

L'Union  
fait  
La Force



# Mauritian Overseas Gazette

Truth  
&  
Trust

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Issue No 0004

At the service of the Mauritian Diaspora

April 2021

A totally independent platform

*Le doigt fatal du temps écrit chaque destin et passe.  
Rien ne le fait fléchir, n'en supprime la trace,  
Ni ruses, ni prières et sourd à tout sanglot.  
Rien ne peut le convaincre d'en changer un seul mot.*  
**Omar Khayyam (The moving finger of Destiny)**

## Lockdown extended and partially relieved

On March 23, Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth in an address to the nation on TV announced that the restrictions during the confinement would be extended by another five days from March 26 to March 30. New measures would, however, come into force from March 31 to allow certain sectors of the economy to start breathing again without at the same time compromising the sanitary measures already in place to prevent Covid-19 from rooting further into the nation.

A week later, on March 31, Health Minister Kailesh Jagutpa, in turn, announced on TV that the confinement would be extended to April 30.

A copy of the PM's address is reproduced below in which Mr Jugnauth indicated that further details of the opening of the economy would be provided later. A press release issued the same day by the Prime Minister's Office, and reproduced in next column, elaborates on the dos and don'ts from April 1.

## Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth talks to the nation

Since the first local positive case in early March we took necessary action to be able to limit the propagation of the virus. Our team have done a formidable job to trace all those who had been contact with the positive case. Here I would like to say a special thank-you to the Health workers who have worked tirelessly every day. I would like to thank the population in general for their understanding and their sense of responsibility. They understand that they had to follow the sanitary measures to protect themselves and their families. We should all of us continue to make every effort to succeed in combatting the virus.



My fellow countrymen, on March 10, I announced a lockdown up to March 25. Since March 11 we introduced a new localised lockdown strategy which we have designated as Red Zone. This strategy is showing its efficacy, which is helping us to relieve the restrictions elsewhere in the country. As I always say, my priority is the health of the nation but we have to do everything to preserve the economy of the country.

From today (23/3) to March 31 we are working on a plan which will enable us to enter a new phase with more economic activities, but consumers and the public in general will have to abide by the alphabetical arrangements to go out.

We shall soon communicate more details on this. We shall once more have to be responsible and to take all sanitary precautions so that we may have an economic activity without exposing ourselves and our families.

This virus will not disappear soon and we have to learn to live with it. We also see the disaster it is causing the world over and government is ensuring that all vaccines coming to Mauritius are sure and effective. Our objective is to vaccinate 60% of the population and we can do it together. All information is being given by Health Minister Jagatpal at press briefings every day.

Purchase of vaccines is a world problem where countries are struggling to obtain requirements. There are countries who are even forbidding exportation. This is why at government level we are doing everything possible to obtain what we need. We, in Mauritius we must say that we are lucky in that we can rely on our partners, like India and China, to help us have a good quantity of vaccines for our people but we still have not received enough vaccines to inoculate 60% of the population. Government is doing everything possible to reach our aim as soon as possible to be able to open our frontiers.

I am confident that, based on our experience so far in fighting Covid-19 "nous capav mange arre virus-la".

Cyril Louis

Thursday April 1

April Fool's Day ..... Poisson d'Avril  
Is it true that in spite of all the political bickerings,  
in spite of all marches, and social media recriminations,  
**Mauritius ranks as the Happiest Country in Africa?**



1ère phase de  
réouverture à partir du  
31 mars 2021

## COVID-19 Réouverture

### Règles générales

- Pas de rassemblement de plus de 5 personnes.
- Règles sanitaires à respecter tout le temps.
  - Distanciation de 1 m.
  - Port du masque.
  - Se laver les mains régulièrement / utiliser gel hydro-alcoolique.
- Amendes pour non-respect des consignes.
- Déplacements pour les employés des secteurs d'activités en opération avec WAP seulement. (Zone rouge - WAP spécial)
- Déplacements pour les consommateurs.
  - Ordre Alphabetique maintenu pour tous les commerces sauf pour les stations services et pharmacies.
- Il est recommandé aux personnes âgées de rester à la maison.

### Activités interdites / fermées / avec restriction

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • Centres communautaires / villages halls / CAB <b>Fermés</b> | • Courses hippiques <b>In camera</b>                              |
| • Plages <b>Fermées</b>                                       | • Cours de justice <b>Sans public</b>                             |
| • Food Courts <b>Fermés</b>                                   | • Écoles privées <b>Fermées / Cours en ligne</b>                  |
| • Cinémas, casinos, bars et discothèques <b>Fermés</b>        | • Écoles publiques <b>Examens seulement</b>                       |
| • Concerts / Compétitions sportives <b>Interdits</b>          | • Foires <b>Fermées</b>   |
| • Activités socio-culturelles <b>Interdites</b>               | • Bazaar <b>Ouvert avec des conditions sanitaires strictes</b>    |
| • Lieux de culte / prières <b>Pas plus de 5 personnes</b>     | • Salons d'esthétique <b>Fermés</b>                               |
| • Mariages et funérailles <b>Nombre restreint</b>             | • Restaurants / fast foods <b>Ouverts - Delivery et take away</b> |

### Activités pouvant reprendre à partir du 31 mars 2021

- Banques
- Boulangeries
- Centres commerciaux / magasins / arcades
- Salons de coiffure
- Médical et para médical
- Constructions
- Employés de maison
- Sports individuels en plein air

#### Transport :

- Protocole sanitaire strict et fenêtres ouvertes
- Obligation de hand sanitizers
- Obligation de porter le masque correctement
- Metro avec nombre réduit de passagers par rame



La police procédera à des vérifications dans les commerces et autres secteurs de façon régulière.

Government Information Service  
Prime Minister's Office  
23 mars 2021

Level 6, New Government Centre, Port Louis, Mauritius  
E: [gis\\_mgt@govmu.org](mailto:gis_mgt@govmu.org) - <http://gis.govmu.org>  
f @ GIS Mauritius

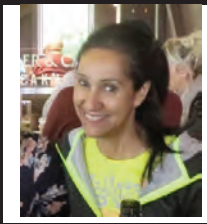




# Japan Newsletter

Confinement?

