

L'Union
fait
La Force



Mauritian Overseas Gazette

Truth
&
Trust

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Unity
is
Strength

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A totally independent platform

Les gens se vengent des services qu'on leur rend

Louis-Ferdinand Céline

UK Government will ease up visa restrictions

During the 1960s Britain opened its doors to mass immigration when thousands were able to seek residence with a view to obtain employment in the transport and nursing sectors. But too many were coming to Britain which resulted in communal conflicts in some parts of the country. Britain introduced the Commonwealth Immigrant Act in July 1962 to stem the flow of migrants seeking employment and residence in Britain.

But today Britain is now in a situation where it requires qualified health workers once more and will soon introduce the Visa Bill to create "a new fast-track visa route for eligible health and care professionals ..."

A communiqué from the Home Office in February indicates that the new Health and Care Visa legislation will come with a reduced visa application fee compared to that paid by other skilled workers, including exemption from the Immigration Health Surcharge. Health and Care professionals applying on this route can also expect a decision on whether they can work in the UK within just three weeks, following biometric enrolment. Those working in health and social care who do not qualify for the Health and Care Visa will still be able to claim a reimbursement from the Immigration Health Surcharge if they have paid this on or after 31 March.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said: We are indebted to overseas health and care professionals for their tremendous contributions, not just in saving thousands of lives throughout this crisis (pandemic), but for the vital role they play year-round.

As part of the launch of the Health and Care Visa, those who apply via the visa and their dependants will be exempt from the Immigration Health Surcharge. The government has already began refunding Immigration Health Surcharge payments for any healthcare professionals on Tier 2 visas who have paid since 31 March 2020, and this process will continue. More information will be published on the Immigration Health Surcharge GOV.UK pages for customers to contact us directly if they believe they are due a refund.

The Department of Health and Social Care is currently working with the sector to set up operational arrangements for reimbursing health and social care staff outside the scope of the Health and Care visa. These arrangements will commence from 1 October in 6-month reimbursements. The new Health and Care Visa will apply to eligible roles within the health and care sector. The events of recent months have illustrated just what a crucial role the care sector plays in UK society.

The government is working closely with the sector to support and recognise the contributions of care workers. This includes a widespread focus on training and introducing a proper career structure to provide opportunities for those in the sector and makes it an attractive profession for prospective carers.

The independent Migration Advisory Committee has been very clear that immigration is not the answer to the challenges in the social care sector and, as we implement the new immigration system, we want employers to focus on investing in our domestic workforce.

Editor's note: Home Secretary Priti Patel says that "we want employers to focus on investing in our domestic workforce." The fact that the British work force is very sophisticated and has a tendency to look down on the nursing profession especially with the opportunity of a wider choice in every sector of the profession.

Even migrants like herself and Exchequer Chancellor Sunak have higher aspirations. Even the offspring of foreign nurses do not embrace the profession of their parents. I do not know any who does. "immigration is likely to be forever the answer to the challenges in the social care sector." Very soon Priti will find that construction sector will have to issue a similar communiqué for foreign labour.

Mauritius-India bilateral cooperation



Indian Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (left) and Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth on the rostrum

During his three-day official visit to Mauritius from 21 to 24 February Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Indian Foreign Affairs Minister, as a first gesture of goodwill, handed over to Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth a parcel of the Covishield vaccines as a token of the second consignment of 100,000 vaccines from India.

The Minister met with other personalities of the country as well. He visited institutions constructed with funds from India like the ENT hospital, the Supreme Court and took a ride on the Metro Express that initially serves the journey between Port Louis and Rose Hill.

Several accords were signed under the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA). Prime Minister Jugnauth described the CECPA as the first of its kind signed by India with an African country. "This agreement will unleash new opportunities in trade, in goods and services, investment, economic cooperation and technical assistance", he said.

Pravind Jugnauth is optimistic that "the CECPA will encourage Indian entrepreneurs to invest both in Mauritius and across the African region, thus consolidating Government's vision of making Mauritius as a strategic regional economic hub and a centre of excellence."

The signing of the CECPA coinciding with the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area, Mr Jugnauth expressed the view that the two institutions would "provide

scope for fostering Indian investments in the continent via the Mauritius gateway, particularly through leveraging India-Africa value chains in many areas such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, agro-industry and ICT."

Dr Jaishankar was praiseworthy of the Mauritian PM's ability to control the Covid 19 pandemic and to make Mauritius a Covid safe country. He congratulated the Mauritius Government for its efforts to implement successfully the various projects supported by India financially.

The Indian Minister quoted the emergency assistance provided by India following the wreck of the MV Wakashio last year and the procurement of the Covishield vaccines to Mauritius as evidence of the special bond that exists between the two countries "India will continue to support Mauritius in its endeavour to foster economic recovery."

Projects in the pipeline that will benefit from India's assistance "comprise the relocation of the Forensic Science Laboratory; a new National Archives and National Library; a new Civil Service College; construction of new health infrastructures; replacement of old water pipes to improve water supply; and the implementation of Solar PV Farm Project at Tamarind Falls."

The Indian Foreign Affairs Minister assured the Prime Minister of India's support over Mauritius's sovereignty claim for the Chagos.

Reform Party Leader Roshi Bhadain blows his top



Leader of the newly-formed political party, Roshi Bhadain, lost his marbles when he was followed by the cameraman of the MBCTV. "Why do you keep following me all the time, he asked of the cameraman. Have you received orders from the top to do so? Answer me, answer me, the whole country is watching, he shouted to the man. "You keep following me and you take pictures. I am taking your

picture now," which he did with his smart phone.

This was certainly a very embarrassing moment not only for those in the company of the politician but also for those watching the incident on TV.

The MBC cameraman is said to have felt humiliated by Mr Bhadain's attitude and his union has been taking the politician to task. Mr Bhadain is a lawyer by profession, and the matter has been reported to the Bar Council, according to the Union.

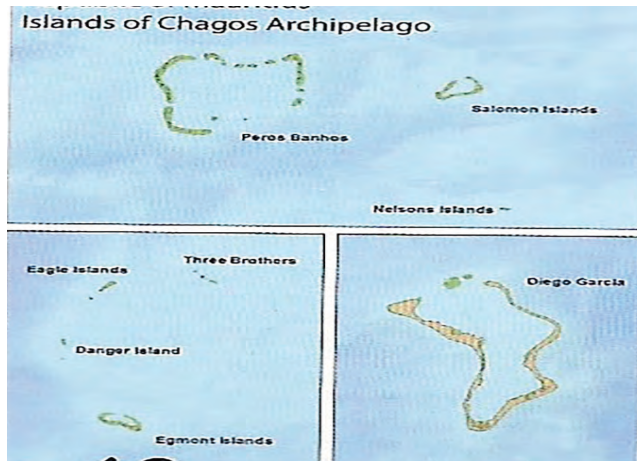
The Reform Party is in alliance with the MMM and the PMSD to fight future elections. At a press conference Mr Bhadain was questioned by another MBC journalist about his recent attack on the Corporation's cameraman.

