

**L'Union
fait
La Force**



Mauritian Overseas Gazette

Truth
&
Trust

Highland House, 165 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1NE
Tel: 0773 907 2105 (WhatsApp) Email: mauritianoverseasgazette@yahoo.com
Website: <http://mauritianoverseasgazette.com>



Issue No 0005

Editor: Peter Chellen

At the service of the Mauritian Diaspora

A totally independent platform

May 2021

Seul le silence est grand, tout le rest est faiblesse (Alfred de Vigny)
Only silence is great, all else is weakness.

The Duke Remembered

People all over the world have been remembering the Duke of Edinburgh, each one in his own way.

In our April edition, a week before the Prince's death, we told of an incident involving the Prince Philip and a Mauritian chief electrician, Cyril Mootoo, in post at Buckingham Palace.

In this issue on Page 6, Breejan Burrin tells us of Prince Philip's visit to Mauritius in connection with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. An example of an Award Certificate is seen below. In an extensive exposé, Breejan Burrin tells us on Page 7 of the Royal Visit in 1972.

Many expats living in the UK and their offspring have a great affection for the Royal family and feel the great loss of the Duke whom they hold in high esteem. "it's as if one of our own family members has left us for ever," says Chris Mallet, a resident of Stockwell, south London. "In the old days whenever we saw a red colour heli-



copter flying over our part of London we were told that it was Prince Philip's copter." "Was it really the Duke's mode of conveyance at the time, we never knew until the red flyer was no longer seen

Good News

End of Second Confinement

It is with a sense of great relief that the people of Mauritius have learned, from the PM's television address, of the lifting of the sanitary confinement (though partial) on April 30.

From May 1, Mauritians will be able to go about their normal business without restriction in most areas of activities.

The Press release published on Page 10 lays down the dos and don'ts that will be effective from May 1.

It is to be hoped that total removal of the lockdown will follow in a not too distant future.

The deprivation of gym attendance is hard on many keep-fit fans

Congratulations to Yvonne Goder on her LLM Award and her BSc Hons Psychology Graduation

Yvonne Goder has successfully completed her post-graduate studies at the University of Hertfordshire Law School with an LLM (Master of Laws in International Human Rights).

Yvonne previously obtained, from the same university, her first degree, BSc (Hons) in Psychology with Artificial Intelligence, achieving an upper second class (2:1) overall.

Her psychology dissertation on Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), marked as a first-class honours, was published in the German Journal of Psychiatry.

Based in the UK, Yvonne Goder is a contributor to Mauritian Overseas Gazette (MOG). She was for several years a contributor to Mauritius News and helped its publishing company to put up the Mauritian Open Air Festival on Clapham Common and the Miss Mauritius (GB) Competition at the Wandsworth Civic Centre.

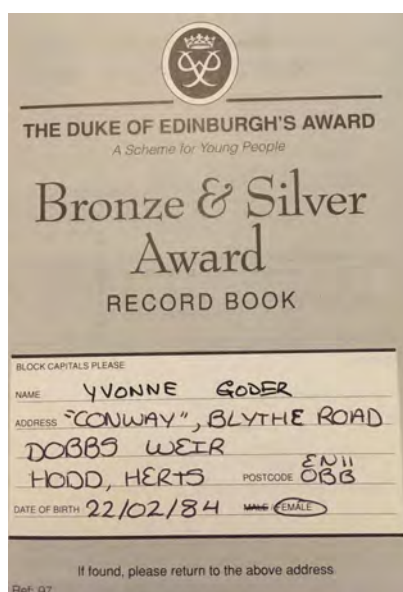
MOG offers its warmest congratulations to our compatriot on her academic achievements and wishes her continued success in her career.



Duke of Edinburgh Award Certificate

On the right is an example of a certificate that a participant receives on completion of a challenge.

This certificate was awarded to Yvonne Goder in 1997 who achieved her goal at the age of 13. Such a certificate gives you an edge in life, say participants.



The Secret is Out



The Secret is out, says Lee Juggurnauth on his Instagram account. Everyone now knows he is the new face of television to host the programme A Place in the Sun on Channel 4 as reported in our last issue (April)

Lee Juggurnauth started his career networking in the entertainment industry as a music artiste manager collaborating with Lulu, Billy Ocean and Take That.

Lee's background also includes working on the UK's X Factor with the likes of Kylie Minogue, Quincy Jones and Elton John to name a few high profile celebrities.

He has additionally used his exotic looks to model and appear in campaigns for Ami Paris and Samsung.

With such an impressive CV and industry experience, Lee has scoped to bring his own gender-neutral fashion line that will be readily available from May on his website www.juggurnauth.com. A percentage of sales will go towards a chosen children's charity. Lee is a strong advocate for equality as shown with his fashion line and people of all ethnicities.

Yvonne Persand Goder

Scottish Parliamentary Election

The Scottish Parliamentary Election to be held on May 6 offers a bit of a dilemma to the Mauritian community in Scotland. There is a sizeable number of Mauritians who have settled in the country after their nursing studies since the 1960s

The Scottish Parliament has a number of 129 members of whom the Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) led by Nicola Sturgeon, has, the lion share of 61 MPs, though not enough to form a majority government. However, in a minority government, Nicola Sturgeon is the present PM.

Nicola Surgeon together with her adversary Alex Salmond, leader of the newly-formed party, ALBA, are for a second referendum on the independence of Scotland. All the other parties: Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat etc are against independence and want Scotland to stay within the United Kingdom. This is where the next election is a bit of a dilemma for the Mauritian community. The first generation of Mauritians, all immigrants, are faithful to the idea of a United Kingdom comprising Scotland. They voted against Brexit referendum five years ago.

The younger generation of Mauritians, born and brought up in Scotland, have a vision for an independent Scotland within the European Union, which offers a better future for their country, to themselves and their own children.



Dynamic Sturgeon

Religious Mauritius

Mauritius is a country where many faiths are practised by people of different religions. In March, the Christians celebrated Easter which was a public holiday.

Sometimes within the same religion, we have a celebration for people of different beliefs and rites. On April 13, the Telegus celebrated their New Year with Ugadi. On that same date the Marathis celebrated their own Gudi Padwa, which is their New Year. It was national holiday in Mauritius. On that very day of April 13, began the Holy Month of Ramdahan during which Muslims fast from dawn to dusk everyday.

The Tamils, on their part, celebrated their New Year, the Varusha Pirappu, on April 14, which was not a public Holiday.

Read more about the religions on Page 3

Nadarajen Ramanjooloo

Prince Philip remembered

Prince Philip in Mauritius in 1972 for the Duke of Edinburgh Award



by
Breejan Burrin

On two occasions, late HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT, visited Mauritius, a British colony from 1810 to 1968.

The first visit took place in March 1972, four years after the island was granted independence (*See Visit Royal Visit by same author on Page 6*).

Prince Philip was back to Mauritius twenty-two years later, in 1994, on the occasion of the 5th International Award Forum of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, hosted by the Mauritian government from 24 to 28 October 1994. The event, held at the seaside resort of La Pirogue Hotel in the west of the island, was

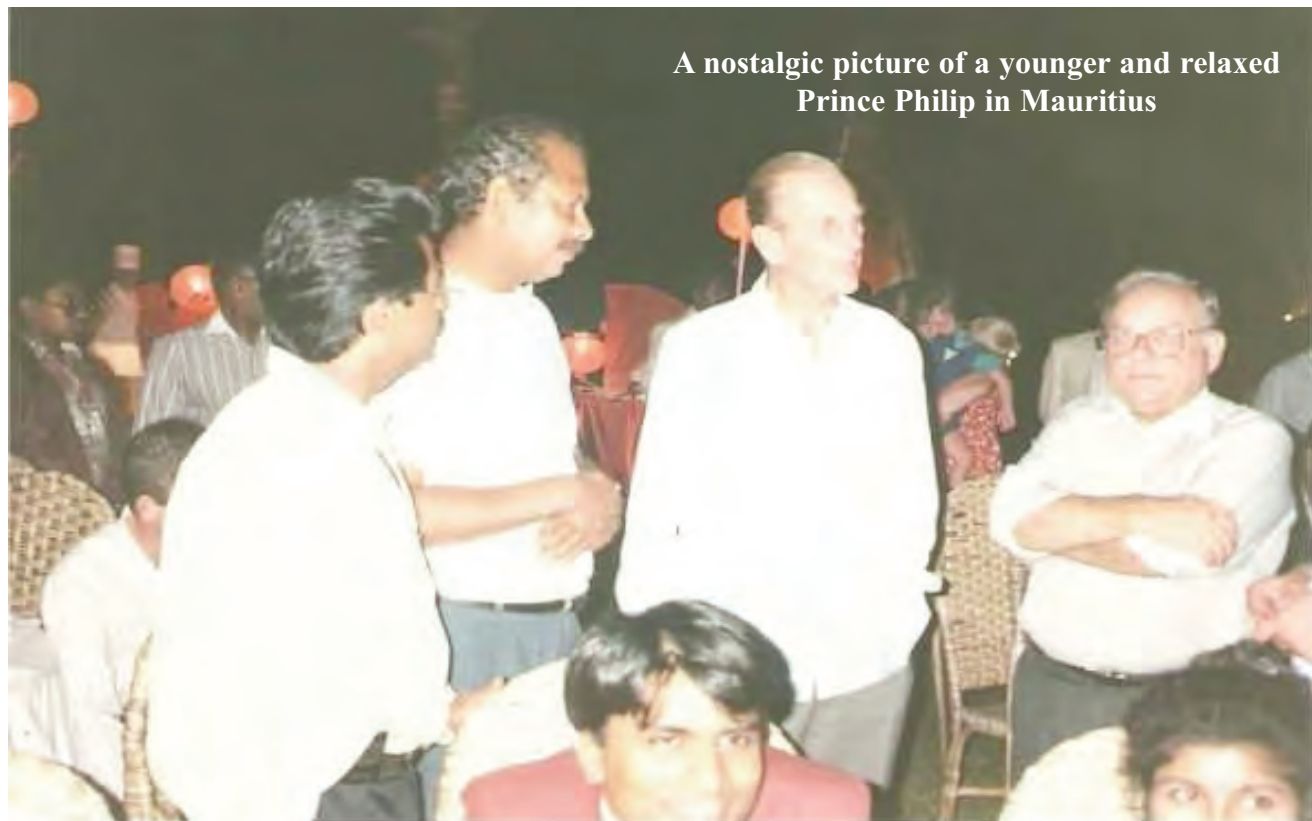
communities around the world.

