

Commemoration of World Photography Day



Picture: Brahms Mahadea

Vice President Eddy Boissézon (centre) with members of the Media Trust Board and press photographers

The Media Trust, in association with the Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management held a week photos exhibition from August 17 at the Caudan Arts Centre in the context of the World Photography Day taking place on August 19 every year. The event, put up by members of the Board of the Trust, was honoured by the presence of the Vice President of the Republic H.E. Eddy Boissézon. Also present were a group of press photographers whose pictures were on display.

The theme of the exhibition was “Fotojournalism” in relation to “Changement Climatique, Catastrophes Naturelles et les Responsabilités Citoyennes.” The Media Trust wanted to highlight the role of press photographers in taking pictures of calamities and disasters as they happen to accompany articles submitted by reporters. They do so in difficult situations as the Vice President pointed out. The Vice President was full of praise for the press photogra-

phers whose works give special meaning to articles, and provide authenticity to the narrative.

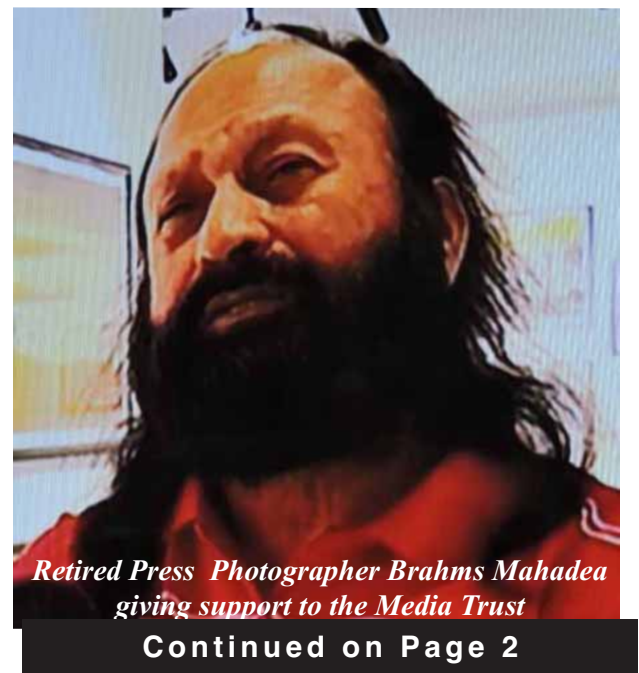
Mr Ashok Beeharry, Chairman of the Media Trust explained that the idea of honouring the press photographers was suggested at a meeting of the Board of Management. He said that press photographers sometimes do their job in very dangerous situations at the risk of their lives. “Nous voulions rendre hommage, exprimer notre respect et reconnaissance à nos photographes, des vaillants battants . . . nous ne savons que trop bien comment Ils et elles se bataillent . . . pour capturer le sens et l’essence de tout évènement, grand ou petit, lors de chaque couverture, pour tout type ou genre de reportage. . .”



Vice President Eddy Boissézon



A present to the Vice President from Media Trust Chairman Ashok Beeharry



Retired Press Photographer Brahms Mahadea giving support to the Media Trust

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From Page One

Pictures from the Media Trust Exhibits at the Caudan Arts Centre



Residents looking at the extent of water accumulation on a flooded street at Bramsthan in Flacq



Responsabilités Citoyennes: Passers-by helping a distressed woman from a car trapped in flood

World Photography Day

Open Day - Musée de la Photographie

On Monday, 19 August (coinciding with the World Photography Day), the local Musée de la Photographie held its own Open Day at the seat of the museum, Rue du Vieux Conseil in Port Louis.

Everyday, many people pass by this spot but don't go in for a visit, as it seems to be somewhat out of the way. It is sad to say it that there is nothing appealing about the building's facade to attract attention of passers-by, attention of even of those who may be interested in photography. However, though confined to a relatively small building that belongs to the Municipality of Port Louis (City Hall) it offers enough exhibits to do credit to the promoters of the museum.

It must be emphasized that the Musée de la Photographie is certainly worth a visit by everyone interested in photography as a professional but also as a hobby. It is above all a place of documentation on the fascinating subject of photography which is today practised by everyone with a smart phone.

