L'Union fait La Force

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The Chagos Denouement. Is It? or Are The Chickens Being Counted . . .

It would seem that the whole Mauritian nation, with a bit of pencil in hand and a scrap of paper on the knee are working on the figures that the British Government is going to pay the Mauritius Government for the next 28 years, and beyond as compensation for unlawfully retaining the Chagos Archipelago from the jurisdiction of Mauritius for the past 57 years when Mauritius was released from the colonial yoke on 12th Mach 1968.

Are these people, as a matter of fact, counting

the chickens . . . ? The local daily l'express quotes a figure of more than 10 billion rupees annually that will be paid to Mauritius by the British Government.

Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam (NR) says that Britain will give Mauritius 3.4 bil- Dr Navin Ramgoolam, lion over a period of 99 years, and 40 million pounds for the reha-



Prime Minister of Mauritius

bilitation Chagos people. The Prime Minister speaks of an Action Plan d'Action and declares that the £40 million will be spent strictly for the welfare of the Chagossians through a Trust Fund. Olivier Bancoult equally speaks of the Trust Fund of £40 to which he hopes the Mauritius Government will be contribute.

From those speculations we can say there will be money à gogo in Mauritius. Former Labour MP Nita Deerpalsing on a RadioPlus programme on Corruption summed it up when she said that money invites corruption. Well, handling so much money may become a headache for the PM. He knows a bit about this drama of money handling.

On the political front, the question may be asked is it now the end of an injustice that has been going on for the 60 years? It is certainly the end of the wrangling between majestic Britain and its former tiny crown colony in the vast Indian Ocean as regards the question of sovereignty. The wrangling started under a British Labour Government when Prime Minister Harold Wilson was at the helm in the 1960s, and it went through the reign of various Prime Ministers to end up with Labour PM Sir Keir Starmer.

Margaret Thatcher, in her days as PM, affirmed that the Chagos would only be returned to Mauritius when Diego Garcia would no longer be required as a military base. Well, it is a known fact that Diego Garcia is still required as a military base, namely by the Americans. The US holds a tenancy lease on Diego that will last until all of us will have departed from this world. However, there is a bit of relief here and there.

Here, in Mauritius, political figures and others are congratulating themselves for the outcome that the British Government finally has agreed to comply with the ruling of the International Court of Justice and other jurisdictions to release the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius control though without Diego Garcia. The principal island of the Chagos Archipelago, Diego Garcia, remains under the management and control of the US, a sitting tenant.

However, the real sitting tenant is at present a certain Donald Trump who does not give a hoot about the change of ownership from British to Mauritian sovereignty. The beauty of it, as far Trump is concerned, the annual rent will have to be paid by the outgoing landlord, Great Brit-

OPPOSITION

In Britain. Itself, there is quite a bit of opposition to the sovereignty transfer of the Chagos to Mauritius. It cannot be said that the ruling La-

bour Party itself is at one with the leadership on this issue. The London's Daily Telegraph has recently stated that Deputy PM Angela Rayner is proposing to lead a revolt within the Labour Party on grounds



Olivier Bancoult, Chagossians Leader

leader Starmer has misled the country on the amount to be spent by Britain as compensation to Mauritius in relation to the release of Britain's sovereignty over the Chagos.

On the Opposition benches sits the ferocious Nigel Farage (NF) of the Reform Party who is in dead opposition to the surrender of the Chagos to Mauritius, and against any form of rent payment to Mauritius and compensation to the displaced Chagossians. Remember NF (Nigel Farage not National Front) who almost single-handedly brought about Brexit at

the expense of his own seat in the European Parlia-

ment. He lost his seat as a result of Brexit and yet he campaigned for it. But it must be said that with the support of former Conservative Boris Johnson who lied and lied, the Brexit job was much easier done.

At present, NF (Nigel Farage), still, has the full support of the two True Blue Conservative members in his opposition to any favour to Mauritius as re-



Sir Keir Starmer, Prime Minister of Great Britain

gards the Chagos settlement: Indian by-product Priti Patel (any relation to US trumpish Cash Patel?), and Nigerian by-product Kemi Badenoch (Conservative Party leader). NF's argument is that Britain cannot financially afford to pay the Diego rent to Mauritius and the compensation to the Chagos people when the country (Britain) is cutting on its welfare programme and is finding it difficult to grant the annual winter allowance to the elderly.

What will happen when the Conservatives, with the support of Farage, will take over the reins of

power in the UK? In Mauritius, the outgoing MSM government is reported by the present PM and his three allies to have brought the island to its knees economically. This is the reason put forward by Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam as to why the be next PM in bombshell present Government is finding it difficult to meet its electoral pledges.



data boost for Reform UK' Press Cutting: Courtesy Daily Express (UK)

Ramgoolam says that there is no money, the fact is that no one can blame him for stalling in keeping his promises. What will happen when the INCOMING Conservative Government will tell the world that Keir Starmer has brought Britain to its knees, and the economy cannot support such expenses as the annual rent of £101 million to Mauritius and any compensation to the Chagossians? Britain doesn't refuse to pay ... but there is no money.

P.C.

(To continue in next issue)

PORT SUNLIGHT

THE VILLAGE BUILT ON SOAP

By Mylene





If you cross the River Mersey from Liver-pool you will arrive at Birkenhead. Situated on the Wirral Peninsula, Birkenhead is bordered by the River Mersey to the East, the River Dee to the west, and the Irish Sea to the North. The town is home to Birkenhead Park, which is recognized as the first publicly funded park in the UK, and served as an inspiration for the creation of Central Park in New York.