Timeline

The timeline below briefly charts the course of the Award and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's involvement with it since its inception in 1956 right up to the 65th Anniversary in 2021:-

1956 Launch of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.
1958 The Award is made available to girls & is launched in first schools outside the UK.

A nostalgic picture of a younger and relaxed Prince Philip in Mauritius



*Prince Philip and Mauritian officials at La Pirogue Hotel during the 5th International Award Forum of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.
(Acknowledgement - Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation.)*

chaired by The Duke of Edinburgh himself.

"The Forum and attendant events took place in an excellent atmosphere, created in equal measures by the affability and effectiveness of one and all, the extraordinary generosity and involvement of the Mauritian government and the local benefactors, and the patent dedication of the delegates from around the world who attended.", observed Prince Philip.(1)

46 of the 59 member countries sent delegates to the Forum

Prince Philip praised the contribution of Mauritius in promoting the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme in the region. «Le duc d'Edimbourg félicite Maurice pour sa contribution au niveau de la promotion du Duke of Edinburgh Award dans les pays d'Afrique.»(2)

He also proceeded to the distribution of Gold Awards. «Il (le Prince Philip) a remis des médailles de la National Youth Awards Gold Scheme à une soixantaine de lauréats.» (Idem)

The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme is known in Mauritius as the National Youth Award Scheme since 1986. The 5th International Award Forum was attended by nearly 2000 participants

The founding and subsequent years of the Award

When the first trial of the Award was launched in 1942, no one had any idea then of what would happen. In the event, it was an instant success, and the Award has been growing and expanding worldwide ever since.

The formal setting of the Award (then The Duke of Edinburgh's Award) took place in 1956 as the Duke of Edinburgh's unwavering commitment to young people.

Developed as a 'toolkit for life' for British boys, within 18 months the Award was available to girls as well. It continued to gain momentum and by the early 1970s, it was operating in more than 30 countries.

The Award is now a cornerstone of non-formal education and learning, with more than a million young people involved, in 130+ countries and territories around the world. For more than sixty years, millions of young people have participated and received Awards, with millions more benefiting from its impact in

1967 First overseas conference.
1974 First overseas staff appointed.
1986 First meeting of the International Advisory Council.
1988 The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is established.
1999 HRH The Earl of Wessex establishes International Special Projects.
2012 Launch of the new global brand and digital tools.
2016 60th anniversary of the Award.
2021 65th anniversary of the Award.

An overview of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award programmes

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award programmes take between one and four years to complete, and they must be completed by the participant's twenty-fifth birthday.

There are around 300,000 new participants annually, with an estimated 461,000 current participants in the UK. The programmes are at three progressive levels which, if successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver, or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

With assistance from adult Leaders, participants select and set objectives in each of the following areas:

- **Volunteering:** undertaking service to individuals or the community.
- **Physical:** improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.
- **Skills:** developing practical and social skills and personal interests.
- **Expedition:** planning, training for, and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad.

At Gold level, participants must do an additional fifth

Residential section, which involves staying and working away from home for five days, doing a shared activity.

Award requirement

To achieve an award, the participant must work on each section for a minimum period of time, and must be monitored and assessed by someone with knowledge of the chosen activities. Each progressive level demands more time and commitment from participants: Bronze 3–6 months; Silver: 6–9 months; Gold: 12–18 months.

Participants are required to show regular activity and commitment to the award for the duration of the programme, which is usually at least one hour per week.

An outstanding legacy of Prince Philip to millions of youths

"Prince Philip's passion for, and commitment to, the work of the Award and the development of young people continued until the last and he remained actively engaged in the Award's activities.

"His determination, energy and enthusiasm will be greatly missed," said John May OBE DL, Secretary General of The Duke of Edinburgh' Award, after Prince Philip's demise. "HRH The Duke of Edinburgh leaves us not just with the memory of the man, but with a legacy. And the Award is his living memorial. His Royal Highness has impacted upon and taken to great heights his life's work. We all owe him a massive sense of gratitude. " added the Rt Hon The Lord Boateng PC DL, Chair of International Council.

As a matter of fact, from the beginning, His Royal Highness had been steadfast in his commitment to the Award and its work with young people around the world. The global Award family is dedicated to ensuring that The Duke of Edinburgh's legacy will continue to grow – and in doing so, champion and challenge young people from all corners of the globe – for many years to come.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in Mauritius

A few words about The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in the island.

In the Republic of Mauritius, the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation is licensed as the National Award Operator of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. The Programme is, herein, known as The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Mauritius .

The Patron of The Award is HE The President of the Republic of Mauritius. The Award in the Republic of Mauritius is operated by the Award Office.

The programme is operated through the National Award Committee under the Chairmanship of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation comprising representatives from other Ministries, NGO's and Private Sectors. The Honorary Chairman of the



As time goes by!

Prince Philip (back) greeting award winners and guests at the Gold Award ceremony at La Pirogue Hotel. (Acknowledgement: Le Mauricien Ltée).

National Award Committee is the Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation(3).

References

- (1) Award World, March 1995. (2) Week-End, 30 October 1994.
(3) Extracts from document sent by Mr Doobrajsing Adjodha, Senior Youth Officer (Officer in Charge), The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Mauritius.

RAMADAN: THE SACRED TIME FOR TWO BILLION MUSLIMS ACROSS THE WORLD!

The month of Ramadan is a holy time for the purification of the soul and body of all Muslims. It is not only a month of fasting, but Muslims also commemorate the first revelation of the Holy Quran 1400 years ago to Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him). While the importance and benefits of fasting are widely known, the revelation of Holy Quran has received less attention than it should have.

After all, this Scripture governs all aspects of a Muslim's life including fasting itself. Muslims believe the Holy Quran to be a divine source of knowledge. To emphasize its

Divine Authorship, Prophet Muhammad (pbu.h) called Holy Quran as the greatest miracle—the pinnacle of all miracles.

So, the question arises—what makes a Scripture divine? There are many criteria to list but for the sake of brevity let me list out few important ones. First, Scripture should be free of errors and contradictions. When a Scripture has many errors and contradictions, it loses its credibility and its divinity as a Scripture.

The language of revelation should be a direct address from God to mankind. For the test of divinity to stand, this is common sense. If the language gives a hint of an intervention of a third person, then the Scripture can be subjected to many errors and contradictions and the divine source would be questionable.

But above all, the divine revelation should not contradict well-proven scientific facts. In my humble opinion, I consider the latter to be truer and easily verifiable test of divine source. Scientific facts are universal knowledge and can be used to measure old scriptures for its true origin-divine or not.

But the Holy Quran is not a book of science, and this, in spite of so many verses that incite people to think, observe, rationalize, and to use sound judgment. Nor is it a book of philosophy. It does not propound the Theory of Relativity or Quantum Mechanics, or other scientific facts that were recently discovered.

To look for scientific treatises in the Quran or indeed in any scripture, is futile. But the basic fundamentals of sciences, revealed fourteen centuries ago, are laid out which points to and validate the source of this knowledge as divine.

There are many branches of sciences Holy Quran reveals including the creation of the Universe (the Big Bang) and the Gaseous mass before creation of galaxies.

The creation of the Universe is explained by astrophysicists in a widely accepted phenomenon, popularly known as the “Big Bang”. According to the “Big Bang” theory, the whole universe was initially one big mass (Primary Nebula) and a mighty secondary separation (Big Bang) resulted in the formation of Galaxies.

What does the Holy Quran say about Ramadan? Ramadan means fasting which is mandatory on every Muslim who is sane, and has reached adulthood. The following exemptions apply: (1) The insane (2) Children who are not adolescent yet (3) The elderly and chronically ill for whom fasting is unreasonably strenuous; but such persons are required to feed at least one poor person everyday in the Ramadan period for which he/she has missed fasting (4) Pregnant women may postpone the fasting at a later time (5) Women during the period of menstruation or post child birth confinement.

The things which invalidate fast are of two kinds. The first one requires Qada (only making up missed days), the other one not only requires Qada but also Kaffara (a penalty). The following are things that require Qada only (1) Eating or drinking intentionally. This includes non-nourishing items taken by mouth (2) The beginning of menstruation or post-child birth bleeding even in the last moment before sun set (3) ice parner Things that not only require Qada but also Kaffara are the following: Sexual activity during fasting (dawn to dusk). The penalty is to fast an additional period of 60 continuous days. If one is not able to do so then he must feed 60 poor people—one average meal each.

