing something in Brussels and then returned home to denounce it, saying it was imposed on them."

Domestic media
Mr X says that like the populations of all European countries, the fonctionnaires of all nationalities tend to have shared beliefs in "markets as tools but not masters" and "fairness, and looking after those who cannot look after themselves." It is possible that the hostility of much of the British media to the European process is purely cultural - an aversion to an unfamiliar way of doing politics and based on a feeling that compromise in politics is a "bad thing". It might equally be that much of our media is either overtly or covertly opposed to the general beliefs of the fonctionnaires - and worried that they might influence laws which would apply in the UK. This should be a cause for alarm for us - polling in Britain finds that the general beliefs of the large majority of British people are the same as those of the fonctionnaires. Rather than worrying about "aliens" in Brussels, we should perhaps be more worried about a bad case of Exorcist-style "possession" in our domestic media.

New Deputy High Commissioner in London

From Page One

asset to the London mission but still he has to readjust himself the new environment, as he told us. It should not take him long to do so having been used to be on the move for the past 28 years, if we take into consideration

the fact that, before joining the diplomatic service, he was from 1983 an Education Officer in Zimbabwe.

Mr Latona is a graduate in English with BA Hons from the

University of Delhi, India. His own son is now an undergraduate in the UK.



It was a pleasure to meet the Deputy High Commissioner and to have a chat with him at his office in Elvaston Place, off Cromwell Road, in south-west London. We take this opportunity to express to him our best wishes

in his new assignment and to convey the Season's Greetings to him and Mrs Latona.

P.C.



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Titbits from Mauritius

By Ahmad Macky

A "MI-FIGUE, MI-RAISIN" BUDGET 2012

Budget 2012 is reported as *mi-figue* and *mi-raisin*, i.e. Budget that has had mixed reception. However, to many, it is considered as a Budget that will result in increased poverty among the working and middle classes, especially when one takes into account that the recent salary compensation is not linked to the cost of living.

From what has been reported the Finance Minister did not take into consideration a salary review in his Budget 2012. There is nothing in the Budget that will cater for the welfare, on the long-term basis, of the masses.

Good points to consider is that the Finance Minister has made provision for an interest rate of 8.5% to encourage SME companies to expand and build true incentives, for patients seeking surgical operations overseas he has increased the amount from Rs 200,000 to Rs 500,000.

Nothing has been said on the Audit reports about massive financial extravagance most of the government institutions and parastatal bodies. Nothing has been given to small planters regarding their long awaited compensations. Duties on alcohol and cigarettes have been increased.

Those disenchanted with the government consider that it is a Budget that will benefit the rich and the private sector. By abolishing Capital Gain Tax, Solidarity Tax and Dividends Tax, it will be the rich who will benefit, and not the ordinary man in the street. Compelling employees to have medical insurance for treatment in private clinics is another example that the private sector is being protected by this government. The question is asked as to who are those who own private Clinics in the country? By increasing a simple SMS message to Rs10 (instead of the usual Rs3) it's the youngsters and the ordinary man who will suffer. This step in itself will enable the government to collect about Rs130 million rupees daily.

RELIGION AND THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

The Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) and the Council of Religions are adding a spiritual dimension to our tourism industry. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the two parties to support this concept.

In support of the MoU, Rev Philip Goupille highlighted "We are well aware that religious festivals in Mauritius attract a lot of overseas visitors because of its celebrations throughout the country. It is therefore important to work together in order to protect our code of ethics and also preserve the tourism sector"

Dr Karl Mootoosamy, MTPA Director, added: "We want tourists to go back to their country and spread the word about how united, spiritually and religiously, we are as a country"

UNION OFFICIALS ARRESTED

Atma Shanto and eight other

union members of the Federation des Travailleurs Unis (FTU) were arrested by police on November 14 for staging a peaceful demonstration outside the National Assembly. According to law, no demonstration is allowed in front of Government House when Parliament is in session.

They were arrested under the "Public Gathering Act", but the police eventually changed its position, as the Act is applicable only when at least twelve people are involved.

In this case there were fewer people. Atma Shanto, president of the FTU, criticised the way the police treated them. He maintained that he was not leading an "illegal demonstration" but a "peaceful demonstration" to protest against working conditions at the La Plantation Hotel. He now intends to sue the Police Commissioner.

NEW BOSS FOR OUR METEOROLOGICAL STATION

Balraj Dunpath, 53, has been named the new Director of Meteorological Station. He takes over from Suresh Boodhoo, who has decided to retire from his post.

INFLATION AT 5.9%

Data released by the Bank of Mauritius indicates that CORE 1 inflation stood at 5.9% for the twelve-month period ended October 2011, up from 5.8% for the twelve month period ended September 2011.

CORE 2 inflation remained unchanged at 4.8% for the twelve-month period ended October 2011. A year earlier, CORE 1 and CORE 2 stood at 2.7% and 2.5%, respectively. TRIM10 inflation, which trims 5% of the most volatile items in the CPI on both sides of the distribution, edged up to 5.4% in October 2011, from 5.3% for the twelve month period ended September 2011. TRIM10 inflation stood at 2.4% in October, 2010.

IMPORT MUCH EASIER

We have been told by Ministry of Commerce that the import of foodstuff will no longer require permit from the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Commerce. These include frozen fish, infant milk, fresh milk, powdered milk, potatoes, onions, ginger, vegetable oil, corned beef, corned mutton, and selected pharmaceutical and ayurvedic products.

This decision is part of the business facilitation programme undertaken by the government.

MAURITIUS COMMERCIAL BANK: Rs 1 BILLION PROFIT IN 3 MONTHS

The MCB group has realized net profits of Rs1.06 billion during the first quarter of its present financial year. This

represents a rise of 12.4% compared to the same period last year. The international business of the group accounts for a large proportion of this excellent performance. Financing of external trade has risen by 69%. The group has also diversified its activities regionally.

The company has announced a dividend of Rs 2.60 per share.

'DEFI QUOTIDIEN' MANAGES TO OVERTAKE 'L'EXPRESS'

The daily morning newspaper L'Express run by Le Sentinelle group is no longer the Number One and most popular paper as it used to be. The "Defi Quotidien" daily morning paper run by the Defi Media Group comes top.

According to a recent survey made by Stuworl Ltd, Le Défi is now the Number One and the most popular morning daily. The paper is read by all communities whereas L'Express targets one community in particular. Stuworl Ltd alleges that some of the other communities are reluctant to buy L'Express for some unknown reasons. Le Mauricien daily remains still the top afternoon paper read by all communities.

NEW DIPLOMATS NOMINATED

Dr Arye Kumar Jagessur has been nominated as new Mauritius' Ambassador to India while Prem Doongoor will be the country's diplomatic representative in Malaysia.

Dr Jagessur, 41 years old, is a psychiatrist and currently works at SSRNH Hospital. He was made grand Officer of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean in 2007. He will be replacing Usha Jeetah, MSM member, who withdrew from the Mauritius diplomatic service after her party left the government.

Mr Doongoor, on the other hand, previously represented Mauritius at the African Union in Ethiopia. He replaces Prem Koonjoo in Malaysia after he too left following MSM resignation from the coalition government.

FINANCIAL YEAR 2010-11 REVIEWED

The Governor of the Central Bank commented on the situation of the economy both globally and locally. The banking sector at the local level, he said in the annual review of the Bank of Mauritius, like other emerging countries will not be exempted from the international economic crisis. He explained that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has taken many proactive steps to counter inflation and help businesses.

He also mentioned the problem of excess liquidity that the country has had to face. The increase in Cash Reserve Ratio from 5% to 7% has helped to counter this excess, he said, adding that despite the high volatility, the country was able to maintain a stable exchange rate for the fiscal year 2010-2011.

SAJ MET LUTCHMEERAIDOO AT REDUIT

Visnu Lutchmenaraidoo, a former Finance Minister, met the President of the Republic, Sir Aneerod Jugnauth (SAJ), at State House, on November 15.

