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# Mauritius News



ISSN 0953 2706

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February 2012 - 290

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### BBC MasterChef Champion 2012

## Will Selina survive to the next round?



Week after week since the beginning of the present series Selina has impressed the judges with her Mauritian dishes. Selina's Mauritian food brings sunshine to us, said one of the judges.

By the time you read this piece she will know whether she will move to episode 8 of the present series. The series will comprise 15 episodes. In episode 7 scheduled for Wednesday, 8 February, she will cook some European dishes for which she will have received some training.

### MN Archives

## Who is that man holding a copy of Mauritius News?



In the picture are seen (on the left) late Ravi Misra, a former UK Manager of Air Mauritius, Sohun Ghoorah, ex MTPA Manager in London, and the man himself. To find out who he is please turn to Page 13.

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Scotland's Devolution

Independent, to be or not to be?

The fervour for celebrating nationhood in the run-up to Burns Night(1) may or may not have been coincidental, but the debate over the future of the United Kingdom ramped up a level in January. David Cameron seemed to have caught many commentators unawares in giving Scotland's First Minister, Alex Salmond an ultimatum - making it clear that his government would welcome a binding referendum on Scottish independence - but only on Westminster's terms.

The fervour for celebrating nationhood in the run-up to Burns Night may or may not have been coincidental, but the debate over the future of the United Kingdom ramped up a level in January. David Cameron seemed to have caught many commentators unawares in giving Scotland's First Minister, Alex Salmond an ultimatum - making it clear that his government would welcome a binding referendum on Scottish independence - but only on Westminster's terms.

Seeking to get one up on Salmond, it is Cameron who has decided that an urgent debate on the future of the union is needed. And, with little regard for broader constitutional questions, Cameron would like the Union question dealt with once and for all, in order to bolster his own party's credentials as defender of the United Kingdom, and arguably, present a distraction from the government's other troubles. As a result, some have argued that Cameron, rather than Salmond, is playing fast and loose with the make-up of the UK. Little thought has been given to the consequences for England in a UK bereft of Scotland under the current settlement. Independence could, however, provide a resolution of sorts to the so-called West Lothian question, famously posed by the former Labour MP Tam Dalyell, whose constituency gave its name to the issue. This particular issue centred around Scottish MPs being able to vote on English matters - such as funding for the NHS - a peculiarity of the British constitution seeing as English MPs have no such powers in Holyrood.



By Paul Prentice

of proposed Westminster seat boundary changes taken into account, Labour would lose out regardless. Coupled with the current First Past the Post voting system, the prospect of permanent Conservative rule at Westminster may seem almost certain.

A complete evacuation by Scottish MPs from Westminster would, of course, be the ultimate development. Variants on a theme have included 'devolution max', giving Holyrood the full range of powers over tax but with Scotland asking that defence and foreign affairs remain under the control of Westminster. The SNP has previously also said that it would wish to retain the Queen as head of state, and the pound sterling as currency, meaning that full independence for Scotland with its own tax system, foreign secretary and army may still be some way off.

Regardless of the final settlement, all mainstream party leaders have demonstrated their 'unity over the union' - whatever that means in the current environment. Desperate to not appear anti-union, Labour leader Ed Miliband's position has seemingly reflected the Prime Minister's own: preserve the union at all costs. Yet Scottish nationalism isn't the preserve of one single party and never has been - meaning that the right to self-determination cannot be ignored. The late Labour politician Donald Dewar (the first First Minister of Scotland) had nationalist sympathies but without the ideological zeal of his SNP rivals. Once again, it may well suit Labour to moderate its position given that not all its supporters in Scotland - or those who may vote for the party in the future - will all be quite as positive about the United Kingdom in its current guise as the Labour leader is.

(1) Ed Note's: Annual event in Scotland celebrated on Jan 25 to commemorate the life of poet Robert Burns who was born on that date. His contribution to Scottish culture includes, ironically, 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Salmond and his Scottish National Party colleagues argue that the Scottish Parliament already has the right to hold a referendum without any interference. Yet Cameron's government has already set itself in conflict with the Holyrood administration. Salmond had previously stated his intention to hold a referendum 'in the second half of the parliament', but Cameron is keen that it be held 'sooner rather than later' - possibly as early as 2013. The government's position can be summarised thus: don't let Alex Salmond get away with breaking up the Union by giving him 1,000 days to make his argument for independence to the people of Scotland. What's more, Cameron's call is for a somewhat simpler affair - a straightforward yes or no rather than asking about the preference for two varying degrees of devolution or independence, which is the SNP's preference.

Publicly, Alex Salmond is portrayed by his opponents as a bully, perhaps in daring to defy Westminster in setting the terms of the debate. Yet, although they might not admit it, many British politicians of all hues secretly admire Salmond, who became Scotland's fourth First Minister in May 2007. They adore the gumption of the man, a formidable parliamentarian and debater who has somehow managed to take both left-wing and right-wing positions, culminating in what the Spectator called 'an extraordinary victory' against eight years of Labour and Liberal Democrat rule in the Scottish parliament. Salmond has managed to steal both the clothes of social democrats while also appealing to conservative tendencies, helping to ensure that the Conservative party itself remains an irrelevance north of the border.

\* Paul Prentice is a British journalist covering UK politics and European Affairs

Electoral Reform fever

Mauritius has been suffering for the past few months from a severe spell of electoral reform fever. Everyone is talking about it at home and even overseas.

If we are not for ourselves who will be for us, Dravidian saying

Every member of every community has every right to lobby for his or her own community, especially in Parliament, as highlighted by Harish Boodhoo that "chaque jacot protège so montagne." Harish Boodhoo, in this simple statement of fact, defines with great precision the mental make-up and political inclination of the nation when it comes to the concern of one own's interests. No amount of denial from anyone will wipe out this truth, which is almost an axiom—a self-evident truth that demands no proof.

We say again that the word communalism should not be given a bad name. But as a matter of fact what is the meaning of the word itself that strikes terror in the hearts of so many Mauritians? To begin with, it is a word that cannot be found in any dictionary except perhaps in Hoomooksing/Baker's Creole dictionary? From where does that word come? What is its origin in terms of being racist or sectarian?

The more we analyse this word the more we can't find it to be totally wrong especially when it indicates a necessity to be 'solidaire' to protect oneself against domination and exploitation. This may give rise to the wrong idea that being concerned about one own community's welfare and advancement is a form of communalism. In that respect, all Mauritians are communalists, but not necessarily in any bad sense. On the other hand, only those who practise favouritism in whatever form should be chastised.

In fact, the Mauritian word communalism may find its root in the 1950s/1960s groundless fear of domination/hegemony that was instilled in the mind of the nation to fight independence of the island. It was coined by one section of the community, especially by political leaders, to denigrate and expose the alleged clannish mentality of another section of the community. Another word associated with communalism was 'koonism', coined the same way. Communalism was coined to create fear in the mind of the nation, and is probably still being used for the same purpose. However, it was the fear of that hegemony that every community needed safeguard to protect their rights. Safeguard was essential at the time of independence in 1968, and the same safeguard is essential in 2012. The population is still made up of Indo-Mauritians (Hindus and Muslims), Creoles, Sino-Mauritians, Franco-Mauritians, not much has changed. Are we all communalists for that matter?

The same safeguard, i.e. as in 1968, is demanded by every section of the Mauritian community as embodied in the Constitution of the country. This Constitution was not obtained on a plate or at the drop of a hat. It was given to Mauritius after protracted negotiations extending over several years involving all the political parties under the leadership SSR. SSR put his reputation on the line for this Constitution as a package to the independence of Mauritius. SSR is to this day blamed for the Chagos excision that was allegedly agreed during the constitutional talks in London.

We can sympathise with members of the Muslim community who understand the importance of the guarantee provided by the much denigrated Best Loser System embodied in the Constitution. They understand that what they have was fought for by the first leader of the CAM, Sir Abdul Razack Mohamed (SARM). SARM was denied the same guarantee by former political friends. He found a soul mate in SSR and he gave his party's support to the independence movement. Had he, as leader of a minority, refused to trust SSR and turned the other way, independence could have been denied in the 1960s, and delayed for many years at a time of serious racial tension in the country. It is a great tribute to SARM's memory that on the stèle at Place d'Armes dedicated to him, we read his historical declaration:

Independence is historically Inevitable and it will unlock The potential of our nation Let us not therefore oppose It but make a virtue And A success of it.