It was MMM leader Paul Bérenger who 'stood up' for the Reform Party leader and asked the female journalist 'Have you been sent by your boss to ask such questions.' This is out of place, says Philippe Nimki. As a Union activist, Mr Bérenger built his political career on the back of trade unions and thrived on check-off for his wages. He should be the last person to treat working class people like this.

If it's too hot in the kitchen, Bhadain may have to get out, as he got out of another one.

Cyril Louis

Chaegos*, Chaegos and Chaegos still !



Yes, over half-a-century has elapsed since the Chagos was made part of the British Indian Ocean Overseas Territory (BIOT) and the Archipelago is still in the news.

Two decades into a new century, and following three international rulings the intensity of the dispute between Mauritius and Britain over the sovereignty issue does not seem to have abated.

But Britain is finding itself more and more cornered by world opinion that agrees with the view that it has not the right to any sovereignty claim following the independence of Mauritius in 1968. Only recently, Indian Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Subramanyan Jaishankar on an official visit to Mauritius has told the people that India stands by the island in its sovereignty claim over the island.

Among other countries it has been reported that Egypt has intimated its support to Mauritius's claim.

But as the incumbent Mauritian PM Pravind Jugnauth puts it, Britain is being stubborn and does not want to submit to any verdict. But it's the general opinion that Britain will have to give in sooner or later as it has no leg to stand on.

The British daily The Mirror in its issue of February 26 carried an editorial under the headline "Government spent nearly £6m fighting Chagos Islands court cases, minister admits"

The paper wrote "The Government admitted the money was pumped into court battles over the Chagos Islands, which include the vast America military station at Diego Garcia.

The bill covers legal tussles fought over the past two decades, including when Labour was in power until 2010."

Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson as an avatar of Donald Trump is certainly a stubborn character who may, however, have to give in sooner or later. But it may be remembered that it was under a Labour Government that the then Foreign Affairs Minister David Miliband authorised the creation of a marine park limiting unauthorised access within the territorial waters of the Chagos.

However, the attitude of the British Labour Party seems to have changed as regards the claim to the sovereignty of the Chagos by Britain. Former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn had made it known that a prospective Labour government would give up Britain's sovereignty claim.

On the other hand the Mirror article states that "Shadow Foreign Secretary Lisa Nandy criticised money paid by the Government for fighting the case.

She said: "Ministers have wasted millions of pounds of taxpayers' money defending a policy that trashes Britain's reputation and diminishes our influence in the world. It is perfectly possible to end this historic injustice and safeguard British interests. "Instead the Government seems hellbent on charting this reckless course regardless of the consequences."

So, if this dispute is not settled under any Conservative Government it can be expected that the matter will be resolved once for all under a future Labour Government.

Peter Chellen

* Chaegos: pronunciation of the name Chagos by the English.



Japan Newsletter

From Mylene

ALL WORK AND COSPLAY

We all have our own way to relax and get away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. We can escape to an imaginary world through books, films and art, but the Japanese have taken this a step further through cosplay. Pronounced ko-su-pu-re, a contraction of the words costume and play.

So, what is Cosplay? For those who don't already know, it is a form of dressing up but, no ordinary form, it can be described as a kind of physical virtual reality. Fans of cosplay, known as, cosplayers find inspiration from manga (Japanese comics) and anime (animation), even television, movies and video game characters.

It started off as a hobby with handmade costumes using whatever material was to hand. Today, this sub-culture has morphed into a 40 billion yen industry as companies cash in on its popularity. Many are



ready and willing to spend an arm and a leg to look the part and be the part. Costumes, wigs, coloured contact lenses, makeup, props and all kinds of paraphernalia.

Once in their costume, cosplayers meet up at the many events, festivals or summits that crop up all the time all over Japan.

Shutterbugs who are ardent fans, follow these costume dressers from venue to venue. While the cameras click away, the cosplayers pose and adopt the same stance, the same facial expressions and the same gestures as their character.

These gatherings are a chance for them to mingle with like-minded souls.

Characters are naturally drawn to others from the same work of fiction. If they form a group, in cosplay language, this is known as, awase.

Dressing up has been around for donkey's years. What child has not donned mum's clothes, high heels and splashed makeup on their face. Japan is a country with a strong work ethic.

Diligence and punishingly long hours in the office is the norm, so what better way to unwind than to dress up and enter a make-believe world. To be someone else, to be gender fluid or to be a superhero and return to a childish form of narcissism. Since its conception in Tokyo in the 70s, cosplay has rocketed, spreading to other countries in Asia before reaching the rest of the world. I remember going to a cosplay convention many years ago at Olympia, in London.

As with all new trends, a whole new terminology has sprouted in this fandom. Layer, is Japanese slang for a cosplayer and Layer Support, is a company that specifically cleans the costumes and paraphernalia. Furry, is a person that dresses up as an animal character and post-con depression (I'm sure you can guess) is feeling blue after returning to the humdrum of daily life after attending a convention.



On top of that, good manners is de rigueur in this community. There are some simple rules to follow. Be careful not to get in the way of passers-by and don't make derogatory remarks. Wash your outfit regularly. Scanty costumes are a no-no. Just common sense really, after all, they have the responsibility of carrying this community's good name. So good manners and politeness goes a long way in cosplay, as well as in life.

The other day in the middle of the week, in the middle of the day, in the middle of Sapporo, the capital of Hokkaido in Japan, a main street was cordoned off to allow cosplayers to mingle, sing, dance and have fun.



Olympics? It's a case of will it? won't it? will it? won't it? The government and organisers are pushing for it, but citizens, medical experts are anti

Flaming Silly

It has been confirmed that the torch relay will take place as planned on March 25, but cheering is strictly banned.

Spectators will be allowed to line the route and watch the flame pass. All must wear masks and avoid crowding.

To show their support - clapping, waving and using distributed goods are acceptable.

An Orwellian Twist

Will the smartphone app being developed to track potential foreign visitors' whereabouts

during the Olympics be ready in time?

The app will connect the Foreign Ministry's electronic visa and Health Ministry's HER-SYS system to a custom-made system to centralise information on visitors' movements, health condition and Covid-19 test result.

It will be compulsory to possess a smartphone and have the app installed to enter the country, then maybe there won't be a need to quarantine for 14days.

Apart from the huge expense, 7.3 billion yen (Over 48 million pounds) not everyone has a smartphone and the app is not compatible with Huawei technology.

Arvind Boolell resigns as Opposition leader and Shakeel Mohamed as Opposition Chief Whip



Hon Arvin Boolell

The parliamentary opposition group has been in a quandary following the repudiation of the Labour Party by the joint forces of Paul Béranger, MMM leader, and Xavier Duval, PMSD leader. The two leaders have made it known that they would not carry on supporting the Labour Party with the prospect of its extra-parliamentary leader, Navin Ramgoolam, being presented as an aspiring Prime Minister.