Trust the Japanese to do it in style of their own



From Mylene

## Dining in Silence

3

出てきたラーメンを食べ、  
イサムさんも「いいね」のサイン。  
お店の人も笑顔で返してくれました。



静かに楽しんだ食事は、とてもおいしく感じました。

*Eating a bowl of ramen noodles that's just been served, Isamu (the customer) gives a thumbs up to say, that's good.  
The restaurant staff smile*

## Individual training cubicles



*Many gyms reopened offering customers their own private cubicle training space which must be reserved. Clear dividers have also been installed separating all gym machines for a safer environment. Dividers open from the front of cubicles*

## The show must go on Theatre through the letterbox



*Moonlight Mobile Theatre began peephole viewing at the end of last year. Audience members sit in a separated cubicle and look through a letter-box slot to watch the show*

## News headlines from local papers

*Place a title on a search engine and click to read the article*

Roshi Bhadain: «DCP Jhugroo ine koz enn mari manti»

Covid-19 : quatre policiers de la Metro North Division placés en isolation

Au port: saisie de Rs 30 millions d'héroïne à bord d'un navire indonésien

Rs 105 millions d'héroïne saisies à Fond-du-Sac

Rodrigues: de l'eau, de l'eau tout autour mais pas une goutte à boire ...\*

Un proche d'une parlementaire MSM arrêté en possession de Rs 18 M de gandia

Metro : Le trajet RH/QB bientôt opérationnel

(Relations industrielles) Covid-19 : Des pressions accentuées pour la réduction volontaire de salaires

(Rodrigues) À Saint-Gabriel : Un homme de 40 ans accusé du viol d'une septuagénaire

JO 2021 — Après Richarno Colin : Mervin Clair obtient aussi sa qualification

Diplomatie: Soodhun écarté de l'ambassade en Arabie saoudite pour mauvaise conduite?

Communiqué des Affaires étrangères: Soodhun pas persona non grata en Arabie saoudite

Bambous: ils volent 104 kilos de banane d'une plantation

Affaires étrangères : « The Saudi authorities never declared Mr. Soodhun persona non grata »

Nine Year Schooling : Fin de parcours pour le Kreol Morisien

Saisie de Rs 105 M d'héroïne : Rajiv Birion épinglé par l'ADSU

Des membres d'un groupe Telegram exposés pour échange de photos dénudées de mineures

Kailesh Jagutpal : « Nous recevrons 24 000 doses d'AstraZeneca via Covax Facility demain »

Deux jeunes de la zone rouge de Vacoas se font prendre pour falsification de WAP

Campagne de vaccination: le Covaxin ne fait pas peur

Pénurie d'eau en zone rouge : Forest-Side, Atlee, Holyrood et Dubreuil durement affectés

Covid-19 – Églises fermées, mariages, enterrements... : consignes du diocèse à partir du 1er avril

Secteur bancaire : Moody's procède au « Downgrade » de la MCB, de la SBM et de l'Absa  
10 Mar 20h00  
8200

Covid-19 à Madagascar: la peur des Mauriciens expatriés après le décès de trois compatriotes

Surinam: un chef inspecteur qui vendait des légumes pris en contravention par ses collègues

Xavier-Luc Duval: «J'ai noté une amélioration de la part du speaker»



# The Queen and Us

**So much is being written these days about the British Royal family that we wish to spare a thought for the monarch herself who bears the brunt of the criticism and attack.**

The sad situation was heightened by the famous interview of Harry and Meghan with Oprah Winfrey in the States on March 7, 2021. It was no hold barred interview with everything revealed by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Both aired their grievances within the “firm” but what made it unbearable for The Queen and the future king, Prince Charles, is the fact that the Royal Family has been accused of racism, which they vehemently deny. “We are not racist,” a younger royal, Prince William, is reported to have screamed at a journalist who put the question to him.



Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam received a knighthood in 1965. He is pictured above with his family at Buckingham Palace with members of his family and staff of the Mauritius High Commission



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on an official visit to Mauritius in 1972

**Our compatriot Cyril Mootoo takes his final leave of the Royal household after nearly 28 years' service**



Cyril Mootoo receiving the Royal Victorian Medal from Her Majesty The Queen

A cutting from Mauritius News of May 2001



See The Cyril Mootoo story on Page 4

The Master of the Household  
has received Her Majesty's command to invite  
**Mr. Peter Chellen**  
to a Reception to be given at Buckingham Palace by  
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh  
on Monday, 12th November, 2007 at 6.00 p.m.

A reply is requested to:  
The Master of the Household,  
Buckingham Palace,  
London SW1A 1AA.

Dress: Lounge Suit / Day Dress  
National Dress

Guests are asked to arrive between 5.15 and 5.50 p.m.

**An invitation to Buckingham Palace by Royal Command**

## The Queen and I

Not very often one receives an invitation to meet Her Majesty The Queen of England. So, *je m'étais pas fait prier pour être au rendez-vous*. The occasion for this meeting was a gathering of diplomats from the various High Commissions in the UK for a reception at Buckingham Palace.

The guests were entertained in the immense reception room before being called, one by one, to shake hands with Her Majesty and Prince Philip. While sipping cocktail I came across H.E. the High Commissioner for Mauritius, Mr Mahen Cundasamy. He was surprised to see me there. I myself did not know why was I invited. I guess that because I was the Editor of a renown newspaper in London, Mauritius News, which was accredited to the UK Central Office of Information (COI). I was once a

diplomat but that was a long time ago. (see Picture on Page 5)

Well, before we got too drunk, we were invited to line up to be presented to Her Majesty. Her Majesty had a sweet smile while I shook hands with her. A smile which has been stamped on my memory to this day, a smile which I have tried to interpret since then, a smile which I believe was extremely sympathetic. A smile similar to the one above, sported by Her Majesty while pinning a medal on the lapel of our compatriot Cyril Mootoo, a retiring electrician at the palace.

While I was being presented to Her Majesty, the Master of Ceremony announced Peter Chellen from Mauritius, and Prince Philip who was standing by exclaimed M-A-U-R-I-T-I-U-S ! Well, that exclamation probably had to do with electrician Cyril Mootoo who was the alleged subject of a controversy in which Prince Philip got involved a year before. (2006) as narrated on Page 4.