The constitutional reform must be done to safeguard the interests of the different races (human of course) making up the Mauritian nation. It should not be for the benefit of politicians in the race to the National Assembly. The practice of First Past the Post is considered unfair, the politicians want even those who never make it to the finishing line to enter the Assembly. Should the Constitution be reformed to please politicians or the people?

It is good to learn that here in the UK one of the Olympic Games' leitmotifs will be to celebrate the diversity of Great Britain. Instead of celebrating diversity in Mauritius they want to push it under the carpet. One wonders as to how will they ever be able to implement the Equality legislation if the ethnicity of the nation already causes the country so much headache. Ethnic monitoring is the most important ingredient in the application of any equal opportunities policy. We can sort of foresee the South Indians (Tamils and Telegus) wanting to be identified as such. As regards the North Indians, the Marathis, the Gujuratis, the Singhs etc may want to stand up and be counted. It's probably better to leave the lid on this can of worms.

Peter Chellen

This article from the editorial team was published in Le Mauricien of 30.01.12



Truth & Justice

Published in the UK Founded Nov 1983

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Annual Subscription Fee: (12 monthly issues)

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## Titbits from Mauritius

By Ahmad Macky

### PRIME MINISTER TO RESHUFFLE CABINET SOON

It is confirmed now that the Prime Minister, Navin Ramgoolam will reshuffle his Cabinet ministers prior to the local government elections to be held sometimes in April of this year.

Certain names are mentioned for ministerial promotion such as Kalyanee Jhuggoo, the MP for constituency no 4 (Long Mountain) and Reza Issack, MP for constituency no 19 (Stanley-Rose-Hill). Names of present ministers who may be demoted or be asked to step down are Health Rajesh Jeetah, Satis Faugoo, and Labour Minister Shakeel Mohamed.

### AN INVESTIGATION AT DR JEETOO HOSPITAL

The Ministry of Health initiated an investigation to determine the exact causes of the failure of the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) device at Dr Jeetoo hospital. It should be noted that this brand new machine broke down only days after its installation. The technicians who worked on its installation attributed this failure to the conditions under which the machine was installed.

According to them, the construction works in progress at the hospital at the time of the installation process has damaged the equipment. However, some experts from the Ministry of Health attributes this failure to the conditions under which the machine was installed.

The construction works in progress at the hospital at the time of the installation process damaged the equipment. However, some experts from the Ministry of Health attribute this failure to the insufficient amount of gas in the machine. The volume of helium was only at 62%. Several officers will have to provide explanations as to the exact circumstances of the failure of the MRI which cost more than Rs 40 million.

### RODRIGUES AFFECTED BY CYCLONE "ETHEL"

The weekend Friday 20th January to Sunday 22nd, 2012, was very bad for Rodrigues especially during the electoral campaign prior the

February Poll day.

Cyclone "Ethel" with a ravaging gust of wind of about 150 miles per hour caused 1 casualty in the person of a 4 yrs old child who died by electrocution following a broken of a live electric wire from an electric pole.

Hundreds of people were made homeless. Roads were blocked by uprooted trees or broken branches. Rivers were over flooded. Many fishermen lost their fishing boats.

### BOOKS LOAN SCHEME

MMM Member of Parliament Lysie Ribot, also member of the party's education commission, has proposed that a "book loan scheme" be set up at secondary school level to assist parents who cannot afford new books and stationery for their

children. She says that such a scheme should be run by the Ministry of Education for the benefit of state and private college students. School should also be encouraged to put in place a system of collection and exchange of used books.

### A LEAKAGE AT MARE AU VACOAS RESERVOIR

For quite sometimes now Mare-aux-Vacoas reservoir is posing a great problem to both the government and the Central Water Authority. No matter how much we have rainfall in Mauritius, this reservoir is still half-emptied. Foreign experts are puzzled and were unable to detect the real cause of this problem why that reservoir is never full up for the past few years.

Certain local experts reckon that there could be a leakage in the reservoir where all the water escape through an unknown and undetected underground subway inside the reservoir itself

### MAURITIUS COMMERCIAL BANK EXPANDS NETWORK

The Mauritius Commercial Bank plans to open a new branch at Bagatelle Shopping Mall. This follows the opening of two branches at the end of last year, namely at Trianon Shopping Park and Cascavelle Shopping Mall. It is estimated that this will cost Rs 295 million for the Bagatelle new branch.

### STUDENT IMPORTS ELECTRIC SHOCK GUN

Mohammed Yassine, a 22 yrs old student was arrested by the Port police on Monday the 9th January, 2012. This happened after he turned up at the delivery counter of the Post Office at Port-Louis. The youngster, from a village in the south, had ordered a stun gun on line, which sends electric shocks. As a gift for his purchase, the young man also received a tear gas canister.

### iPOD STOLEN AT DIVING CENTRE

A 22-year old man suspected of having stolen several items, including an iPod, in a diving centre on the north coast was arrested by officers of the National Coast Guard for investigation.

A search carried out at this young man's house at Pointe aux Piments had disclosed the stolen iPod. The suspect told officers that he went to the diving centre to look for a job.

### GAS EXPLOSION

A gas cylinder exploded on Wednesday morning the 11st January, 2012, at the residence of a woman at Grand Sable. In a statement made at the Grand Port police station she explained that there was nobody home at the time of the explosion.

However, she added that she did not close the valve of the gas cylinder before leaving her kitchen which is made of iron sheets and wooden beams. Firefighters and Mahebourg police were summoned. The value of the damage is estimated at Rs 80,000.

### BAG SNATCHER IN ACTION

A woman residing at Plaine Verte reported a theft on Tuesday the 10th January 2012 at Pope Hennessy police station. She said that around 3.30 pm a motorcyclist snatched her handbag containing a mobile phone and Rs 20,000 before disappearing.

She was injured during the scuffle. A similar incident was reported to Line Barracks police. A teacher complained about a theft that was committed at Beaugeard street, Port-Louis. A man had threatened her with a knife before snatching her handbag which contained her mobile phone and a sum about Rs 1000.

### SUICIDE CASE

A 26 yrs old woman residing in the southern part of Mauritius committed suicide on Tuesday the 10th January, 2012.

It was with the help of a bed sheet that she hung herself to a piece of wood. She had made several suicide attempts in the past. Police is still investigating the matter.

### BUMPER CROP AT INLAND REVENUE TAX OFFICE

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), another name for the usual Inland Revenue Tax Office has collected approximately Rs 53 billion in tax revenue in 2011, compared to Rs 49.64 billion in 2010, representing an increase of 7%.

The high revenue yield is due to several initiatives taken by the MRA and also due to changes in excise duties, especially on tobacco and alcohol, which raised Rs 10.7 billion in 2011, compared to Rs 9.32 billion in 2010. Other factors explaining the increase include: broadening of VAT taxpayer base by 18% and Income Tax base by 11% and an increase in e-filing namely 70% corporate tax returns and 64% of individual IT returns.

### BANK OF MAURITIUS BUYS FOREX

The Bank of Mauritius intervened on the domestic foreign exchange market on one occasion last week. It purchased an amount of USD 2.0 million at Rs/USD 29.50 and an amount of EURO.3 million at Rs/EUR37.76.

### SBI LAUNCHES ON LINE CEB BILL PAYMENT

The SBI Mauritius bank has launched an on-line electricity bill payment facility. This is yet another innovative service from SBI Mauritius is designed to help customers to save time by avoiding queues. The bank plans to offer similar new services in the future.

### SIR ANEROOD JUGNAUTH UNDERWENT SURGERY

Sir Anerood Jugnauth, aged 81, underwent surgery on Monday 9th January 2012 in a private clinic. His family explained that this surgery was planned and that his health problem is no serious concern.

The operation (prostatectomy) which lasted less than two hours was carried out by surgeons. According to his family, the President was already in good shape a few hours later after the operation and had returned to his room in the private clinic.

