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Mauritian Overseas Gazette

Truth
&
Trust



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At the service of the Mauritian Diaspora

Editor: Peter Chellen (Former Editor of Mauritius News 1983 - 2015)

A totally independent platform

Views expressed by contributors are their own

Some people want it to happen, Some people wish it would happen.

OTHERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

Brain Drain and Foreign Labour

For some time now there have been talks in Mauritius about Brain Drain and Employment of foreign labour in the country.

Are these phenomenons new in Mauritius or elsewhere in the world?

The two words 'brain drain' were not coined by the people of Mauritius. The English have been using them for years owing to the fact that people in England have always sought to emigrate to sunnier climes, for better opportunities for wealth and growth. They leave behind in the UK vacancies which have to be filled up by migrants. Young English doctors have their sight on countries like the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand. Vacancies created by their departure are occupied by doctors coming from India. Today, almost all NHS surgeries in the UK are filled by General Practitioners (G.Ps) from India and locally qualified doctors of Asian origin. Therefore this desire to emigrate is not new or restricted to Mauritians only.

One day, PMSD leader Gaetan Duval alighting at the Mauritius airport talking to a journalist when questioned about his frequent overseas trips said "On sétouffe à Maurice." It is inherent in the Mauritian psyche to wish to be somewhere else. Being so insular as we are, it is part of our dream from a young age to go and see other countries, how people live there. Today, at least, young people are able to have an idea of life elsewhere through mediums of all sorts.

I remember when we were young and communication with the outer world was very slim, it was the dream of many school boys to join the army once they reached 18 years of age so that they could be sent overseas. The fear of war, of being wounded or killed did not deter them. Many such soldiers did not come back to Mauritius when demobed. They stayed away and built their life away from Mauritius.

There is a lot of talk in Mauritius that young people prefer to leave the country for better future. There is nothing new about that. The pull factor has always been very strong and Mauritian simply give in. Strangely enough, some

Mauritian parents are proud that their offspring are making a career overseas. It is the talk of the town among some parents. "Piti pe bien faire en France, so grand frere pe debrouiller en anglettere. Mo pou alle rande zotte visite bien tot. Si mo gagne enne chance, mo aussi pou rester labas".

It has always been the case that many Mauritian students who go for overseas studies do not come back. It is not an unknown fact that even Mauritian government scholars who go for overseas studies at State expense elect domicile elsewhere than the home country. The magnetism is too strong. This is something happening even up to now to the point that some people are of the view that the government should impose certain conditions on any overseas scholarship. The parents of many such scholars agree to pay the bonds entered at the time of the grant of the scholarship so that their children may stay abroad on completion of their studies.

Economic migrants

There is no doubt that Mauritius was in a very precarious situation at one time especially in the 1960s in the wake of the country's independence when unemployment was rife and the island's birth rate was one of the highest in the world. The future looked bleak. With a population of well less than a million then, Mauritius was considered as an overpopulated country. Unemployed Mauritian did leave for the mother country (England) to seek a better existence. This was no brain drain. These people, with no special training or qualification left to ease off the economic burden of Mauritius.

In the wake of independence in the 1960s, with the prevailing fear of Hindu hegemony,

multi-racial Mauritius was in great turmoil. Politicians who were against independence and wanted association with England, like the status of Réunion island with France, instigated non-Hindus to flee the country on the grounds that after independence all Mauritian would have to wear the langouti, traditional loin cloth worn by Indian labourers. It was said that statues of Christian saints in public places would be replaced by that of Mahatma Ghandi. Mauritian of the General Population group left the country in droves. They sold their properties as cheaply as possible only to pay for their overseas trip. Many of the older generation can remember the SS Patris era. Mauritian left jobs, career, selling everything to escape the country and migrate to Australia. The instigators themselves did not emigrate.

Tensions grew so high in Mauritius that led to riots among the compatriots. The following is a post taken from the internet about the unrest that took place at the time of independence: *"Between 1965 and 1968 there were various ethnic riots which could only be brought under control with assistance from British troops who flew in from South-East Asia. The communal strife that preceded independence led to around 300 deaths."*

No one talked of brain drain then when the fear death was instilled in the mind of people of the General Population occupying very high positions in Mauritius were encouraged to go away.