Lutchmenaraidoo was Finance Minister in the 80's when SAJ was PM. This meeting between both men lasted for more than an hour. Observers believe that they discussed the political situation and the possible comeback of SAJ to the political arena. Lutchmenaraidoo is a political member of the MMM.

DIVING EQUIPMENT STOLEN

A robbery took at a warehouse of the Special Mobile Force (SMF) at Vacoas. Several diving equipment, valued at Rs 90,000, have disappeared. A glass panel was broken in the warehouse. The police have opened an investigation.

BODY FOUND

The body of a Taiwanese sailor was found on a fishing boat on November 16 in Port Louis harbour. A postmortem revealed that the death was caused by "foul play". Police enquiries still follow.

DROWNING ACCIDENT

A 52 years old man was drowned at Blue Bay public beach on November 19. When he found himself in difficulty whilst swimming in the bay.

His elder brother tried to rescue him in vain.

THIEF CAUGHT RED-HANDED

A 27 years old Bangladeshi living in a dormitory at Vacoas, noticed the disappearance of various items of jewellery, his satellite receiver, a DVD player and a sum of Rs 3,400.

In a statement to local police, he said he saw the 'Planning Officer' of the factory where he works, carrying two bags that allegedly contained the stolen items. Police arrested the suspect and the stolen goods were recovered.

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* Claims against insurers * Debt Recovery * * Road Traffic Offences Injunction against CSCI to prevent home closure/loss of registration.

Mrs Maistry has the higher right of audience in all courts, Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, House of Lords and European Court of Justice.

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School of medicine at Bel Air in 2012

As part of its expansion project, the University of Mauritius (UoM) has identified a building at Bel Air for setting up its own school of medicine. The building formerly housed the Development Works Corporation (DWC). It will be established in collaboration with one of the world's most prestigious tertiary institutions, the University of Geneva. The school of medicine is most likely to begin courses in August 2012.

Up till now the UoM has been offering three-year courses in medicine but has not been producing doctors. Medical students have to travel to foreign universities in Bordeaux or Cape Town to complete their studies. It has therefore become imperative for UoM to have its own school to dispense appropriate training to doctors. It is notable that the vice-chancellor of the UoM, Konrad Morgan, is likely to leave at the end of his term in 2013.

100 speed cameras countrywide in March 2012

To reduce accidents caused by speed, which is one of the several risk factors leading to road tragedies, the authorities are planning the installation of new speed cameras countrywide.

Thus the country will have about 100 speed cameras by March next year. The tender to provide the cameras has already been launched. Places where the new cameras will be installed, include the new roads under construction.

First storm of season probably named this month

The annual report of the Mauritius Meteorological Services has stated that the number of named storms for the 2011-2012 summer season may be around 7 to 9 with a probability of a named storm during the first fortnight of this month.

The report also states that from January to March 2012, atmospheric conditions will become conducive to the occurrence of extreme weather events such as torrential rains and strong winds. Heavy summer rains may trigger occasional flash floods during this period. Actually the summer season officially began on island on November 1 and will last till May 15, 2012.

Incentives for rainwater harvesting

This project will be launched in 2012 on a pilot basis in five areas of Plaine Wilhems. The collected rainwater can be used to reduce water consumption. It is of note that in Rodrigues, 75 per cent of houses are equipped with a system to collect rainwater. A workshop on rainwater harvesting has already been held in Floréal, which will be one of the regions where this project will be implemented.

Second Technology Needs Assessment on

Mauritius is currently carrying the second Technology Needs Assessment for mitigation and adaptation to climatic change. This will enable Mauritians to implement technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support adaptation to climate change. The project is expected to be completed in 2012.

China funds solar streetlights in Port Louis

A project of the Municipality of Port Louis to install solar streetlights worth Rs 800 million is likely to receive the support of China by January 2012.

10,000 solar streetlights will be placed at Trou Fanfaron, China Town, Magon Street and Poudrière Street in the first phase. The municipality has benefited from the expertise of the French company Green Affairs at the initial stage. No doubt the project, one realized, will help Port Louis Municipality reduce considerably its electricity bill which rise to Rs 40 million yearly.

Mauritius Cane Industry Authority set up by March 2012

The setting up of the Mauritius Cane Industry Authority (MCIA) will be a reality by March 2012.

This authority is part of the government reform to restructure the sugar sector in view of increasing efficiency and better coordinating the services offered to the agricultural community. The MCIA will replace the Mauritius Sugar Authority, the Mauritius Sugar Terminal Corporation, the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute, the Farmers Service Corporation, the Sugar Planters Mechanical Pool Cooperation and the Cane Planters and Millers Arbitration and Control; Board. It will also bring down funds allocated by the government from Rs 587 million to Rs 287 million.

Club FM privatized in January 2012

The national football team, Club M, will officially be privatized next month, the reason being that the state and the football federation lack the means to finance the activities of Club M at the professional level. So there will be a new board of directors composed of the private sector.

The Mauritian Football Association came to this conclusion after witnessing the superior quality of football displayed at the professional level during the last Indian Ocean Games in Seychelles.

Building bilateral relations with Belgium's Wallonia

The Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) held a meeting with a delegation of the Wallonia Foreign Trade and Investment Agency (AWEX).

The meeting took place under the aegis of MCCI's general secretary Mahmood Cheeroo. The delegation comprised AWEX's commissioner of commerce Jean Louis Croughs, its Africa and Middle East director Henri Chalon and Robert Frenkel, who represents the organization in Mauritius. Frenkel said that important connections are being made between Mauritius and Belgium, which will show positive results in the first quarter of 2012. Cheeroo, for his part, spoke of the reunion as an important in building bilateral relations between the two countries.

Mauritius Film studio project at Cannes Festival

Managing of Tropikana Studios Ltd, Marcel Lindsay Noë, intends to present an important Mauritian film studio project at Cannes Festival next year.

The studio complex will be and back-lot will be constructed on 30 acres of freehold land in the south-east of the island. Peter Unsworth, the newly appointed executive director of the company, said the implementation of the project is awaiting the announcement by government of its Film Incentive Scheme. Funding is coming from the US and the UK.

2011 Billfish Competition on December 18

The 2011 edition of the Blue Marlin National Fishing Competition which aims to reward the angler with the highest number of marks in the quest of the largest catch of billfish will be hosted on December 18 at Le Morne.

Some 150 participants and 45 boats are expected in the fourth edition organized by Le Morne Angler's Club. The winner of the competition will receive a cash prize of Rs 100,000 and all expenses will be paid to South Indian Ocean Billfish Competition which is one of the most important event gathering for anglers from all over.

White Christmas for Caudan's 15th anniversary

In order to mark the 15th anniversary of Le Caudan Waterfront various activities will go on up to December 30. The theme chosen this year is related to Christmas celebrations and is titled White Christmas. More development is to come at the waterfront – for example, a supermarket called 'Do It Yourself' that will follow a residential area.

East Coast Trunk Road in the pipeline

A new road, the East Coast Trunk Road, will be constructed in a few years to decongest traffic in the north and the east.

The road will cost about Rs 2 billion to the state and it will be about 31 kilometres long. The road, a dual carriage way will start at Forbach Hill in the north, pass through Poudre d'Or Hamlet, Rivière du Rempart, Pont Blanc, Constance, Plaine de Gersigny, Queen Victoria, Palmar, La Laura, La Lucie, to end at Trois Ilots in the east of the island. The construction work will begin in 2012.

New airport terminal operational early 2013

So far, 41 per cent of the works on the new airport terminal at the SSR International Airport by the firm China State Construction Engineering Corporation Ltd, has been completed.

The project is now expected to be completed by December 2012 and will be operational by early 2013. It is noteworthy that the new airport terminal will consist of

- (a) a surface area of 57,000 square metres with a capacity to accommodate 4 million passengers;
- (b) 5 boarding gates one of which will be A380 compatible;
- (c) a new terminal with a pedestrian bridge leading to the terminal;
- (d) a new large aircraft parking area;
- (e) 5 telescopic passenger boarding bridges;
- (f) 6 baggage claim carousels;
- (g) 52 check-in desks;
- (h) a landslide car park located in front of the new terminal;
- (i) a viaduct elevated access roadway. Once these facilities are operational, the main objective of the project – to provide a modern feel and to position the airport as a hub in the region – will have been met.