The Musée tells us of the history of photography from its inception in the early 1880s (200 years ago) in Paris by a certain Louis Daguerre. Though we have heard of the Frère Lumière who introduced, early that century, the moving image on film, to be known later as the moving pictures (movies) or today as the cinema, Daguerre was the first person to capture and produce a still picture on a piece of copper plate. The picture would be fixed for good on the copper plate, further experiment would enable him

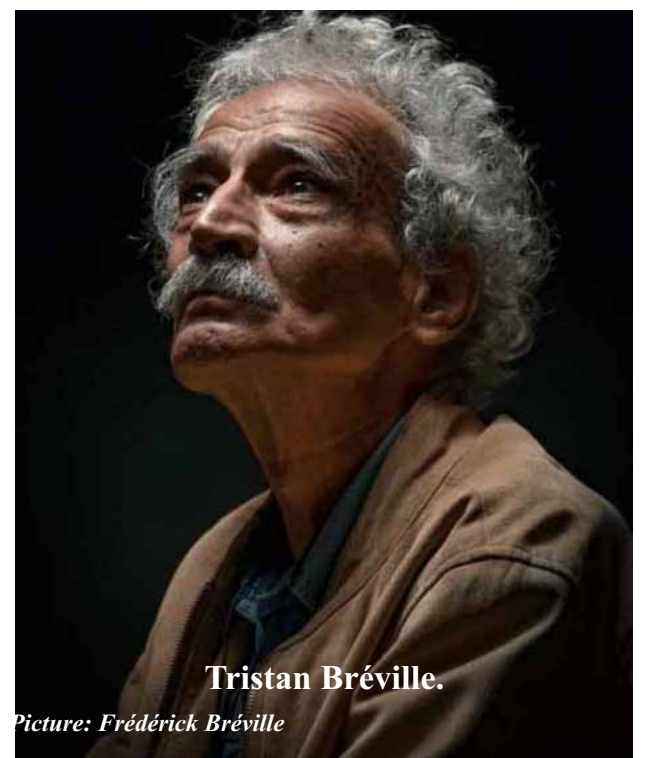
to produce on enamel. Such early experiments led the way to the ultimate capture on film by chemical process and to the reproduction of pictures on photographic paper, as we have known it for years. Nowadays, the whole process of taking pictures and storage has been turned on its head in the electronic and digital age, the more so with the use of smart phones and memory cards.

The Photography Museum (Musée de la Photographie) in Mauritius was set up, in 1966, nearly 60 years ago by local artist Mr Tristan Breville, a man with the love of photography in his vein.,

In the 1830s, the artist and photographer Louis Daguerre was experimenting in Paris on his process, known as Daguerrotype (pronounce Daguerre-o-type). He announced the success of his process to the world on August 19, 1839. This date is generally considered as the date on which modern photography was born. In 1839 (185 years ago), Mauritian-born Ferdinand Wornhit was in Paris and he met Louis Daguerre from whom he bought one of his prototypes to capture images on copper (cum silver) plates. This device was acquired by Mr Breville and exhibited when he built his Musée de la Photographie in Port Louis.

When he still see this exhibit plus a small plate which was >>>>

On the open Day (19.08.24) coinciding with the World Photography Day, the tour of the Museum was assured by the founder's widow, Marie Noëlle, who



Tristan Bréville.

Picture: Frédéric Bréville

runs the museum with daughter Marie Julie and son Frederick. Mrs Bienville entertained the guests about the museum having collaborated with her husband on the management of the museum. Tristan Banville passed away in May 2022 at the age of 76.

During the tour on August 19, Mrs Bréville told guests that her husband did still talk to us. She soon explained we could hear him speak on video.

Question has been asked about the future of the museum. It can only be said that so far it is in good hands, as family concern.

P.C.

Postcard from Vienna (Part 2)

“Vienna should be called Mozart's capital”

By Mylene (Japan)

(Continued from Part One in Issue No 36)



I've heard people say Vienna is 'the music capital of world.' Really? I mean, I had a hard time finding anything like rap, country, soul, K-pop, rock, ska, reggae, pop, grunge, jazz, blues... You know, all the stuff that's alive and kicking in London.

Nashville, Tennessee, aka the "Country Music Capital of the World," doesn't claim to be anything more. Take note, Vienna!

Honestly, if you ask me, Vienna should be called Mozart's capital. I know, I know, Haydn, Beethoven, Strauss, Schubert and the rest get some love, but Mozart is the golden boy.

There's a whole industry built around him. From T Shirts to crockery to umbrellas. You name it, it'll have Mozart written all over it.