## Scholarships

### The list of laureates for 2011/12

#### SSR National Scholarships (Science Side)

##### BOY

NABEEBACCUS Muhammad Saad RCPL

##### GIRL

ROJOA Djamilia Mubashchira LCQB

#### STATE OF MAURITIUS SCHOLARSHIPS

##### BOYS (Science Side)

JEEAWODY Muhammad Sajjaad RCPL

MOHUR Uday Kumar RCC

FOWDAR Udhav RCPL

JAGESSUR Yogesh Koomar ADPSS

##### GIRLS (Science Side) (4)

LI CHUEN CHEONG Estelle Anaïs LCQB

RAMPHUL Priyanka QEC

JEEBAUN Eshna QEC

LUTCHOOMUN Nuvneet QEC

##### BOYS (Economics Side)

BOODHOO Muhammad Irfaan RCC

SEWRAZ Aavinash Sharma RCC

##### GIRLS (Economics Side) (2)

CHOONG KAM CHONG Mei Sien QEC

GOKHOOL Urvashee QEC

##### BOY (Arts Side) (1)

PURMAH Raamandarsingh MGI

##### GIRLS (Arts Side) (1)

JUGANA KLOO Lena Stessy LCRH

##### BOY (Technical Side) (1)

JOGANAH Yovan CDSE

##### GIRL (Technical Side) (1)

RAMA Jemima LCRH

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#### ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

##### BOYS (Science Side)

RAMGOBIN Chittesh RCC

SANSPEUR Rohan Yuri CDSE

##### GIRLS (Science Side)

JAWAHEER Juveryah QEC

LAI WAI Mélanie Shoye Leng LCPL

##### BOYS (Economics Side)

TOHOOLOO Sathyasheel Keshav RCC

JANKEE Shameek Oopuddhaye RCPL

##### GIRLS (Economics Side)

CHAN MOI FAT Sandrine Kim Kiow

Ebène SSS Girls

BURTHUN Massirah Mehtaab QEC

##### GIRL (Arts Side)

GUNESH Heyashi QEC

##### BOY (Technical Side)

HA-SUN Kurt Denys St Mary's College

#### RODRIGUES OPEN SCHOLARSHIPS

##### BOY

LISETTE Jean Alex RC

##### GIRL

MEUNIER Marie Katuska RC

#### Source:

Le Mauricien

## Coming St Regis already in Top Ten Luxury list

Forbes Travel Guide has already featured the St Regis Mauritius Resort, due to open on May 15 next at Le Morne, among the Top Ten Highly Antiquated Luxury Hotel Openings for 2012. Africa's first St. Regis hotel, listed at the 6th position, will have 173 guest-rooms, each outfitted with spacious private balconies with ocean and mountain views and includes spa suites and villas decorated in a traditional colonial style.

## Compliance with Securities Act by 30 March 2012

The Financial Services Commission, having noted that some entities have not yet applied for a licence in accordance with the transitional provisions under the Securities Act 2005, draws the attention of the latter to the fact that this constitutes an offence under the Securities Act 2005 and the Financial Services Act 2007. Such entities are required to comply by 30 March 2012, failing which they will be subject to regulatory actions.

## Second concert of Frederic François in Mauritius

Frederic François' second concert in Mauritius will be held on February 5 at the Swami Vivekananda under the aegis of Hemisphere Events. The event will start at 6 p.m. The tickets are on sale at Rs 1500 for Gold seats, Rs 1200 for first class, Rs 850 for second class and Rs 650 for lateral seats. Duration: 2hrs 30 minutes. Frederic François' first concert in Mauritius was held in 2009. The Mauritian public was thrilled. The king of romance will do it again.

## 'Mauritian Week' in Mumbai on February 10

Mauritius along with other countries such as the USA, Australia, Canada, Belgium, Italy, United Kingdom, Thailand and Singapore will be present at the 19th edition of the South Asian Travel & Tourism Exhibition (SATTE) to be held in New Delhi at Pragati Maidan from February 10 to 12. Concurrently a 'Mauritian Week' will be opened officially in Mumbai on February 10. A special workshop with tour operators will be held on February 13 at Taj Mahal Hotel.

## MTPA will be leading a delegation of 15 local travel trade partners to participate in the SATTE exhibition

This will be an opportunity for participants to meet over 200 international tour operators, 500 Indian agents and tour operators. Local travel trade partners will be able to identify the trends in consumer demand and propose specific packages.

## First fish bar cargo to Europe this month

The Mahebourg Marine Farm is planning to ship approximately five tonnes of fish bar to European customers. The first cargo will leave this month. The farm produced two tonnes of fish bar last year which was successfully sold on Mauritian market during festive period. However, fishermen have denounced the fact that this fish is a danger to marine ecosystem as they eat other fishes.

## WiFi project tender allocated to DCL

Data Communications Ltd (DCL) has emerged as the successful bidder of the Wireless Fidelity (WiFi) project. The company has already begun the installation of the WiFi networks in the 10 identified locations across the island. The installation will have been completed by the end of this month.

## Form III national assessment ready soon

The evaluation report of the Form III national assessment (2011) compiled by the statisticians of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources will be available soon in the secondary schools. It aims at providing teachers with feedback on the attainment level of their students in each of the identified subjects against a national benchmark. It identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the students so that corrective measures can be taken.

## Rainwater harvesting on this month

As from this month a rainwater harvesting scheme will be made available to farmers and livestock breeders. The aim is to encourage them to adopt this measure to address water shortage in this period when the country is experienced a serious drought. A grant of 40 per cent not

exceeding Rs 800,000 will be provided to planters and livestock breeders registered with the small farmers' welfare fund.

## Anti-smoking clinics in health centres

Provision has been made to set up smoking cessation clinics in all the health centres of the country. This will be an additional step to combat smoking and to make the island tobacco free. These clinics will be operated by a well-trained staff. The services offered will include behavioural counseling, medication and nicotine replacement therapy.

## Change of name made easier since January 1

Anyone wishing to change his name or surname shall make a payment of Rs 1,000 at the time of filing the application at the Office of the Attorney General. There will be no need to affix stamps on the certificate, signed by the attorney general, which is issued as soon as the change of name is approved. More information can be obtained on the sixth floor of the Renganaden Seeneevassen building in Port Louis.

## New courses offered by UoM this year

The year 2012 will open up new opportunities for students who are planning to pursue their higher education at the University of Mauritius. Music, art, philosophy, architecture, sociology and specialization in gender studies are some of the new courses that will be offered for the new academic year.

## National Day guest of honour from Seychelles

The President of the Republic of Seychelles, James Alix Michel, will be the guest of honour for the Independence and Republic Day celebrations to be held on March 12. It is expected that during his official visit an agreement will be signed on the extended continental shelf between Mauritius and Seychelles.

## Employees to file EDF by February 20

Employees across the island will soon be filling the Employee Declaration Form (EDF), stating that they will pay the fee by February 20 except for those who earn less than Rs 30,000 or have dependents. The form will also be available on the MEA website. In addition, the scales of exceptions were increased by Rs 15,000 this year for each category.

## World Poker Tour in

## Mauritius

World Poker Tour will be held this month in Mauritius. The first stage World Poker Tour (WPT) will be held in Mauritius at Ti Vegas Casino, Grand Baie from February 25 to March 12. Fifteen tournaments will be held and the structure has been organized by renowned tournament director Matt Savage. Buy-ins will vary from 25 to 4,000 pounds.

## Pierre Dinan addresses LSE on 16

Pierre Dinan, local economist and external member of the Monetary Pricing Committee of the Bank of Mauritius, will deliver a talk on the theme "Miracle of Mauritius" at the Wolfson Theatre, London, on February 16. This talk is organized by the London School of Economics (LSE) under the 'LSE IDEAS Africa International Affairs Programme'. Chris Alden, co-head of the programme, will chair the session.

The 'LSE IDEAS, Africa International Affairs Programme' is designed to promote greater understanding of the extent to which the recent past in Africa has a particular importance and relevance for contemporary domestic politics and economics, inter-state relations, and the continent's relationship with the wider world. It aims at assisting and supporting historical and political theory research.

## Turkish Minister of Economy visits Mauritius

During a two-day meeting (11-12 January last) a Turkish delegation present in Mauritius to discuss a Framework agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation, evoked the issue regarding preparations for a proposed visit of their Minister of Economy Zafer Caglayan to Mauritius, scheduled tentatively for 08 of this month.

The objective of the framework agreement is to enhance economic cooperation as well as to foster trade between the two countries. The agreement covers different areas of cooperation including Agriculture, Education, Science and Technology. It also covers provisions on trade facilitation and trade promotion. This is considered as but a natural development after Mauritius signed a Free Trade Agreement with Turkey in September 2011.

## Vice-Chancellor of UoM Professor Morgan resigns

The resignation of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius, Professor Konrad Morgan, submitted in January, is taking effect this month. It appears that, according to UoM staff union, Professor Konrad Morgan's resignation has come in the wake of the reform plan that has been worked for the university, and that has been torpedoed through political and ministerial interference.