But Navin Ramgoolam's "j'y suis, j'y reste" is pretty well known. His contention is that though he has no seat in Parliament, he is not going to step down as leader of his own Labour Party. The leadership of his party is a matter for his party to decide and not Mr Béranger to dictate, he affirmed recently. Labour



Hon Shakeel Mohamed

Arvind Boolell, parliamentary Opposition leader, recently declared that Mr Béranger should not interfere in the business of another party.

Arvind Boolell parliamentary leader of the Labour MPs was appointed Opposition leader with the support of the MMM and MSM. Now that his party is out of favour with the other two parties his position as Opposition leader in the House was certainly going to be made untenable. On the other hand, Hon Boolell had supported his own party MP, Hon Shakeel Mohamed as Chief whip, but recently Paul Béranger wanted the post of Chief Whip to be allocated to an MP from his party.

Under the circumstances, it is not surprising that Arvind Boolell has taken the decision to submit his resignation as Opposition leader to the President of the Republic, effective from March 1. Equally not surprising is the resignation of Hon Mohamed as Chief Whip to follow that Arvind Boolell.

The MMM – PMSD alliance will have already been debating who should the Opposition leader and who should be the Chief Whip. The two positions will be shared between the MMM and MSM.

So the opening of Parliament on March 23 will see outgoing External Affairs Minister Nando Bodha moving from Government side to sit with the Opposition group and both Boolell and Mohamed becoming back benchers.

Rodrigues Road Show



During the recent road show organised jointly by the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority and the Rodrigues Tourism Office a group of Rodriguan artistes have been holding cultal shows in various localities of mauritius.

On Thursday, February 25 the Rodriguan group made up of a musical band, singers and dancers held a cultural show at the Caudan Waterfront shopping centre.

Both the Caudan spot and the time of the performance were not too convenient. The show would have attracted a better audience if the artistes did perform in the area located further down the mall which is suitable for concerts and such events. As for the time, 11am on a weekday is not right for visitors at the waterfront. It is certain that roadshow will have been more successful in terms of audience like the one that took place at Grand Baie Shopping centre by the Super U supermarket where there are good crowds of shoppers and other visitors at any time of day.

The purpose of the roadshow in Mauritius is to sell Rodrigues as an interesting destination for Mauritians who are unable to travel to any other destinations owing to lockdown in many countries. In this respect it is believed that the periodical group-tours to Rodrigues have been very successful so far this year.

From a tourist leaflet that was available at the roadshow we read "Rodrigues Island is a little jewel (18 x 8km) off the northeast coast of Mauritius, with a population to around 38,000 people. Of volcanic origin, it owes its name to the Portuguese ship's pilot, Diego Rodrigues, who discovered it in 1528.

The island prides itself in its silky beaches, its gorgeous uneven typography, the natural politeness of its inhabitants, its scrumptious gastronomy and its landmarks, as well as its sea activities. Interestingly, Rodrigues also has a vast limestone plain and beautiful show caves.

People and Culture

Rodrigues Island is also renowned for its authenticity - which makes its uniqueness as an anti-stress island.

Authentically Creole, the Rodriguan culture is vibrant through the music, dances and cuisines of its people. The music is a sweet blend of European melodies and African rhythms; the 'sega tambour' is the folk dance of Rodrigues.

The population lives mainly off fishing, farm produce, handicraft and more recently, tourism. Women play an active part in the economic life of the island.

The people - 96% of whom are Christians - live a naturally harmonious life.

Latest News

- MMM leader Paul Bérenger and PMSD leader Xavier Duval have appealed to the President of the Republic to request Arvin Boolell to take back his resignation letter as leader of the Opposition.
- From the Labour quarters it is stated that there is no question of Boolell withdrawing his resignation letter.
- For Labour leader Navin Ramgoolam, he cannot understand that the MMM and PMSD should want him out any future government prospect. He says that he is the one who brought the two parties together when each one did want the other in any alliance.

A jewel of Tamil temple architecture on Colline Monneron, Port Louis



Photo: MOG

This is certainly a piece of very colourful and attractive construction on the side of Colline Monneron facing Tranquebar with access from Route Chateau d'Eau.

The side of the hill, like all similar location, is rather steepy and the temple (or kovil in Tamil) itself is quite a distance from the street pavement which is far down below.

Access to the kovil is not too easy. May be it would be encouraging to the worshippers if more steps were available. The possibility of such a project was talked privately to an expatriate and her immediate reaction was "Is there need for more kovils in Mauritius?"

In this spirit it may be asked if there is need for the Colline Monneron Kovil? The fact is that there are only three kovils in Port Louls. There is the Sockalingum Meenatchee Amma Kovil (known as Kaylasson) close to Abercrombie at the entrance of Port Louis from the north, there is the Kaliyamman Kovil at the Bell Village entrance of Port Louis from the south, and there is one almost near the Town Centre close to the Albion Docks. They are all miles away from the localities of many worshippers who wish to go the temple for prayers as often as possible. The distance is a great deterrent.

The Tamil community at Vallée Pitot, near the Champ de Mars and in the area of Tranquebar felt



Photo: MOG

The top of the Kovil seen on the Monneron Hill, behind the G.M. Atchia State Secondary School located at the foot of the hill, and the Tombeau Malartic (left, looks like a black pillar) on the Champ de Mars itself.

An outline on the hill, from the kovil front down, can be detected indicating the lane that is being used for access from the Chateau d'Eau Road (down below) leading to Tranquebar.

the need of a kovil nearer to their residence. So this need gave rise to a prayer-site closer to their residence with no intention of affecting attendance at the other kovils. The Colline Monneron temple that bears the name of Shree Bala Dhandayudapance Swamy Thirukkivil was built in 1997 under the



Photo: MOG

The kovil on the Monneron Hill is seen from Sir William Newton Street, with the harbour further down the road and Church Street further up leading to the Champ de Mars

management of the Vallée Pitot Tamil Cultural Circle located in the vicinity of the Champ de Mars in Port Louis.

We understand that on top of the steps there is also plan for an asphalted lane from bottom-to-top to be made available, of which this online publication, MOG, has been made aware. It is clear that a fund-raising exercise may be recommended.

The Mauritian Overseas Gazette is of the opinion that it is up to the Management Committee to initiate action for such a fund-raising exercise to be put in place with the approval of the appropriate local authority and the police. The online publication will surely try to help.

Reminiscing the good old days in the UK before pandemic

By Yvonne Persand Goder



Yvonne Persand-Goder with Mauritian singer Alain Ramanisum

If the heartache of the Covid virus was not devas-tating enough, having us to worry about our elders and most vulnerable members of society, as well as to worry about the damage this pandemic is doing to the economy, we have our to endure own heartache resulting from the travel restrictions in place these days..

and wanting to travel back to Mauritius to top up our Vitamin D (the UK very cold temperatures of late makes us miss the sunshine even more), stroke the white sand with our feet. We long to eat some street food such as Roti, Dhal Puri, Gateau Piments, Gateaux Patate, Badja, Gateaux Banane, Mine Frite, Boulette Poisson, Poisson Salé, Poisson frire (yes, fresh fish picked straight out of the Indian Ocean), plus all the sweet cakes ladou, feuilleté and to

drown it all with some fresh Alouda especially from the popular spot in Port Louis. We miss our family and friends. It is not like we cannot have this all this back in the UK, it just tastes so much better when having a good time in Mauritius, even the cold Coca-Cola tastes better.