Before the days of the Prophet Mahomed, slavery was a common practice in the Arab world. Islam eliminated slavery from the society in a very short period of time. A useful approach was to allow people free of a slave as a charity or as a penalty for a sin. Thus during the time of the Prophet, setting a slave free was the penalty one must pay as a Kaffarah, if he or she had a slave.

Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam and a sacred time of the year for the world's nearly two billion Muslims. It is a time of purification of the soul where Muslims see no evils and speak no evils.



Ahmad Macky

Female DJ Melissa Armoogum opens her own Legal Firm

by Yvonne Goder-Persand

Congratulations are in order for Melissa Armoogum, known by many as DJ Melz, on opening recently her own solicitors firm ‘SM Solicitors’ in Bromley, Kent.

Mel has been for many years acknowledged as the one and only female DJ in the UK Mauritian community.

She was part of the organising committee for the Miss Mauritius GB 2011 competition organised by us at Mauritius News, now trading as the Mauritian Overseas Gazette.

She took a keen interest in dj-ing, a skill she acquired from her father who likewise was a DJ whose trade name was Solar Disco.

While following her passion of music, Mel studied Law at the University of Kent and graduated with an LLB. She went to complete her Legal Practice Course (LPC) in 2011 at the College of Law.

Mel qualified as a fully registered solicitor in 2016, and as a good female entrepreneur she opened her own legal firm in her locality of Kent.

Young Mel is a good role model for the UK Mauritian community.



Melissa (sitting in front) with business partner Santhika (standing behind her) and staff

**See
SM Solicitors advert
on Page 9**

South Indian Religions Explained

Ugadi

Telegu New Year

Shri Plava Telugu Naama Ugadi (13th – April – 2021)

When a year comes to an end, we start celebrating the arrival of the new year and wave off the ending year and sorrows of the passing year with a positive hope.

Festivals are occasions for rejoicing, for wearing new clothes and for enjoying delicious meals which comprise special dishes. However, understanding why these festivals are celebrated gives more meaning and significance to them. All festivals, whether social or religious, have some special message. They also explain the development of culture and civilisation of the people who celebrate them. Understanding why rites and rituals are performed during the festival brings joy and gives peace to the mind.

Normally, occasions such as religious festivals are marked with ceremonial baths, observing fasts, visiting temples, offering prayers, and inviting priests to perform ‘hawans’ (sacrifices) and ‘pujas’ at home. These traditions form part of the rich legacy handed over to us by our forefathers who came to Mauritius from India during a time of great hardship, which is still alive in the UK too.

Ugaadi is one of the festivals which are celebrated by Indians, particularly by Telugu-speaking Hindus from Telangana/Andhra Pradesh, states in India. Ugaadi is the first festivals of the Hindu calendar, at the beginning of the Lunar Year. Ugaadi is a modified form of yugadi which is made up 2 words: - Yuga (Uga) and Adi. Yuga (Uga) means a period or an era and Adi means starting. Thus, Yugadi means the beginning of a new period, the beginning of the year.

Ugaadi, New Year, the first Hindu festival, falls on the first day of the Month of Chaitra (March/April). It is celebrated in late March or at the beginning of April. The explanation lies with the Hindu calendar which starts with Chaitra (March/April) and is different from the Gregorian Calendar.

In Telangana/Andhra Pradesh, Ugaadi is celebrated with great pomp and splendour. In Mauritius too, this festival is celebrated among the Telugu Community with great joy and enthusiasm. But we are not to be a forgotten lot in the UK.

On that day, prayers are performed at home and in temples. The Almanac is read and the most important rite is the sharing of ‘Ugadi Pachadi’, preparation consisting of six tastes (shadruchi sammelan), each standing for a special experience that a man goes through in life: successes and failures, ups and downs, union and separation, joy and sorrow, pain and pleasure.

Telegus enjoy the day at home with the family and friends. The message is to Spend the day of Ugadi joyfully and make others happy. All consume (Sathwika Padarthaalu) clean and pure food.

It is a common belief of the Telugus that whatever action is done on the Ugaadi Day, good or bad, will have an effect during the coming year.

I wish all a Happy blessed a Blessed Year

Acharya Shri Trydev Bungaradu

Tamil New Year April 14

Celebration of Puthandu also known as Varusha Pirappu or the Birth of the New Year for the Tamils

Puthandu itself is a contraction of two Tamil words: Puthu meaning ‘New’ and Andu, meaning ‘Year’.

The Tamil calendar follows a sixty-year cycle in which the year begins in the month of Chittirai.

Just as January is the first month of the Gregorian calendar, Chittirai is the first month of the Tamil calendar. April 14 is the first day of the month of Chittirai.

The current 60-year cycle began in 1987 and will end in 2047.

New Year of course represents the end of the old year and the abandonment of any problem that might have ruined old year. The New Year offers the hope of a better one yet.

How Tamils celebrate Puthandu?

Just as for Deepavali, the home is meticulously cleaned the night before to wash away any negativity of the outgoing year.

In the morning, a ceremony known as Kani, a view of good, takes place. The first thing that people see that day is a tray of fruits, flowers, jewellery, coins: elements that mean abundance and wealth.

Signed Naden Vythelingum

Rodrigues News

By Paul Draper,
Port Mathurin



A sight of desolation in a street of Port Mathurin



Confinement in Mauritius, Consequences in Rodrigues

The shop is open, but Sheila (disabled) sees no people on the streets and no customers for her goods since the airport was closed in March.

Mauritian visitors are not allowed to travel to Rodrigues during the confinement in Mauritius. They normally constitute a good clientèle for the local craft and local produce. They bring home to Mauritius bottles and bottles of 'piments confits', jars of honey for themselves and for friends.

Rodrigues is renown for its honey produce

This is a hard time, even for the survival of bees.



Due to lack of forage, the remaining colonies of bees are having to be fed

Pictures: Care-Co-Rodrigues.

What has happened to Honey from Rodrigues?

Visitors from Mauritius to Rodrigues who visited the island before the most recent lockdown and closure of the airport were surprised to find that this year there was almost no honey to be seen on sale anywhere.

The honey from Rodrigues has obtained a reputation for its high quality and is often sought after by visitors from regular and reputed suppliers in Rodrigues.

This year there was almost no honey to be obtained from those suppliers anywhere on the Island.

Questions were asked as to how this could be so. And the answers given were not altogether convincing.

Something has happened to the beekeeping and honey production on Rodrigues this year, and there doesn't seem to be a ready explanation

The beekeepers point to the fact that the bees are unable to find enough nectar and other ingredient for them to produce honey. A number of beekeepers have reported loss of bee colonies

through 'starvation' and invasion of pests in the colonies resulting in their destruction...

Some blame the cyclones of 2018 and 2019 for the loss of melliferous sources. The Eucalyptus trees did not flower this year, say others, and there are not enough alternative melliferous sources from the bees to forage among.

If the bee population of Rodrigues is diminishing this is a serious threat to agriculture, as the crucial cross pollination work of the bees will be reduced and crops will not grow successfully.

Rodrigues Handicraft Producers and small businesses appeal for help from Government

It has been reported that a group of handicraft producers and self-employed in Rodrigues have appealed to the Local Government for financial support due to their loss of business during the closure of the airport in Rodrigues.

The Covid 19 outbreak in Mauritius in March resulted in a lockdown there, but the lockdown did not apply to Rodrigues, as there were no cases reported in Rodrigues. However Rodrigues was affected by the Mauritian lockdown when the airport and all passengers' services between Mauritius and Rodrigues were cancelled and the airport closed.

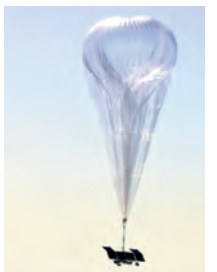
In Mauritius the lockdown meant that all businesses who had to suspend their activities were offered wage support by the government, but this did not apply to Rodrigues as economic activities were able to continue. However, certain sectors, especially those concerned with tourism and production of handicrafts which were dependent on customers from outside Rodrigues were immediately affected.

A scheme was later introduced whereby those who were registered with the Tourism Authority were able to have their employees offered some alternative work that was organized by the local authorities, such as cleaning up of the beaches and coastal areas and some inland beauty spots and lagoon islands. But many of those who are self-employed and work at home making pickles or handicrafts have not been offered any sort of financial support for their loss of trade due to the regulations and closure of the airport.

After protesting their situation and meeting with the local government some have been offered alternative work but many are feeling the loss of revenue and this is affecting their lives.

Object in the sky over the airport in Rodrigues causes Aircraft to divert

Sunday April 18th and it was the first flight from Mauritius to Rodrigues in weeks due to the Airport closure in Rodrigues during the second outbreak of Covid-19 cases in Mauritius.



Special arrangements were made to bring back the over 400 Rodriguans stranded in Mauritius in batches. After the first batch of 60 or so persons had spent the obligatory 14 days in quarantine in Mauritius they boarded a special flight of Air Mauritius at 1 pm in Mauritius.

However, one and a half hours later, when the plane was on its approach to the airport in Rodrigues, an 'unidentified object' in the sky was observed and the pilot decided, after circling the Airport for some time, to abandon the landing and return to Mauritius, until more information could be obtained about any possible hazard this object might cause to aviation.