There's a reason why Vienna should be proud of Johannes Chrysostomus

Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart (1756 - 1791) who was born in Salzburg, Austria: **He was a total powerhouse of music.**

Not only was he a musical prodigy, but, hands down he was one of the most influential, popular, and productive composers of the Classical period.

When you think he started composing at the age of five, it's no wonder that he managed to churn out over 600 works - symphonic, chamber, operatic, and choral - before he died at the young age of 35.

In just 10 years in Vienna, Mozart packed up and moved 13 times. Beethoven, though? He bounced around over 60 times in 35 years!

Another Austrian legend, Franz Joseph Haydn, is known as the "Father of the Symphony."

Mozart and Haydn were tight, and to show his respect, Mozart dedicated six string quartets to him.

One of Haydn's students was the young Beethoven, who totally looked up to his teacher.

Haydn, Mozart Both were popular, both musically gifted yet it's the name Mozart on everyone's tongue.



The Golden Hall at the Musikverein



Statue of Mozart in the Burggarten

Buzzing capital of an empire

One explanation could be that Vienna was the buzzing capital of an empire. The Habsburg dynasty et al made it the perfect place for musicians and artists to thrive, and many flocked to the capital.

Mozart was right there in the thick of things, whereas Haydn lived on the Esterhazy estate and produced music entirely for the Esterhazy family, almost in isolation.



The Vienna Mozart Orchestra perform in costumes styled just as they were in the 18th century

It's said, Haydn set the stage for the composers that came after him, giving them a solid foundation to build on.

Mozart definitely tapped into this. Then, as music started shifting into the Romanticism era, Beethoven picked up where he left off.

The composers who came after Beethoven, like Brahms, Mendelssohn, and Wagner, took what he started and ran with it.

In the end, it's true to say, that pretty much everyone builds on what came before, right?



Beethoven's manuscript



Wall painting in the garden of Beethoven's House



Beethoven lived on the top floor of this apartment block



Beethoven's House

Les Madras en Colère

Les Tamouls Mécontents et Les Tamouls très Contents



The leader of the Tamil protestors, Devarajen Kanaksabee (in yellow top) arguing with two Tamil-looking plain-clothes policemen under the watchful eyes of a uniformed policeman and a policewoman. Also watching, on the right, with concern, are other members of the 'Rann nu later' group.

On the left (in the picture) is a police cameraman video-recording the scene, while on the right a protestor, with a mike in his right hand (not seen in the picture) is doing so on his mobile. This was the moment when hell would break loose on the scene.

Did the policewoman man-handle the men?

One of the two plain-clothes policemen is holding, in his right hand, a banner seized from Mr Kanaksabee. The policeman took exception that the protestor was echoing from the top of his larynx the chant : "Jag nag vo lere, Jag nag vo lere". (He was repeatedly calling Prime Minister Jugnauth a thief). According to those defending the democratic principles in Mauritius, such insults should not be sanctioned.

Les Tamouls Mécontents were outside the venue et les Tamouls Contents were inside the venue at Côte d'Or on Tuesday, August 27.

It's the result of a struggle between two camps: in one camp are the PM and his Government, and in the other camp are some Tamil protestors, supporters of the MMM and the Labour Party.

In the centre are the electors who should decide who will run the country.

A group of non-committed Tamils who form part of the electorate are trying to understand the issue that caused the rebellion on Tuesday, August 27, on the part of the Tamouls Mécontents outside the venue at Côte d'Or, a locality in the district of Moka.

Really speaking, the issue which causes some Tamils of Mauritius to be on the warpath is an ongoing saga regarding a plot of land at Réduit in the District of Moka which was given to them by the Government, over two decades ago, for the erection of a cultural centre for themselves. One of the leaders of the rebellion at Côte d'Or vociferated loudly that the

land was given to the community in 2003 by Paul Bérenger . . . and . . . Anerood Jugnauth (accent was laid on Bérenger, and almost as an afterthought, SAJ's name was mentioned), to the Tamouls for the construction of a Tamil Cultural Centre. According to Minister Mahen Seeruttun, it was Sir Anerood Jugnauth who decided to lease plots of land to various ethnic groups to build Cultural Centres to promote their customs and traditions, and more especially for the promotion of their languages.

To be fair to the Tamil community, it must be admitted that right from the word go, i.e. from 2003, they set themselves to the task of raising funds for the construction of their centre. It does take some time to raise the 50 million rupees likely to be required for the construction of the Cultural Centre.