If the travel restrictions were not enough to make us homesick, it is the restrictions of not being able to go to any UK Mauritian parties, festivals, restaurants and to have our favourite Mauritian musicians come and perform for us that make worse. Oh, we shall not take all this for granted anymore.

We reminisce of the days when we watched our dearest Segga artistes from Mauritius perform at events for us in the UK. This includes when Alain Ramanisum performed at the RnR Winebar in Chingford, London organised by British Mauritian Waves. It was



Mauritius News open-air Festival on Clapham Common

Yes, we all agree the restrictions were well deserved, some may argue the cost of Mauritians wanting to travel back to their own homeland could have been handled better, without the extortionate fees in place or having to select an expensive hotel to for confinement.



Fashion show on Clapham Common

However, noone could debate how well and proud of Mauritius we are in keeping the casualties to Covid at an ultimate low. We definitely, do not want to jeopardise this now.

Although, we are somewhat homesick



Fashion show on Clapham Common

especially unique as the venue was an intimate setting with Alain walking into the crowd and interacting with all his fans.

Hopefully, one day things will be back to normal, with Covid eradicated or contained and the influx of tourists to Mauritius will boom especially from us in the UK with such a large diaspora based here. We hope this will be by 2022.

Until then some photos on this page to reminisce

BORDER CROSSINGS

DANCING INTO THE SPRING

INDIGENOUS ENTERPRISE - PRESERVE, PERFORM, PROGRESS



2021 is moving tentatively into the spring, but there are green shoots of hope around the world. President Joe Biden's inauguration on January 20th was a day when Indigenous children across the US cheered in front of their TVs, and Rep. Deb Haaland, the first Native American to hold a cabinet post, wore a ribbon skirt with red wrapped moccasins to the ceremony. At the centre of the virtual Inauguration Parade was the Native dance troupe INDIGENOUS ENTERPRISE, from Arizona.

On March 25th at 6.30pm, as an ORIGINS Offshoots event, we're teaming up with Indigenous Enterprise and Beyond the Spectacle to bring you an online presentation and discussion of Native American dance, with Kenneth Shirley (Founder of Indigenous Enterprise) and MC Prophecy. Tickets are FREE and available here.

THEATRE AND THE CORONAVIRUS

Our friend Rustom Bharucha has created an extraordinary Speech Act in Nine Episodes, exploring what the global pandemic may mean for theatre. Ranging from historical accounts of theatres being closed for the plague in Shakespeare's time to discussions of online performance and the performance of protest, Rustom's reflections are at once the most nuanced response to the subject so far, and a great stimulus to further thought and creativity. As Rustom explains: "Now, more than ever, I felt the need to speak, to share my thoughts with friends and strangers in all parts of the world."

We're honoured that Episode 4, discussing Artaud's Theatre and the Plague, includes an excerpt from our recent recording of this great text, read by Alaknanda Samarth. The full recording is on our podcast channel.

Border Crossings

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"Border Crossings creates new intercultural, multi-media theatre in response to the contemporary globalised world. The company works across the borders between cultures and art forms, and between nations and peoples. Since 1995, Border Crossings has collaborated with artists and companies from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Ireland, Lebanon, **Mauritius**, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Palestine, Sweden, the USA and Zimbabwe, as well as the diverse communities of the UK. Border Crossings productions have toured the UK, Brazil, China, Egypt, France, Hungary, India, **Mauritius**, Mexico, Palestine, the Seychelles, Sweden and Zimbabwe."

See below for more about the indigenous people of North America

Indigenous people from North America

Since the early sixteenth century, Indigenous people from North America have been travelling to Britain. They came as captives and critics, poets and performers, athletes and diplomats, and these journeys have continued into the twenty-first century. Unfortunately, few UK residents have heard of this long history.

'Beyond the Spectacle' is an Arts & Humanities Research Council-funded project that brings together an international team of researchers and Native North American people to amplify the stories of Indigenous travellers in the historical record and in the current moment. Some of this work is based on deep archival research in places such as the British Library, while other aspects of the project focus on working with present-day Native American visitors to and residents of Britain to share the experience of being Indigenous in the UK.

And when we say "beyond the spectacle," what do we mean, exactly? First, "beyond" suggests that Indigenous travellers to Britain almost always had their own reasons for making the journey, separate from Britons' desires for novelty or the exotic. Even when they used spectacle to gain visibility, it was often secondary to other objectives.

Second, the notion of "beyond" also insists that Native North Americans in Britain could have private moments where they were not the target of the British gaze – whether as delegates or tourists, activists or enlisted men, Indigenous visitors to the UK had experiences that were not solely about being the objects of others' attention—and, indeed, many Native travellers have visited Britain entirely free of spectacle at all. As a project, 'Beyond the Spectacle' is committed to asserting these sorts of spaces in the stories we collect and share.

Beyond our research agenda, 'Beyond the Spectacle' funds residencies for Indigenous artists from North America to create new works while in the UK, organises public symposia, and supports the process of connecting Indigenous communities with archival material and cultural belongings held in institutions such as the National Archives and the British Museum.

We invite you to explore our website, where you will find a wide range of information about 'Beyond the Spectacle's research agenda and public programs. Most importantly, though, you will find maps, images, and stories about the uninterrupted history of Native North American travel to Britain.

Please direct any queries to our general email address – beyondthespectacle@kent.ac.uk



This image depicts the Warriors of AniKituhwa (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) retracing the steps of The Beatles at Abbey Road, London – January 2019.

Inspired by 'London Calling 1762', by America Meredith. Image by Professional Images, courtesy of the Arts and Humanities Research Council.)

Happy International Women's Day!

The United Nations marks International Women's Day on Monday.



The Silent Majority

They do not demonstrate, they do not march in the streets except for a few, but they vote. They know what is good for the nation and they understand the economics of the country and of the home they keep for the family in spite of the fact that they too have full-time jobs.

They are the backbone of society. Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth was full of praise for their role at home to keep everything ship-shaped from cleaning, ironing, cooking, looking after the children and being a devoted wife. They even see to it that discipline is maintained in the home and they contribute financially to keep the home standing on its feet. Much financial success of a husband has been built on the sweat of the female partner both as a housekeeper as wage earner. There is lot of truth in the

saying that behind every successful man there is a woman. Much mystery is solved "*en cherchant la femme.*"

It is not surprising that the Almighty understanding the loneliness of Adam should have created Eve to keep him company. Since then all the Adams of the world have been off-loading to their Eves much of their daily problems during the daily pillow talks.

it is right that a day in the annual calendar should be devoted exclusively to the female gender.