Enquiries in Rodrigues revealed that this 'balloon' type object in the sky was not a hazard, and that the flight would be able to land.

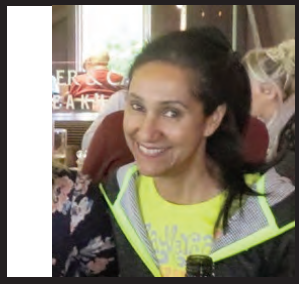
The flight and all the 60 Rodriguans aboard then took off from Mauritius for a second time and was able eventually to land safely at 7 pm.

Next day the balloon in the sky could still be observed floating over Rodrigues.

The population of Rodrigues is intrigued.

Tit-Bits from Japan

by Mylene



Sakura - Cherry Blossom *A Seasonal Spectacle*



Heavenly Cherry Blossoms
Shigetsugi Hiramoto

Spring in Japan can be summed up in two words: cherry blossom. A time of festivals and parties in the park. As the delicate petals flutter down at the slightest breeze we are reminded of the fleetingness of life.

In Japanese the cherry blossom is known as, sakura. Officially, spring starts on March 20 and ends June 21. The sakura season starts mid-January to May. How come? Well, Japan is an archipelago of 6,852 islands stretching over 3,000km (1,900 miles) which means that flowers open at different times.

They first appear in southern Japan on the island of Okinawa. As they bloom and fade moving slowly northwards, it's as if a bright pink curtain is pulled across the whole of Japan.

This iconic flower continues to inspire designers and artists from around the world.



Night Cherry Blossom Illusion
Shigetsugi Hiramoto

The work of *Nara artist, Shigetsugi Hiramoto, celebrates nature. He is drawn to the ever-changing seasons, the tranquility and impermanence of our natural surrounding. Recently he exhibited his work in Paris.

'There is a clear human presence in western painting and still life, but I can't hear any sound from these paintings. In contrast, there is a weak human presence in Japanese paintings which tends to blend in smoothly with what exists in nature.'

He and his creative wife, Fumi welcome all artistically-minded people to their Nara studio called, Casa Sole, Italian for House of Sun.

Pictures from Instagram: (@sigeji_kaiga)

*Nara was the ancient capital of Japan, followed by Kyoto and now Tokyo

Flaming Torch

The Olympic torch flame continues its silent journey



by land



by sea

By land, by water, the Olympic torch flame continues its silent journey.

Silent because cheering is not allowed.

The flame will arrive in Tokyo on 21 July.

All Clear Ahead

Suntory, a Japanese beverage company started the trend of producing clear drinks: Milk tea, cafe latte, coca-cola, beer and now whiskey. All colourless.

Visually indistinguishable from water, these drinks still have the consistency and taste of 'the real thing.'

I guess we can say goodbye to tea and coffee stains.

Sample of a colourless CocaCola

Picture from Coca Cola



Sample of a colourless CocaCola

U.S.

national
poetry month

O Small Sad Ecstasy of Love

by Anne Carson

I like being with you all night with closed eyes. What luck—here you are coming along the stars! I did a road trip all over my mind and heart and there you were kneeling by the roadside with your little toolkit fixing something. Give me a world, you have taken the world I was.

Springtime UK



Peterborough in full bloom to welcome Spring after the gloomy days of winter.

Photo: Michael Marain

CHAGOS ILLUSTRATED



The Mauritian novelist Florian Grosset narrates the sad saga of the Chagos people in her publication **THE CHAGOS BETRAYAL**, using the Bande Dessinée format, which is to be on the market shortly.

This illustrated publication is an excellent means to diffuse a

greater awareness of the inhumane treatment by the British of the people of the Chagos Archipelago who were forced out of their home islands and sent into exile to other distant Indian Ocean islands, particularly to Mauritius and The Seychelles. This action of the British has been established as a crime against humanity.

Ms Grosset states online "I'm thrilled to announce that my debut graphic novel 'The Chagos Betrayal' will be published at Myriad Editions on the 17th of June 2021.

The graphic novel can be pre-ordered on Myriad Editions' website: <https://myriadeditions.com/books/the-chagos-betrayal/>.



The Royal Visit of Queen Elizabeth II to Mauritius

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her 95th birthday on April 21. On this memorable occasion Breejan Burrun narrates in these columns the great moments of her Majesty's royal visit to Mauritius in 1972 in the company of her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh who sadly passed way on April 9.

Editor's note: On reading Breejan Burrun's excellent account of Her Majesty's visit to Mauritius in 1972, I can say that she would have kept a lasting vivid souvenir of Mauritius in her memory. *"I can understand why my father and mother spoke so well of Mauritius,"* she said at a banquet in her honour then. I can now, myself, understand the smiling welcome The Queen gave me when I shook hands with her at Buckingham Palace in 2007 as mentioned in the April edition of the Mauritian Overseas Gazette. She remembered Mauritius and her enjoyable trip. **P.C.**

Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth, was accompanied by her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, on her visit to newly independent Mauritius in March 1972, nearly fifty years ago.

Press agency Reuters, then, rightly qualified the royal visit as "the first visit by a reigning sovereign to the island state". **(1)**

Equally edifying is this entry about the three-day visit of Queen Elizabeth: "A glorious date in the history of Mauritius: the visit, from March 24 to March 26, 1972, of H.M. Queen Elizabeth who is here Elizabeth I, Queen of Mauritius. It is the first visit of a ruling monarch to the island." **(2)**

The royal visit has been erroneously dated August 1972 as written in a caption accompanying the official photo showing the Queen delivering the Speech from the Throne in the Mauritian Parliament: "La Reine Elizabeth II, en compagnie du Prince Philip, Duc d'Edinburgh, lit son message au parlement lors de sa visite en août 1972." **(3)**

In fact, the visit was in March 1972. Historian Amédée Nagapen noted the following about this royal visit: "Plus tard en 1972, la Reine Elizabeth et le Prince Philip, son époux, rendirent visite à l'île Maurice indépendante, un territoire dont elle était le monarque et un pays du Commonwealth dont elle était à la tête." **(4)**

The official programme of the three-day visit

In a communiqué dated 23rd March 1972, Reuters highlighted the official programme of the three-day visit of the royal couple (Queen Elizabeth was accompanied by her husband, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh): "Britain's Queen Elizabeth, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will arrive here from the Seychelles in the Britannia tomorrow on a three-day visit. It will be the first visit by a reigning sovereign to the island state, known locally as the "Cinderella" of the Commonwealth. Soon after arrival, the Royal Couple will go to Government House in an open car – a converted Jaguar – where the Queen will deliver her speech from the Throne. Later Mr. Gaëtan Duval, Lord Mayor of Port Louis, will welcome her at the City Hall. There, the Queen will be presented with two dresses – presents for Princess Anne – with floral designs painted by the local poet and writer Malcolm de Chazal. The Royal Visitors will then go to "Le Réduit", the Governor- General's residence, for lunch and will attend a banquet in the evening." **(1)**

As a matter of fact, the information given by Reuters on the banquet is erroneous. The banquet was given on Saturday evening, on the eve of the departure of the royal couple.

"On Saturday, the Royal Couple will go sight-seeing to "Plaine Champagne", an outstanding point commanding a view of the blue mountains, tropical vegetation and sugar cane plantations against the background of the sea. After a private lunch at the sea-side resort "Le Morne" and relaxation, the Royal visitors will attend a party in the evening at "Pamplemousses" gardens, where some members of the Royal family have planted commemorative trees. The Sugar Industry, mainstay of the island, will welcome the Queen at a tea party at the Sugar Estate "Mon Désert Alma". There a symbolic painting representing a sugar-juice extractor will be presented to the Queen. The Queen will also open officially the University of Mauritius." **(Ibid)** Nearly a quarter of a million people on the streets As the royal yacht Britannia entered the harbour after cruising south from the Seychelles, two Russian ships and their crews in their best whites lined the decks. Ship sirens sounded a traditional welcome and an informal flotilla of pleasure craft – many with holidaymakers in bathing suits aboard – escorted the Britannia " to the quay amid the loudest cheers yet heard on the tour." **(1)** A 21-gun salute was fired from neighbouring



The Royal Couple is seen here, on landing at Port Louis harbour. They travel on a converted Jaguar on their way to Government House. Standing on the waterfront, front and second rows: to the left of the standing police officer, are the Governor-General, Sir Leonard Williams and his wife. In the second row, behind the police officer, is Sir Gaëtan Duval, Lord-Mayor of Port Louis and Minister of Foreign Affairs, second from the left. (Source: Glimpses of XXth Century Mauritius – Maurice: Images d'un siècle, Editions Vizavi, 1999, Coll, Govt. Information Services).

Allan Reditt of Reuters said that nearly a quarter of a million people thronged the streets of Mauritius to welcome the Queen. Chinese dragon dancers let off firecrackers in carnival mood and a man dressed as the extinct Dodo, symbol of the island, strutted among the gaily-dressed people.

As the Queen stepped ashore on the red-carpeted jetty girls in long-white dresses cast flower petals in her path. She was greeted by the white-haired 71-year old Prime Minister of the island, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam. In the welcoming party on the quayside was also Mr. Gaëtan Duval, Mauritius Foreign Minister, wearing the red ermine-bordered robe of Lord-Mayor of Port-Louis.