Bagatelle Dam works begin this month

The Bagatelle Dam project will soon reach its implementation stage. The dam would have a storage capacity of about 14 million cubic metres, with an annual yield of about 24.7 million cubic metres. Works will begin this month and are expected to be completed by December 2014.

Mauriwood on trail soon

The Ministry of Arts and Culture is very much optimistic about the future of a local film industry.

It is giving a 25 per cent discount on expenses both to local and foreign filmmakers in 2012. This will apply to all who want to make movies on the island.

The aim is to promote Mauriwood very much in line with Hollywood and Bollywood.

Rehabilitation works at Rivière des Galets

Replacement of damaged gabions at Rivière des Galets is ongoing and is expected to be completed by January 2012.

This is a step taken to protect the inhabitants from the recurrent sea swells in that region. A second stage in rehabilitation and protection works will follow. These will include construction of sloped rock mounds to attenuate the impact of surges and waves, and drains to redirect surging flood water and wave-overtopping water from the village back to the bay. These works are expected to be completed by the end of 2014. In the long run the inhabitants will be relocated and government is in the process of identifying a suitable for this purpose.

5th Council Meeting of TIFA in Mauritius in January

The Fifth Council Meeting of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) between Mauritius and the United States will be held in Mauritius on 16 and 17 January 2012. The Council would review progress in the implementation of the TIFA Work Plan and set the agenda of work for the year 2012.

Solar energy for Port Louis municipality

In a bid to reduce her electricity bill, the municipality of Port Louis is planning to produce electricity through solar energy in 2012. The procurement department has launched a tender for the supply, installation, commissioning and testing of a solar voltaic system. Selected firms have till December 19 to submit their bids for the contract.

Water studies report submitted in January

The total sum paid to date to Singapore Corporation Enterprise Corporation for studies carried out on the feeder canals of Mare aux Vacoas reservoir rises to Rs 3 million. The full report will be submitted by the Singaporean experts by January 2012.

5th edition of letter to Santa Claus

Mauritius Post Limited (MPL) has launched the 5th edition of 'Lettre au Père Noël' (Letter to Santa Claus).

The aim is to encourage to develop the art of writing and also to promote moments of complicity between children and their parents. The contest is open to children of all ages from Mauritius and Rodrigues. Santa will respond to each child. The theme for this year is 'The most beautiful Christmas.'

Summer classes on a pilot basis

The Summer School Programme launched by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources is on and will continue up to December 22.

This programme concerns 20 primary schools in the four different educational zones on a pilot basis. It is a programme of academic tutoring targeting Standard III and IV students who have not achieved the required proficiency, and includes fun, recreation and artistic activities to help in their development. A hot meal is served to the children. The programme will also include an educational tour.

Mauritius hosts Edinburgh Golf in July 2012

Mauritius has been chosen to host the Duke of Edinburgh Golf in July 2012 and international players are expected.

This was stated by Sir Anerood Jugnauth, President of the Republic of Mauritius, during the presentation of certificates to young people who completed the Gold Award of the National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA).

20 Mauritians and Seychellois awarded Australian scholarships

20 Mauritians and Seychellois have received the Australian Development Scholarships and Australian Leadership Awards Scholarships for the 2012 intake.

These Masters level scholarships are part of the Australian Awards which are offered to Africa. The Australian Leadership Awards Scholarships target those whose chosen field of study equips them to play a significant role in combating development challenges in their country or region. The Australian high commissioner, Sandra Vegting hosted a reception at her residence recently to honour the 20 Mauritians and Seychellois.

Britain helps combat piracy in the Indian Ocean

The British government has announced a new \$7 million initiative to combat piracy in the Indian Ocean. The funds are for projects aimed at curbing piracy off the coasts of Mauritius, the Seychelles, Tanzania and Somalia. Projects include building courts and prisons, beefing up maritime security and fostering economic development. The Mauritian government is fully aware that piracy threatens the fishing and tourism industries as well as the country's ambition to develop its exclusive economic maritime zone.

La langue des îles françaises à l'honneur

Journée Internationale des Créoles

La Journée Internationale des créoles est célébrée depuis 1983 dans de nombreux pays de la Caraïbe, de l'Océan Indien et dans les lieux d'émigration des peuples créolophones.

A l'occasion de cette nouvelle édition 2011 (les 28, 29 et 30 Octobre 2011) et de la célébration des Outre-Mer, le Collectif pour le Créole au Bac dans l'Hexagone (CCBH) et la Mairie du 11ème arrondissement à Paris, ont proposé un panorama de la diversité des langues et cultures créoles de Guadeloupe, Guyane, Martinique, Réunion et Haïti. (N de la R: pas de Mauricie ??)

On rappellera qu'en 2011, grâce à l'action du CCBH, pour la première fois dans l'Hexagone près de 500 lycéens des Académies de Créteil, Paris, Versailles, ont pu présenter les épreuves facultatives des créoles guadeloupéen et martiniquais au baccalauréat.

JOUNE KREYOL INTERNASYONNAL

Cet événement, qui s'étalait en fait sur trois jours du Vendredi 28 au Dimanche 30 Octobre, a débuté par le vernissage de l'exposition à la MJC Mercœur (Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture) à Paris 11ème.

L'exposition abordait, en particulier une évolution des écrits en créole, des graphies dès le 18ème siècle, montrant en fait les lettres les plus utilisées de l'alphabet antillais. Tony Mango, enseignant au Lycée Léon Blum : « il faut sortir des discours stéréotypés que les créoles sont des langues orales et non écrites. Pour cela nous avons

mis en place une exposition sur l'évolution des écrits et des graphies créoles dans le but de dire que les créoles s'écrivent depuis très longtemps (1750, milieu du 18ème siècle). Les premières traces étaient des écrits d'abord religieux, «La Passion selon St Jean» et donc les missionnaires utilisaient la langue créole pour évangéliser, transmettre la foi. Ensuite il existe des traces en politique, Napoléon a signé des textes en créole. Car la langue est un outil de communication. Elle était le lien entre les maîtres et les esclaves.

Il existait des textes d'écrivains, poètes, par exemple la chanson «Lisette quittait la plaine», et des écrits par des Blancs créoles.

Des romans (Guyane) également au 19ème siècle et la fable aussi ont été adaptés. La difficulté c'est en première partie, la graphie propre, individuelle, sans règle collective. Certains mots sont proches du français, d'autres plus du créole. Le créole en Haïti a servi de base à d'autres graphies. Dès 1975 le Gerec (Groupe d'étude et de recherche en Espace Créolophone) a fait adopter une graphie approuvée à l'unanimité en 2001 (Gerec-F pour Francophone).

A l'île de La Réunion, il existe 4 graphies, c'est un peu compliqué. L'idée est de basculer dans une graphie différente de l'étymologie des mots en français, alors que la graphie du Gerec est basée sur la phonologie, on écrit des sons.

A l'exposition les créolistes aussi étaient présentés en tableau: Jean Bernabé, Hector Pouillet, Dany Bébél-Gisler, Daniel Boukman, André Pierre-

Louis, Sonny Rupaïre, Thérèse Léotin, Sylviane Telchid, auteurs, écrivains et des écrits choisis traitant des revendications jusqu'à l'enseignement du créole à l'école et la création du Gerec en 1975.

Dans cette exposition on a pu voir aussi des ouvrages, grammaires comparées, dictionnaires. Une « graphie créole, Guide du Capes créole », des guides de conversation. « Le genèse des créoles de l'Océan Indien » par Robert Chaudenson.

Dans la Salle Olympe de Gouge, le public était varié, famille, enfants, amis, plus d'une centaine de personnes. Après les allocutions de bienvenue du Président Jean-Pierre Chaville, du professeur Tony Mango et de Sonia Adele, membre du « Collectif pour le Créole au Bac dans l'Hexagone » (CCBH), le débat était lancé :

Les langues et cultures créoles sont-elles menacées dans l'Hexagone? On devisait autour de l'évolution du créole surtout en France métropolitaine et en Outre-Mer. Xavier North délégué général à la langue française et aux langues de France a fait un développement sur les langues en général en France hexagonale.