Et la Fête continue

Mauritius celebrates and some are fasting in March



Statue of the Hindu god Shiva overlooking the sacred lake Ganga Talao at Grand Bassin (pictured on the right)

Thousands of Hindu pilgrims, male and female, are marching from the four corners of the island towards the Sacred Lake of Grand Bassin in the region of La Savanne (S.E. of Mauritius) to celebrate the feast of Mahasivaratri on March 11.

The feast is a dedication to the divinity Shiva of the Hindu pantheon. One of the three gods responsible for the creation and protection of the universe. The other two are Vishnu and Brahma.

Independence celebrations

Mauritius celebrates 53rd year of Independence from Britain on March 11



Peter Chellen

On March 12, 1968, the flag of Mauritius was carried by Police Band Master Paul Domingue at the altar of Westminster Abbey in London during a thanksgiving ceremony to mark the independence of Mauritius.

Members of the staff of the Mauritius High Commission are seen standing behind the front bench by the altar.

Since then, Westminster Abbey invites members of the Mauritius High Commission every year on March 12 for a commemoration at one of the Abbey's daily services.

Titbits by Ahmad Macky

DUVAL HESITANTLY ACCEPTS TO LEAD THE OPPOSITION

PMSD leader Xavier Duval has been appointed by the President of the Republic of Mauritius, His Excellency Prithvirajsing Ropun, to be, for a second time, the next Leader of the parliamentary Opposition leader following the resignation of Arvin Boolell of the Labour Party.

Labour wants to promote its leader, unelected Navin Ramgoolam, as the next Prime Minister. It is confirmed that the group of parties opposing the present government, namely the MMM, PMSD and the newly-created Reform Party do not want Dr Navin Ramgoolam to be the next PM, which has led the Labour breaking away from the group, and allegedly joining forces with the activist Bruno Laurette.

Disagreements and dissensions within the Opposition group are believed to be paving the way for another victory of the ruling MSM/Parti Libérateur alliance. Labour Party has made it known that the party will go solo to both the Local government elections (Municipal) and the General election.



INDIA FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER ON A DIPLOMATIC VISIT TO MAURITIUS

India's Foreign Affairs Minister, Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar paid a visit to Mauritius for a couple of days. He arrived in Mauritius on Sunday February 21 and left on Wednesday, February 24.

The purpose of this official visit was to review all aspects of bilateral agreements between the two countries and to make a survey of the various infrastructural constructions underway in Mauritius financed by the Indian government. Such bilateral agreements between India and Mauritius started for quite sometimes now. Discussions between the Mauritian Prime Minister and the Indian Foreign Affairs Minister were amicable and successful.

Mr Jaishankar even assured Mauritius of India's support in its sovereignty claim to get back Diego Garcia and the other islands of the Chagos Archipelago to complete the decolonization of Mauritius.

India Foreign Affairs Minister also signed the following agreements between our two countries:

(1) National Surveillance to protect Mauritius. India has given a USD 100 Million line of credit to the government of Mauritius to purchase helicopters, ships, radars and other equipment. The objective is to modernise and ameliorate our military equipment and boost our national defence.

(2) Solar Farm at Tamarin Fall. A binding contract agreement between Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited and our Central Electricity Board (CEB). This concerns Phase 2 of the Photovoltaic farm at Tamarin Falls and Henrietta. This will be financed by a line of credit of the Indian government of about USD 50 million via Exim Bank.

(3) Construction of a Kidney Transplant Unit. An envelope of USD 10 million for the construction of a kidney transplant unit at Nehru Hospital.

(4) Consumers Protection. Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance the protection of consumers and legal metrology. This is to ensure that tools and other measuring instruments for example, the scale to know the exact weight of the products are reliable and up to standard.

JUDICIAL INQUIRY ON THE DEATH OF AN MSM POLITICAL ACTIVIST

The judicial inquiry at the Moka Tribunal is still going on into the death of the MSM political activist Soopramanien Kistnen. A group of lawyers calling themselves "Avengers" led by Counsel Rama Valayden are representing the wife of the victim to establish the truth concerning the death of her husband.

Many witnesses have been heard so far. The judicial Inquiry is similar to a British Coroners' Court. The magistrate has not concluded the inquiry as many more witnesses are still to be heard.

The police have been severely criticized for their delay in dealing with the investigation into the death of Kistnen whose dead body was found half burned in a sugar cane field at Telfair, Moka, last month. At first, the police regarded this as a suicide case. Has there been any foul play? The inquiry is yet to find out.

COVID-19 VACCINATION

The country is experiencing a strong campaign of vaccination against Covid 19. At the time of writing, over 19,121 persons have been jabbed with the AstraZeneca/Covidshield vaccines donated by India: 12,291 men and 6,830 women.

The vaccinated people consist of frontliners in the various professions, persons suffering from diabetes, cardiovascular complications, obesity and cancer, in addition to over 2,260 old people.

Some News Headlines picked up from Mauritian papers

Place any headline on your search engine and click to read the news items

- **Mauritius-India** sign CECPA to consolidate bilateral cooperation
- **Echouement du LURONGYUANYU588** : témoignage de l'un des premiers pêcheurs partis à la rescousse en mer
- **Bruneau Laurette** : « Un grand nombre de l'électorat PMSD/MMM vient vers nous »
- **Accident à Pailotte** : 5 pèlerins renversés, le conducteur du véhicule recherché
- **Legend Hill** : Percy Yip Tong déposera un 'stop order' au District Council et à l'Environnement
- **Dr Vasantrao Gujadhur** : «Le lockdown, la meilleure solution pour briser la chaîne de transmission»
- **Bruneau Laurette** dément tout rapprochement avec le PTr : « Je ne convoite aucun poste de ministre... »
- **Ramgoolam réclame** le droit de savoir comment le virus est entré à Maurice et qui "a fauté"
- **How a lake became** the sacred Ganga Talao
- **Shelina Permalloo** : Promouvoir la cuisine mauricienne en Angleterre
- **Naufrage du Lu Rong Yuan Yu 588**: le capitaine Hubert Noël en charge de l'enquête
- **(Triolet) Allégation** : un ministre aurait proféré des menaces de mort
- **(ENTENTE DE L'OPPOSITION)** Xavier-Luc Duval (PMSD) : « L'objectif reste d'acculer le GM et d'aller aux élections générales »
- **Paul Bérenger** : « Ni Pravind ni Navin » au poste de Premier ministre
- **Sheila Bappoo** : « Je suis très déçue par ce qui se passe au ministère de la Femme »
- **Covid-19-campagne de vaccination**: colère et frustration à l'hôpital du nord
- **Pourquoi Ramgoolam** est indéboulonnable

Picked up from the Net

The woman on the left Gillian McKeith is 61 years old. She's a health guru, promoting, a vegetarian lifestyle, yoga, daily exercise, detoxing, colonic irrigation's & supplements. The woman on the right is Nigella Lawson & is also 61 years old. She likes to cook, eats meat, butter & cakes a plenty. I Rest my case 🙄



Nigella Lawson is a TV celebrity chef

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Pandemic Alarming situation in Mauritius

The situation is considered as alarming in Mauritius with the detection of new cases of Mauritian nationals tested positive of Covid 19 contamination. The number of cases recently detected total 10, including two underage children.