State opening of Parliament and sight-seeing

The Queen participated in her first official function, the State opening of Parliament. She drove the short distance to the Legislative Assembly in the Lord Mayor's car. Its top had been removed so that people could see the Queen and Prince Philip. Agence France-Presse gave the gist of the Queen's speech from the Throne: "La reine Elizabeth...a ouvert une session du parlement où elle a prononcé le discours du Trône, et exposé la politique du gouvernement de cet Etat membre du Commonwealth, dont elle est la souveraine constitutionnelle. Maurice a un intérêt majeur dans le maintien de la paix et dans l'accroissement de la part que prennent tous les pays en voie de développement dans le commerce international, a déclaré notamment la reine. En ce qui concerne la politique étrangère, la reine Elizabeth a dit: "Mes ministres attachent un grand prix aux liens historiques qui existent entre Maurice et la Grande-Bretagne, la France et les pays du sous-continent indien, a-t-elle ajouté." **(1)**

On Saturday, the royal couple had hours of sight-seeing after calling at the municipality of Port Louis and the British military base in Vacoas. Reuters reported: "Queen Elizabeth today called on the Lord Mayor, Mr. Gaëtan Duval, and drove through the scenic countryside to HMS MAURITIUS, a land-based British telecommunications centre handling priority official government traffic between the East and London. Stringent checks were made on all personnel entering the top-secret area, which also houses a military headquarters commanded by three British officers." **(Ibid)**

Then the royal couple was taken for sightseeing at Plaine Champagne, lunch at Le Morne and a garden-party at Pamplemousses Botanical Gardens. Agence France-Presse reported: "Le couple royal s'est dirigé ensuite vers divers sites touristiques et a visité notamment les impressionnantes grandes gorges à Chamarel où sont situées les terres de sept couleurs, colline où le sol en vallonnements harmonieux reflète plusieurs teintes..." **(Idem)**



By Breejan Burrun

From Pamplemousses Botanical Gardens to Château du Réduit

After a private lunch at Le Morne, the royal couple made for the Pamplemousses Botanical Gardens where tight security measures were applied. "Armed members of the Special Mobile Force, the police's paramilitary wing, ringed the Botanical gardens at Pamplemousses in the North of the island during her visit, and more police with dogs lurked in the shrubberies," reported Allan Reditt of Reuters.

But this did not mar the day, either for the royal couple or for the thousands of Mauritians who thronged there. "The Queen, in white silk dress and broad hat wreathed with green organza flowers, strolled between thousands of guests penned in wire enclosures." **(Ibid)** Récit qu'en fait Pierre Renaud pour l'Agence France-Presse avec une petite incursion dans l'histoire: "Dans l'après-midi, a eu lieu un garden-party au Jardin des Pamplemousses, magnifique parc tropical créée en 1768 par Pierre Poivre et qu'a visité souvent Bernardin de Saint-Pierre." **(Idem)**

In the evening the royal couple went to another historical place of the island, which, as the Pamplemousses Gardens, is of French origin – the Château du Réduit, the Governor-General's residence where a farewell banquet was given by Sir Leonard Williams. "La journée de samedi de la visite de la reine Elizabeth et du duc d'Edimbourg à l'île Maurice s'est achevée par un banquet au château du Réduit, résidence du gouverneur-général.

Dans sa réponse au toast du Premier ministre, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, la souveraine s'est félicitée de son séjour dans l'île, dont a-t-elle dit: *je comprends pourquoi mon père et ma mère dirent tant de bien ...* ". Je suis particulièrement heureuse, a-t-elle ajouté, d'avoir inauguré une session de votre parlement et d'avoir vu mon peuple de Maurice dans son propre pays." **(Idem)**

Then came the moment to bid farewell. The royal couple left Mauritius on Sunday 26 March for Nairobi on a VC-10 of the Royal Air Force. "Thousands of Mauritians lined the roads to the airport. The Queen accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh drove from the Royal Yacht Britannia to the gaily decorated airport. The Queen was seen off by the Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam." **(Ibid)**

Foreign journalists said about the popular royal visit: "According to foreign journalists, the warm welcome the Queen received in Mauritius is more than that she has received in any other country on her South East Asia and Indian Ocean tour. The crowd gathered in Port Louis on the day of her arrival is said to be around a quarter of a million. In all, more than half of the country's population turned up along the itinerary of the royal visitors during their three day's stay." **(3)**

The Mauritian community in Britain elated

The royal visit proved to be a resounding success not only for the Mauritians residing on the island but among Mauritians abroad as well. This is obvious in the press article which appeared in Mauritius Times under the pen of D. Dookeeram from Scotland under the title "Mauritians in U.K. overjoyed at the Queen's visit to their 'Sugar Island': "Last October the Queen's visit was announced by the BIS (British Information Services). Since then Mauritius had been seen on Television many times. Two weeks before the visit there was a programme on the country.

Wherever the Queen had been, viewers followed the Royal visit on T.V. When leaving Seychelles, Mauritians' hearts, here, began to beat with joy for Mauritius was her next destination.

In one day we saw Her Majesty and our country four times on T.V. First on early news, then at nine, ten and late news.

Last Saturday (1st April) there was a special programme entitled "The Royal Progress in the sun". Then also we saw it and to round off all, B.B.C. 2 in "News Review" showed the last and complete film of the visit.

We saw the Queen at the harbour, at the opening of parliament, at the University, at the Municipality, at the Sugar Estate, at the National Park overlooking the forest, at Curepipe and on a road crowded on both sides with people and decorated with many flags.

Everywhere she went, it was shown, she received warm welcome and the hailings "VIVE LA REINE"

In the park our Prime Minister was clearly seen. There was also mention of the state of emergency



Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain (Elizabeth I of independent Mauritius), in company of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, reading the Speech from the Throne in the Mauritian Parliament on 24 March 1972. (Source: Benjamin Moutou's "Ile Maurice: Récits de son histoire contemporaine").

and the car in which the Queen was travelling was laid open (the top) for the occasion.

The camera crew which covered the visit proudly said – "The Queen enjoyed herself very much on that Sugar Island in the Sun".

The hearts of many Mauritians in the U.K. throbbed with joy. They had something to talk about to their English friends about their beautiful country, about its people.

The greatest reigning sovereign of the world has visited their tiny but extremely beautiful island which is now independent and making its voice heard in the comity of nations.

Muritians speak of their mother country with nostalgic pride. Long live Mauritius."

The pros and cons of a royal visit in independent Mauritius

Although acclaimed by thousands of Mauritians, the visit of the Queen and Prince Philip to the island barely four years after independence obtained in March 1968, was not altogether welcome by political parties such as the left wing MMM which were militating for full-scale decolonization.

In this context, the party intended to stage public protests but the protest movement was cut in the bud with the arrest and imprisonment of the ring leaders of the MMM. "A spokesman of the left-wing movement said 17 members have been arrested since the Queen arrived yesterday for displaying anti-colonialist banners or for pulling down flags and bunting." **(1)**

To the 17 members arrested must be added the "72 people arrested in the weeks running up to the Royal visit" and who were "all members of the MMM's executive, including a Member of Parliament." **(Ibid)**

However, the ruling parties (the Labour Party and the PMSD) upheld the status quo and justified the maintenance of ties with the British monarchy on the ground that the publicity given in the international press on the Queen's visit would make Mauritius better known abroad and this was essential for newly independent Mauritius. "Even before the tour began, the British Information Services distributed widely information on the countries the Queen would be visiting.

Royal visit

Continued from Page 6



Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip during one of their popular encounters during their March 1972 visit. (Source: Les Iles de l’Océan Indien, Tome IV, L’Ile Maurice, Mauritius, mars 1972, collection Raymond Montocchio)

From Page 6

The British press gives large coverage to the Queen’s tour and her visit in Mauritius would certainly help to make the country known to a larger section of the British public... “The Queen is also the head of state of Mauritius; she is represented here by the governor general who gives his assent to bills, on her behalf. Whether we like it or not, we could not do otherwise than adopt this constitution to obtain independence. Sentiments must give way to realities and hence, if objectively analyzed, the Queen’s visit has a major role in this context.”(5)

The royal visit was also justified on the ground of the benefits that the relation with Britain brought to the island. “Receiving the Queen will also be an occasion to pay homage to the country which has been a major source of help to us, at all times. With the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, Britain buys a guaranteed quota of our sugar each year at a price exceeding by far that on the world market. Besides, economic and technical aid from Britain surpasses that from any other country.”(Ibid) The buoyant London correspondent of Mauritius Times Peter Ibbotson justified in no uncertain terms the expenses incurred for the royal visit: “There will be those who criticize the royal visit, and the money spent upon it. They are certain to say that in present circumstances, the country could have spent its money more wisely. But let it not be forgotten that a royal visit to any country brings in its train a corps of journalists, all influential communications men. Avid readers of the press learn, because there is a royal visit, of countries not usually in the newspapers. Mauritius will benefit from the publicity attendant on a royal visit; the tourist industry in particular, hence the whole economy will get a well-merited boost. And without cost, too – or, if you say the cost of the royal visit is the cost of the boost, then at a far lower cost than advertising



The Royal Yatch Britannia on which Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip reached Mauritius. (Source : andygraydigital, Scotland).

would take.”(5)

References

- 1. Le Mauricien, 28 mars 1972
- 2. Les Iles de l’Océan Indien, Volume IV, L’Ile Maurice, Mauritius, Les éditions Jean-Claude Nourault, mars 1972
- 3. Moutou, Benjamin Ile Maurice: Récits de son histoire contemporaine
- 4. Nagapen, Amédée, Histoire de la Colonie, Isle de France- Ile Maurice, 1721-1968, Editions de l’Océan Indien, 2010.