Un Réunionnais a parlé de «préjugés, de patois, de langue cafre à La Réunion, le nègre esclave et son mauvais parler». Quelle situation après les trois premières années d'enseignement an lycée? Le CCBH a fait le point. Il existe deux écoles : les Lycées Léon Blum à Créteil et Paul Eluard à Saint-Denis qui font la formation pour le créole. Le créole a été accepté en option facultative pour l'instant seulement pour le créole

martiniquais et guadeloupéen. La demande devient assez forte. Il y a un certain engouement des jeunes pour apprendre cette langue.

Le public a fait des commentaires et proposé des sujets de réflexion sur les lieux de vie, espaces et outils de promotion des créoles.

Environ la moitié des personnes assistant au débat étaient restées pour la dictée en créole afin de découvrir la graphie et la sonorité des créoles guadeloupéen, guyanais, martiniquais, et réunionnais. Car on a dicté dans tous les créoles, l'un après l'autre. Les « élèves » choisissant d'écrire tous ou leur propre créole sous la direction du professeur Tony Mango qui donnait la correction au tableau, chacun vérifiant ses fautes.

Une troisième partie, artistique avec les invités d'honneur, finissait la soirée. Franck Compper plongeait la salle dans l'univers des plus beaux contes guyanais. Le Réunionnais David Sicard donnait un récital de ses principaux succès et enflammait le public au son du maloya, l'âme de la musique réunionnaise.

La journée se prolongea avec un week-end d'ateliers divers, le lendemain Samedi, l'atelier d'alphabétisation, invitait à l'écriture du créole et à la lecture, étape importante qui permet de mieux pénétrer les richesses des langues créoles. Il était dirigé par Tony Mango: «l'atelier d'aujourd'hui vise un objectif, celui de démarrer un processus d'alphabétisation de masse des communautés en hexagone (Paris) sur 5 ans.

Les groupes sont venus ici pour une mise en bouche, pour donner envie: maîtriser la graphie pour une meilleure lecture, acheter ensuite des livres, et enfin parler la langue. Car par le biais de la famille, la transmission est verticale et

vous convient à la Journée Internationale des Créoles

JOUNE KREYOL INTERNASYONNAL

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du vendredi 28 au dimanche 30 octobre 2011

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Franck Compper & Davy Sicard

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l'apprentissage associatif c'est une autre forme, discuter sur ce qui nous lie. Une graphie commune avec différentes prononciations pour la Martinique et la Guadeloupe et plus tard la Guyane et La Réunion.

Cet atelier, c'est une façon très conviviale de fouiller notre langue, une fierté, un plaisir» dit le professeur.

L'atelier de conversation animé par Souria Adele (notre cliché) avait pour but d'aider aussi les adultes qui comprennent mais ne parlent pas, à les mettre en confiance et libérer la parole. Une invitation à

échanger en créole sans modération.

L'atelier des contes avait lieu en compagnie des truculents conteurs comme le Martiniquais Igo Drane, le Guyanais Franck Compper ou le Réunionnais Patrice Guezello, et on s'est laissé guider par les yékrik, aboubou, misyékrik, kriké, kraké et on a même réussi à construire ensemble un nouveau conte créole.

On a pu assister dans l'atelier de danses, à l'initiation des différents Bèlè de la Martinique, Gwoka de la Guadeloupe, Kaséko de la Guyane. Les jeunes et moins jeunes choisissaient leur danse, ici la Djoumpa haïtienne (notre cliché).

La scène ouverte était le moment de déclamation de chants, textes, contes et poésies en créole. Si bien qu'à la fin de la journée on était imprégné de créole au point de la parler librement.

Au cours de cette Journée Kreyol Internasyonnale, il y avait, au programme de l'après-midi du Dimanche, la projection d'un documentaire sur l'île de La Réunion que l'on a pu commenter ensuite dans la salle.

Et c'est dans la poésie, par une soirée de contes, récités par Ak Igo Drane, Franck Compper et Patrice Guezello, que devait se terminer la manifestation.

Les organisateurs ont promis de se retrouver l'année prochaine et d'inviter ceux qui manquaient aujourd'hui, les défenseurs du créole de la communauté mauricienne, qui est partie prenante de la Journée Kreyol Internasyonnale et espère que leur créole aura la même reconnaissance puisque cette journée est aussi fêtée à l'île Maurice. Il faut faire vivre son créole, véritable évangélisation par nos soins.

On a vu en France par l'immense succès du film « Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis » l'importance des régions. Les politiciens pourraient en tenir compte.


Lena Goel & Gilles Berger (Paris)

Editor's Note:

The information about the Creole Day event in France was sent to us by the French organisers which we in turn sent to our correspondents there.

The authorities in the UK had the information about the Creole Day celebration in London but they kept it to themselves and their own friends. Yet they are supposed to promote the Mauritian folk culture in this country.

We gave the event a good cover last year.



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Mauritian national Ivan Antilikq with the Martinique ladies at the last month Creole Day in London

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By Devinia Sookia (USA)*

Is There Hope For A Healthier Mauritius ?



According to a recent health report diabetes is on the increase in Mauritius. Mauritians ranged between 30 to 70 years old are suffering from this condition. Even children have type 2 diabetes. This is cause for great concern and we will look at the root of the problem and try to come up with some solutions.

When we were kids growing up in Mauritius diabetes did exist but it was not as bad as it is now. Kids and teenagers suffering from diabetes was unheard of. So obviously something has changed in the lifestyle of the later generation of Mauritians. Several studies show that type 2 diabetes is linked to a sedentary lifestyle and an unhealthy diet that is a diet consisting of very few vegetables, fruits, wholegrains and fish but full of fatty and fried foods, processed meats and sugary drinks. When we were kids, television was a novelty. Not many houses had TV. Those who had it would allow their neighbours to come into their house to watch it. People would watch TV for one hour or two. That would be mainly after dinner. TV hours were very short that is from 8 pm to 10 pm. Parents would only allow kids to watch TV if they had finished their homework. Adults themselves would watch news and one or two soaps. Most people would watch TV on Thursdays when Indian movies were shown. Nowadays every house in Mauritius has a TV set and viewing can be 24/7 due to dish network and satellite. People do not have to get up to change channels. They just settle comfortably on the sofa with the remote control next to them.

A US study where 175,000 adults with type 2 diabetes participated revealed that the risks for heart disease and death significantly increased for every two hours spent watching TV per day. Another study with the participation of people with no diabetes revealed that the risk of type 2 diabetes, heart disease and death increased significantly with TV viewing of more than three hours per day. Other studies have shown that the risk of obesity thus resulting in type 2 diabetes in children and teens is also linked to time spent watching TV or playing games on the internet. Nowadays kids do not play games such as hide and

seek, "boule casse cote" and "lamarel" like we used to with our friends after school. Instead they spend their time on the internet or watching TV. This deprives them of the necessary exercise which kids need. TV viewing can be linked to unhealthy eating that is eating more junk food and to smoking. While watching TV people tend to smoke a lot more and eat junk food such as potato chips, chocolates, biscuits and cakes. They also drink lots of pepsis and cokes. People who spend time at the computer do not eat or smoke as it is harder to eat or smoke when your hands and mind are busy. However this is also sedentary activity and leads to obesity. Consequently TV and computer can become people's enemies.