The authorities are greatly concerned and the Ministry of Health is advising all precautionary measures to be observed by the population. The socio-cultural associations are cancelling their activities and are advising people to stay home to avoid the propagation of the virus.

The religious ceremony of Mahasivaratree has been cancelled and the Catholic clergy has annulled the special Lent prayer sessions in various churches throughout the country.

All educational institutions catering for every level, primary, secondary, tertiary etc are closed until further notice. However, scheduled examinations will still take place.

It has been announced that the authorities will enforce more rigidly legislation pertaining to sanitary measures introduced by the government, especially the wearing of masks, to combat the pandemic. Police are likely to book people who infringe the sanitary regulations.

The Ministry of Commerce is appealing to the nation not to indulge in panic buying as there is no shortage of commodities on the market and the country is still being supplied by regular shipping arrivals to Mauritius.

Cases of profiteering on the part of some traders have been reported, declares the Commerce Minister and legal action has been taken as necessary.

Consumers are being advised to report where the are being charged prices above those fixed by the government.

All international flights from and to Mauritius have been cancelled until further notice.

In the meantime the Ministry of Health is actively investigating the cause of those ten cases of the 10 positive cases of the Covid 19 which have been detected in Mauritius. It is believed that the virus has come to the country through consignment of fruits from South Africa. However, the Covid 19 National Communication Committee headed by the Minister of Health wants to assure the nation that contamination is not in the imported fruits themselves through the packaging with which some employees of the import company may have come into contact during the handling.

All together some 400 employees of the import company have been placed in quarantine while those 10 infected cases are actually receiving treatment.

The Prime Minister of Mauritius, Pravind Jugnauth and Health Minister Kailesh Jagatpal have been drawing attention of the nation to the extent of fake news circulation on the social media about the pandemic. Fake news is a very serious offence which, on conviction, carries a penalty one million rupees and an imprisonment of up to 10 years.

P.C.

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résidence de la Cité du Vatican


Some Headlines picked up from International Media

Place any headline on your search
engine and click to read
the news items

- Drivers to get £3,000 credit to exchange cars for greener transport
- Glasses wearers are up to three times less likely to catch Covid-19, study finds
- Inquiry into 'unelected power' of Boris Johnson's fiancée Carrie Symonds demanded by Tory group
- Gang raped, shackled and broken students: Inside China's 'horrific' Uighur detention camps
- Prince William 'sad and shocked' at Harry's behaviour towards Queen
- World could face a severe flu epidemic next winter thanks to low immunity rates, expert warns
- Israel shuts Mediterranean shore after oil devastates coast
- Neanderthals died out after Earth's magnetic poles flipped, causing a climate crisis 42,000 years ago, a study says
- '800 people' killed in massacre at Ethiopia's Ark of the Covenant
- Cronyism in Britain is rampant and goes unpunished. We're turning into a banana republic
- 'It'll take decades to clean': oil spill ravages east Mediterranean
- Brexit news - live: Trade issues not 'teething problem', warns Cameron as PM branded 'unrepentant liar'
- Government spent nearly £6m fighting Chagos Islands court cases, minister admits
- Carer arrested while calmly listening to classical music hours after trying to murder disabled woman with pillow
- Trump served with lawsuit accusing him of breaking 'Ku Klux Klan' laws on day of Capitol riot
- People are fuming at Buckingham Palace's rare response to Meghan bullying allegations
- Shock in India after man cuts off daughter's head and takes it to police as he 'disapproved of her relationship'
- Amanda Gorman: Poet says she was tailed by suspicious security guard who thought she was a 'threat'


Should Mauritius have the picture of a Dodo on its national flag, as pictured below?
India has a Wheel on its flag.

Other countries depict symbols from home. One cannot easily tell the Mauritius flag from those of other countries with similar colours. The picture of the Dodo will tell the difference.



Obituary

Gladys Chavrimootoo



Gladys had spent several years in UK's National Health Service, starting as a student nurse to end up at the top of the ladder.

After her retirement she took employment in London as the manager of a care home. Little did she know that during her retirement in Mauritius she would spend her final days in a care home herself.

Gladys was one of the most generous and kind-hearted person I have known. Many students from Mauritius owe her a lot for the assistance she extended to them during their moments of hardships. It is not unknown that she even provided them with free accommodation + food. P.C.

Former NHS Principal Nursing Officer, Gladys Chavrimootoo, passed away in Mauritius on February 25 at the age of 86 and her funeral took place the following day.

Death announcements

Those who have passed away recently in London

Philippe Joseph, and Annie Joseph, Jean Claude Rayapen and Cyril Nanena

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Cuisine: **Tipik Mauricien**
by Mrs A. Chellen (UK)

Fish Curry

Ingredients:
Fish cleaned and cut (add salt to taste)
Aubergines (washed and cut lengthwise)
2 onions (1 sliced and 1 crushed)
Few garlic cloves (peeled)
Coriander leaves (chopped)
1 teaspoonful of methi seeds
Few curry leaves
Curry powder or masala
1 tablespoon of tamarind (soaked in 1 cup of water) then remove the seeds
4 or 5 fresh tomatoes or 1 tin depending on amount of fish
Salt to taste

Instructions:
Prepare the sauce adding 1 onion, 5 garlic cloves, few coriander leaves, few curry leaves and the tomatoes
Blend all ingredients together in a moulinex
Heat a frying pan, adding enough oil to fry all fish
Then deep fry the fish and remove
Keep on the side
Then fry aubergines and remove
Use same oil to make curry
Remove some oil if it's too much
Fry methi for 1 minute
Then add sliced onion, garlic and curry leaves and fry for 3 minutes
Then add the sauce and the curry powder
Keep stirring for 5 minutes, adding salt to taste
Then add the tamarind water
Leave to cook until the oil floats
Then add the fish and fried aubergine
Leave to cook for 5 minutes
Finally sprinkle chopped coriander to garnish

To serve with a watercress salad and cucumber salad

Recipe for watercress salad
Watercress (cleaned and washed)
1 or 2 red onions (thinly sliced)
1/2 teaspoon of black pepper (powder)
Salt to taste
Olive oil
Mix all together

Recipe for cucumber salad
Cucumber sliced
2 or 3 green chillies (chopped)
2 tablespoons of vinegar
Salt to taste
Mix well



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Mauritius in total lockdown on March 10

Mauritius has been priding itself as a Covid-safe country but this is no longer the case.

Following the detection of 13 cases of Covid-19 the Mauritius Government has been forced to impose a total lockdown of the country on March 10 with the exception of the essential services like health, police, fire fighting, etc.

From March 11 the other services will open but people will only be able to go shopping in alphabetical order until March 25. The population is being advised to stay home and mask wearing in public is compulsory.

According to a statement from the National Commission Committee on the Coronavirus some 12,000 policemen have been deployed on the streets to ensure that the public comply with all the instructions issued by the government to keep the population safe from virus exposure or even contamination.