Breejan Burrun

Editor’s note:

In the article above, as mentioned on previous page, Her Majesty in reply to a toast by PM Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam said, in praise of Mauritius (translated by reporter for his paper): “je comprends pourquoi mon père et ma mère dirent tant de bien ...”. As a matter of fact, Her Majesty’s parents, as Duke and

Duchess of York, visited Mauritius on 12 May 1937. A commemorative stamp was issued on that very day to mark the occasion. The stamp bearing the postmark of the First Day of Issue, i.e. 12 May 1937, is a piece of valuable collectible for philatelists. Philatelists enjoy reading the postal history of stamps and envelopes they collect. For example, one can read that the stamp on the right was postmarked at Quartier



Militaire; in 1937, the postage for inland delivery was 12 cents. 84 years later, now in 2021, the price of a stamp for local delivery is Rs13, over 100 times more.



Rav Wilding mourns father's death

In our special edition of the UK Mauritian Gazette in December 2017 we made mention of Rav Wilding, a TV presenter, whose father was of Mauritian nationality and his mother English-born. Rav’s father, Kemchand Coothoopermal, died of Covid-19 infection on February 24, 2021, aged 80. The funeral took place at the Garden of England Crematorium in Sittingbourne, Kent on April 15.

Condolences to Rav Wilding on the death of his Mauritian Father, Chand Coothoopermal

By Yvonne Goder-Persand

It is of devastating news to announce the death of Rav Wilding’s Mauritian father after battling Covid-19. He contracted the virus whilst in hospital undergoing surgery.

Rav Wilding (43), a former Metropolitan Police Officer, is a public figure known for hosting the BBC popular TV show Crimewatch. On his Instagram @ravwilding, he made, the following statement on February 25:

“Heartbroken to say my Dad sadly passed away last night, another victim of this truly awful COVID-19. I’m just so upset he never got to meet my daughter who is about the same age I was in this photo (in next column).

He came to the U.K. in the 70’s from Mauritius to be an NHS nurse, loved West Ham



Father Chand & Son Ravin

football club and was also the loudest supporter watching England play too. I already miss him terribly. . . RIP dad x” (Image: Instagram)

Rav Wilding born Ravin Coothoopermal in Kent, UK, to a Mauritian father Muncey Coothoopermal known as ‘Chand’ and an English mother, Pamela Wilding.



Chand Coothoopermal

Chand had previously been fighting prostate cancer and fathered 5 children with Pamela also a nurse. In Rav’s statement he mentions his father came from Mauritius in the 70’s to be an NHS nurse and was an avid West Ham supporter.

We express our deepest condolences to Rav Wilding and all his family at this sad time.

Obituary

Edouard Maunick 1932 - 2021

Edouard Maunick, former resident of the Ward IV of Port Louis, passed away in Paris on April 10 at the age 89.

As a young student of Bhujoharry College (St George Street) in the 1950s he used to live at Mère Barthèlemy Street, opposite the Immaculée Conception Church, a stone throw from the College.

Following his Cambridge School Certificate, he joined the Teachers’ Training College. He soon decided to leave the primary school teacher’s job and the “cancres” (his own words) for France, having enough money to pay for his fare. In France, he initially found work with the Office de Radiodiffusion Télévision Française (ORTF).

As a great lover of French, he improved his knowledge and command of the language. He wrote books and poetry, and received literary awards from L’Académie Française on two occasions.

He is acknowledged in his motherland as a poet of international standing. In an interview before his death he said that the Port Louis of his time was full of life. As a matter of fact, Port Louis was a lively city in the old days. Port Louis of today is old and decrepit, full of dereliction and abandoned properties, especially in the region of Ward IV, as a result of the delocation of its residents to urban areas and due to emigration.



Jean-Claude Rayapen RIP

Jean-Claude, a one-time well-known figure of South London, passed away in March.



His funeral took place on Friday, 23 April 2021 at the St Marks Church i Kennington and his burial at the South London Cemetery in Streatham.

Singh Takooree

Yes, Singh Takooree passed away on March 16 at the age 72.

Singh, from Vacoas, Mauritius, came to the UK in the 1970s for nurse training. He got married to Sharon and settled down in Romford, Essex.

Singh was one of the most pleasant person one can come across, always ready to help within the UK Mauritian community. The Père Laval Benevolent Society (UK) has a very kind thought for him.

His daughter wrote on her facebook account: I was your angel; You are now my angel!

He liked entertaining on the harmonium and to interpret a few old Indian classical songs.



Gassen Singaron

The Mauritian community of artistes mourns the death of Gassen Singaron who passed away on April 19 at the age of 75.

Gassen was famously known as the first composer and singer of Tamil folk song sung in the Mauritian Creole language.

His Tamil séga hit, known as Causé Mamé, tells of the achievements of the achievements of the elders of Mauritian Tamil community.



News headlines from local papers Place a title on a search engine and click to read the article

*Mauritius-India sign CECPA to consolidate bilateral cooperation

*Bruneau Laurette : « Un grand nombre de l’électorat PMSD/MMM vient vers nous

*Accident à Paillotte : 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

*Harvesh Seegolam appointed as Governor of the Bank of Mauritius

*Shelina Permalloo : Promouvoir la cuisine mauricienne en Angleterre

*Naufrage du Lu Rong Yuan Yu 588: le capitaine Hubert Noël en charge de l’enquête

*Philippe Goupille : « Résister à la tentation de nous considérer comme des dieux !

*Cassam Uteem : « Si j’étais PM, j’aurais invité l’opposition à constituer un GM d’unité nationale... »

*Inclusion de Maurice sur une liste en Grande-Bretagne des pays à risque: des investissements britanniques soumis à des enquêtes serrées

*Notre-Dame du Rosaire, Quatre-Bornes : des voleurs emportent des marches en pierre de l’église!

*Kadress Pillay, 1er directeur du bureau de l’Audit : « Le rapport de l’Audit est le sommet de l’Iceberg... »

*Pas de PNQ et PQ ce mardi : « Tout est fait pour nous bâillonner », dit le Whip de l’opposition

*Point sur la pandémie : hôpitaux submergés en Inde, nouvel état d’urgence au Japon

*(Air Mauritius) Un an après : À destination de « Going Nowhere »

*Curepipe : trois blessés, dont un grave, lors d’une agression à l’arme blanche

*(Diplomatie) Arabie Saoudite : Dépenses de Rs 1 M par mois pour son excellence Soodhun

*Agalega: how it became the worst kept secret in the Indian Ocean

*Nando Bodha : « Le 5 février, ti dir mwa vinn dir divan la press ki zafer Kistnen li pa enn zafer grav »

*Arrivée des travailleurs indiens à Maurice : le gouvernement revoit sa décision

*Décès de patients dialysés : l’opposition unanime sur la démission du ministre Jaguptal

*ICT Act: How the government is taking another shot at censoring social media

*Meurtre allégué : le Polonais meurt d’une fracture du crâne, l’épouse passe aux aveux



LAMBETH SOLICITORS

1st Floor, 463 - 465 Brixton Road, London SW9 8HL

Tel: (00 44) 0207 095 9995 (Fax: 0203 417 0606)

Email: info@lambethsolicitor.com

Website: lambethsolicitor.com

WE WILL FIGHT TO PROTECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW

- We offer accurate legal advice and assistance
- Lambeth Solicitors are renowned for their impressive success in defending complex and exceptional
- Immigration matters. Our expert lawyers are devoted and determined to win your case and they will.
- Our aim is to provide pro-active, realistic and unconditional solutions to your problems in a friendly and stress free environment. Lambeth Solicitors were founded in September 2010, Our pride is our success.
- Lambeth Solicitors have a high success rate in winning immigration cases. We offer an exceptionally professional and personal approach at an affordable cost to make it as painless as possible.
- Lambeth Solicitors are also specialists in Commercial Immigration, Employment, Civil Litigation, Commercial Disputes, Licensing Law, Family Law and Conveyancing.



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

Is the European Super League still-born?



Tonnes of criticism have been levelled against the new European Super League comprising four major British teams and eight European clubs.

The promoters behind this new league have been accused of greed who put money at the top of their agenda without any consideration for the game itself. It has been argued that the investors consider football as a business and are keen on a good return on their investments.

In many quarters it has been said that the new football league is already dead with the four English teams and others signifying their intention to withdraw from it.

However, a leading figure behind the new league has said that it is not dead yet because all the clubs are still members. They have not sent in any letter to the ESL to state that they wish to withdraw their participation. They are still bound by their contract, and any breach entails a significant financial penalty.

Nonetheless, the general feeling is that the new league is still a sordid affair as David Fowkes, the Chairman of the Wimbledon and District Football League states to Vishnu Sooboodoo, Registration Secretary, in a recent email. A former Chief Executive of the London FA, David Fowkes says "a group of clubs seek to bind together to suck all competition and money out of the game for their own benefit."

The email is reproduced in next column

P.C.

Wimbledon and District Football League (est. 1898)



**Email from David Fowkes, Chairman, to Vishnu Sooboo,
Registration Secretary**

The objective is clear - a group of clubs seek to bind together to suck all competition and money out of the game for their own benefit.