## Mauritian globe-trotter Mamade Kadreebux will exhibit his photographic artworks in London



of Oxford who had the privilege of meeting the eminent photographer in California. Further information about the exhibition can be obtained by e-mailing at omezoui@gmail.com

The plates of Mamade Kadreebux have been exhibited in several parts of the world, from USA to UK, from Iceland to his native island of Mauritius. Mamade Kadreebux has also been invited to lecture in several well-known universities in Europe as well as in the United States of America where he pursued his higher studies after he completed his secondary schooling at the Royal College of Curepipe (Mauritius). He is now residing permanently in USA.

The Mauritian press has introduced Mamade Kadreebux as an "explorer-photographer" who brings to life ancient civilizations and lost heritage and captures the essence of the

contemporary world. For instance, these plates show the remains of civilizations gone by and which have now been erased from the surface of the earth, or icebergs which are disintegrating taken decades ago and which have now completely melted. They have become memorials of things and scenes that are gone forever, for the better or the worst. The exhibition held from 21 to 29 January at Souillac under the caption "Une lettre à mon village" has been a real dialogue with his birth-place, which he considers as the matrix of all his academic and artistic achievements as a world citizen. It would be a real treat for all the visitors to meet the man from Souillac at the forthcoming London exhibition. In the meantime, Mauritius News is privileged to introduce his readers Mamade Kadreebux in the following interview carried by its Mauritian collaborator Dodo...

**Dodo:** you have travelled the world over away from your native Souillac in Mauritius. These days you have exhibited photos of your rich collection in the art gallery of the village hall of Souillac under the theme "Une lettre à mon village", as a prelude to your forthcoming exhibition in England next month. Can you relate for our readers how you have achieved notoriety in the field of photography?

**M.K.:** First of all thank you for inviting me as a guest. I am humbled by the affections shown to me by people who came to my exhibition and by those who write about me. Well, providence as guide I began as pilgrim on the road of adventure to see the world and to experience it. Years and years later after having gone to many places I began to see the world through the filtered light of human experience. Long hours of solitude in forsaken places nourished myself. Poverty and sacrifice brought me to the mysteries of the world and I was able to catch a glimpse of them and they are now the memories contained in my photographs.

**Dodo:** You said publicly at the

opening of the exhibition in Souillac that it was high time for you to put away your camera for a quieter life and that you are offering the photo exhibition as a sort of will and testament to the village where you saw the light of day so many years back. What does Souillac represent for you who have travelled the world over, from north to south, from east to west, across metropolis, deserts, living and dead civilizations, mountains?

**M.K.:** I came to the village to deposit my memories as one would bring in a bouquet of flowers. These are the images I collected during the years of my absence. They come from various parts of the world. Souillac for me has been a cradle of light and shade and a garden of sensation. The morning breeze comes from the deep sea and arrives laden with the songs of the birds. Here I came to renew acquaintances with the naked soil. To touch the soil where my ancestors came so long ago.

**Dodo:** What have you learnt from the cosmopolitan style of life that you have led, moving like the nomad and the pilgrim from station to station? It is

obvious that the saying "Rolling stone gathers no moss" does not and cannot apply to Mamade Kadreebux?

**M.K.:** The cosmopolitan life is a very busy one. I have enjoyed the privilege of going to concerts and symphonies. I have attended lectures and heard speeches from eminent scholars, I have enjoyed libraries and book stores and these are part of my present experience. But if a rolling stone gathers no moss maybe it collects dust of the road which in time threw you an experience. Maybe transformed into rubies in the sun. It is a matter of putting these experiences together in a harmonious blend.

**Dodo:** You have published a few books related to your career as a world famous photographer. Can you enlighten us about these publications?

**M.K.:** For years I sat in front of my photographs during the course of my exhibits done in

Continued on  
Page 12

## Mauritian kestrels saved from destruction

EDDY ABRAHAM, OAM  
MELBOURNE



**In the series** "Nature's Miracle Babies" of ABC Television, 10 January 2012, zoologist Martin Hughes- Games, presented an episode focussing on global efforts to save some of the world's most vulnerable species from extinction. "This week's episode focusses on the world's islands, home to some of the most threatened animals simply because they exist nowhere else", says the program brief

**In the program**, featured the Tasmanian Devils, the Aye Aye of Madagascar, the Koalas of Australia, the Mountain Chickens (Frogs) of Montserrat and the Mauritian Kestrels, "once the rarest bird in the world, its numbers have spectacularly increased through captive breeding", Martin Hughes-Games said.

**The program reported** that 30 years ago, it looked like the Kestrel would become extinct, until Karl Jones arrived in Mauritius. "When he arrived, there was a handful of birds. Disease was not killing the birds, but ironically, it was a chemical to save human lives". Malaria was a big problem and the solution of the time was to spray DDT to kill the mosquitoes and it was incredibly effective. However the DDT had another effect on egg shells. They became thin and fragile and the chicks never hatched. The Kestrel numbers crashed.

**The Kestrel was** considered as a bird that could be bred in captivity. "We climbed up to the nest of the last breeding pair we knew of and we took the eggs. It was a huge gamble. Taking the eggs and hand raising the chicks would force the parents to lay more eggs", Jones said. Some people thought it was a crazy idea, but it proved worthwhile because the number rose dramatically. "With the birds raised in captivity, we established a breeding program and eventually bred enough birds so we could start releasing them in the wild", he said.

**Jones said he** was sent to Mauritius to stay for 1 or 2 years. 31 years later he was still there. "It started out with a handful of birds, today we've got 500 birds. We hope to get more but at least it's a good start and at least the Mauritian Kestrel isn't going to become extinct tomorrow. It proves that captive breeding can work", he said.

**Throughout the segment**, the colourful Kestrels were shown on trees or in their nests. A success story on the Mauritian Kestrels.

## Travel Trends and Priorities for 2012

**Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT), a global leader specialized in managing business travel and meetings and events, has published its Travel Management Priorities for 2012 report, based on an international survey of 290 travel managers.**

The report highlights the main changes likely to affect travel programs and looks at global trends and differences between regions.

The top four priorities for travel managers in 2012 concentrate on driving air and ground transport savings, improving travel compliance, optimizing hotel spend and online adoption. In an evolving market, these areas represent opportunities even for the most mature travel programs. To achieve these objectives, travel managers use a wide range of measures, including improving communications on travel policy and compliance (previous CWT research shows that only 50% of travelers are familiar with their company's travel policy), helping employees to better understand online booking processes, and mandating the use of preferred suppliers. Communication on preferred suppliers and booking channels will be particularly important as travelers use mobile applications more and more.

CWT research pinpointed some variations in results, depending

on the region in which travel managers are based. For example, travel managers in Asia Pacific place a greater focus on optimizing hotel spend compared to other regions, reflecting the challenges they face with particularly high occupancy rates in this market. With the number one priority for Europe, Middle East and Africa being air and ground transport savings, one of the measures travel managers are planning is managing the trade-offs between air and rail as high-speed rail networks expand. Travel managers in Latin America also accord the highest importance to driving air and ground savings. Meanwhile, North American travel managers cite traveler compliance - an ongoing challenge - as the number one priority.

In an uncertain economic environment, travel managers need to monitor changes closely to ensure they are getting the best deals from suppliers and the right performance from their travel program. The CWT report also highlights key market trends affecting travel programs worldwide in the coming year, such as the continued growth in travel spend for Asia Pacific, the increasing use of mobile solutions in business travel and the sharp uptake in a strategic approach to meetings management.

Christophe Renard, VP CWT Strategic Marketing and

Business Intelligence, said, "Top priorities vary slightly depending on the region covered by travel managers. Those responsible for North America, for example, accord more importance to helping travelers adhere to travel policy. Meanwhile, those responsible for Europe, Middle East and Asia or Latin America identify the same priorities as the total sample with a greater focus on driving air and ground savings ... Global travel managers tend to identify and implement more measures to drive consolidation and standardization of the travel program, given their role as orchestrator of the travel program across the different regions."

Nick Vournakis, VP Global CWT Solutions Group, said, "I'm in touch with global clients on a daily basis - this study reflects their concerns and explains why we are seeing an increasing number of companies coming to us, across all practice areas, for advice on how to best organize their travel program and push their travel spend even lower ... We are expecting the travel spend to be even more complex in 2012 - additional fees, surcharges and credit card booking fees charged by airlines and other suppliers are making it very difficult for buyers to efficiently and accurately compare the full cost of travel between suppliers."

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## Commonwealth News

### Plans for HM Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee

The Commonwealth will celebrate the Queen's 60 years as Head of the Commonwealth through five programmes known collectively as the Commonwealth Jubilee Diamond. The five programmes of the Commonwealth's unified tribute represent the five facets of a diamond.