The vaccination campaign which started on Monday, March 8 could not proceed any further and will now resume on Monday, March 15. So far, some 200,000 vaccines have been received from India. Some consignments of the vaccines are expected from various sources.

People seen in public will have to explain the reason they are moving about and those involved in essential services will have to produce their work access permit.

Sometimes the instructions can be very unclear. Old people are being advised to stay home. But the idea of the sanitary confinement is for everyone to stay home and be safe, not only for old people to do so.

Until March 25 there will be no public transport. Happy are people with cars. What about the rest of the population who need a mode of transport like the service of a taxi to carry their shoppings, especially the aged ones?

The Foreign Office advises Britons on travel restrictions to Mauritius

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) advises against all but essential travel to:

- the whole of Mauritius based on the current assessment of COVID-19 risks

Visitors arriving into England who have been in or transited through Mauritius in the previous 10 days will not be permitted entry. British and Irish nationals, and third country nationals with residence rights in the UK arriving in England from Mauritius will be required to quarantine in a hotel. Different rules apply for arrivals into Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The FCDO is not advising those already travelling in Mauritius to leave at this time. Travellers should follow the advice of the local authorities on how best to protect themselves and others, including any measures that they bring in to control the virus. You should contact your tour operator or airline if you have any questions about your return journey.

All travel to Mauritius remains subject to entry restrictions

Travel to Mauritius remains subject to entry restrictions:

- From 6 March, all international flight arrivals to Mauritius have been suspended.

On 6 March, in response to the COVID-19 situation, the Government of Mauritius announced the suspension of all international flight arrivals. Departures remain scheduled at this time.

If you're planning travel to Mauritius, find out what you need to know about coronavirus there in the Coronavirus section. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to get travel insurance and check it provides sufficient cover. See the FCDO's guidance on foreign travel insurance.

For information about COVID-19 vaccines, see the Coronavirus page.

Around 140,000 British tourists visit Mauritius every year. Most visits are trouble free.

The tropical cyclone season in Mauritius usually runs from November to May. See Natural disasters

You don't need a visa to enter Mauritius. On arrival, your passport will be stamped allowing entry to the country for 60 days. You'll need to be able to provide evidence of onward or return travel. See Visas

Drug trafficking carries severe penalties. See Local laws and customs

Terrorist attacks in Mauritius can't be ruled out. See Terrorism The Overseas Business Risk service offers information and advice for British companies operating overseas on how to manage political, economic, and business security-related risks. If you're abroad and you need emergency help from the UK government, contact the nearest British embassy, consulate or high commission.

A Viral Joke

Cartoon on right delivered on our internet account. Source unknown



Mother's Day Confusion

In Britain, Mothering Sunday is celebrated on Sunday March 14. In France as well as in Mauritius it will be celebrated on Sunday May 30..



Mauritians in the UK will be sending greetings to their mothers *Mylene, Japan* in Mauritius on March 14, which is baffling to the parents.

On the other hand, The parents do not receive any communication on the day it is celebrated in Mauritius, i.e. in May. They find it hurtful. Hereunder, we publish a poem from Mylene in Japan dedicated to her mother in the UK.

A light-hearted poem for Mother's Day

My mother is a happy lady
and watching TV is her speciality
Vera, Endeavour, Heart Beat and the Voice
As a telly addict she's spoilt for choice

She's most happy watching the box
Can tell you the names of rare animals and rocks
Says it keeps her mind active and strong
Music programmes, she sings along

At this certain age she doesn't get out much
World TV news keeps her in touch
Says her happiness is her responsibility
and here is her golden recipe

Find something you love to do and do it
Appreciate all things with a calm joyful spirit
Don't compare and don't complain
Have the occasional glass of champagne
Cheers! Happy Mother's Day!

Mylene

An acrostiche on the Mauritian Diaspora from Eddy Abraham, Melbourne, Australia

Departing from Mauritius in our era
Involvement a great deal of nostalgia.
Arriving in different countries suburbia
Surely increased the phobia.
Please don't forget our Creole Lingua Franca
Originating from years and years of history in our terra
Remembering our La Case Mama, in Olivia or Helvetia
Always creates an unforgettable euphoria.



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**A Testimonial
for the U.S.
Tamils from
Governor
James Inslee of
the State of
Washington**



Mars landing opens up a New World for mankind



Poor Martians! They do not know what is in store for them. Men know only one thing: killing, killing and killing!

Mauritius celebrates on March 12 its 53rd independence anniversary and 29 years of republican status

The Beginning - 12th March 1968

Because of the lockdown and the cancellation of the national celebration people have been forced to stay indoors. Non-the-less, many Mauritians have been sending independence greetings to mark the occasion. On this page we publish some of the cards that have come our way via the internet.

First Day Cover issued by the Government Post Office



Commemorative stamps issued by the Mauritius Post to mark the Independence of Mauritius.
3 of the stamps portrays the flag of Mauritius and three of the stamps depict the Coat of Arms of the country.
The commemorative envelope and stamps are post-marked 12 March 1968.
It is a valuable collection set for philatelists.



Flag-raising ceremony at the Champ de Mars



Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam watched the colours of Mauritius being lifted up the mast at the flag-raising ceremony on March 12, 1968 at the Champ de Mars in Port Louis.
Governor Sir John Rennie salutes the Mauritian flag.

Thanksgiving service at Westminster Abbey in London



Thanksgiving service at Westminster Abbey, London, attended by Mauritius High Commission staff members.
The flag of Mauritius was carried to the altar by Mauritian Band Master Paul Domingue who made the trip to London especially for this occasion.



All greeting cards on this page sent to us via the internet



Independence

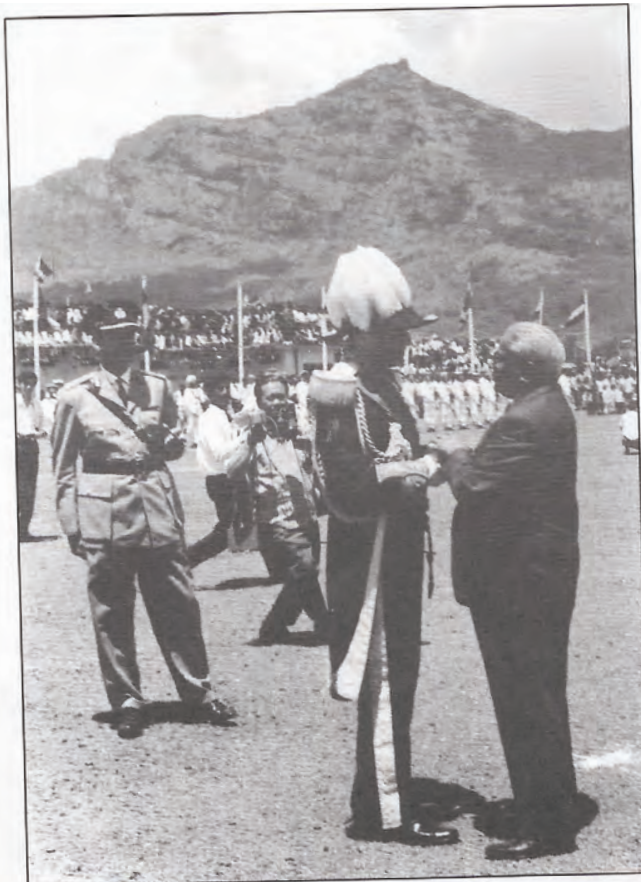
Tribute paid to Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam by Jean-Georges Prosper in his publication in 2008 "Gloire à la Mère Patrie" for the 40th anniversary of the independence of Mauritius

L'hymne National en anglais et en français de Jean-Georges Prosper

Hommage au Père de la nation Sir Seewoosagur RAMGOOLAM !