The present generation, with no knowledge of the past talk of brain drain. It must be brought home to them and to others that will come after them that there is nothing new under heaven. Life is nothing more than a repetition of itself, a

From Page One

lot of "copy and paste" with a bit of modification here and there. People were forced to flee the motherland. Today, they may leave on their own accord. Professor Titmus from the London School of Economics (LSE), in a study on Mauritius, forecasted in the 1960s that the population of Mauritius would reach 3 million by the turn of the century (2000). Population of Mauritius is still reckoned to be about 1.3 million. It is thanks to the movement of people from the island that the population is kept at manageable level. Where are the missing millions? People have always left the country. Nothing new.

Foreign Labour

There is also quite a bit of talk about foreign labour

Again, imported labour is not new in Mauritius. It has always been the destiny of the island to have to depend on imported labour from the very time of its colonisation by the French. The French colonists, instead of bringing French labourers from France to work on the land, thought it would cost them next to nothing to bring forced labour from Africa, which was atrociously being exploited namely by France itself, England, the USA and other countries. Those countries turned those poor people from the African continent into slavery, which today is regarded as a crime against humanity.

If what the holy book says is still applicable that the sin of the fathers shall visit the children, the sin of these nations is still visiting them with the frequent mass killings by foreigners that occur in their countries now and then. Yet, that was how imported labour began in Mauritius. The fact is that imported labour never stopped in Mauritius..

When the enslaved people were freed, they in turn refused to work on the land which, they considered would be nothing more than a continuation of their sad and bitter conditions. They believed then that the white men would never shed off their skins and turned to being amiable employers overnight. And when the British took over the island in 1810 they found themselves in a nasty

situation.

As Mauritius has been an agricultural country, they could not find cheap labour from among their own people in England. So, they turned to their Empire, the British Empire with the greatest supply of manpower from India.

So the transportation of indentured labourers from India was the second phase of imported labour to Mauritius. We cannot repeat, enough times, that imported labour now in 2024 is not a new phenomenon. With the passage of time, the descendants of the Indian labourers have gentrified, they have become 'bourgeois' themselves and there is no way that they would work as field labourers. They are themselves land owners, and they occupy top professional jobs. They run the country as President, Prime and Cabinet Ministers.

Incidentally, we may say that when the French and British brought the peasants from India to till the land, little did they think that one day the descendants of those peasants would rule the country. They could not imagine at the time that among those peasants were the roots of the future administrators of the island. It has often been said that a white lawyer once exclaimed in the Supreme Court of Mauritius that the day a black man should practise as a lawyer in the country he would tear and throw away his robe. Looking down from heaven of what is happening in Mauritius now one can visualise that poor chap tearing off his hair in despair.

So, it would seem that Mauritius is back to Square One. Mauritius is short of labour once more. What to do if not to import labour again. It is being said that the descendants of former labourers are themselves practising a form of slavery towards workers being imported from Bangladesh, Madagascar, the

Philippines and what have you!

We have tried to establish the fact that migration is a natural phenomenon. As for brain drain, it must be admitted that people have become more alert as a result of the access to free education at all levels, and are exposed to the new technology in every area of activities.

The other side of the medal

We can now try to take a look at the other side of the medal.

Within a period of a century and a half, the imported labourers from India have multiplied and multiplied to constitute the majority of the population. Considering the extent of labour that Mauritius would need in the course of time, would it be an exaggeration to say that over a similar period of time hence, if not less, the present imported labour may in the end constitute the majority of the population of Mauritius.