**Peter Chellen**

**HEADline from Yahoo News: No toilet paper, again?' Brace yourself for a new wave of shortages (by Justin Anderson Wed, 31 March 2021, 12:31 am)**

**It's surprising that during the confinement, previous and present, the press does not complain of food shortages but of the shortage of Toilet**

**Paper. It would appear that Toilet Paper is a commodity that the public buy in bulk for fear of running out while throning in the loo.**

**It is said that "no job is complete until the paper work is done." But, it's no problem for those who complete the job by the water work. They have to worry when there are serious droughts and water is affected by supply cuts.**



The Electrician and The Prince

The Cyril Mootoo Story  
(as narrated in the Mauritius News edition of 2001)

Our compatriot Cyril Mootoo takes his final leave of the Royal household after nearly 28 years’ service.

In August last year (2000), Cyril Mootoo made national headline in Britain when a few dailies falsely reported he was the chap referred to by HRH Prince Philip when he jokingly said, referring to a faulty fusebook incident at Widsor Castle, “it looks af if it has been put in by an Indian.” Prince Philip was visiting a factory in Scotland, and no sooner did he make this joke that press reporters were at Buckingham Palace looking for the Indian.

One of the Palace’s informers, referred to by the press as an insider, maliciously pointed the finger at Cyril Mootoo (who as chief electrician though based at Buckingham Palace also covered the other royal residences).

The press stringers went with camera to sit on Mr Mootoo’s doorstep at Dulwich to wait for him to return from work and pestering his family with series of questions. “They put words in my mouth (and my wife’s) which we never did utter,” Mr Mootoo told us on a visit to our (Mauritius News’s) office.

“Those reporters could have cost me my job and my pension. We have always had a great respect for members of the Royal Family and there is no way that my wife, Geraldine, could have said anything bad about them in spite of the Prince’s joke. Fortunately, the Chief of Staff told me that everyone knew of the press fabrication of stories to fill up columns and for a few third-rate reporters to make a living. No disciplinary action was taken against me, fortunately, to tarnish my record of reliability and trustworthiness”, Mr Mootoo said with great relief.

“I nearly killed a press reporter anchored on my doorstep waiting for me to arrive, my wife in tears. I picked up a brick and was about to smash the photographer’s face when a neighbour shouted “Cyril, please don’t. It’s not worth it,” the former Buckingham Palace head elctrician told us.

Cyril Mootoo expressed the view that there were a few press informers among the Palace staff in spite of the fact that they signed an undertaking to abide by the Official Secret Act. “They are making themselves rich and in the process they are damaging the reputation of the Royal Family.”

In year 2000, before the press scandal, Cyril Mootoo was awarded the Royal Victorian Medal (RVM) by Her Majesty for exemplary service as the Queen’s chief electrician. The RVM holders organised their own private



Cyril Mootoo awarded medal by The Queen at Buckingham Palace in 2000

party attended by The Queen and The Duke. On Cyril’s last working day at Buckingham Plalace, The Keeper of the Privy Purse and Director of the Royal Palaces gave him a farewell party attended by Palace staff and friends.

Cyril Mootoo is happy to say “the golden handshake and the handsome pension from The Queen’s Privy Purse make retirement really something to look forward to.” Contrary to certain belief and public opinion, The Queen’s household staff are well looked after even in retirement. The Pensions Officer at Buckingham Palace makes it his duty to care for members of the staff after retirement.

Formerly of Vacoas, and ex-student of the New Eton College of Rose Hill, Cyril Mootoo joined the staff of the Royal Household fresh from Mauritius in 1972. He had been an electrician with HMS Mauritius, the British communication base in the country and was granted British citizenship on the closure of the base. He made his way to England where he followed courses for electrical engineers and for the Confederation of Industries’ Training Board (CITB). Both his practical experience and his paper qialfictions stood him in good stead for the position of Head Eletricians at Buckingham Palace. There are over 850 rooms to cater for, which include staff quarters, offices, function rooms, and royal apartments.

“I am enjoying my retirement and propose to complete my life’s journey in Mauritius,” says Mr Mootoo. He has had a very fruitful time in England and he wishes to pay a special tribute to wife Geraldine for her great support.

Peter Chellen  
May 2001

Words of Wisdom

"Quand tu t'es battu  
si dur pour te remettre  
debout...  
Ne retourne jamais  
vers ceux qui t'ont  
mis à terre !"



Received from  
the internet

Forwarded a thousand  
times online

One for the  
Road:

The South Indian lady on a visit to London entered a pub (for the first time). She sat at the bar in front of the Bar Tender.

A Guy on her left side said “Jack Daniels, **Single**”

A Guy on her right side said: “Johnny Walker, **Single**”

The Bar Tender asked the woman: And You ??

“Meenachi Sockalingum, **Married**,” she said.

Will Meghan be the last of  
those little girls who have royal  
ambition or who long for the  
Prince Charmant?

The Harry/Meghan interview with Oprah Winfrey on March 7 certainly caused a lot of comments among the British people. Many people are in favour of Harry and Meghan while there are a few who have been acerb critics of the pair. Most vociferous of them has been Piers Morgan, the presenter of ITV breakfast programme Good Morning Britain (GMB) presenter. He recently acknowledged that he felt jilted (ghosted) by the Duchess when she ceased seeing him. His nasty attitude has cost him his GMB job. He could perhaps expect a knighthood for his defence of the Royal Family.

As for Prince Harry, he himself had on occasions confessed that he had a mental health issue. So at times he may have problem to make up his mind, one may be inclined to believe.

Harry has a personality problem. He belongs to a family who is controlled by rigid rules of behaviour to which he finds it hard to conform. Unfortunately, he had no choice whether he wanted to be born into that family nor more than we have any choice to select our parents.



first to refer to the Royal Family as The Firm in that interview with Martin Bashir in 1995.) This expression has now been used by her daughter-in-law in the Oprah interview earlier this month (March).

Harry’s mother seemed determined to leave her mark and went even walking on a former minefield in Angola in 1997 which could have exploded at any time from any residue. Well, she came out saine et sauve which endeared her to the world. When she wanted to sort of remarrying her choice of spouse was somewhat controversial and not very acceptable by even the nation. Her life eventually came to an end in 1997 in the Alma Tunnel in Paris. Was she eliminated? Though however farfetched such a presumption may appear, the jury is still out on this elimination argument. Fingers have been pointed at the Duke who is stickler for rules and conformity within the family. He himself had to comply with them and he will never understand how should others fail to do so.