When we kids our meals would consist of some rice, lentils or beans, some greens such as "brede chou chou" (chow chow greens) or "brede Giraumont" (pumpkin greens) or "bredes de chine" (Mustard greens), a vegetable such as green beans, cabbage or cauliflower and some fish or very little meat and chicken. So we had a complete healthy diet full of nutrients. We had some carbs and protein. Now it is the other way round. Most Mauritians have lots of meat and chicken and rice with very few greens, fresh vegetables, beans and pulses. They have greasy and fatty foods like fried rice, "chow mein" pizzas, burgers, chips and Kentucky Fried chicken. Most yards used to have fruit trees such as litchi, longan mango, paw paw, banana and guava trees. So we would eat those fruits all the time. We were never lacking in vitamin C as guava has a very high content of this vitamin. We would also eat other tropical fruits such as 'macons' (jubes), "bilimbi", "rousaille", "pommes jacquot", "bibasse" fruit cythere and "vavangue". Now people have cut down all the fruit trees to build houses. As a result they are not available and kids do not even know most of them. Even if some of these fruits can be obtained from the market, given a choice kids would rather have ice creams and cheese cake. Several years ago people used to walk to the town centre, to the shops and to the homes of family and friends. So this was good exercise. Now they

even drive to the corner shop. They wait for the bus to take them wherever they want to even if it is walking distance. Several years ago people only used to drink socially. Now alcohol is being abused. People look for any excuse to drink without realising the damage to their health. This can cause diabetes, liver damage and heart problems. When we look at all that we have just mentioned it is no wonder that there is now an epidemic of type 2 diabetes.

Many people would argue that watching TV or using the computer can be relaxing, enjoyable and informative. This is true but we can limit TV viewing or our time on the internet. We can also walk around during TV commercials and between programs. Thus we will not be tempted by food ads and rush straight to the kitchen for junk food. We do not have to watch all the TV programs. We can choose what we want to watch. Instead of eating junk food in front of the TV, keep healthy snacks such as nuts and fresh fruits. You should not have your meals in front of the TV. Switch it off during meals. It is harder to pay attention to how much you are eating while watching TV. This can lead to overeating and obesity. Plan activities with your kids instead of watching TV together. Go outside and teach your kids those games which you enjoyed as a kid. Eat less junk food like pizzas and burgers. Go back to eating the same way you did as a kid. Start using your car less and your feet more. Walk to the town centre and the shops. Not only it will be good exercise but you might also enjoy your walks and meet friends on the way. Start growing those fruit trees which were cut down. The gardening will be good exercise and in a few years if not you, your children will reap the benefits. They will be able to taste nice fruits. Following these tips can prevent the coming Mauritians generations from getting type 2 diabetes, heart disease and dying.

The festive season is on its way. Enjoy your Christmas dinner and New Year's Eve party but do not overindulge. Limit your alcohol consumption and keep away from junk foods.

SEASONAL GREETINGS TO ALL THE READERS.

Devinia Sookia is a barrister-at-law, journalist, writer and attorney

BODYCRAFT, TAKES CONTROL OF EXCESSIVE WEIGHT GAIN WITH INTEGRATED SERVICE

Type 2 diabetes is on the rise for Asians in the UK

- People of South Asian, Middle Eastern and African descent are more likely to develop type 2 diabetes
- Type 2 diabetes is 6 times more common in South Asian communities than in the general UK population
- People of South Asian origin are more likely to develop complications of diabetes at a younger age than the rest of the population (NHS.UK)

Research has shown that being overweight or obese puts you at greater risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. Amongst those at risk are South Asians within the UK who are particularly vulnerable to developing the disease due to a general problem of lack of exercise and a diet which is high in fat.

Helping to combat the problem of obesity and also diabetes - diabetes caused by obesity, is Bodycraft one of London's leading purveyors of private weight loss surgery based out of the prestigious Parkside Hospital in South London. Combined with lifestyle and diet changes, Bodycraft's procedures help protect individuals against a variety of health issues.

With a commitment to combating UK's obesity epidemic, Bodycraft provides a tailored service suited to clients' individual needs and goals for successful and sustained weight loss. Furthermore, each weight loss programme is powered by Bodycraft's trademark in-depth consultation and an attentive after-care service by its team of credible and reputable surgeons.

DID YOU KNOW?

FACT: The dramatic increase in obesity-related Type 2 diabetes is one of the most serious global health problems[1]

FACT: By 2030 there will be 26 million people in the UK who are obese[2]

FACT: Obesity costs the NHS £4.3 billion a year[3]

Bodycraft, one of London's leading purveyors of private weight loss surgery based at the prestigious Parkside Hospital in London, has extended its service to offer clients an integrated and holistic approach towards addressing obesity and excess weight gain using a combination of surgical and non-surgical procedures. Combined with lifestyle and diet changes, Bodycraft's procedures help protect individuals against a variety of health issues to support them to gain their self-confidence and take back control of their weight.

With a commitment to combating UK's obesity epidemic, Bodycraft provides a tailored service suited to clients' individual needs and goals for successful and sustained weight loss. Furthermore, each weight loss programme is powered by Bodycraft's

trademark in-depth consultation and an attentive after-care service by its team of credible and reputable surgeons.

Losing weight for combined health and psychological benefit is increasingly becoming the vital goal for those who struggle to overcome excess weight gain and the issues related to this. To address the psychological as well as the physiological implications of excessive weight gain and obesity, Bodycraft's holistic weight loss services includes:

- Wide-ranging surgical and non-surgical procedures – all 'gastric' procedures including gastric bands, gastric bypass, gastric sleeves and body contouring such as tummy tuck, Male breast reduction (gynaecomastia), neck and face lifts
- Methodical dietary advice and menu plans – bespoke meal plans and advice on healthier and nutritious food options.
- Comprehensive on-going support and after-care – friendly and enthusiastic specialist support staff and counsellors offering complete guidance through every crucial stage of weight-loss procedures.

Bariatric surgery is one of the signature surgical procedures at Bodycraft and is recognised as a proven way to achieve significant and long-lasting weight loss. The industry-leading Consultant Bariatric Surgeon, Mr Marcus Reddy, who developed the South Thames Bariatric Service – the preferred provider for NHS bariatric surgery in the region – spearheads Bodycraft's bariatric surgery team.

Recent research suggests that up to 48% of men and 43% of women in the UK could be obese by 2030, adding an additional £1.9 billion per year in medical costs for obesity-related diseases such as cardiovascular issues, diabetes and various cancers if current trends are to continue[4]. The growing diabetes epidemic is also testament to the growing health risks attached to obesity, as estimates suggest that by 2025 over four million people in the UK will have diabetes and in most cases Type 2 diabetes, one of the reasons being the rapidly rising numbers of individuals who are overweight and/or obese.

The economic impact of obesity and excess weight gain in the UK is just as severe: UK's obesity rate costs the National Health Service a staggering £4 billion a year.[5] With talk of there being a double-dip in the UK economy, if housebound patients as a result of obesity and excess weight-gain were to have corrective surgery and return to work, this could give the UK's economy a £1.8bn boost.[6] This is echoed by Prime Minister David Cameron's recent proposal to introduce the "Fat Tax" in Britain to foods with over 2.3 per cent saturated fat.

Bodycraft's service has already successfully transformed many individual lives giving them a slimmer, healthier and happier lifestyle for both body and mind. To book a consultation or for further information, please contact Bodycraft on 0800 862 0343 or visit their homepage: www.bodycraftweightloss.co.uk

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Lotto Draws: Twice weekly

30 Nov	13 - 23 - 24 - 25 - 26 - 30	04
26 Nov	13 - 16 - 25 - 26 - 36 - 46	15
23 Nov	4 - 11 - 19 - 22 - 31 - 48	06
19 Nov	1 - 29 - 31 - 32 - 34 - 36	45
16 Nov	10 - 12 - 26 - 27 - 39 - 40	20
12 Nov	6 - 12 - 13 - 28 - 33 - 38	10
09 Nov	2 - 8 - 10 - 23 - 27 - 32	44
05 Nov	14 - 16 - 23 - 24 - 27 - 39	43
02 Nov	11 - 12 - 33 - 37 - 38 - 49	03

These results were obtained from the National Lottery. Mauritius News accepts no liability for any misprints or discrepancies in the results published in this column.



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Thought of the month

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*Figures correct at the time of going to press

THE WORLD'S "DON (gone!) CRAZY" WITH SHAHRUKH KHAN!