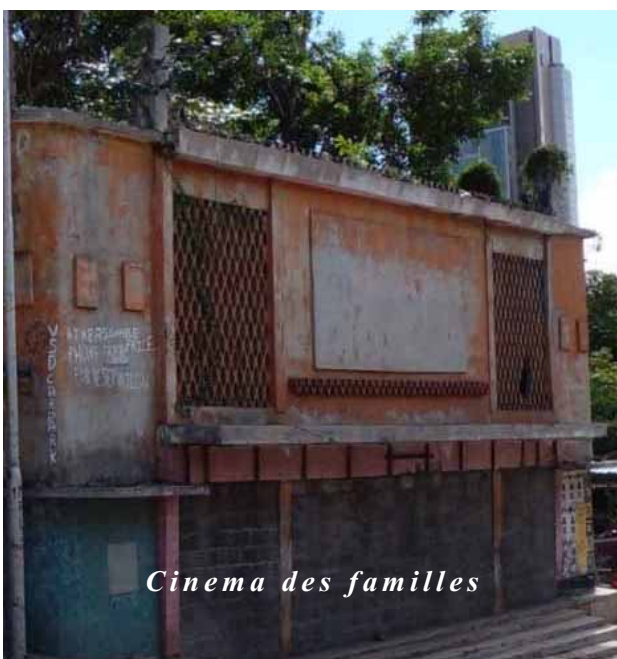
However far-fetched this idea may appear to be, it is a possibility. The French colons would have certainly thought so, if they were told that the indentured labourers of the 1800s would one day rule Mauritius. It is not impossible for the new comers one day to be in large numbers enough to take over the reins.

There are millions them in the queue waiting to come and people the Republic of Mauritius. Our one million three hundred souls can be easily overwhelmed. Mauritius needs them now as Mauritius needed the indentured labourers of 150 years ago. The complexion of Mauritius will change.

Peter Chellen

Leptospirosis

Mauritius is being affected by the spread of the infectious disease of leptospirosis, which is prevalent among some animals, namely rats. This disease can also be transferred to human beings, and deaths may occur. Human beings become infected when they come in contact with the urine of the animal.



Cinema des familles

The local Ministry of Health and Wellness makes regular TV broadcasts these days advising the popu-



Majestic

lation of precautions to take to avoid the breeding of rats on their premises and in their environment.

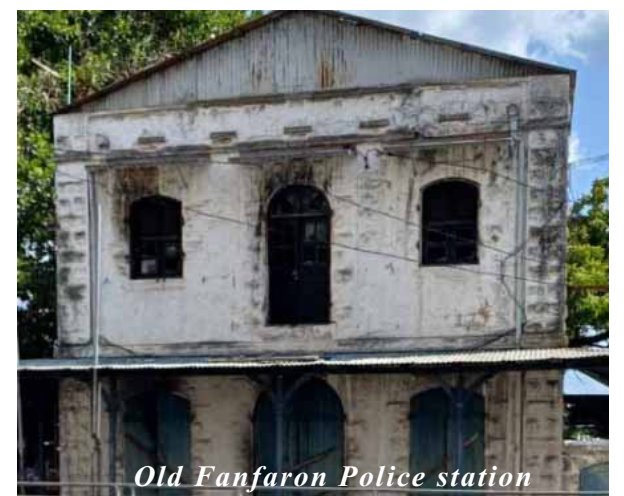
Lots of town-dwellers have moved from the City of Port Louis, which is also the island's capital. Port Louis is no longer the residential city it used to be. There are now an immense number of abandoned dwellings receiving attention from no one. The bushy open spaces and the dilapidated buildings are natural breeding grounds for rodents. Who will sort out this sort of hazards that exist in the Capital City of Mauritius, and possibly elsewhere in the island?

It is good that many vacant grounds where buildings have been pulled down have been turned into car parks. There are now lots of such car parks in the capital. But there is a limit to the exploitation of this business as the demand for car parks has its limit.

The construction of Block of residential flats is no solution either, as the demand for such accommodation is practically non-existent these days. These blocks remain unoccupied and in turn have to be converted into office blocks. But the demand for offices also has its limit especially as businesses are shying away from the capital for various reasons.

So Port Louis is stuck with a lot of abandoned properties and empty spaces that may be infested with rats, the main cause of the spread of leptospirosis. The old cinema hall of Majestic and the one that used to be known as Cinema de Familles, plus the old Fanfaron Police Station are instances that demand special attention to prevent the breeding of rats in the capital.

P.C.