Royal Traditions

But young Harry does not totally agree with all those royal traditions. He sees in his wife’s attitudes a reflexion of his own mother. And so he decides to take his leave of the family but not without a bit of tantrum and commotion. He is far from being like uncle Edward, Prince Edward who is practically non-existent within the family. Wife Sophie is non-existent as well. Yes, they are the Essexes, they may as well confine themselves to that country so invisible are they. Edward was also a bit of a rebel when he refused to do the military service like daddy, and daddy was furious. How could a produce of his be non-military! Mamie does not seem to care much for him as well. So he goes placidly into the world he is born into.

But what a world of difference it is as regards young Harry! He is royal and royal he intends to remain, in or out of the family. They will have to accept him. As for Daddy Charles, he has been known to talk to trees rather than to his first wife .... and children. All that seems to bring pressure to bear on the mind of young Harry.

And the story goes on trending!

Nadarajen Ramanjooloo (UK)

The Choice

Well, Harry’s grandfather had a choice. From the Royal Navy he choose to join the Royal family. By joining the family he agreed to the rules. First and foremost, his wife would not bear his family name of Mountbatten. She would be known as Elizabeth II, Elizabeth the Second because there was an Elizabeth the First on the throne of England from 1533 to 1603. This a rule that Prince Phillip accepted when he married into the family. The other rigid rule is that he would never be seen walking by the side of his wife while she is on official duties. He must always be seen walking a few steps behind his wife on such occasions. There are certain official functions officiated by his wife when he should even absent himself completely.

All that and more he complied with without complaining. But for poor Harry, it’s is another fish of cake, to use an English expression. He will have read about his mother, Princess Diana, who felt stifled by the rules and regulations in force within The Firm (she was the



# A Time to Come and a Time to Go

*A farewell to an old colleague, Armand Maudave*



The above picture, taken at the Mauritius (not High) Commission (London) in colonial time in 1965 shows Armand Maudave, Adviser to Students, standing on the far left. It was colonial time all right with picture of Queen Elizabeth II on the wall (far right), Sir John Rennie, Governor-General (centre) and PM Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam on the left.

How many people in this picture are still alive? Possibly three or four. Even the little boy sitting in the centre, Sanjit Teeluck, son of the then Commissioner (later High Commissioner) Sir Leckraz Teeluck grew up to become a Mauritian MP and passed away a few years ago.

Among the group are staff of the Commission who paved the way for the establishment of a proper Mauritius Diplomatic Service after independence in March 1968. Already in 1964, when the Commission was set up in London Britain knew Mauritius was going to be independent and the country had to be ready with a full-fledged diplomatic service. There was no need to sell The Chagos for independence.

We learn with sadness of the demise of Armand Maudave, former Education Officer of the Ministry of Education, former Diplomat within Mauritius Diplomatic Service and former Tourism Director within the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority.

I first met Armand Maudave when I was acting Senior Executive Officer in the 1960s at the Examinations Section Ministry of Education (now The Mauritius Examinations Syndicate), under Moteall Burton (Examinations Registrar) where I was responsible for all the administrative work, including the setting up of examinations centres throughout the country, for the conduct of the secondary school examinations in Mauritius notably the Cambridge School Certificate and Higher School Certificate Examinations, and the London GCE (OL and AL) Examinations.

Armand Maudave, as an Education Officer, was the Supervisor of one of Examinations Centres. His main responsibility, among others, was to collect the Questionnaires from the Examinations Section in Rose Hill in the morning to distribute to candidates in the centre under his control and to bring back the Scripts in the afternoon. I became personally acquainted with Armand Maudave when as Key Holder of the stock I handed him in the morning the Questionnaires and collected the Scripts from him in the afternoon. What I remember of him then was that sort of permanent smile

on his face.

## Mauritius Students Unit London

I met Armand Maudave again as a colleague when I was on secondment to the Mauritius Students Unit in London when he himself was subsequently seconded for duty as Adviser to Students. I was responsible for all the administrative work of the Unit with France Viader, a former Teachers Training College Principal, as Supervisor.

The Mauritius Students Unit in London was created by the Colonial Government in the 1950s as an extension of the Mauritius Ministry of Education for the placing of Mauritian students in British universities under the UCCA (Universities Central Council on Admissions). I had to process all the applications received the Ministry for Armand Maudave to send to the six universities of the students' choice. I worked closely with Armand (in England, everybody is on first name relationship in a work situation). He was one of the most amiable fellow one can come across and frequently we would go out for lunch at Upper Montagu Street, off Baker Street, London W1.

The Mauritius Students Unit was gradually absorbed by the newly-created Mauritius Commission (Not High Commission yet) in August 1964 and the office had to move from Baker Street area to Grand Buildings in Trafalgar Square under the Secretary of the Commission, Raymond Chasles (a luminary).



With the creation of the Ministry of External Affairs in the early seventies, Armand moved into the diplomatic cadre where he made great headway in the course of his career. But post government service retirement will see him in charge of Moulins de la Concorde and as Director of Tourism. I remember Armand as a great turfist and stable owner at one time.

Our deepest sympathy to all those who mourn the loss this affable person.

Peter Chellen

## Titbits from Mauritius

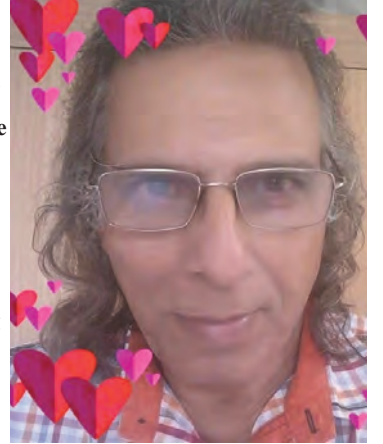
by Ahmad Macky

### HOSPITALS CLOSED DOWN DUE TO FRONTLINERS STAFF TESTED POSITIVELY OF VIRUS

Two hospitals in the southern part of the island have been closed down because 19 frontliners have been tested positive of covid-19.

The Souillac Hospital as well as the Rose Belle Hospital are closed for the time being. A massive disinfection, general mopping as well as cleaning of all wards and offices is taking place as well.

The government is taking precautionary measures for the general safety of the patients who have been transferred to other hospitals.