The smashing on screen chemistry of Shahrukh Khan and Priyanka Chopra will scorch up the big screen this December as King Khan Shahrukh Khan returns to menacing and romancing the cat like Priyanka Chopra for the sequel of Don 2. Buzz has it that Shahrukh is extremely fond of Priyanka and thinks she is one of the most talented actresses he has worked with. Their mutual admiration for each other has led to their latent and intriguing chemistry on screen.

"DON ko gyarah mulkon ki police dhund rahi hai lekin uske fans duniya bhar mein hai." When King Khan was returning from Hong Kong he was frisked by a security official. Shahrukh politely obliged and replied with a "Thank You Sir"

The security official asked to refer him as "DON" instead of Sir as he was in awe of Don's latest promos which had the dialogue "Sir bahut shareef sa lagta hai ...

call me DON". Shahrukh was very pleased to see the kind of impact the dialogues are making on people. That gesture left a smile on King Khans face.

Produced by Ritesh Sidhwani and director Farhan Akhtar who is also the director of the flick, Don 2 is slated to break into screens on the 21st December 2011.

Hollywood Review

Review: Puss In Boots



Review: Puss In Boots
Starring: Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek, Zach Galifianakis, Billy Bob Thornton, Amy Sedaris
Director: Chris Miller
Rating: (U)

We first met Puss, voiced by Antonio Banderas, in the Shrek movies, and now he's got his own spin off adventure as he continues his travels and romances back in his native Mexico.

As Puss sets out on his adventure, his dreams are threefold: to find the legendary magic beans, climb the beanstalk, and most importantly, track down the golden egg-laying goose. But he's shocked to find a new rival, the seductive Kitty Softpaws (Hayek), is colluding with his former best friend Humpty Dumpty (Galifianakis), who he fell out with over a botched bank robbery, in pursuit of the same goal.

When Humpty realises that Puss is also in search of the goose, the three of them form an uneasy partnership that sees them fighting amongst themselves, as well as with the beast they must defeat to get to the goose, steal the eggs and set themselves up for life. It's not easy for a spin-off character to succeed in his own movie (or series), yet Puss getting his own film seems totally natural; it works. While the plot may be a bit predictable, you can't really fault Puss In Boots in terms of its visual impact: the animation is spectacular and the attention to detail in Puss' fur is so good that at times you want to reach out and tickle him under the chin. Banderas is perfect as the swashbuckling hero, and Hayek more than holds her own in her first voicing of an animated character.

Director Miller has hit on just the right tone for this movie. While it's still noticeably a product of the popular Shrek franchise, the characters have been softened a bit, and Henry Jackman's fantastic score really helps to lend some weight to the dramatic and action scenes; difficult to pull off in an animation.

Puss In Boots is undoubtedly a very silly film, but with its great characters and incredible visuals, it's a lot of fun, and sure to be enjoyed by adults and kids alike over the festive season. Recommended.

Review: The Big Year



Starring: Jack Black, Owen Wilson, Steve Martin
Director: David Frankel
Rating: PG
 David Frankel (Marley & Me, The Devil Wears Prada) directs this big screen adaptation of the book by Mark Obmascik about 'The Big Year' a birdwatching event that challenges its participants to spot as many different species as possible over the course of a calendar year.

Hot on the trail of the title are current record holder Kenny (Wilson), computer programmer Brad (Black) and wealthy businessman Stu (Martin), all with their own tales to tell. Kenny, whose marriage has hit the rocks in pursuit of the title, will stop at

nothing in order to retain his crown. Brad - divorced by his wife thanks to his avian obsession, lonely and living with his parents at 36 - is on the brink of bankruptcy thanks to his efforts to achieve something meaningful for a year. Stu is about to retire and finally hoping to realise his dream of a year-long bird spotting adventure. Together the trio set off on their mission, and as it takes them all over the country and troubles arise as a result, they forced to choose between their passion and their responsibilities.

There's bit of a mismatch in the expectations that come with the casting of Black, Wilson and Martin and the gentle comedy that permeates throughout The Big Year; aside from a couple of sight gags, don't expect a barrel of raucous laughs. It's cute, warm-hearted and charming, while Frank's laid back and gentle style suits the theme of the film, it doesn't make for a groundbreaking comedy.

That said, in a movie about friendship and priorities, it's nice to see Jack Black playing a more likeable and rounded character than his usual fodder. And the scenery as the chaps make their way across the country in pursuit of the title of Best Birder is nothing short of beautiful; in places, it's a real visual treat.

The Big Year is likeable enough and probably best summed up by the phrase life's gentle comedy. It's a pleasant way to spend a couple of hours, but you may be left with the feeling that the three leads have grown up just a little bit too much for their own good.

Dr Diwan Rahul Nanda wins the "International Business of the Year" Accolade at the Asian Who's Who Awards



Dr Diwan Rahul Nanda, Global Chairman of TOPSGRUP, India's most preferred security solutions brand and the first Indian MNC to acquire Great Britain's leading security company 'The Shield Guarding Company Limited', was honoured with the Asian leadership in International Business accolade at the esteemed Asian Who's Who Awards 2011 which took place on Monday 21st November at The Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane London. Now in its 24th year, the high profile event pays homage to the most influential Asians the world over, who have made a phenomenal contribution to their

respective fields and continue to set a shining example to their peers among the global Asian fraternity and beyond.

Dr Diwan Rahul Nanda was presented the award in the presence of a host of MP's, dignitaries, industry leaders, celebrities and VIP's in attendance. Award winners were selected by an independent panel of eminent advisors, including previous award winners such as Founder and Chairman of Cobra Beer Lord Karan Bilimoria; Baroness Shreela Flather; and Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP.

Dr. Diwan Rahul Nanda is by far acknowledged as the pioneer and the most prominent spokesperson of the burgeoning security industry in India. What started off as a sick company with revenues of £30,000 pa and 8 customers is today under Dr. Diwan Rahul Nanda's dynamic vision, India's largest security group with revenues in excess of £150 million, 93000 employees, 120 offices and approximately 8000 customers. He took over the reins of TOPSGRUP at the age of 22, when security was treated as expenditure and the Indian security industry was in its nascent stages, re-writing the rules for the security business not only for TOPSGRUP, but for the entire Indian Security Industry at large.

The multi award-winning TOPSGRUP has also embarked on a global leadership mission with a vision to become the number one brand in the global security space and a US\$ 10 billion security group by 2020. As part of the company's international strategy, in 2008 TOPSGRUP acquired a 51 percent controlling interest in Great Britain's 10th largest security group 'The Shield Guarding Company Limited', a \$121 million security services provider with esteemed clients such as Walt Disney, Nokia, Master Foods and Porsche, employing just under 3000 staff members and operating out of 7 offices in the UK. The takeover was a historic feat, as it not only solidified TOPSGRUP's position in the West but also represented the first ever overseas acquisition by an Indian Security Company, and that too in one of the world's mature security markets.

Since the acquisition by TOPSGRUP, 'The Shield Guarding Company Limited' was awarded the 'Security Guarding Company of the Year' Award at the Security Excellence Awards 2009 (UK) and 'Security Partnering Initiative of the Year' and 'Contract Manager of the year' Award at Security Excellence Awards 2011 (UK). The convergence of the two award-winning security companies has sealed TOPSGRUP's market-leader status and it is poised to further reaffirm its credibility and raise the bar in global standards of performance and service.

In speaking about the Asian Who's Who award accolade, Dr Diwan Rahul Nanda said, "I would like to thank Asian Who's Who and the panel of judges for this truly humbling accolade. In addition, I would like to thank our 93,000 employees, 8,000 customers, my family and friends for believing in me and my global vision to make TOPSGRUP one of the largest and most reputed security companies in the world. TOPSGRUP is committed to giving back to society in whichever way we can and giving people the kind of opportunities I was lucky enough to have myself in life. The greatest award I have received is the blessings of the thousands of people whose lives have been touched by TOPSGRUP in some way or other. It is the Asian community in which I have always been a part of that has instilled in me a value system that advocates helping others, doing good and showing gratitude every day. I am so proud of my Asian heritage, to which I attribute the success of TOPSGRUP today and to be recognised by Asian Who's Who in this way makes me truly proud."