Representatives of Commonwealth member governments, organisations, civil society and other partners met in London on 17 January 2012 to discuss the implementation of their plans to mark HM Queen Elizabeth II's 60 years as Head of the Commonwealth.

made on the establishment of The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, announced at the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth, Australia, which will be funded by private donations and voluntary contributions from member governments to support charitable projects and organisations across the Commonwealth.

They also discussed a number of initiatives to form a unified tribute with five facets - a 'Commonwealth Jubilee Diamond' - each highlighting an aspect of the Queen's leadership of the Commonwealth and ensuring an enduring legacy for Commonwealth citizens.

and leadership through a programme of interaction between women leaders of the Commonwealth; culture and connection building on the theme for this year's Commonwealth Day 'Connecting Cultures'; education and understanding among young people through an initiative to link schools across the Commonwealth; learning with the endowment of Diamond Jubilee scholarships; and youth and service by means of a programme aimed at advancing international understanding and volunteering.

The meeting to discuss the actual implementation of the multi-faceted plan was chaired by Lord Watson of Richmond.

They heard that progress has been The activities will focus on: women

## Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

### Public across the Commonwealth invited to be part of a digital Diamond Jubilee gift

People across the Commonwealth are being invited to share their memories and stories of the last 60 years to create a digital Diamond Jubilee gift for Her Majesty The Queen. With over 23,000 items already contributed to the Jubilee Time Capsule ([www.jubileetimecapsule.org](http://www.jubileetimecapsule.org)), the project is set to be the most ambitious digital legacy of the Diamond Jubilee.

Members of the public in all Commonwealth countries are being asked to contribute videos, photos and text about a memorable day between 6 February 1952 (Accession Day) and 6 June 2012. The very best JTC entries will be curated into the Royal (re)Collection and be presented to The Queen later in 2012.

Dr Danny Sriskandarajah, Director of the RCS, said: "We want this to be best gift The Queen has ever received, a crowd-sourced People's History of the

last 60 years. Anyone, anywhere in the world can share their story and be part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations."

The Jubilee Time Capsule will be a key part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Contributions can currently be submitted at [www.jubileetimecapsule.org](http://www.jubileetimecapsule.org) and viewed on a free JTC iPad App. People attending Diamond Jubilee events such as the Big Jubilee Lunch and Thames River Pageant will be invited to share memories of their day.

The site will remain open for contributions until mid-June 2012. The best entries will receive prizes and be curated into thematic (re)Collections. The top 60 entries will be presented as the Royal (re)Collection in late 2012 in London. All valid entries will be 'locked' into an online time capsule preserved in perpetuity as a digital legacy of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

## Commonwealth journalists call for repeal of repressive media legislation

Triennial conference in Malta explores new media and new horizons for the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA) held their triennial meeting in Malta with a focus on journalism and democracy in the new media age.

The programme also explored the future of the Commonwealth and was addressed by Commonwealth Assistant Secretary-General Steve Cutts, who highlighted changes taking place within the Commonwealth Secretariat.

He said the organisation must seize the momentum generated by the recent Eminent Persons Group (EPG) report, with proposals for more focused work and stronger impact. The EPG presented to leaders at the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth, Australia, with 106 recommendations on reform of the Commonwealth.

Mr Cutts called for the Commonwealth to use its tradition of political influence and consensus-

building to break down entrenched differences in areas including press freedom and human rights.

Senator Hugh Segal made his first official speech as Canada's newly-appointed Special Envoy for Commonwealth Renewal. A member of the 11-person EPG, he told delegates: "The Commonwealth, through you, its journalists, should speak up and speak out. Too much silence in the face of too much injustice may lead to the following question: what makes silence the better option? Not speaking out is never the right option."

Around 80 editors, journalists and academics from Asia, Canada, the Caribbean, Europe and Australia also heard from the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta, Dr Michael Frendo, who stressed the importance of partnerships, highlighting the synergy between the work of the European Union and that of the Commonwealth.

Malta's Minister of Tourism,

Environment and Culture, Mario De Marco opened the conference, by reflecting on the role of new media and recent global political developments by saying: "a smartphone is more powerful than the sword."

Over four days, delegates and speakers covered issues including the future of the press, new technologies, democracy and elections, press freedom, media law, sports scandals and disaster and climate change reporting.

The CJA also elected a new international president, Rita Payne, for the 36-year old association, which focuses on skills development and press freedom throughout the Commonwealth.

Rita Payne, former BBC Asia editor said: "I am honoured to have been elected International President of the CJA at the end of its conference at which delegates unanimously called for the repeal of repressive media laws in Commonwealth countries." She took over from Hassan Shahriar of

## Foods That Can Boost Your Memory

By Devinia Sookia (USA)



*Age, stress, lifestyle, nutrition and medications can play an important part on our health and deeply affect our brain functions thus resulting in memory loss*

Every cell in our body needs a steady supply of oxygen and nutrients to work properly. Oxygen and nutrients are carried into the bloodstream, thus anything that impedes bloodflow can have a negative effect on brain cell function. A healthy heart is sign of a healthy brain. A heart healthy diet is therefore very important for general health and a good memory. Two newly published studies have confirmed a 2006 finding that the so called

Mediterranean diet" can protect against mental decline with aging. In the "Journal of the American Medical Association", David S. Knopman, MD said that the results of the studies is evidence that the Mediterranean diet is linked to less late life cognitive impairment.

Despite the popularity of the diet there is no such thing as an official Mediterranean diet. But when researching the benefits of diets, scientists found that the diet in areas around the Mediterranean is the one that is most beneficial and should be followed by everyone. This diet contains more fruits, vegetables, legumes, cereals, fish and monosaturated fats such as olive oil and less red meat, dairy products and saturated fats.

Research has linked certain specific foods and their nutrients to the enhancement and preservation of memory. These so called "brain foods" contain flavonoids, which are chemical compounds that give fruits and leafy green vegetables their colour. Two important flavonoids that support memory function are found in apples, blueberries, and red onions.

### Berries

Berries rich in flavonoids protect against the breakdown of brain cells. Blueberries in particular are one of the best sources of flavonoids. Studies on animals point out that diets rich in flavonoids may help to reverse memory loss in animals.

### Leafy Greens

Leafy greens such as spinach, kale, mustard greens and turnip greens which are loaded with folate seem to have a direct effect on memory. In a study at Tufts University, Boston, researchers studied 320 men and tracked their blood levels of homocysteine which is an amino acid linked to a high rate of heart disease.

They found out that those participants who had high levels of that amino acid showed memory decline but those with less levels were protected against memory decline.

### Fatty Fish

Healthy fats are important for a healthy mind. Thus fatty fish such as salmon, sardines, herring and mackerel provide a good amount of Omega 3 fats which are excellent for memory.

A study published in the "Archives of Neurology" in November 2006 reveals that people who have the highest levels of Omega 3s are less likely to be diagnosed with dementia than those with the lowest levels.

Everyone should try to eat three 4-ounce servings of fatty fish per week. If that is impossible, then they should consider using fish oil supplements.

If we follow the tips above and have the "Mediterranean diet", our minds will stay sharp in old age and can be so even when we reach 90 years old.

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

## A VIEW OF THE NEWS IN MAURITIUS

**Following the acrimonious divorce of the once lovey-dovey partners of L'alliance de L'avenir, it was inevitable that there would be collateral damages once the dust had settled.**

Now in the wake of the much publicized fall out between them, the aftermath is now very much in evidence. Not a day goes by without claims and counter claims appearing in the local press about the level of competency or should I say incompetency of either political party. Much has been said and written about those who have deserted their camp to join the government ranks as ministers. Should they be called defectors or deserters, take your pick.

I much prefer the term TURNCOATS because it is exactly what I suggest they are. This is confirmed by the definition in the dictionary: - "It refers to someone who switches political party or allegiance in order to obtain any number of advantages associated with membership to a given group". So let us not beat about the bush and call a spade a spade.

Let us forget the balderdash and bunkum bandied about in trying to justify what most of us would consider unjustifiable, not to mention those who try to rationalize the behaviour of the turncoats by using farfetched arguments. If there had not been any advantage in the form of a much sought after ministerial portfolio, would they have switched allegiance or would they have continued to vouch loyalty to their previous leader?

The downside for the labour party was how their backbenchers would react when they see their hopes of getting advancement in their parliamentary careers dashed. It could not have helped when they saw the most junior partner of the alliance achieve promotion for all members within their ranks; their influence in the government is now beyond their wildest dreams.