Vingt Ans Après

20 years later (Vingt Ans Après, a bit like the title of the Alexandre Dumat's novel), the Tamouls were not anywhere near realising the money required for the construction of the Centre. It must be borne in mind that the Tamouls of Mauritius are not, financially, a rich community as some other

communities who are thriving in commerce of all sorts. Some of them may own properties, though.

Some Tamouls are reported to have said: "We had some money, we were forced to spend it in connection with the Covid-19 epidemic." In any case, it is believed, that such money that was spent on Covid-19, could only be a drop of what would be required.

Well, *Vingt Ans Après*, in 2023, the present Government – a Government on the Go – needs land for development and expansion in that very region of Réduit in the District Moka.

Since, for the past 20 years, the Tamouls have not used the land allocated to them in that region, the Government intimated to them that the land would be put to use by the administration for expansion and development, as needed. The Government also informed the Tamouls that, in return, the State would compensate them by the provision of a larger portion of land in the new and upcoming locality of Côte d'Or in the same district, i.e., in the same District of Moka.

In addition, the Government undertakes to build for the Tamils on that proposed portion of land a modern cultural centre with all the necessary amenities to the tune of 50 million rupees+. That's something that they (the Tamouls) have not been able to execute for the past 21 years.

Suddenly, from the community emerged some protesters, believed to be elements of the Opposition, who tell the Government that they do not want any land replacement. They want the land at Réduit in the District of Moka which was leased (free of charge) to them in 2003. "*Rann nou later* (Give us back our land,) is their slogan which they shouted during the rebellion of Tuesday, August 27.

As pacifier Rajoo K. Lingum says "they are shouting for their land back as if they forked out the money to pay for it. Government property was allocated to them at the expense of the tax payers.

selves do not know. Will they take another 20 years to raise funds? people have been asking.

The decision of some members of the Tamil Community to act as 'street mobs' at Côte d'Or on Tuesday, August 27, brought them in direct confrontation with those responsible for maintenance of law and order in the country. There is no need to harp on the fact that Mauritius is a multi-racial country. Is it balkanisation in trying to help various ethnics in Mauritius to live in harmony? Government of every hue understands this necessity.

Why are some Tamils rebelling?

The question has been asked, apart from any political connotation, why do the Tamil rebels insist on having back the grant of the State land at Réduit. The answer comes from some



Devarajen Kanaksabee, leader of the "Ranne nu later" campaign

Why not having the cultural centre in the Côte d'Or area? So far, no comments have been proffered by the rebels about this option.

One of the Tamil rebels, however, said that they do not want to have to experience the same problem that they did at Réduit, i.e. the Government taking back the land. The rebel said the Government intends to undertake lots of development at Côte d'Or. If those other developments do not take place, the Government may not construct the Tamil Cultural Centre.

But the Government, in its development programme, wants the Côte d'Or region to become a hub of cultural centres among other projects. On the day that the rebel was demonstrating outside in the open, the Government was handing deeds of ownership of land for cultural centres to the managers to the Hindi Speaking Union, Urdu Speaking Union, to members of the Tamil Cultural Centre Trust (TCCT) who are happy with the Government arrangements. It is said that the TCCT is the only organisation mandated to negotiate about a Cultural Centre for the Mauritian community.

Apart from the argument in the penultimate paragraph that the Government, though committed, may possibly take back the Côte d'Or land, no other reason has been put forward by the Tamil rebels to justify their objection to move to Côte d'Or. Translated into English Côte d'Or means Gold Coast. The Tamil rebels do not believe that there is any gold there. Who can blame them? They are not tempted to give up their Réduit claim.



Protester Rajen Narsinghen challenged by a policewoman. He will later be manhandled by some plain-clothes policemen, whom the press qualifies as bouncers.

Autocracy on the part of the Government?

There ere some people who think that the Government has been too autocratic in cancelling the lease of the land allocated to the Tamouls. They think that the Tamouls should have been given an extension of at least another 10 years (or perhaps more) to allow them to raise the funds to build their Cultural Centre.

The fanatics, as R.K. Lingum calls them, have decided to "descendre dans la rue." They say that they will carry on protesting until the Government agrees to give them back "their" land. What will they do with the land? one may ask. No one knows, and they them-

of them. It's because their forefathers, who belonged to the Indentured Labourers' ancestry used to live in that area. But we learn from history of the island that the indentured labourers brought from India in the 19th century used to be kept in 'camps' close to the sugar plantations.