The prestigious Asian Who's Who Awards were presented to coincide with the launch of the annual publication of the Asian Who's Who International, featuring the world's most inspiring and respected Asian personalities across a host of fields and professions. With the first edition published in 1975, the now annual directory features the biggest and brightest Asian talents and charts the ascent of the community as it continues to provide shining role models to new generations of Asians who are proving themselves to be assets to their country of residence.

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Our hard work is paying off. Our efforts over the years have not been in vain. *Barrer comment content, nou vini.* We are there already.

We thank the daily Le Mauricien for their comments on our November Page 4 article 'The Power Game ...' in their edition of Friday, Dec 2.
Enne ti la gazette ça!

Peter Chellen, Managing Director

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First general elections held on island 125 years ago



Sir John Pope Hennessy, who was very much in favour Home Rule, gave his full support to the Reform movement which was instrumental to the introduction of the elective principle in the Mauritian constitution

Mauritians went to the polls for a general election for the first time a little more than 125 years back. As a matter of fact, the first general elections were held islandwide in Mauritius from 11 to 20 January 1886. (1) Those elections were organized as per constitutional reforms which provided for "a partly elective council". (2) Indeed, despite the epoch-making emancipation brought through the inclusion of an elective principle in the constitution, the Council of Government would continue to be dominated by ex-officio (8 members) and nominated (9 members) instruments for nearly three-quarter of a century.

The Letters Patent modifying the Council of Government set the parameters of the reforms in these terms:

1. There shall be in and for the colony of Mauritius a Council of Government constituted as herein mentioned.
2. The Council shall consist of the Governor, of eight ex-officio members, of nine nominated members, and ten elected members.

The new Constitution "contained in the Letters Patent dated September 16, 1885, and bearing the royal seal, was dispatched to Mauritius and was published in the Government Gazette No. 77." (1) After publication in No 80 of the gazette, dated October 30, 1885, the fresh constitution became law and was indeed "a major step forward in the island's march to democracy." (Ibid)

The rules and regulations for the new elective practice

The extracts from the following two documents give an idea of the procedural ins and outs that would govern this altogether new electoral happening which would effectively take place in this far-flung colony of the British empire in January 1886. The first document reads thus:

"The qualifications of the electors were defined in section 15 of the Letters Patent. They had to be at least 21 years old, under no legal incapacity and in possession of their full civic rights. They had also to be male British subjects by birth or naturalisation and have resided in the colony for at least three years with, in addition, anyone of the following qualifications:

1. Be owner of immovable property of an annual value of Rs 300, or monthly value of Rs 25.
2. Occupy immovable property of a value of at least Rs 25 per month.
3. Be the owner of moveable property of a minimal value of Rs 3,000.
4. Be the husband of a wife or the eldest son of a widow possessing anyone of the above qualifications.
5. Draw a salary of at least Rs 600 a year or Rs 50 a month.
6. Pay licence duty to the amount of at least Rs 200 a year.

Several other provisions were included in the law. Electoral bribery in any form whatsoever and treating were strictly prohibited and any infringement of that rule was severely punished. Offers of employment or of any other favour to secure votes were interdicted by section 27. Even providing food, drink or entertainment to somebody to convince him to vote for a candidate was prohibited by the law (section 28). Undue influence in any form whatsoever was considered a violation of the law in section 29." (1)

The second document gives the following additional details: "At this stage, only British male subjects aged twenty-one and above with the ability to read and/or write English were allowed to vote... A government employee, a minister of religion or an electoral officer could not be a candidate in general elections." (3)

Elections on several days and property-qualified voters

The tables below (2) give a precise indication of the several dates on which the elections were held districtwise and of the number of voters involved. Striking features in both tables help draw an analogy regarding electoral practices then and today. Elections in 1886 were not held for the whole country on

the same day as this is the case today. They spread from 11 to 20 January, a period of nine days, and naturally caused a lot of tension and stress as long as the elections were not over and the results were not proclaimed. On the other hand, the very small number of voters due to the prohibitive property qualification - 4,061 on a total population of 359,698 - is indicative of the limitative nature of the nascent democratic process.

It is noteworthy that "only 129 Hindus and 124 Muslims were entitled to vote" (ibid) whereas the majority of the qualified electors belonged to the White and the Coloured

sections of the population who then constituted the main propertied class of the island. "The tone of the election was thus set: the rich on one side, the under-privileged parts of the bourgeoisie on the other, while the majority of the population of the Creoles and Indians were left out of the electoral system altogether." (1)

The Elections of 1886

Table I
Dates of Elections

Districts	Dates
Port-Louis	January 11
Black River	January 12
Plaine Wilhems	January 13
Moka	January 14
Pamplemousses	January 15
Rivière du Rempart	January 16
Flacq	January 18
Savanne	January 19
Grand Port	January 20

Table II
Number of Voters

District	No of Electors	Total
Port-Louis	1,986	66,466
Pamplemousses	270	37,670
Rivière du Rempart	163	20,726
Flacq	222	56,022
Grand Port	273	52,982
Savanne	192	34,447
Black River	115	15,292
Plaine Wilhems	653	46,315
Moka	187	29,768
	4,061	359,688

The political parties in the arena ex-aequo on proclamation of results

Basically, the 1886 general elections were fought by two political parties although a sizeable number stood as independent candidates (see Table III below). Quite obviously, each political group militated for specific interests. "Two political groups fought the elections. The Oligarchs, as the planters were known, were led by William Newton, now a reputed barrister whose father was a Scotsman and mother an Indo-Mauritian. The Democrats, under the leadership of Onésiphon Beaugeard, nicknamed Grand Beaugeard, promoted the interests of the middle classes." (3)

The Oligarchs, also known as the Reformers, won five of the 10 seats. The elected were "Henri Leclézio (Moka), Henri Adam (Flacq), Vincent Geoffroy (Rivière Noire), Virgil Naz (Savanne) and Victor Portal (Grand Port)." (1) What about the Democrats who equally won five seats? "The Democrats had won the two seats in Port-Louis, where Beaugeard and Gustave de Coriolis were elected. There was one seat for each of the other eight districts, all in the rural areas. Beaugeard was also candidate for Moka where he was largely defeated by Henri Leclézio by 137 votes to 31. But the Democrats Edgar Antelme, candidate in Rivière du Rempart, and Charles Planel, in Pamplemousses, were elected, giving their group a total of four elected Democrats. Cécilcourt Antelme, who had chosen to be an independent candidate but was supported by the Democrats, was elected in Plaines Wilhems by a large majority." (Idem)

The following table (2) gives the full list of candidates and results of the 1886 general elections:-

Table III

The Results of the 1886 Elections

Port-Louis 11.1.1886	Votes
Beaugeard, Onésiphon (D)	941 elected
Conolis, Gustave de (D)	879
Newton, William (O)	705
Ferguson, John Alexander	523
Guibert, Georges (O)	511

Black River 12.1.86	Votes
Geoffroy, Vincent (O)	55 elected
Pitot, Arthur	1
Pitot, Thorny (D)	51

Plaine Wilhems 13.1.86	Votes
Antelme, Cécilcourt Auguste (D)	407 elected
Ambrose, Povah (O)	194
Pitot Arthur	4

Moka 14.1.86	Votes
Leclézio, Henri (O)	137 elected
Beaugeard, Onésiphon (D)	31

Pamplemousses 15.1.88	Votes
Planel, Charles Joseph (D)	109 elected
Edwards, W A (O)	96
Chazal, de Evenor	45
Vigoureux, de K/Morvan Louis	4

Rivière du Rempart 16.1.86	Votes
Antelme, L E (D)	81 elected
Rouillard, Louis (O)	55
Chastellier, P L	38

Flacq 18.1.86	Votes
Adam, Charles Felix Henry (O)	125 elected
Jollivet, Yves Pierre (D)	85