Recently we have seen the supporters of at least one backbencher voice their disapproval in no uncertain terms. It is a well known fact that these backbenchers constantly swear their undying allegiance to their leader but it makes

me wonder how they do actually react behind closed doors.

Do they let go of their frustration in a more robust language similar to that used at a May political rally? Their resentment is understandable and legitimate, why are they overlooked so that their leader can curry favour with the turncoats or a junior partner. After all we are led to believe that ministers are generally appointed on ability and political nous with a dash of ethnicity added for good measure or does ethnicity comes first accompanied by a smattering of ability.

It makes one wonder in view of the recent appointments of some ministers which have been more by default than on any other criteria. Some of them might not have even been first choice and others were rewarded for being prepared to change horses in midstream.

The other fascinating element to note is that the lovelorn leaders (the incumbent and the aspirant) of the defunct alliance are now both eyeing the much coveted and elusive bachelor in the person of the strategist. Will it be the wedding of the year for one of them or will the potential bridegroom play hard to get and lead them up the garden path?

The factor that can prove crucial and tip the balance for either of them will be the little matter of the dowry. What will they offer to tempt him to take the plunge again following his past backbiting divorces with the two respective suitors, alliances that have been very much in the style of the numerous nuptials and splits of two late famous actors?

One does not need to be a rocket scientist to observe that the suitors are knee deep in the mire and that the strategist is holding the trump card, he can call the shots when and how he wants, time will tell if he is astute in his game plan.

There are more surprises in the offing. As I told you before, the saga goes on and on and on ... it is like 24 hour chrono revisited.

**CLAUDE CANABADY**



## Obituary

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Dave Husraz. He passed away on Sunday 29th January at the age of 70.

He came to the UK in 1969 to embark on his long-standing nursing career until a week before his death. A friend says he leaves behind his beautiful wife and daughter, Doorgabye and Melissa. He will always be in their thought.

Dave was chairman of the Mauritius Association of Manchester and active member of the community. Mauritius News sends our sincere condolences to his family.

## Angus Reid `survey

### Legal Euthanasia Supported by Majority in Great Britain

**Most respondents also think that anyone who helps a person to commit suicide should not be prosecuted.**

Most people in Britain continue to endorse the idea of legalising euthanasia in the country, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 2,014 British adults, 71 per cent of respondents (+4 since October 2010) are in favour of legalising euthanasia in the United Kingdom, while 16 per cent (-3) oppose this idea.

More than four-in-five Britons (86%) believe that legalising euthanasia would give people who are suffering an opportunity to ease their pain, and three-in-four (78%) think it would establish clearer guidelines for doctors to deal with end-of-life decisions.

Respondents are evenly divided on whether the legalisation of euthanasia would leave vulnerable people without sufficient legal protection (Agree 42%, Disagree 42%), but three-in-five (61%) reject the notion that it would send the message that the lives of the sick or disabled are less valuable.

In 2000, Heather Pratten of Essex pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting the suicide of her terminally ill son, Nigel, who suffered from Huntington's disease. Judge Graham Boal gave Pratten a conditional discharge instead of immediate imprisonment, due to the "exceptional circumstances" of the case.

A majority of Britons (57%) believe that, if a parent is found guilty of assisting a terminally ill son or daughter to die, there should be no penalty at all. Support for this course of action is decidedly higher among respondents over the age of 55 (65%).

In addition, three-in-five Britons (60%) believe that people who help a person to commit suicide should not be prosecuted.

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## Mahashivaratree 2012

This year, the Mahashivaratree Hindu feast will be celebrated on February 22. Hereunder a young reader sends us her thoughts about how it is observed in the UK and elsewhere

### The annual celebrations of Lord Shiva - Mahashivaratree

Hindus from different parts of the world are preparing to celebrate Mahashivaratree, the great night of Shiva. We will be fasting, (which is hard) and also preparing all the offerings to Lord Shiva, such as, fruits, honey, milk, flowers, ghee and of course water.

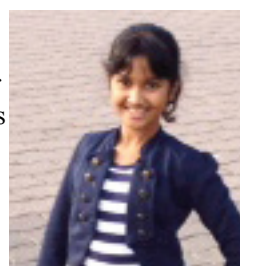
The manner by which the celebrations are carried out depends vastly on which part of the world you come from. I must however say that it all originates from India, where Hindus go on pilgrimage to the sacred river - The Ganges. This pilgrimage has been adopted and adapted by Hindus who have migrated to various parts of the world. In Mauritius, Hindus will go on pilgrimage to 'Grand Bassin' which is considered to be a sacred lake on the island.

The holy water of the lake is collected and offered to Lord Shiva.

In London, we have no Ganges or 'Grand Bassin', we adapt and use fresh clean tap water to offer Lord Shiva; I have been explained that it is the thought that counts! It is believed that devotion to the Lord will bring strength, peace, happiness to the devotees and keeps family life going.

I wish you all a Happy Mahashivaratree.

May Lord Shiva bless you all.



*by Rhyanna Boodhoo*



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The Diamond Jubilee  
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See More on Page 15

With the compliments of Dianne

Mauritius News, imitated by others but never surpassed

### Meditation for Harmonious Living

Innumerable people in all spheres of life nowadays practise the science of meditation. In this way, meditation has stretched itself from the East to the Western boundaries. To meditate means to contemplate in the deepest core of one's being – this is where silence resides. Silence has no religion, no gender, no caste and no belief. It is simply a state of being that has the power to transform one's consciousness to a higher level.

It has been scientifically proved that meditation has the power to increase one's memory, to make one experience peace and serenity; it makes one stress-free and insightful, leading to higher productivity in life. Moreover, it enables one to be more in control of one's emotions. Also, through meditation, one can increase one's energy level through the stimulation of dormant vortexes, also known as chakras. This in turn awakens one spiritually and one becomes more aware.

Are we not living in a hectic world whereby people have lost awareness? For instance, very few people notice the beauty of a rose. As John Keats, a famous poet, says, "What is life if people do not stop and stare?" Since meditation brings more awareness, people will be more conscious of their surroundings, deeds and

words, thus a better world will be created.

Our morose and mundane state of consciousness has unfortunately given rise to a world full of violence, war, racism and many other social flaws to such an extent that it might soon blow up into a third world war. However, people who tread the path of meditation are full of love, peace and forgiveness. Are these not important assets for the world to have a promising future?

Apart from all these spiritual virtues, meditation also imbricates a life full of health. Health is wealth and who would not like to be healthy! We even have the saying, "Mens sana in corpore sano," meaning, "A healthy mind in a healthy body." If physical health is important, mental health is primordial.

Numerous people, due to the pressure of the pace of life and personal or social problems, become insane and suffer from psycho-pathological diseases. Thus, it is important for each and everyone to find mental stability, a prop to counter the waves of materialism of this modern society.

Meditate and be healthy. Meditate and acquire all the spiritual wealth and essence you need. Meditate and know thyself. Meditate and be more pristine and composed. Meditate and lead a harmonious life.

**Swami Paramananda**

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### BOOK REVIEW

## What Moves You: Are you inspirational?

This 235 pages book is well written and contains ample examples of great words of wisdom which at one time or another have influenced the lives of a great many people. Here, writers from various walks of life and from several parts of the world share their experiences of how some of these words have had an impact on their lives. Everyday we come across great words of wisdom which have the potential to bring about healthy changes in ourselves and, in turn, the lives of many others. However, these words do not always mean very much to us, and sometimes even when we are able to grasp their meanings, we do not always have the good fortune to be moved by them. At other times we may understand their significance and feel inspired and motivated to do something

to improve ourselves or the lives of other human beings, yet due to various life pressures, we soon forget that moment and we just get on with our daily life as usual. However, blessed are those who are able not only to grasp the importance of these words of wisdom, but are also inspired to assimilate them and incorporate their meanings into their way of life. Several of these contributors have had the good fortune to be influenced by some words of wisdom of the influence of something or someone important in their lives. However, the book contains more than just words of wisdom from well-known personalities. It has a rich and unselfish sharing by many contributors of their own life experiences - what and who moved them. These experiences they share with others unreservedly.