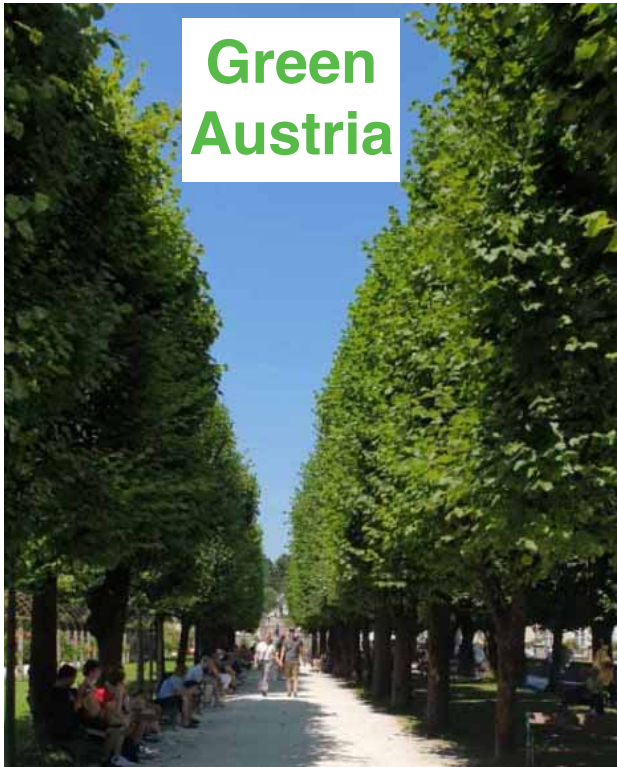
Old Fanfaron Police station

Postcard from Austria

by *Mylene (Japan)*



When I used to think of Austria, I'd instantly imagine Harry Lime darting through the sewers of Vienna with that iconic zither music playing in the background. Or, I'd picture couples twirling around in grand ball gowns, to the tune of a bygone era.



But trust me, Vienna has so much more to offer than sewer tours for die-hard fans of "The Third Man" and couples prancing around to classical music.

During my stay in the Austrian capital, I found out that living here is actually pretty chill and stress-free in a lot of ways.

The Greenest City in the World

You can't get much greener than Vienna. Almost half the city is covered in green spaces. We're talking lawns, parks, vineyards, woods, fields, wetlands, gardens, and, according to the Municipal Department of Parks and Gardens, an insane half a million trees!

Research shows that green spaces are totally awesome for both your body and soul! So, I'm soaking up all those natural vibes.

Public Transport

Vienna's Buses, streetcars, subway and trains zip you all over the city – safe, fast, and eco-friendly.

There are no ticket barriers, no conductors, no bottle necks of people filing in and out. You just jump on and off. But, it's not a free ride. Vienna runs on an honesty system, trusting you to have a ticket for your journey.

A one-month pass is just £50 – a total steal if

you ask me!
(And yeah, tickets are definitely checked for long coach and train trips.)

With such a fast, efficient and cheap way to get around, most people ditch the car for public transport. Plus, Vienna is super bike-friendly, which makes it even better!

Water

Imagine this: you turn on the tap and out comes ice-cool mountain spring water. That's exactly what you get from every faucet in Vienna.

Hard to believe, but it takes 36 hours for the water to flow from the mountain springs to the city. Thanks to strict regulations, it arrives perfectly safe to drink.

And with free drinking fountains and cooling water mists all over the city, you're set, especially since the temps have soared to over 30°C.



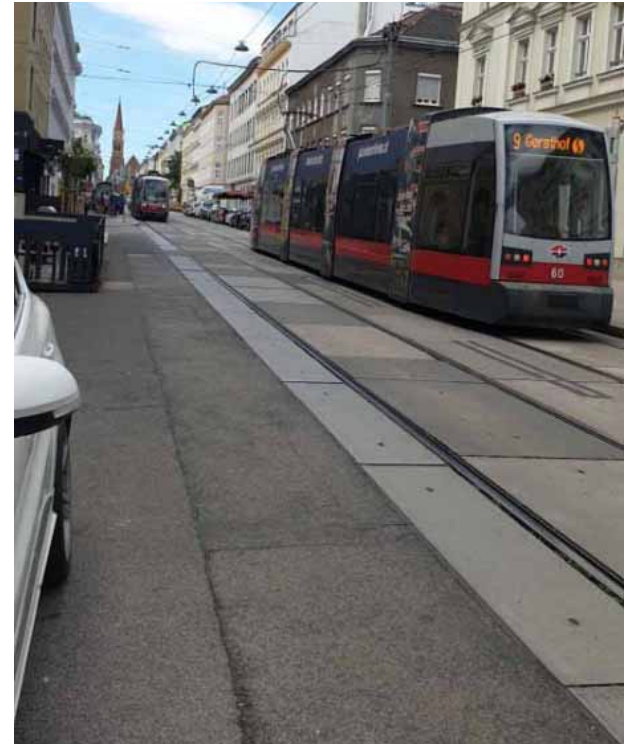
ice-cool mountain spring water

No wheelie bin eyesore!