### AUDIT REPORT 2019-2020: WASTAGE AND EXTRAVAGANCES

Once more the Audit Report 2019-2020 has badly criticized the wastage of billions of rupees of taxpayers' money in most of our government institutions and other sub departments. It is said that such wastage could have been prevented if there was enough planning, rigours and efficiencies of the Civil Service. Here are some main issues:

- Financial irregularities of the management of Covid-19 strongly denounced.
- Rs 19.8 million wasted on COI
- Independence Day: The cancelled celebrations has cost the taxpayers Rs 5.3 million
- Government expenditure in 2019-2020 totalled Rs 189.6 billion compared to an original appropriation of Rs 178.8 billion last year.
- As for revenue, the total amount collected was Rs 103.9 billion compared to the original estimate of Rs121.7 billion of the previous year.
- Public Sector Debt (PSD) has increased from Rs 320.6 billion as at 30 June 2019 to Rs381.8 billion as at 30 June 2020, representing an increase of 19%.
- PSD as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), has increased from 65.3 % (gross basis). The Public Debt Management Act was amended through the COVID-19 (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 to provide for the removal of the PSD ceiling of 65% of GDP

### A ONE OFF GOVERNMENT GRANT SCHEME TO SELF-EMPLOYED WORKERS

An envelope of Rs 2 billion for the 25,000 self-employed workers by the government has been made available because of the lockdown period in Mauritius. Each self-employed worker will receive Rs 10,000 as a one off compensation grant. There are long queues of people near banks to see whether or not the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) has deposited their money into their bank account so that they can withdraw for their day-to-day needs.

### MANY MAURITIANS REFUSE COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Notwithstanding the appeals of the government to the public to do this vaccination, a number of Mauritians have categorically refused because they do not trust our health system. Many fear side effects such as blood clotting. So far we have over 282 cases of covid-19 positive patients in quarantine. Two Mauritians who have been tested as positive covid-19 died but the health authority said that they died of other diseases such as cardiac or other diseases.

In Madagascar 4 Mauritians died of the virus as confirmed by Mauritius Ambassador Francoise Labelle in Madagascar

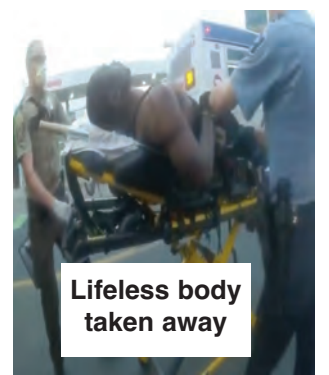
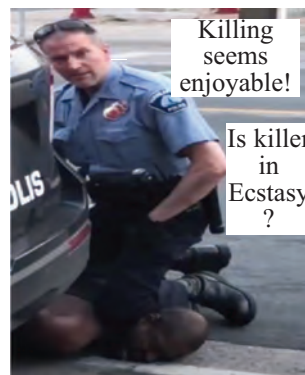
### RODRIGUANS STRANDED IN MAURITIUS OWING TO LOCKDOWN

Many Rodriguans are blocked in Mauritius because all flights to Rodrigues have been stopped due to the closing down of borders.

The Ministry of Health have put a communication that the government wants to maintain the safety of the population of Rodrigues since Rodrigues so far is the only island which is Covid-19 free, where there is no Corona virus there.

Those Rodriguans who have been stranded in Mauritius want to go home and have threatened a general hunger strike if the government refuses to cooperate with them.

### The Killing of George Floyd





A QR Code for Mauritian Overseas Gazette (MOG) as shown on the right. What is the QR code for? Mylene tells us below



## Brief history of the QR Code

by Mylene, Japan

Some of you may remember the big heavy cash registers of the 1960's. Day in and day out cashiers had to manually key in the price of items which resulted in numbness of the wrist and carpal tunnel syndrome.

### Enter the barcode

A rectangle of black parallel lines printed on the packaging of a product, now all the cashier had to do was to scan the code to clock up a sale.

Revolutionary as it was, the barcode could only hold up to 20 letters and numbers.

### Enter the QR Code or quick response code

Developed in 1994 by Masahiro Hara an engineer at Denso Corporation (now Denso Wave Incorporated), his two-dimensional pattern of black and white squares measuring 1x1 inch could hold 7,089 numeric and alphabetic characters to include Japanese kanji and kana, website URLs, telephone numbers and images.

When the code is scanned, the information can be on your phone in a matter of seconds, hence the name, quick response.

Originally designed to track car parts, Hara wanted the QR code to play a role on the global stage. In keeping with the spirit of the inventor, Denso Waves (who hold the patent) made the code publicly available so that anyone can use it freely. It soon became an indispensable tool for the pharmaceutical, food and contact lens companies as they began to use it for a wide range of tasks from production to stock taking.

The turning point came in 2002 when Japanese mobiles came equipped with a QR Code-reading feature. Now the general public could instantly access information that enhanced their daily lives from obtaining coupons to electronic tickets at airports.

It didn't take long before its use became widespread and today it is used almost everywhere in the world. In 2012, the QR Code won a Good Design Award in Japan. (<http://www.g-mark.org/>)

'Its developers took on the challenge of developing a variety of codes through designing, had the foresight to place its technologies in the public domain ..... that has allowed natural uses of the code in People's daily lives.'

It was the first time the code was honoured publicly. In 2020, it received the \*IEEE Milestone award for its global impact as a critical information sharing tool.

But it doesn't stop there because anyone can have their own QR Code, which is why it is constantly evolving as people find new ways and new purpose to utilise it, all with the blessing of Hara.

\*Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers ([www.ieee.org](http://www.ieee.org))

**QR Codes are seen everywhere. There are QR codes even for the Dead - On Gravestones, and in Chinese tombstones.**

**Editor's note: If Masahiro Hara san had patented his QR Code he could be as rich as Bill Gate, if not richer. Bill Gate will forever and ever capitalise on and cream off the benefit his patented softwares for computers. Just a thought! Glad we don't have to pay for the MOG one, on which can be scanned the issues of the publication.**



HOW TO BUILD AND  
USE QR CODES IN  
YOUR BUSINESS

## UK Mauritians in the management of the Wimbledon District Football League



(Est. 1898)

Mention the name of Wimbledon and your first thoughts probably gravitate towards tennis at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club. Anyone who has played amateur football in Wimbledon and surrounding areas will think of Wimbledon and District Football League (WDFL) that has been in existence since 1898. This League has survived through two world wars and despite a growing gulf between professional and grass roots football, has continued to facilitate football that is both enjoyable and competitive, but always played in the true spirit of the game.