Readers will no doubt enjoy reading this book and find plenty to take on board and hopefully assimilate into their own lives. The book can be obtained from Dr D B Lingiah at £10 (UK)

[David.lingiah@gmail.com](mailto:David.lingiah@gmail.com)

## Mamade Kadreebux from Page 4

my little village at the very end of the world so that they can situate in their minds and experience the style of a photographer who comes from very far. I had to tell my story to illustrate some of the adventures I encountered on the road. But, because some of my pictures were so rare and so much outside of the circuit of contemporary human experience, I had to explain how I got there. What miracles took place along the course of the journey in order to discover ruins that were known to very few people in the world. So, I wrote and illustrated my writing with photographs that had

various universities and people asked me questions that I thought could only be answered in a book. When I say I'm from Mauritius, they look at me blank. I had to first introduce Mauritius and then

# Mauritius News

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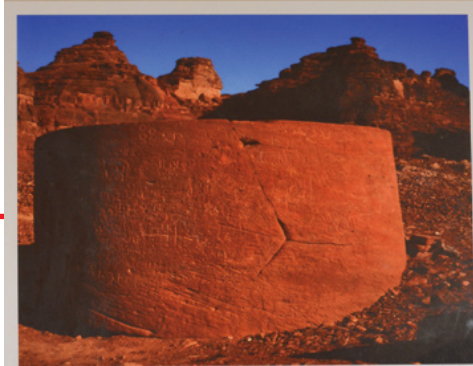


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excited the curiosity of many people.

**Dodo:** The exhibition at Souillac has unveiled your love for painting as well. Some of your acrylics could be admired by the public. This is apparently a new artistic endeavour of yours. Will these paintings too be exhibited in London?

**M.K:** I'm happy people are gaining appreciations for my work. These paintings unfortunately will not be on exhibit but they will be seen by some collectors who always want to have the first glimpse of what I paint. I shall paint more and perhaps at some other time they will be displayed alongside of my photographs. Well, thank you very much. It was a pleasure answering yours questions.



**Two of the plates exhibited at the art gallery of the village hall of Souillac, Mauritius: (i) Well at Madina Saleh in Saudi Arabia (DSC 0092); (ii) The midnight sun in Alaska (DSC 0097). One can also admire the boats of osier floating on the highest lake of the world, lake Titicaca; the melting of icebergs in Alaska; the city of the Incas in Peru, the Machu Picchu...**

**Immigration Law****Changes to the minimum age limit for spouse visa in the United Kingdom****Background**

In 2008, the government amended rule 277 of the Immigration Rules 2004 and provided that a marriage visa should not, in the absence of exceptional, compassionate circumstances, be granted until both the sponsor and the applicant had attained the age of 21. This amendment was implemented in order to deter forced marriage as the Home Secretary took the view that the rule would provide an opportunity for individuals to develop maturity which might enable them to resist from the pressure of forced marriage and/or sponsoring visa.

**New changes**

In October 2011, the Supreme Court held that the above amendment disproportionately interfered with Article 8 rights of those who were in genuine marriages[1]. The majority of the Court considered that the government has failed to



By Ludmilla Iyavoo\*  
(LLB Hons)

provide sufficient evidence that the age increase was an efficient factor to deter forced marriage.

Following the ruling, the government has decided to lower the age for spouse visa from 21 to 18. The change has been implemented since the 28th November 2011. As well, as lowering the age for spouse visa, the UK Border Agency has announced that people, who applied for a spouse visa between the 27th November 2008 and October 2011 and

were rejected because of their age, will be able to have the decision reviewed. The UK Border agency sets out the conditions for applying to have the decision reviewed as follows:

1. The applicant must have received an adverse decision under paragraphs 277, 289 AA and 295 AA of the Immigration Rules between the 27th November 2008 and October 2011, and;
2. The application was refused solely on age grounds, and;
3. Both parties are aged 18 and over.

If the above is satisfied, the applicant will be entitled for a review. The deadline to apply for reconsideration is on the 31st May 2012. If you apply before, the application would be free. After that date, a new application will be needed and the full fee will need to be paid.

Ludmilla is a legal adviser. Email: [lumilla\\_iyavoo@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lumilla_iyavoo@hotmail.co.uk)

**Lambeth Sols****It's Barry Humphries, otherwise known as Dame Edna Everage**

*(From page One)*



Left: Dame Edna Everage featured on the cover of Time Out of its Christmas/New Year edition.

Mr Barry Humphries was awarded the Australian of the Year Award on Australia Day in January this year. This is an honour that Mr Humphries, comedian and actor, has been receiving every year since 2004. "The honour is to salute an Australian who has excelled in their own right in Britain," wrote the Australian Times.

The Australian Times, quoting Australia Day Foundation chairman Phillip Aiken reported "Barry Humphries is quite simply one of the funniest and most revered artistes Australia has produced and he is loved by millions of people throughout the world."

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# Guy Rozemont's landmarks in the Mauritian constitutional reforms

It will be seventy years this year that trade unionist Guy Rozemont, emblematic figure of the Mauritius Labour Party which he chaired, and a member of the Legislative Council, made his first public address at a Labour Party

gathering held at the theatre of Port Louis. That was on 23 August 1942. His mentor, Emmanuel Anquetil, was then the chairman of the Labour party. The latter was promoted to this position in May 1941 when the founder,

Dr Maurice Curé, withdrew from the leadership of the Party. Guy Rozemont's adherence to the Labour party in 1940 was sponsored by Emmanuel Anquetil himself. Both were active and committed trade unionists



In the 1940's already, the Labour Party, committed to an extended democracy and the betterment of the lot of the working class, has pushed forward the proposal for a public holiday for the workers (Labour Day) and constitutional reforms.

Guy Rozemont was in the forefront for the achievement of both a larger franchise and a public holiday that would recognize the importance of workers. A larger franchise where the prevailing property qualification would be curtailed, would bring voting right to a mass of workers who would be able to send to the Legislative Council their elected representatives.

On the other hand, the introduction of Labour Day in the island would go far towards uplifting the dignity and the recognition of the working class as a valuable economic partner playing a vital role in the production of wealth.

## Towards the first really popular elections of the island

As early as February 1946, Guy Rozemont was the mouthpiece of the Labour Party at a public gathering held at Company's Garden in Port Louis on the issue of constitutional reforms, organized by Sookdeo Bissoondoyal and Sookdeo Balgobin. The colonial government subsequently approved the idea of constitutional reforms and, on 29 October 1946, the British governor Mackenzie-Kennedy presented to the Council of Government the proposal for a fresh constitution, emanating from the Secretary of State for the Colonies and based on data furnished by the governor of the colony and the Consultative Commission.

As it maintained the property qualification and put forward other elements that were not favourable to the working classes, the proposal was rejected in toto by the Labour Party during a public gathering held at St Pierre on 1st December 1946 with the active participation of Emmanuel Anquetil, S. Salabee, Renganaden Seeneevassen, Guy Rozemont, Drs Edgard Millien and Seewoosagur Ramgoolam.

Emmanuel Anquetil passed away in the night of 29 December 1946. Guy Rozemont, then secretary-general, was promoted president of the party. The struggle for constitutional reforms went on: a fresh Consultative Commission was appointed; the various political parties or groups including the Labour Party expressed their views forcefully both in public gatherings and through their mouthpieces in the Consultative Commission.

The president of the Labour Party, Guy Rozemont, was very committed to the idea of a massive extension of the electorate. Ultimately the wish of Guy Rozemont and the Labour Party was fulfilled and the colonial government approved a new Constitution whereby the number of electors increased almost sevenfold. The stage was set for the first

popular election of the island:

"Under the old constitution of 1885 the number of electors stood at 11,844 in 1946. Immediately after the approval of the new constitution the registration of electors was completed and in 1948 their number rose to 71,569. The following table shows the number of electors in each electoral district.

Port Louis 13,389  
Pamplemousses & Riviere du Rempart 10,007  
Moka & Flacq 10,204  
Grand Port & Savanne 12,641  
Plaines Wilhems & Black River 22,567  
(M.N. Varma, *The Road to Independence*)

The first general election under the new constitutional provisions were held on 9th and 10th August 1948. The outcome was a real commendation of the Labour Party: "C'est en sa qualité de leader du Parti Travailleiste qu'il prend part aux élections générales d'août 1948 (qui ont lieu suite à des réformes constitutionnelles qui ont élargi la base électorale de manière significative) et se fait élire en tête de liste. Ce sont les forces progressistes dans le rang desquelles on compte Dr S. Ramgoolam, S. Bissoondoyal et R. Seeneevassen, qui remportent haut la main ces élections. Sur les 19 candidats élus à la législature, un seul émane du rang des conservateurs. D'une certaine manière, cette victoire est le fruit d'un combat mené sur le front constitutionnel par les progressistes, dont font alors partie Sookdeo Bissoondoyal, Dr S. Ramgoolam, Guy Rozemont lui-même et le Parti Travailleiste, pour un élargissement du suffrage. Ce qui donne à de nombreux membres de la classe ouvrière favorable au Parti Travailleiste et autres formations populaires, le droit de vote." (Week-End, 28 avril 2004)

## Setting the stage for the first London Conference

One important and crucial impact of the victory of Guy Rozemont, the Labour Party and other socialists, was to crystallize all progressist and pro-working class groups and individuals



From left to right: Guy Forget, Dr Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Guy Rozemont and Renganaden Seeneevassen after their triumph in the first popular election (1953)

around the Labour Party.