Seriously, who thought it was a good idea for every house to have their own wheelie bin—sometimes more than one? Total eyesore and totally destroys the aesthetics of the street, right?

The apartment I live in (Vienna is full of apart-

ments) has three bins in a small courtyard out back. Two are for paper and one's for burnable waste. I take plastics, bottles and cans to the nearby public recycling bins that are discreetly placed around the city.



Public transport safe, fast, and eco-friendly

Austrians are very serious about recycling ♻️

On collection days, the wheelie bins get rolled out and then rolled right back in after they're emptied.

It's like, now you see them, now you don't.

It's such a joy to walk around and not see those eyesore dumpsters cluttering up the streets.

WC

There are plenty of public toilets, but you have to pay (€0.50). Most take credit cards, but some are cash only and the staff don't handle money.

There are still some stores where you can walk in and use their facilities, but for many, you have to scan your receipt's barcode to use the loo. So, keep those coins handy!

Talking of money.

While many countries are racing to go cashless—Japan being a prime example—cash is still king in Vienna. You'd be surprised how many places are cash only, even some top tourist attractions!

To be continued.....

OLYMPICS 2024

Pierre de Coubertin:

“ l’important, c’est pas de gagner mais de participer “

and we were there!

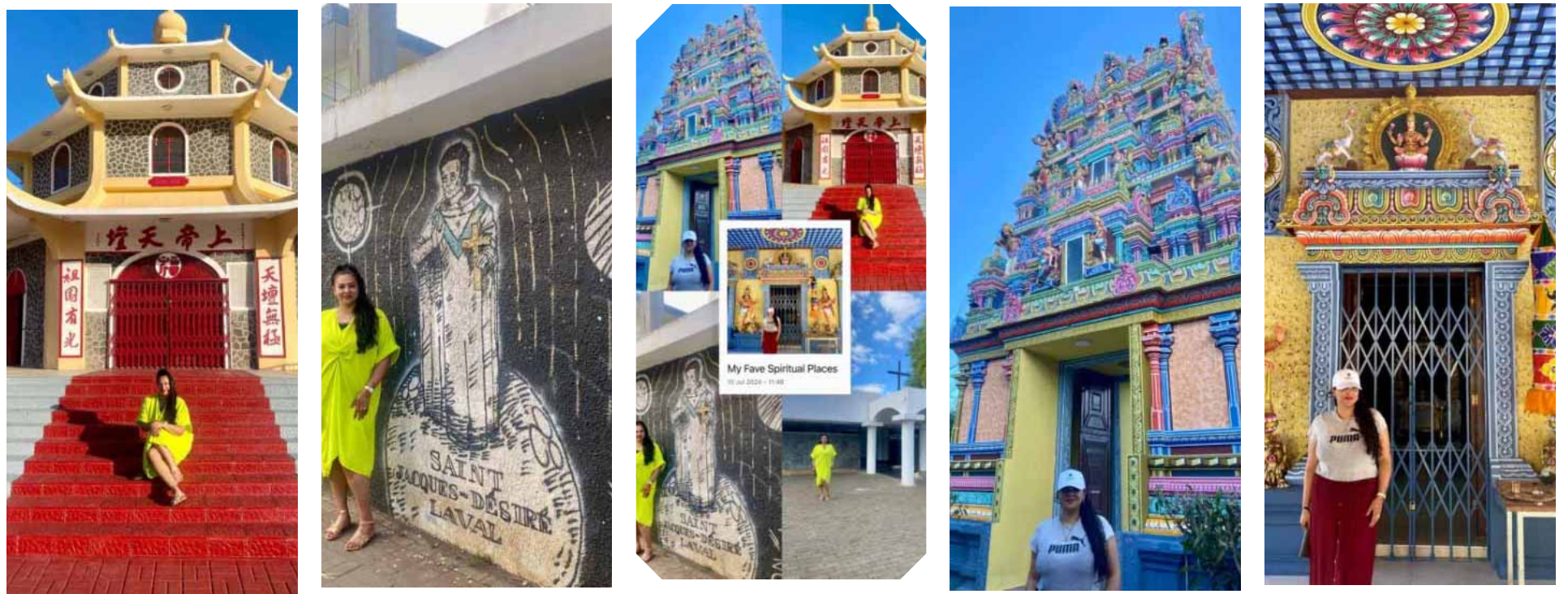


Mauritian Athletes looked radiant and relaxed in colourful red, blue, yellow and green leaf shirts for a day out by the Seine before the Grand opening ceremony of Paris 2024 Olympic Games, says Yvonne Goder, UK Mauritian Overseas Gazette (MOG) rep. It is reassuring to see Mauritius invests in sports and sponsors the athletes.

We are very proud of our athletes coming from a small Island to represent our country.

A Spiritual Journey

UK-born Yvonne Goder-Persand was recently on a spiritual trip to Mauritius and she sent us the pictures below she took in the country, which she says are: My fave spiritual places. Yvonne’s father is Mauritian and her mother is from Greece. She holds a degree in law. Born in England, she still considers Mauritius as her country. She is married to a Mauritian. She must be picking up a bit of our Creole, we suppose.



What the pictures say

Joint Satellite Development Programme between India and Mauritius