Were there any indentured labourers' camps at Réduit in th 1800s? Another rebel says It is for sentimental reasons that they insist to have their cultural centre in that area. The question is whether when Sir Anerood Jugnauth allocated the land to the Tamils in 2003 there was any consideration of their sentimental attachment to the land.

On the other hand, what is the objection to the Côte d'Or proposal?

In every such situation as described on Pages 5 & 6 above, there are those who are **FOR** and there are those who are **AGAINST**. In the camp of those who are **AGAINST** are Rajen Narsinghen, a once Labour Party hopeful and a once Labour Party National Assembly Speaker designate, Former MMM MP Veda Baloomoody and current MMM MP Deven Nagalingum, among a few etceteras. In the camp of those who are **FOR** are members of the present management of the Tamil Cultural Centre Trust (TCCT) as illustrated on the following page (P 7)

The Mauritius Tamil Cultural Centre Trust (MTCCT) and The Mauritius Tamil Temples Federation (MTTF) accept the Government's offer of a cultural centre at Côte d'Or

On August 27, at a ceremony at Côte d'Or in the district of Moka, Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, remitted to four ethnic organisations documents relating to the lease of plots of land in the area. The land will be used for the construction of Cultural Centres for each community. The organisations who accepted the Government offer were the Hindi Speaking Union, Urdu Speaking Union, and the Mauritius Tamil Cultural Centre Trust (MTCCT) jointly with the Mauritius Tamil Temples Federation (MTTF)

The Government of Mauritius undertakes to construct for each organisation, a modern centre with all the required amenities to the tune of Millions of rupees.

Hereunder are the pictures of some members of the MTCCT and MTTF who expressed their satisfaction of the Government's gesture.



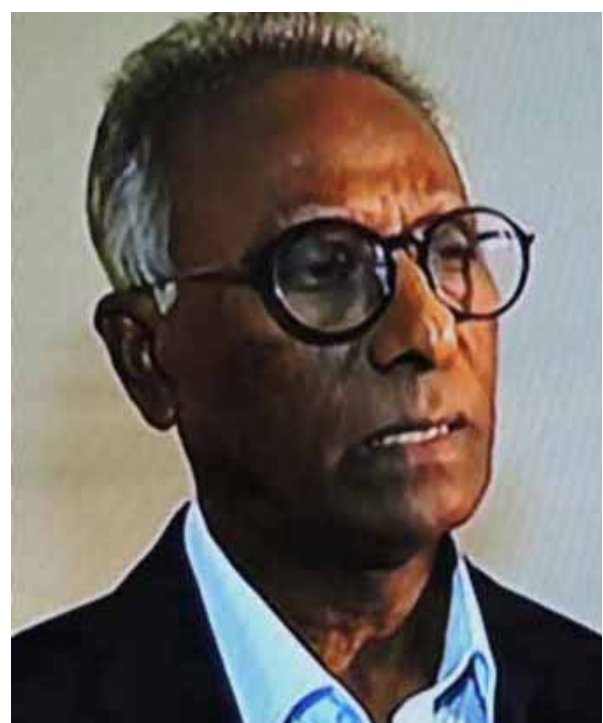
Dr Adi Sankara Peruman, President of the MTCCT receiving ownership deed from PM Pravind Jugnauth



A prayer for the PM for the offer



Aya Vishnu: The community needs the Cultural Centre



*Vijayen Iyasamy, Treasurer of the MTTF:
We are grateful to the
Government for this offer to the community*



*Moorooga Chinnien, Vice President MTTF:
Members of the community should not mix
politics with cultural activities*



*Erlan Marreeaye: Very happy that Government
will provide us with a Tamil Cultural Centre*

A vision for Côte d'Or

In his great vision for the country for the next five years, if re-elected, of course, Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth has on his programme, the development of Côte d'Or into an administrative city. There is enough space to bring all the Government departments to one area. At the moment the administrative city of Port Louis is heavily congested. The Ebène Cyber City built by Sir Anerood Jugnauth, some 15 years ago, is congested as well. Already, Côte d'Or can pride itself of one of the most modern stadium of international standard. A race course will be built at Côte d'Or. An area of some 40 acres of land has been earmarked for the manufacture of pharmaceutical drugs as an outlet to our part of the world with the help of India, known as Pharmacy to the world.