### Mauritius Football Competition on Clapham Common, south London

*Souvenir Shirt presented by Iqbal Bhayat of Air Mauritius to the Best Player of the Competition. Vishnu Sooboodoo is seen with mike and loudhailer. On his right Monaf Fakira and Peter Chellen (far right)*

This League is affiliated to the London Football Association and is currently led by David Fowkes, Chairman. David used to be the Chief Executive of the London FA for over 20 years. David's knowledge of all things football is second to none. He led a committee of League Officers, two of whom are of Mauritian heritage: Noel Valapinee and Vishnu Sooboodoo.

Noel Valapinee was born in Mauritius in December 1952 and came to England in 1967. He settled in south east London and has worked for BT (British Telecom) for over 45 years. Noel played football for the local Mauritian team, Cosmos United based in South London. He was on the point of joining Crystal Palace as a professional player but a freak accident during a training session stopped his playing career and ambition. Cosmos United has been the longest established Mauritian team in the UK celebrating its 45th year recently.

Noel has been on the management committee of Cosmos United holding different roles ever since and is currently the Chairman. In 1999, Noel joined the WDFL and was elected the League Referee Organiser, a role which he carried out for over 14 years. He is currently the Vice Chairman, a role which he really enjoys.

Vishnu Sooboodoo joined the WDFL in 2017 and was appointed the Registration Secretary. Vishnu was involved with football in his teen years associated with Wigan Athletic FC in Floreal, his birthplace. He moved to the UK in 1974 and started getting involved in football in 1978. He helped to set up a football team in a South London Hospital which later progressed and joined the Wimbledon and District Football League.

In the late 1980's Vishnu joined the Mauritius Football Competition (MFC) created by Peter Chellen, Editor of Mauritius News, prompted by



*The Mauritius FC, one of the 12 Mauritian participating teams, sponsored by Mauritius News, the first Mauritian newspaper overseas*

Noel Valapinee, and assisted by the late Monaf Fakira, former Mauritian MP and Mayor of Port Louis.

The one-day competition was an annual event where up to 12 Mauritian teams all over London and Surrey would compete, initially, on the grounds of Clapham Common in south London. This competition was affiliated to the London FA and was well known within the Mauritian community. Vishnu was the Chairman and main organiser for this event for over twenty years.

The WDFL has currently 41 teams that are divided into 4 divisions. It is well managed by a dedicated team of volunteers. Football is played on Saturdays in the league and cup competitions finals take place at the end of May. However, this year due to Covid 19, Grassroots Football has been disrupted and suspended since December 2020. Hopefully, with the vaccination programme in full progress, grassroots football is planning to resume at the beginning of April 2021.

## New presenter Lee Juggurnauth for UK Channel 4 series 'A Place in the Sun'

by Yvonne Goder-Persand

**Congratulations to the new presenter Lee Juggurnauth for the UK TV series 'A Place in the Sun'.**

We congratulate Leenesh 'Lee' Juggurnauth as the new face of the UK hit show 'A Place in the Sun', a popular programme aired on Channel 4 since 2000. The show reviews holiday retreats outside the UK for homeowners wanting a warmer climate, hence the title of the series.

Lee Juggurnauth, aged 34, born in England to Mauritian parents, is a great addition to 'A Place in the Sun' as his credentials include being a Property Developer, buying and selling properties for the last 10 years or so in Mauritius, London and Spain.

We keenly wait for when the show reboots in April featuring newcomer Lee, and wish him the best of luck in his new presenter role.

*Images from Facebook*



**I met my wife at a dance ...**

**I thought she was at home with the kids**

*Tommy Cooper*

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## Some Headlines picked up from International Media

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

- UK furlough scheme pays out millions to foreign states and tax exiles
- **SAS ordered to start disrupting Russian meddling around the world**
- **Tory anger as Boris Johnson to extend 'draconian' coronavirus laws for six months**
- Prince William Is Worried Prince Harry Will Leak Their Conversations All "Over American TV"
- **Primary school writes to parents urging them not to wear 'skimpy' outfits on the school run**
- 'We have a new pandemic': Angela Merkel sounds dire warning over dominant UK Covid variant in . . . Germany as she orders Easter lockdown
- **COVID-19: 'Capitalism' and 'greed' are behind the UK's vaccine success, Boris Johnson reportedly says**
- Europe's trust in Britain has gone. We're now a problem, not a partner
- **Human penises are shrinking because of pollution, warns scientist**
- Britney Spears asks judge to end father's control over her personal affairs
- **Scottish independence: 53% of voters back leaving UK if EU membership guaranteed, poll suggests**
- Government votes to extend coronavirus laws for six months as 35 Tory MPs rebel by voting against legislation
- **Sharon Osbourne Exits The Talk amid Controversy, CBS Says Her Behavior Didn't 'Align with Our Values'**
- The View: Sharon Osbourne will no longer appear on US talk show after heated on-air discussion about racism
- **Brexit has been a disaster for Britain as collapsing European trade puts UK firms out of business**

The suspected gunman in three attacks that killed eight people at Atlanta-area spas has been arrested and charged with murder. Police in Washington, D.C., arrested a Texas man outside Vice President Kamala Harris's official residence, although she doesn't yet live at the estate near the U.S. Naval Observatory

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.



## Letter from Rodrigues

We are following the Covid situation in Mauritius with interest and with some concern .

Here in Rodrigues -we have been on a state of vigilance for the past 3 weeks , but as there have not been any cases of infection in Rodrigues since the flights were stopped , things have relaxed again.

The main effect has been on the economy of the island .

This affects a lot of people and with no one coming in to the island, like, the airport and airline workers, food and hospitality places and all the tourism connected activities.

We are OK at Care-Co as we have concentrated on local sales opportunities - making soap and chain link fencing and things to do with beekeeping.

We have also got CSR funding which is great help.

It's a pity that the positive results from the Roadshow in Mauritius have been cancelled out by the Covid outbreak in Mauritius.

Paul Draper

(See Rodrigues Newsletter on Page 8)

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## MOG Cuisine

### P i l a u

#### Ingredients

5 measures of rice  
½ kg of pork dices  
5 pieces of chicken (legs or breasts)  
10 sausages  
Oil  
Spices  
4 pieces of dried saffron  
1 garlic pod  
1 piece of ginger  
4 large red pepper  
4 small onions

3 fennels (feuilles quatre epices)

#### Preparation and cooking

Warm 1 measure of oil in the pressure cooker, brown the spice paste until the oil and spices get separated, put in the pork, cook for some 3 minutes.