Lots and lots of criticism have been levelled against Mauritius for allegedly allowing India to have physical military control over the island's overseas territory of Agalega in the Indian Ocean.

For India it is a matter of having an eye on the military expansion of other powers in the Indian Ocean. After all, India is the only country in the world with the whole of an ocean to its name. Britain has only a bit of a channel (the English Channel) to its name, shared with France as La Manche.)

In the photograph above, showing Mauritian PM Pravind with Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, is a framed picture of the world showing the map of the Indian Ocean. This framed picture is significant because India will exercise control over the Indian Ocean via satellite without, necessarily, any input from the island of Agalega.

During Mr Jaishankar's visit to Mauritius last month (July) it was agreed that Mauritius and India would cooperate on the development of a joint satellite programme. In a not too long distant future, we may have a Mauritian astronaut in space. Agalega will become a very important outpost for Mauritius itself.

Suspensions that broke the camel's back

Suspension de la Chambre

Rajesh Bhagwan 5 juillet 2024

Ehsan Juman 9 juillet 2024

Joanna Bérenger 12 juillet 2024

MBC



Arvind Boolell, Opposition leader



Zahid Nazurally, chairing

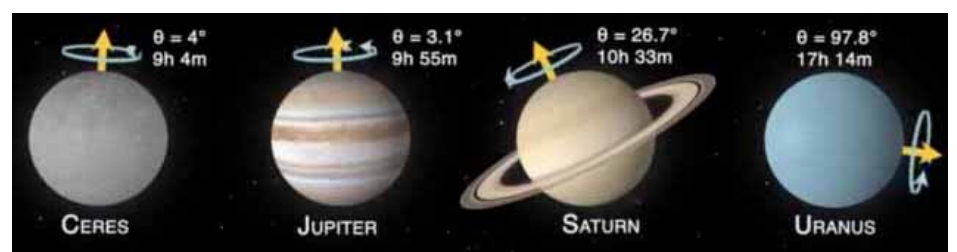
It was following the suspension of the three above-mentioned honourable members from the services of the National Assembly for a few sessions that Speaker Sooroojdev Phokeer was taken ill and subsequently replaced by new Speaker Adrien Duval. According to local radio experts, the former Speaker was pushed out by the PM to relieve the pressure being brought to bear on his Government. It is now reported that leader of the pack that stormed Parliament on July 18 has expressed the view that Sooroojdev Phokeer was not a such a bad apple after all. All eyes from the Opposition benches have of late been turning on Mr Speaker, Sir, Adrien Duval to declare his appointment unconstitutional. A motion to that effect from Opposition leader Arvind Boolell found no echo from his own side of the House and was dropped by Deputy Speaker Zahid Nazurally, not before he had ordered a few of those 'honourables' out of the Assembly to go and refresh themselves for a few minutes.