In this way, Dr S. Ramgoolam adhered to the Labour Party, so much so that soon "Guy Rozemont and Dr Ramgoolam together made the strength of the party." (M.N. Varma). On the other hand, the Conservatives organized themselves under the banner of the Ralliement Mauricien. In due course, Labour party and Ralliement Mauricien got engaged in a electoral campaign for the second popular election (1953). Their respective manifestos speak for themselves:

**Manifesto of the Mauritius Labour Party**

(a) Universal adult suffrage for the election of Legislative Council,

Municipal Councils, Town Councils and Village Councils.

(b) Responsible Government.  
(c) Re-organisation of primary and secondary education.  
(d) Better health facilities.  
(e) 2/3 extraction of sucrose content to small planters.  
(f) Family allowance.  
(g) Better working and living conditions for labourers and artisans.

**Manifesto of the Ralliement Mauricien**

(a) To fight the grant of Universal adult suffrage.  
(b) To oppose Responsible Government.  
(c) Better food  
(d) Improved relations between labour and capital.  
(e) Changes in education  
(f) Better consideration to pensioners and ex-service men.

While the Labour Party laid stress on responsible government and universal adult suffrage, the Ralliement Mauricien opposed these issues and warned against the annexation of Mauritius with India, the indianization of the country, the devaluation of Western culture, **communalism** and communism.

The Mauritius Labour Party presented 19 candidates in all the districts against only 9 candidates of the Ralliement Mauricien in two electoral districts (Port Louis and Plaines Wilhems) and independent candidates in all the other districts. In all, 92,239 electors out of a population of 502,000 persons were going to choose between 79 candidates contesting 19 seats.

The elections were held on August 26 and August 27 and the results were as follows – Labour Party (13 seats), Ralliement Mauricien (3 seats) and independent candidates (3).

The overwhelming victory obtained by the Labour Party "settled once for all that the country would move towards more important constitutional reforms." (M.N. Varma). Consequently, "on December 8, 1953, Guy Rozemont, President of the Labour Party and first member for Port Louis, moved a motion asking the Secretary of State to receive a delegation to discuss constitutional changes for Mauritius." (Idem).

The main demands of the party were universal adult suffrage, responsible government, the ministerial system of government, decrease in the number of nominated members, increase in the number of elected members, changes in the composition of the Executive Council, a speaker for the Legislative Council and the leader of the majority party to be styled Prime Minister.

## On to the 1st London Conference (12-20 July 1955)

The demands of the Labour Party were examined at the 1st Constitutional Conference in London in 1955. The representatives of the Labour Party were Guy Rozemont, Dr Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Renganaden Seeneevassen and Guy Forget. Discussions on the future constitution of Mauritius took place in London from 12th to 20th July 1955.

Unfortunately, the demands for reform of the Labour Party were torpedoed by the Conservatives and the British Secretary of State through the introduction of the **Proportional Representation**:

"Les demandes du Parti Travailleiste seront examinées à la 1ère Conférence Constitutionnelle de Londres (1955)... Toutefois, les principales demandes du Parti Travailleiste en ce qui concerne le suffrage universel adulte et le Gouvernement responsable seront torpillées, le Secrétaire d'Etat britannique ayant accepté, à la demande des conservateurs, que le mode de scrutin soit selon la formule de la représentation proportionnelle. Le Parti Travailleiste, résolument opposé à la Représentation Proportionnelle – ce mode de scrutin étant susceptible d'entraîner clivages et anarchies idéologiques – sera appelé à combattre cette proposition à la 2ème Conférence Constitutionnelle de Londres (1957)." (Week-End, 2 mai 2004)

The President of the Labour Party, Guy Rozemont, did not have the privilege to participate in the 2nd Constitutional Conference as he passed away on 22 March 1956, "le jeudi 22 mars, à six heures deux du soir" (Week-End, 16 mai 2004) at the early age of 41.

However, the torch of freedom which he had lit continued to burn. "Par-delà la mort, Guy Rozemont verra triompher son rêve constitutionnel pour l'île Maurice lorsqu'à la 2e Conférence Constitutionnelle de Londres, la Représentation Proportionnelle sera tout simplement mise à l'écart. L'île Maurice aura le suffrage universel adulte et le système ministériel de gouvernement. Ainsi lancée sur la voie de l'autonomie politique, elle fera, la décennie suivante, le pas décisif vers le statut d'Etat indépendant." (Week-End, 2 mai 2004)

## The credit must go to freedom fighter Guy Rozemont

To freedom fighter Guy Rozemont must go the credit of both universal suffrage and responsible government, the two constitutional bedrocks on which the edifice of independent Mauritius will stand as from 1968.

But there has been a coterie acting in the dark to erase from the annals of the history of Mauritius, the contribution of this stalwart of Mauritian emancipation, Marie Joseph Guy Rozemont (1915-1956).

This treachery has been well underlined lately by PKD in an article entitled "Guy Rozemont, l'oublié du travaillisme" in the Mauritian daily Le Défi of Saturday 21, 2012. The article in question is a survey of Mée P. Rivière's book "Guy Rozemont, le défenseur des plus démunis", edited by Osman Publishing. PKD writes: "Un seul nom émerge lorsqu'on évoque l'histoire contemporaine du Parti Travailleiste, ce qui est profondément



From the family album (1952): Guy Rozemont and his wife Marie Edith Elsie, born Cummins (on the left), holding Guito, Guy Rozemont jr.



Guy Rozemont (far left) and the other Mauritian delegates on their way to the 1st Constitutional Conference of London (1955). Are also on the photo: Renganaden Seeneevassen and Guy Forget (3rd and 4th from the left); Dr Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (left in the back row)

injuste, car il fait accroire que ce parti serait sorti des seules entrailles des politiciens engagés dans les négociations pour l'indépendance de Maurice. Il existe une histoire du travaillisme et de ses fondateurs, véritables héros passés aujourd'hui dans l'anonymat total et qui allèrent au charbon face à une oligarchie blanche et raciste. Ils (Les héros) ont tous des noms: Emmanuel Anquetil, Guy Rozemont, le Dr Millien, le Dr Maurice Curé, le Pandit Sahadeo."

Suffice it to say that Guy Rozemont has not only been one the heroes of our political independence. Did he not say in 1954: "L'île Maurice peut devenir et deviendra par la volonté du peuple un état libre et indépendant, qu'on le veuille ou non."? He is also the man who brought forward the motion that ended up in officializing Labour Day as a public holiday in Mauritius as from 1950.

Indeed, there are so many things he did for the working class of this country, which have been hijacked and attributed to others who have but benefited from the sweat of his labour. This extract summarizes well what Marie Joseph Guy Rozemont has bequeathed to the downtrodden of this island:

"Pour tout cela, de la création de l'Etat-Providence à l'ouverture de la voie vers l'autonomie et l'indépendance, l'île Maurice est sans doute redevable à Guy Rozemont, l'homme politique et le syndicaliste. Tout ce qui touche au bien-être des travailleurs fait l'objet de son plus vif intérêt: plan de pension pour les travailleurs, facilités médicales, allocations chômage, éducation obligatoire, nationalisation de certaines industries, plan de logement pour les travailleurs, sociétés coopératives, pension de vieillesse." (Week-End, 2 mai 2004).

## DODO

(The following sources have also been consulted for this article: (1) Profiles of Great Mauritians: Curé, Anquetil, Rozemont and Seeneevassen (Moonindra Nath Varma); (2) Mauritius News, April 1998, Issue No. 129 (Article on "Guy Rozemont: Man of the People" by Yatindra Varma); (3) The Story of Mauritius 1900-2000 – Father of the Nation (Anand Mulloo); (4) Histoire de la Colonie Ile de France-Ile Maurice, 1721-1968 (Amédée Nagapen); (5) Emmanuel Anquetil (L. Rivalto Quenette).

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*For more information Ring Peter*

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