(REFRAIN)

Père de la Nation,
Père de l'Indépendance,
Ton combat, ta vision,
Ton flambeau d'espérance
Donnèrent la liberté
Au peuple de ce pays !
Père de la Nation
Père de l'Indépendance,
Tes lumières, tes rayons,
Idéaux d'excellence
Changèrent la destinée
De l'ancienne colonie !
L'Etoile et la Clé
Allumaient dans tes mains,
L'avenir éclairé,
Les chants des lendemains.
Vers toi l'élévation
De nos pensées intenses !
À toi l'exaltation
De nos reconnaissances !
Père de la Nation,
Père de l'Indépendance !



En ce 12 mars 1968, le Père de la nation, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, reçoit les vœux du gouverneur britannique, Sir John Shaw Rennie, lors de la proclamation de l'Indépendance de Maurice, sous les applaudissements d'une grande foule de Mauriciens rassemblés au Champ-de-Mars, à Port-Louis.

SSR : "L'oeuvre de ma vie est accomplie"

MOTHERLAND

Glory to thee
Motherland,
O Motherland of mine
Sweet is thy beauty
Sweet is thy fragrance
Around thee we gather
As one people
As one nation
In peace, justice and liberty
Beloved country, may God bless thee
Forever and ever!

MÈRE PATRIE

Gloire à toi
Ile Maurice
Ô ma mère patrie
Fraîche est ta beauté
Doux est ton parfum
Autour de toi nous voici tous de
Comme un seul peuple
Une seule nation
En paix, justice et liberté
Pays bien-aimé
Dieu te bénisse
Aujourd'hui et toujours !

My Claim to fame by P.C.

with regard to Dr Jean-Georges Prosper, lyricist of Mauritius's national anthem, and Philippe Gentil, composer

I have known these two figures of history personally

Jean-Georges Prosper

I first made the acquaintance of Mr Prosper when he was a teacher at Bhujoharry College. I can still recite a few lines of that poem of Baudelaire, *L'Harmonie du Soir*, which he told us to learn by heart at home and to recite in class.

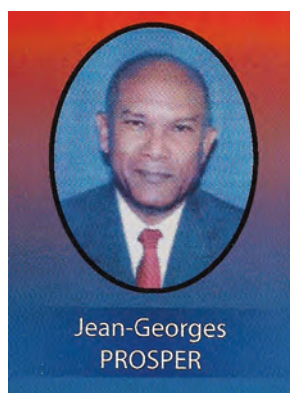
A few years later I was to come across Jean-George Prosper (JGP), this time as colleague in the Mauritius Civil Service. He was in post at the Audit Department and I was a new recruit at the Social Welfare Department. Well, he soon left to become the editor of *Action*, a newly-created daily. "Je vais taquiner les lettres," he said of his new job.

Well, JGP continued to climb up and up, dabbling even at politics on the Labour side until he found himself as Cultural Adviser at the Ministry of Education, and even later as Head of the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture.

Me too, I have been doing *mon bout de chemin* until I found myself in London as editor of *Mauritius News*, a publication which I founded in 1983.

Some years later JGP was in post at the Mauritius Embassy in Paris as Cultural Attaché. Not before long we renewed our old friendship, we were meeting in London at a mutual friend's place where he was a frequent visitor.

JGP is now retired, possibly contemplating his memoir in which he may have a lot to say about his life's adventure, about his parcours such as his Sorbonne Doctorate, Commandeur Palmes Académiques Françaises, as a writer, poet, of his literary works (*Histoire de la littérature mauricienne*, of his MBE, and ultimately as the author of our National anthem.



Jean-Georges
PROSPER

I met Philippe Gentil on board of the French liner of the Messageries Maritimes, *Ferdinand de Lesseps*, on which we were travelling to the UK on our overseas leave vacation to be spent in the UK.

We were berthed in the same cabin together with two government school teachers. We were of course, all of us, a little bit younger than what we are today. The final stop for the liner was Marseilles where we had to take the ferry to England.

Once we reached Marseilles it was *chacun pour soi*, and all four from the same cabin never met again. Yet, the ship journey from Mauritius to Marseilles took us 34 days with call in at several ports on the way up the globe from the south. For 34 days we learned quite a bit about one another in that cabin, except for the stop over at La Réunion, Dar es Salaam (Tanganyika, as it was then, before merging with Zanzibar to become Tanzania), Mombasa, (Kenya), Djibouti, during the navigation through the Suez Canal, and finally Marseilles. At Marseilles 'nou casse banne' to get on the train to Calais, then by Ferry to Folkestone, and from Folkestone by train to Victoria Station in London, where we were met by relatives or friends who are already.

But to come back to come to those 34 days spent on the *Ferdinand de Lesseps* from Port Louis to Marseilles, it was very amusing with the presence of Philippe Gentil in the cabin. There was never a dull moment as he seems to be used to this sort of camaraderie among members of the Mauritius Police Band as the lead trumpeter.

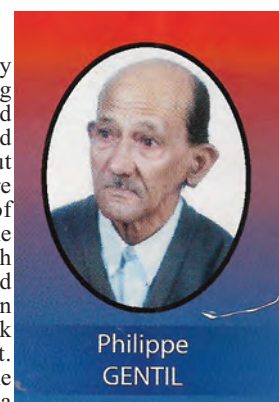
Each one of the four passengers occupied his own berth, one on top of the other on either side of

Philippe Gentil

the cabin. Inevitably after feeding ourselves on boiled potatoes for lunch and dinner, and without any exercise, there was quite a bit of body function in the night especially with the release of gas and break-wind. One can bet on Phillip to crack a joke on it.

Sometimes in the night we would hear a sound like the tearing of textile material apart, Philippe would say "are you cutting 'la toile écu Vencat' (short for a long name). Cut a metre for me as well." The whole cabin would burst out laughing. The joke may not be a miss today but in those days before ready-to-wear garment became matter of fact, we all had to buy textile by the metres for our garment to be made to measure by tailors. *ecru* fabric was the cheapest material and made a sharp long noise while being torn apart after measurement by the salesman.

At other times, the sound came out like someone having a tune on a violin. And Philippe would say "Khoda, we need such an instrument in the Police Band. Can I take it with me?"



Philippe
GENTIL