There is an old saying ... 'be careful what you wish for, it might come true.' I think there are bigger issues that have not been voiced in the media so far. No one has mentioned that these are multi team and age group clubs. If they were expelled from the FA and Premier League what happens to those other teams? If they leave should the Premier League refuse to have them back? There are more issues of course, all which will almost certainly end up in the courts.

Remember, there were no overseas owners before the money started pouring into the Premier League. Now only one of the six has a British owner and he is a permanent tax exile who doesn't attend games. Yes, it has made the Premier League good to watch. Yes, it has brought most of the worlds best players to English clubs. Yes, that has helped improve the national team ... but it comes at a cost and this breakaway is the price.

There are thousands of clubs affiliated to County FA's across the price but the media and most armchair fans only care about the few. It is why I don't support a professional club and why I am so proud of the totally ego free, non-financially rewarded work we voluntarily do for the Wimbledon League.

Regards

Dave

(David Fowkes)



Navalny in jail

"Politics is a dangerous game," it has been repeatedly said
Those who go into it with wide-opened eyes know of the risk they take, especially if one messes about with those who wield power. It has been a rough ride for them to get to the top and they are not going to move over as easy as we wish to believe.

They are like thunder and one cannot be too careful with thunder. They can be destructive, and they will be destructive in order to secure what they have got.

Alexei Navalny, the Russian opposition activist, who is determined to bring down Russian President Vladimir Putin, knew what he was doing when he put his head into lion's mouth on returning to his country from Germany. They had tried to poison him previously in Russia and went to Germany to recover. And what you do know! Once

recovered, he came back for more. He is now close to death, it is said. He is willing to die on hunger strike.

US President Joe Biden says that Putin is a killer. Every soldier is a potential killer, and the more so - every spy who learns the technique of snapping the enemy's neck with one single hit. Vladimir Putin, an expert in martial art, was head of the KGB, the Russian Security Agency, involved in the spy business at home and abroad.

It has been alleged that Putin is the richest man in the world and that his residence that can match France's Versailles, an exaggeration likely. Imagine such a man giving in to Navalny or to any opponent for that matter! He has recently been elected to the Presidency until 2036, for life and beyond!



George Caliste

Navalny arrested

Titbits

from Mauritius

By Ahmad Macky

MAURITIUS MOVES TOWARDS AUTOCRACY, ACCORDING TO V-DEN SWEDEN INSTITUTE
Mauritius figures among top countries in a report concerning the decline of democracy, as established by the prestigious Sweden Institute V-Den.

With countries like Bolivia and Poland, Mauritius is a newcomer on the list of countries ruled by autocracies. What is an Autocracy? It is a regime where all decisions are taken by one man, who holds power in a country where democracy is practised only during election campaign.

50% of our gross domestic product with Europe, which condemns us today, is affected. "Shocking and very serious" is the first reaction of lawyer Richard Rault. This is what Mr Rault said in an interview : "On ne comprend pas que V-Den est une institution respectée et soutenue par L'Union Européenne. Cette dernière contribue 40 a 50% de notre PIB". This report, however, is going to have a negative effect on our economy.

According to Mr Rault, the excessive mobilization of the police during the comparison in court of the ex-minister Yogida Sawminaden and the arbitrary arrests of demonstrators in public, the attempt to bring under control the DPP, the indefinite suspension of 3 elected MPs in Parliament by the Speaker last week soil the reputation of Mauritius internationally. No wonder why the European Union hesitates to remove Mauritius from the black list. In fact this has strengthened Mauritius to stay on the black list.

THE THREE MPS SUSPENDED FROM PARLIAMENT ARE TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE SPEAKER AND THE PM
Arvin Boolell. Paul Berenger and Rajesh Bhagwan suspended from our Parliament for an indefinite period of time last week will take legal action.

According to our information the 3 Members of Parliament have been suspended till 2024 when Parliament will be dissolved. This has been seriously criticized by political observers and declared as undemocratic.

The 3 suspended MPs will take this matter to the Supreme Court to counter the decision of the Speaker of the House and the motion of the PM on the suspension. Many people have criticized the attitudes of both the Speaker and the PM and have labelled such action as bias.

BRITISH INVESTMENT TO UNDERTAKE TIGHT INVESTIGATIONS ON ECONOMIC TRANSACTIONS
There is a great risk that Mauritius is affected owing to bad administration in the social and economic fields where over 8,000 university graduates are jobless.

57,000 people are unemployed, poverty and homelessness are broadly affecting the country, the gap between the rich and poor is widening. Worst is that because Mauritius is still on the black list of the European Union.

It transpires that Great Britain has published a list of countries at risks of bankruptcy where



Mauritius is mentioned. Some see this as a form of retaliation by the Britain the face of repeated diplomatic initiatives by the government of Mauritius in its stance over the Chagos and Diego Garcia problematic.

MAURITIUS WORST COUNTRY FOR KIDNEY PATIENTS
Eleven dialysis patients died within few days at Souillac Hospital situated in the Southern part of Mauritius.

There are allegations of medical and criminal negligence by the hospital authorities and the Ministry of Health. Bad administration and lack of proper care of hospital staff on those dialysis patients have been alleged.

It has been reported that those patients who died did not get the appropriate care they needed. They were put at risk while waiting for very long hours before they could be offered dialysis by the machines which most of them did not function at all and were left unused in a corner.

It is claimed that there is a shortage of dialysis machines in the hospital concerned. It is also alleged that many patients had to wait in ambulances stationed in the hospital car park. Some patients did not receive the maximum prescribed time of dialysis. They had to undergo very reduced time of just an hour instead of the prescribed 4 hours.

9 out of the 11 dialysis patients who died have been tested Covid-19 positive. It has been said that the hospital food given to dialysis patients at Souillac hospital were not appropriate to their health. There were allegations that they were given fast food, sausages and other oily preparations. All these contributed to their death. It was also mentioned that negatives tested Covid-19 patients were put in quarantine with positive Covid-19 tested patient in the same ward of the said hospital.

Back bencher MP Ivan Collendaveloo has asked for a judiciary inquiry on the death of the eleven dialysis patients who died within days of a week.

The Ministry of Health has been severely criticized by many people to such an extent that the Cabinet Minister has decided to set up a Fact Finding Committee on the death of the dialysis patients. The Committee will be presided by a judge to look into the death of the 11 dialysis patients at the Souillac Hospital. Even the Minister of health was asked by the press why putting negative tested covid-19 dialysis patients together with positive tested covid-19 patients in the same quarantine department.

HUE AND CRY OVER GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION PAPER ON ICTA
The government of Mauritius is trying to gag the people's activities on facebook, twitter, Instagram, You tube, Pinterest, Linked In, Tumblr Flickr, Reddit Snapchat, Vimeo, Medium, TikTok.

A government consultation paper on Information and Communication Technologies Act (ICTA) has created a general "hue and cry" among the population who qualify the action of the government as "dictatorial and autocratic".

The Opposition has decided to organize a general public demonstration and intend to solicit the Supreme Court to stop such a consultation paper to become law of the land in catimini through Parliament during the Covid Lock down.

The majority of the population disagree with the adoption of such a law.

Right to vote for Mauritian Diaspora
A pressure group of expatriates headed by Covilen Narsinghen, a UK lawyer, is holding a web/video conference on May 4 to appeal for the right to vote in Mauritian elections to be extended to Overseas Mauritians.

A figure of 100,000 has been quoted as the estimated number of Overseas Mauritians who may be eligible to vote in Mauritian elections, according to the pressure group. How is this figure worked out?

First and foremost, the term overseas Mauritians will have to be defined. Are we talking of expatriates who were born in Mauritius and who may hold dual nationality? Would we take into consideration their offspring born overseas who may be of voting age. Many of those foreign-born of Mauritian origin have applied and obtained the Mauritian citizenship. Are these the elements that the pressure group has in mind who will have the right to vote?

An economic survey carried out by Professor J. Meade of the LSE before Independence predicted that the population of Mauritius would reach 3 million people by the end of 1999. Even now, in 2021, the population stands at barely 1.3 million. Where are the missing millions? We know that mass emigration took place in 1960s and 1970s. Will these missing millions be allowed in Mauritian elections?

The idea of voting right to expatriates is not new. At a press conference at the Mauritius High Commission in London in 1997, I asked the new PM Navin Ramgoolam, whether his government would allow overseas Mauritians the right to vote. His answer was an emphatic NO.

Mauritius News even set up a committee chaired by London Solicitor Raj Boodhoo to help. The movement got nowhere.

Will the present government condescend?

P.C.

MOG Cuisine

KHEEMA

Ingredients:
1 lb chopped beef
2 cloves garlic
1 small piece of ginger root, salt and pepper
1 1/2 tables oil
1/4 chopped onions
1 teaspoonful tumeric
3 whole cloves
1 small piece of cinnamon
5 pods cardamom
1 teaspoonful anise seed, a few curry leaves
1 tablespoon chopped coriander
1/4 lb very ripe pomme d'amour or tomatoes chopped green
hot chillies to taste
1 cup water

Methods:
• Mash the chopped beef with the garlic, ginger, salt, and pepper
• Heat the oil and add the meat. Cook over high heat, stirring, until all moisture is evaporated and meat is nicely browned
• Crush or grind all the spices and add to the pan with the onions and curry leaves. Cook for 1 to 2 minutes, then add in the tomatoes and chillies.
• Stir over high heat, then add one cup of water. Cook until all liquid is evaporated, 10 minutes or more, as required.
• Stir in the coriander and serve very hot with a steaming dish of rice.