Freethinking

A Question of Creation

Why did the Creator take a long, long time (4 billion years) before he decided to put, on Planet Earth, his most wonderful creation known as Man?

The moment he put Man on his favourite planet, he knew he had made another mistake, yes another mistake - because the Dinosaurs were the first mistake he made. He had to wipe out the Dinosaurs from the surface of Planet Earth. What is in store for the second mistake?



Received in our internet mail box. Thanks to the internaut.

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From Page 5

Illustrated on the previous page are the eight planets of our solar system. I purposely say "our solar system" because it is believed that there are millions of solar systems in the immensity of space, space that has no beginning and no end. On and on, space extends forever. According to scientists, space is still extending, and the planets are copying themselves in a system of 'copy and paste'. It should not surprise anybody that somewhere in that infinite firmament there should be a replica of ourselves, a phenomenon that the Hindus call avatars. It is said that we may be doing something totally different from what we doing here at this very moment.

Well, the Creator, our Father in Heaven, in his wisdom decided that there should be on Planet Earth creatures of all sorts, including the 'specimen' known as Man (and Woman, and their byproduct: children.)

Let's for a moment ask the question of what would have happened, if in his wisdom, the Creator had not created Planet Earth. If the Creator did not create Planet Earth, there would be no man in our solar system, as we know it.

Well, Scientists have determined that Planet Earth was created 4 billion years ago. The question we may ask is why the Creator did not create Man then? It is also said that the Creator experimented with the Dinosaurs for 250 million years on his favourite Planet Earth without the existence of Man. Why create the dinos and not Man? The creator became very disappointed with the dinosaurs because they were devouring one another. After they had been roaming on Planet Earth for 250 million years, (We repeat 250 million years). The Creator finally decided to wipe them out of his favourite Planet.

The Creator after lots and lots of thinking, about a million years ago (we repeat only one million years ago out of billion years of creation), he decided to experiment with the creature known as Man. We can say

that the Creator did not, once again, have "*La main heureuse*". This new creature also has been devouring one another since they first made their appearance on Planet Earth about one million years ago. Cannibals at first, this could be understood as they had no vegetables at the time to be vegetarians. Agriculture had yet to be invented. But, to this day they are feasting on the blood of their neighbours like the Natanyahus, the Poutines (French translation), the descendants of the Ku Klux Klan, etc, etc and etc.

To say that the Creator is frustrated with his latest creation would be an understatement. Those "snakes! brood of vipers! will not escape being condemned to hell" (Matthew 23:33). Yes, like the dinos, they too will be wiped out from the face of Planet Earth. When the Creator created the solar system 4 BILLION years ago, via the Big Bang or in seven days, he took the precaution to do so in a way that Planet Earth does gradually approach the solar discus, millimetre by millimetre, until the time will come when the Planet will be swallowed by the sun. After 4 BILLION years of inching towards the sun,, we can imagine how much Planet Earth has moved closer to that ever burning star!

Life on Planet Earth is getting hotter and hotter, and all sorts of geographical disturbances are taking place on a massive scale: earthquakes, floodings, bush fires etc. Earth people call it "changement climatique," "global warming" and what not!. Already some earth people are dying of extreme heat, flood drowning, fire destruction, here and there. The present dinosaurs, MEN, will be wiped out. And **Adieu** the Netanyahus, the Poutines and their allies in America, England, Europe and elsewhere! Probably not **Adieu, because this word may be literally translated into "to God". They would be condemned to hell, said biblical Matthew.**

For a bit of solace have a look on the net at the sketch of Peter Cook and Dudley Moore: The Gospel Truth (or Jesus' Life). **P.C.**

Mauritian Overseas Gazette (MOG)

(The one and only publication for the Mauritian Diaspora)

MOG follows Mauritius News, the first overseas Mauritian publication from 1983 to 2015

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We are The World!

No of visits to MOG site at 14.08.24:

5,609 visitors



A breath of fresh air



All smiles when they come



Lost his youth on the job

A popular saying (by P.C.)

Everything is temporary in life, including life itself!