Then add the chicken and cook for some more minutes, add some water, close the cooker and cook for 10 minutes.

Transfer the rice to the cooker, add 5 measures of rice and 8 measures of water which the saffron will have been diluted. Mix well. Start the rice cooker and allow to cook, As soon as the signal ready is on, add the sausages, already steamed.

Mix well and serve.

From Guy Felix's recipe book  
"Genuine Cuisine of  
Mauritius,  
Edition de l'Océan Indien.

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permission of EoI*



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*Practice Director*  
**SOLICITOR OF SENIOR  
COURTS OF ENGLAND  
AND WALES**

## Rodrigues Newsletter

**Care-Co (Rodrigues). & the Trevor Huddleston Association for the Disabled (Rodrigues).  
Camp du Roi, Republic of Mauritius, Indian Ocean.**

**Tel (230) 8311766**

**Fax (230) 8312276 or 8320120**

**Email [careco@intnet.mu](mailto:careco@intnet.mu): [pdraper@intnet.mu](mailto:pdraper@intnet.mu)**

**[brhonconrod@intnet.mu](mailto:brhonconrod@intnet.mu)**

**[www.carecorodrigues.com](http://www.carecorodrigues.com)**

**[www.gplcentre.com](http://www.gplcentre.com)**

*See us also on facebook (GPL Centre-Rodrigues) and on Youtube. Care-Co*

Rodrigues. Making a buzz.

The Breaking News from us is not good.

At the beginning of March came the most unwelcome news that there was the start of a fresh outbreak of the Corona virus in Mauritius.

This happened just as the vaccination roll out was starting to get into full swing.

Mauritius had been Covid 'safe' for nine months. But that came to a startling end, and up to today there is a spread of the virus in Mauritius and there are now well over two hundred people who have tested positive and who are in isolation or under treatment. There are many more in quarantine awaiting test outcomes.

A few are needing treatment, but the majority happily, are not having severe symptoms.

One of the people under treatment died, but it was stated that Covid was not the main cause of death.

The Government in Mauritius immediately re-imposed the same lock down that was in force last year.

The vaccination programme however has been continued.

However, rather strangely, the government in Mauritius has recently announced an easing of the lock down at the end of March, even though there is still a spread of the virus in Mauritius. The population is being advised to take all precautions.\*

Flights between Mauritius and Rodrigues were immediately halted, leaving several hundred Rodriguans stranded in Mauritius.

In Rodrigues, no case of Covid contamination has been reported. Rodrigues is still Covid Free- and the protocols to be put in force to ensure that Rodrigues remains Covid free are being worked out. This is not an easy prospect as the Rodriguans stranded in Mauritius want to get back.

The effects of this outbreak and the closing of the Rodrigues airport has had an immediate effect on the economic life of the Island.

Whereas for the past 9 months Rodrigues was a 'safe' place for Covid safe Mauritians to visit and the economic activities of the island were maintaining their own with this influx of visitors, this has now stopped and the effects are being felt. Hotels, guest houses, restaurants, car hire and of course all the activities at the airport have come to a halt, with the effects that can be imagined.

What are the effects for us here at Care-Co and the GPL Centre? The anti covid vaccination programme has started in Rodrigues

and some of us (me included) have had our first jab.

The GPL Centre had a final day of term activities last week with a Road Safety for the disabled presentation, and this also included the opening of a 'model' classroom for teaching children with disabilities.

The school is now on winter break until end of June.

Care-Co is maintaining activities, having adjusted to the situation of not having clients for our handicrafts, and we are very thankful for the alternatives that we can offer for local sales.

The Rodrigues Regional Assembly has ordered chain link fencing- made on our hand operated equipment and keeps a good number of our disabled workers busy with this production.

We are also able to make beekeeping equipment for local sale and also our furniture making department is busy. At the moment we are making new furniture for the GPL Centre sponsored by Emtel & Co. Our handmade soap production is also continuing as this does sell locally.

We are also grateful for the CSR funding made available to us through the National Social Inclusion Foundation and for all gifts and donations to the work that are sent by our friends around the world.

If you are interested in more news about Mauritius and Rodrigues I am sure that our staff at the GPL Centre keep the GPL Centre Facebook page up-to-date with news and pictures of what is happening in the school.

The 'blogs' of Birgit are also worth a read. <http://insel-rodrigues.blogspot.com>

My usual apologies for sending you a printed mail. I promise to reply personally to all mails coming in. From us all here in Rodrigues at Care-Co & the GPL Centre we trust and pray that you will be kept well and safe at this Easter time.

**Sincerely**

**Paul**

**March 2021**

**\*Editor's note: Sanitary confinement in Mauritius has been extended to end of April 2021.**



The UK Corner

# The New £50 Banknote



**On March 25, The Bank of England unveiled the new polymer £50 banknote which will be in circulation from June 25, 2021.**

Of the polymer material, the Bank says in its press release "One of the benefits shared by all our polymer banknotes is that they last longer than paper notes and they stay in better condition during their use. This note, like the polymer £10 and £20 will contain a tactile feature to help vision impaired people identify the denomination."

The new £50 banknote features the scientist Alan Turing. "He will be joined by Stephen Fry and Dr Simon Singh, who will reflect on the note ... Following its public unveil today (25.03.21), the polymer £50 will be issued for the first time on 23 June 2021, which coincides with Alan Turing's birthday," indicates the press release.

The Bank of England's press release gives a description of the historical character of the Alan Turing. "Alan Turing's portrait is based on a photo taken in 1951 by Elliott & Fry which is part of the Photographs Collection at the National Portrait Gallery.

Alan Turing provided the theoretical underpinnings for the **modern computer**. While best known for his work devising code-breaking machines during WWII, **Turing played a pivotal role in the development of early computers** first at the National Physical Laboratory and later at the University of Manchester. He set the foundations for work on artificial intelligence by considering the question of whether machines could think.

Turing was homosexual and was

posthumously pardoned by the Queen having been convicted of gross indecency for his relationship with a man. His legacy continues to have an impact on both science and society today."

Of the potentials of the computer in its infancy, Alan Turing is quoted to have said "This is only a foretaste of what is to come and only the shadow of what is going to be." This quote from Alan Turing was given in an interview to The Times newspaper on 11 June 1949.