Note: If desired, some boiled or steamed peas, cauliflower flowerets or potato cubes may be added to the dish.

From the Exotic Cuisine of Mauritius by Philippe Lenoir and Raymond de Ravel, translated by Maryse de Broglie-Sand. (Editions de l'Océan Indien - 1988)
Reproduced with permission

Editor's note:
We are given to understand that mutton meat may also be used instead of beef for the above recipe.

Labour Day

No flowers for SSR

Labour Day has been celebrated in Mauritius on Saturday, May 1 by the customary Public Holiday. Prime Minister Pravind K. Jugnauth (MSM) and his team have been laying flowers at the tombs of Emmanuel Anquetil & Guy Rozemont (Labour), Azor Adelaide (MMM), and stood for a minute silence by Gaëtan Duval's memorial (PMSD) at the St Jean Cemetery in Quatre Bornes. It was easy for the PM to move from tomb to tomb as they are all co-habiting in the same resting area. Fortunately, all politics is left behind when we finally go home.

The Flowering ceremony culminated with the statue of Sookdeo Bissoondoyal (IFB) at Place d'Armes in Port Louis, which stands across the road opposite the majestic statue of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (Labour) on the waterfront. No flowers for the old man who fought for the rights of Indian labourers and other workers, since he came home in 1935 from his medical studies in the UK

SSR's vision made of Mauritius what it is today and will be tomorrow. He said that the main arms of development are good communications and good education. All the communications network of the island started with the Chemin Neuf (the M1) from Réduit to Port Louis in the 1950s, which was criticised at the time as a White Elephant. The greatest gift that SSR made to the Mauritian nation is the free education at secondary school level in the 1970s paving the way for an educated generation of workers to master the digital age of today, ahead of many countries in the region.

Today, every primary school leaving pupil goes free to college to become well-paid employees or entrepreneurs, and businessmen to the point that Mauritius is now short of manual workers, artisans and agricultural labourers, who are being imported from Bangladesh and Madagascar.

We are inclined to believe that SSR, too, deserves a bit of flowering on Labour Day when it was the likes of him within the Labour Party who supported leader Guy Rozemont in the Legislative Council in 1949 for May 1 to be declared a Public Holiday in Mauritius.

Well Chacha, today you are ignored, and on March 12 as well, you who fought for the independence of Mauritius when many did not want it and even fought against it.

But who is to be blamed for this *manquement* when the very Labour Party which you led for so many years seems to be somnolent and lethargic except for their tantrums in the National Assembly. On the ground, among the people, they are not to be seen. Surely there must be someone in the Party who can take the initiative to arrange for the flowering of your statue and the tombs of the departed as was the tradition for so many years?

Cyril Louis

For Sale at Flic en Flac
off Radar Street near the big Mango Tree roundabout, 10mins Walk to Public Beach and Jumbo shop etc.

Whole Ground Floor
made of 3 separate apartments.

- Two of the apartmetns contain EACH: 2 bedrooms, plus stting room, kitchen, and all conveniences.
- The third apartment contain one bedroom plus the same facilties as above.

Phone
SAM in UK: (+44) 0776 073 9160
Peter in Mauritius (00 230) 5864 8732





SM Solicitors LTD
& Commissioners of Oaths

We Specialise in:

- ✳ Immigration ✳ Family ✳ Crime ✳ Civil Matters
- ✳ Wills & Probate ✳ And Other Legal Matters

76 College Rd, Bromley BR1 3PE, United Kingdom

www.smsolicitors.com info@smsolicitors.com

Confinement

Partial lifting of restrictions

Following Prime Minister Pravind's TV address to the nation on Sunday, April 25, the Government Information Service has issued the Press Release below outlining what the public can and can't do from May 1.

The main freedom that members of the public may enjoy is that they will be free to go shopping without having to do so in alphabetical order and on specific days.

People going to work will not have to be in possession of the WAP (Work Access Permit). Casual workers, doing only a few hours a week, will welcome the freedom to go about without any worry of being arrested for not being in possession of a WAP.

Keep-fit fanatics can practise their favourite jogging or walking exercises of which they have been deprived during the restrictions.

But most of the other restrictions will still stay in place.

Public beaches will still be no-go areas, weddings and funerals to be attended by no more than 10 guests or mourners and with police authorisation. Gyms will stay closed, no trips to restaurants and food courts except for take-aways.

Mask-wearing and social distancing will still be compulsory while seniors and juniors are advised to stay at home.

Schools, colleges, the University and other places of learning will stay closed. Places of worship will not open their doors to the public.

Until what date will the restrictions stay in place will certainly depend on the evolution of the pandemic in Mauritius. The real danger ahead is when the country will open its door to world aviation. Already further restrictions are being imposed on visitors from India.

Headlines from International Media

Place each headline on Google server and click to read the article

- **Black girl shot dead by police minutes before Derek Chauvin verdicts are read**
- **Teen endures penis 'erosions' with coronavirus**
- **Sri Lanka national beauty pageant winner injured on stage as rival tries to steal crown**
- **How to spot the symptoms of a blood clot**
- **Prosecutors hit back at Ghislaine Maxwell's claims of being mistreated in jail, saying she keeps her cell 'very dirty' and doesn't flush her toilet**
- **Debenhams to briefly reopen 97 stores in closing down fire sale**
- **Sir Richard Sutton: One of UK's richest men stabbed to death at his home**
- **Boy, 12, stabbed repeatedly on bouncy castle after being targeted at sister's eighth birthday party**
- **Five boys arrested in 'attempted murder' investigation after man, 46, left fighting for life after park attack**
- **Murderer must serve at least 28 years for 'brutal and senseless' hilltop killing**
- **A baby was born with three penises - a world first caused by a rare medical condition**
- **Nigel Farage attacks Harry and Meghan in reaction to Prince Philip's death: 'Public opinion is going to go down very fast'**
- **WHO says we can bring COVID pandemic under control within months - 'The choice is ours'**
- **China's Trade Surges as Global Economy Recovers from Pandemic**
- **Malta will pay travellers to visit this summer**
- **Pentagon confirms leaked images and videos of UFOs buzzing over US Navy warships are genuine**
- **Roman site uncovered in Scarborough hailed as first of its kind in UK**
- **Washington teenager arrested for attack on Asian couple caught on video**
- **Carer arrested while calmly listening to classical music hours after trying to murder disabled woman with pillow**
- **Outrage after 16-year-old girl tied to her rapist and paraded through Indian village**
- **Jose Mourinho sacked as Tottenham manager**
- **Woman 'gang raped' in 'horrendous' and 'sickening' Manchester park attack, say police**
- **'The right thing': Obama hails verdict in George Floyd's death**

About male organ

Among the above headlines we read that

• "A baby was born with three penises - a world first caused by a rare medical condition"

What a strange world! They say that the phenomenon happened at a Middle East country where babies born with two penises are not uncommon. But a baby with three penises is a first on this planet.

• **Teen endures penis 'erosions' with coronavirus**

Well, this is a serious medical condition. As the pandemic is likely to be with humanity forever the same as tuberculosis, seasonal flu etc, young people are in great danger.

What about the elderly?

2ème phase de réouverture à partir du 01 mai 2021 à 06h

Règles générales

- **WAP et ordre alphabétique pour les déplacements ne seront plus applicables.**
- **Rassemblement public et privé de pas plus de 10 personnes.**
- **Règles sanitaires à respecter.**
 - Distanciation de 1 mètre.
 - Port du masque.
 - Se laver les mains régulièrement / utiliser gel hydroalcoolique.
 - Aération des espaces autant que possible.
- **Sanctions pour non-respect des consignes.**
- **Il est recommandé aux personnes âgées et aux moins de 18 ans de rester à la maison.**
- **Mariages civils autorisés seulement à l'état civil (Maximum de 10 personnes et permission de la police requise)**
- **Funérailles (Maximum de 10 personnes et permission de la police requise)**

Activités interdites / fermées / avec restriction

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Salles de sport / gymnases Fermées | • Salles de réception Fermées |
| • Centres communautaires / village halls / CAB Fermés | • Sports collectifs Interdits |
| • Plages Fermées | • Courses hippiques In camera |
| • Jardins publics / Jardins d'enfants / Parcs Fermés | • Cours de justice Selon les directives du Judiciaire |
| • Food courts Fermés | • Écoles privées Fermées / Cours en ligne |
| • Cinémas, casinos, bars et discothèques Fermés | • Écoles publiques Examens seulement |
| • Concerts / Compétitions sportives Interdits | • Foires Fermées |
| • Activités socio-culturelles Interdites | • Restaurants / fast foods Commandes et take away seulement |
| • Lieux de culte Fermés | |

Activités pouvant reprendre à partir du 01 mai 2021

- **Activités physiques individuelles en plein air**
- **Parcours de santé**
- **Bazars désignés (conditions sanitaires strictes)**
- **Salons d'esthétique**
- **Cabinets médical, dentaire, vétérinaire, opticien (médical et paramédical)**

Transport :

- **Protocole sanitaire strict et fenêtres ouvertes**
- **Obligation de hand sanitizers**
- **Obligation de porter le masque correctement**



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