Dr Onésiphon Beaugeard (Democrat) et Georges Guibert (Oligarch), two of the leading figures of the Reform movement, have both proposed the property qualification for the franchise (the Minister of the Colonies supported the proposal of Beaugeard as it was less higher, therefore open to a larger electorate)

Savanne 19.1.86	Votes
Sir Virgil Naz, KCMG (O)	149 elected
Forrester, Anderson James (D)	36

Grand Port 20.1.86	Votes
Portal, Henri Joseph (D)	156 elected
Gallet, Edgar (O)	62
Rault, Fabien	45

D: Democrats
O: Oligarchs

Trouble-mongers and ethnic string-pullers in the backyard

Tension, trouble and ethnic manipulations marked these first general elections in the colony. Such unfortunate features have continued to dog elections on the island and are cynically considered part of the game. The following is an adaptation of a news report which appeared in *Le Cernéen* of 16 January 1886 about troubles on election day at Pamplemousses: "Port-Louis, January 15 - A group of political agents shouted abuses and created trouble at the Pamplemousses elections today. Police reported that the supporters of Mr C J Planel, a Democrat candidate, helped by the friends of Mr G de Coriolis, insulted Conservative candidates and those who were with them. The incident occurred early during the day when voting was on for the constituency of Pamplemousses. The situation could have worsened if the Inspector General had not intervened and threatened to arrest all those who continued to disturb public peace." (2)

Apart from the usual tension and troubles arising from confrontation between political parties on class lines, "ethnic considerations" too were prevalent so much so that "there was no way in the 19th Century already, to root out the ethnic factor from the political debate in multi-ethnic Mauritius." (1) Historian Benjamin Moutou has rightly stated that "compte tenu de la passion des Mauriciens pour la chose politique après les campagnes électorales sont les périodes chaudes où les relations interethniques sont sur la corde raide." (4) He has observed that the line of demarcation between politics and ethnic conflicts is indeed very flimsy in Mauritius. "Mais cette passion a plus d'une fois failli se dégénérer en heurts ethniques..." (ibid).

The necessary support of the written press

The political parties and candidates were supported, in one way or another, by the written press of the day. It is noteworthy that the colony had then been enjoying freedom of the press for more than half a century, starting with the publication in 1832 of the daily *Le Cernéen*. That daily supported the Oligarchs as can be noted in the following extracts (2) where appeals are made in favour of William Newton and Georges Guibert:

"Newton et Guibert
Le 11 janvier 1886 sera un jour mémorable dans les annales de Maurice. Ce jour le marquerons-nous d'une pierre blanche ou noire? C'est aux électeurs de Port-Louis qu'il appartient de répondre.

Nous venons donc faire un suprême appel à ces

électeurs qui tiennent en ce moment entre leurs mains l'avenir politique de la colonie.

Si nous le faisons, ce suprême appel, en faveur de W. Newton et de G. Guibert, c'est que nous sommes convaincus que le..."

and in favour of Vincent Geoffroy of the same party:

"ELECTEURS DE LA RIVIERE NOIRE,

Si vous voulez servir vos vrais intérêts,

VOTEZ POUR

M. VINCENT GEFFROY"

On the other hand, *La Sentinelle de Maurice*, founded by Rémy Ollier in 1843 and which promotes mainly the interests of the coloured population, "campaigns for a fair representation in the legislature." (3)

After 1886, general elections were held every five years until 1936 (those of 1941 were not held due the state of emergency then in force in the country on account of ongoing World War II) under the same rules and qualifications such as the property qualification. In 1948, general elections will be held for the first time on an altogether new basis (literacy alone) where property would no longer be a qualification.

DODO

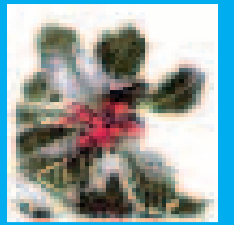
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End-of-Year Greetings



High Commissioner's message for Christmas and New Year 2012



At these times of trial and hardship, we should all aim at building resilience and turn the challenges confronting us into opportunities for a prosperous future ahead.

I pray that the New Year brings happiness, joy, peace and prosperity to you and to the members of your families.

In Mauritius last month, the Government presented its national budget for fiscal year 2012 which provides for a host of measures to further modernise the economy and strengthen our socio-economic foundation. Since 2005, the economic reform of the Government has been geared toward further diversifying the economy and rendering it more vibrant. Despite the global economic turmoil, we have had a positive economic growth and the new growth sectors continue to expand. However, we cannot remain complacent. Notwithstanding our economic resilience and success, we are wary of the unfolding global economic trends and we continue to exercise prudence in our decision-making and actions so that we may continue to thread the path of prosperity and socio-economic development.

I convey to you all my warmest greetings for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Abhimanu Kundasamy
High Commissioner

London, December 2011

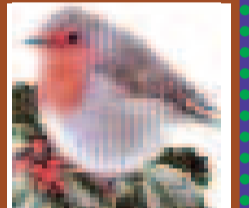
It gives me immense pleasure to extend to you, dear Mauritian brothers and sisters, through this edition of the Mauritius News, my best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year 2012.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my grateful thanks to all Mauritian Associations in London and across the United Kingdom for their close collaboration with the High Commission, and to congratulate them all in fostering community spirit among Mauritians living in the United Kingdom.

2011 has been a difficult year for the global economy. Here in the United Kingdom as well as across Europe, economic hardship has been the order of the day. The crisis indeed took some dramatic proportions during the course of the year with some of the European states finding themselves in extremely vulnerable and dire economic predicament.

The perseverance and diligence demonstrated by the Mauritian Diaspora in the United Kingdom and its contribution to the economic development of their country of adoption over the years have been remarkable. Mauritius highly values its Diaspora and particularly in its potential for driving economic growth back at home. I would wish to make an appeal to you to also take a keen interest in the various business opportunities that Mauritius offers and to participate in the development and progress of your motherland.

Mauritius News wishes all readers, advertisers, contributors and supporters of Christian faith a *Wonderful Christmas*, to those of the Hindu religion and a *Happy Sankranti*.
A Prosperous Year 2012 to one and all!



A&M Travel
Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2012

Access Logisites wishes all Mauritians a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2012
Happy Sankranti

Père Laval Benevolent Society (UK)
Avec les meilleurs vœux pour la Noël et pour une Sainte Année 2012

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year 2012 and all the joy of Sankranti
From Mauritius Hindu Organisation UK (Tooting)

London School of Law
Wishes all readers a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and a pleasant Sankranti 2012

Greetings Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members of the Mauritian community from
Père Laval Association UK
Charity No: 1095599
Patience, Persévérance, Prevenance et Piété

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all
From Devinia Sookia and Family (USA)

Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2012 from
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2011/2012 * * * * *
The Mauritian Sino Association
Wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Season's Greetings to all members from
The Mauritian Associations of Great Britain

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas, Prosperous New Year and Joyful Sankranti
From the **Mauritius Hindu Association**

Association Chrétienne des Mauriciens à Londres (ACML) convey their best wishes to all for a Saintly Christmas and Happy New Year

Tous nos vœux de bonheur pour un Joyeux Noël et une Heureuse Année from
Cambridge Nursing Home

Best wishes for Christmas, New Year and Sankranti to the community from Goodwill FC and

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Cosmos Football Club
Send good wishes for Christmas and the New year 2012 to all members, supporters and the community

Mauritian Islamic Welfare Association (MIWA)
wishes you a Happy Islamic New Year and a Prosperous New Year 2012

Mauritius Tamil Maha Sangam (UK)
Greetings for a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Peaceful Sankranti 2012

We wish all our pilgrims and friends a joyous Christmas and peaceful New Year from
Kensington Travel

From the **Mauritius Football Competition (MFC)**
Greetings at Christmas time and New Year 2012

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas, Prosperous New Year and a Happy Sankranti from
Fone 2 management

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year 2012 from
Supreme Glazing

ABM Solicitors
wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2012

The Anglo-Chinese Social Club
conveys to all members their best wishes for Christmas and the New Year 2012

To all compatriots in the UK & around the world, and the friends of Mauritius, who will read this message on the web our good thoughts are with you during this Season of Goodwill
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