As a matter of fact, Alan Turing was among the codebreakers based at Bletchley Park in 1939 where they computerised and broke the codes of attacking German submarines and brought the World War II to an earlier end by 1945. The activities at Bletchley Park are considered as the beginning of the creation of the computer era. The personnel at Bletchley Park were bound by the Official Secret Act, and all the information about their work was classified. Thus the birth of the computer was practically smothered. But the Americans who joined the war were not bound by any secrecy. They took all the information away with them and developed the computer. Today, they may take credit for the popularity of the computer with such wizards as Steve Jobs, Bill Gates and the creation of the Silicone Valley.

The whole world today, be it China, Russia, India, Israel, Arabia etc are all moving forward thanks to the magic of the computer era.

Peter Chellen

# Royal Mail inserts barcode on stamps



Picture Royal Mail

The Royal Mail started to include, on March 18, on an experimental basis, a barcode on its 2nd Class Stamp "to pave the way for innovative customer services and benefits in the future."

The Chief Officer of the Royal Mail, Nick Landon ,says "By doing this, we are looking to transform the humble stamp so that we can offer our customers even more convenient, new services in the future. The pilot of barcoded stamps reflects our commitment to constantly evolve our products and services in line with the ever-changing needs of our customers," he said

The Royal Mail is the first country in the world to issue barcoded stamps. It may be remembered that Britain was the first country in the world to issue postage stamps in 1840.

## UK Politics

**Is Labour leader Keir Starmer making any impact on UK politics? The following headlines indicate that his leadership is questioned:**

- Starmer criticised by LGBT+ Labour for 'unacceptable' visit to church where pastor opposed gay equality laws
- Keir Starmer is a bad choice for Labour – it's easy for Boris Johnson to destroy his reputation
- Keir Starmer's leadership needs an urgent course correction
- Why some Labour MPs and activists think Keir Starmer is failing as Labour leader
- \* Will Keir Starmer stand the first voter test?

## You can never know:

At the hospital man who took his wife for a stomach complaint was told that she was pregnant.

"I took all necessary precautions," he told the nurse. "The others did not," said the nurse.

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# Scène de la Vie au Parlement Mauricien

Standoff between Speaker Phokeer (far right) and MMM MP Bhagwan (far left). *"Honourable Bhagwan, out for the last time,"* shouts the Speaker). The Hon. Member does not seem to *Obtempérer*. *"Anou aller,"* Hon Meeah and Hon Béranger tell him, standing at the back. On the front row, lending an ear to Hon Mohamed (Labour), Hon Assirvaden (Labour) wants to know whether we shall all walk out. On the other hand, former Opposition leader Hon Boollel (Labour) with right hand pointing towards the Speaker tells present Opposition leader Hon Duval (PMSD) sitting on the left *"Ça même to dire li finne changer?."* Hon Duval seems to turn a deaf ear to all the tantrum. He wants peace rather than confrontation. The poor Clerk to the Assembly, with headscarf, is wondering what to record for Hansard while the Serjeant-at-Arms is ready to pounce on Hon Bhagwan and to drag him out if he stays put still.



## New Red Zones

- Surinam
- Riambel
- Chemin-Grenier
- Chamouny
- Chamarel
- Rivière-des-Galets

The above areas have been declared new red zone routes for absolute confinement

## Declassified Zones

- Belle-Terre
- St Antoine
- Hermitage
- Camp-Fouquereaux
- Morcellement Pinewood
- Belle-Rive
- Midlands
- 16ème Mille
- Phoenix
- Palmerstone
- Morcellement Chazal
- Closel
- Carreau-Laliane
- Morcellement Boucan
- Une partie de St-Paul
- Une partie de Bonne-Terre

The above-mentioned areas have been declassified as red zone routes

## THE QUARANTINE ACT 2020



Motorway deserted. People stay indoors to avoid Rs50,000 fine and imprisonment of up to 5 years for unnecessary trips

## Egyptian Mummies Move House

The ancient mummies of 18 Egyptian kings and 4 queens were removed from their tombs this month (March) and transported by a special lorry convoy across the streets of Cairo to be accommodated in one spot in a new national museum.

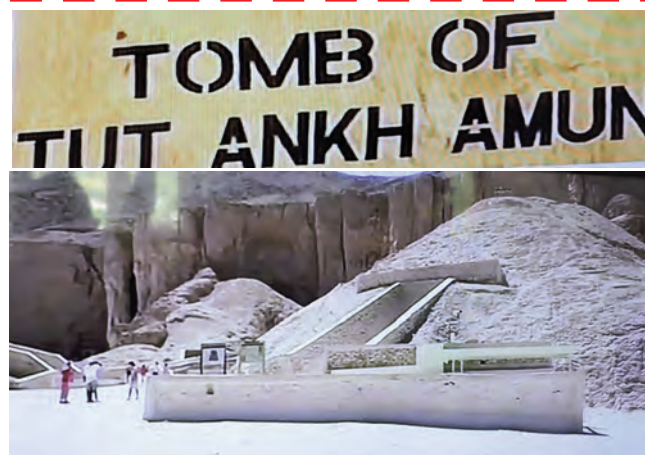
The irony of it all is that when those royals died they were buried with their all their wealth because it was the strong belief of the time that those who died were to be born again in another world. No one dared then to challenge this belief. As a matter, it was purely the theory of incarnation, that we keep coming, going and coming back. (So there is nothing new under the sun.) What we know is that we never bring anything with us when we come from the previous life. But those Egyptian royals did not want to be found wanting in the next world. So, they took it all with them in their tomb.

But in the course of time most of the tombs were raided and the gold and precious stones and all were stolen by tomb robbers who were skilled in this sort of profession.

Have we learned anything from this? Today, we very strongly believe and we are brainwashed to believe, that we shall come back. Don't you dare contradict that. We are taught that we shall go to Paradise or to Hell depending on our behaviour in this life.



A new circular flyover in the region of Phoenix with bus and metro traffic below



The excavated tomb has been for a long time a tourist attraction. The royals did not know that no more than we know what will become of us in spite of all speculations. From dust to dust, is nearer to the truth.



King Sety travels by Lorry

Several lorries were used to transfer the mummies from their original abodes to a new museum in Cairo to attract tourists to Egypt. As living souls they were in the money. Dead, they still will make money!