While Birkenhead may not be as well-known as Liverpool in the Merseyside area, it has its own noteworthy achievements. It was the birthplace of Britain's first street tramway and the first tunnel built under an estuary, linking Birkenhead with Liverpool. Furthermore, Birkenhead is associated with the Port Sunlight soap brand.



Each home had its own wash-house. Sunlight soap, flakes and washboard

Before the widespread use of laundry washing powders, liquid detergents, capsules, and washing machines, clothes were washed by hand using a block of soap and a washboard. In 1885, two brothers, William Hesketh Lever (later Lord Leverhulme) and James Darcy Lever established the Lever Brothers company in Warrington. They produced a soap called Sunlight, which became massively popular be cause it used palm oils instead of tallow. It was smooth and smelled nice, unlike other soaps of that time.

Two years later, William purchased land in Birkenhead to build a large factory along with a model village for his workers, naming it Port Sunlight. His intention was to provide his employees with good living conditions and a supportive community.

The Bright Side



Architectural styles of Port Sunlight

Port Sunlight is considered one of the best examples of early urban planning in the UK. It has 800 houses built in different styles, to include medieval, Jacobean, and Queen Anne.

The village is set in 130 acres of landscaped parkland. William also commissioned various

public buildings, including The Lady Lever Art Gallery (in honour of his wife), a hospital, theatre, concert hall, school, fire station and an open-air swimming pool, creating a dream village for his workers.

The Dark Side

As the soap business grew so did the demand for palm oil. To meet this demand the company sought large-scale palm oil plantations in tropical regions and parts of Africa.

This led to the acquisition of land that dis-



Lady Lever Art Gallery

placed local communities and changed how land was traditionally used in these regions. Labour conditions on these plantations were exploitative, involving forced or coerced labour, low wages and poor working conditions. Many workers were not recruited freely.

The surge of European enterprises during this period further contributed to the erosion of traditional social structures in parts of Africa.

While Lord Leverhulme is known for his philanthropic efforts in Britain, he is also connected to the use of forced labour on palm oil plantations.

The present Black Lives Matter protests identified statues and monuments in the UK linked to slavery and colonialism, and Lord Leverhulme's name appeared on that list.

Today, about 2,000 people live in Port Sunlight, where most of the houses are privately owned and where there is still a factory in operation that produces shampoo.

In 1929, Lever Brothers merged with Unie, a Dutch margarine producer and became known as Unilever.



COIN DES CONSOMMATEURS

Incidents extrêmement graves dans une maison de retraite



Claude Canabady, Secrétaire-Général

Exceptionnellement, pour la rubrique du mois, je vais parler des incidents extrêmement graves qui ont eu lieu dans une maison de retraite et le nombre grandissant des accidents de la route qui malheureusement trop souvent sont mortels. Toutes les personnes qui habitent dans le home sont des consommateurs de service et c'est pourquoi, j'ai décidé d'écrire sur le sujet. Malheureusement à l'ile Maurice, trop de fois, on a une réaction suite à des incidents mais on n'essaye pas en premier d'anticiper les dangers et désastres potentiels.

Le Residential Care Home Act date de 2003, 22 ans de cela et comme on peut constater, il y a une augmentation substantielle de la population vieillissante et que de nos jours, beaucoup de familles choisissent de mettre leurs aïeux dans une maison de retraite pour leur quiétude et leur sérénité prenant en considération que ce sont des facteurs primordiales C'est pourquoi, je félicite les autorités et en particulier le ministre de la sécurité sociale d'avoir pris des dispositions très vite pour assurer le bien-être et la sécurité de tous les résidents de cette maison de retraite, suite à ces incidents.. Mais la Consumers' Eye Association va encore plus loin pour anticiper ce que doit être mis en place pour assurer que dans la mesure possible, une situation similaire ne se reproduise pas.

Nos propositions pour tous les consommateurs concernés et leurs familles sont les suivantes :

- 1. Révision de la Residential Care Homes Act 2003 immédiatement
- 2. Revoir le fonctionnement et la composition du Residential Care Homes Board et leurs responsabilités. Ce serait souhaitable si un membre d'une association des consommateurs en faisait partie
- **3.** Revoir les critères qui sont appliqués pour le bon fonctionnement des care homes et la fréquence que les visites d'inspection sont faites.
- 4. Tous les care homes devraient établir et publier les points suivants

dans les plus brefs délais :

- · La philosophie des soins prodiqués
- · Un charter pour les résidents
- Un comité regroupant les parents des résidents et le manager du « care home » qui se rencontrent régulièrement (stipulé par la loi) avec procès-verbal vérifié par les autorités concernées.
- **5.** Finalement une réunion mensuelle qui regroupe le manager du care home et les résidents pour discuter et revoir ce qu'ils/elles souhaitent être mis en place pour leur bien être individuel et collectif avec procès verbale.

Au nom des consommateurs, je dois également féliciter et remercier le ministre Osman Mahomed pour la décision de réintroduire le permis à points et cela aura un effet déterminant pour améliorer la discipline et courber les excès. Le permis à points a prouvé son efficacité dans beaucoup de pays et cela a été une erreur capitale de le discontinuer. L'aspect le plus important du système à points est la possibilité de disqualification pour les conducteurs sous l'emprise de l'alcool et des stupéfiants avec effet immédiat. Cela devrait avoir un effet dissuasif sur les potentiels contrevenants et leurs comportements irresponsables.

Pour conclure, la Consumers' Eye Association souhaite qu'on installe des caméras sur tous les feux de signalisation afin de pouvoir punir les contrevenants qui ignorent le feu rouge et mettent la vie des consommateurs en danger constamment en leur infligeant une amende qui renflouera les caisses de l'état et aussi une perte de points sur leurs licences.

CLAUDE CANABADY
SECRETAIRE GENERAL
CONSUMERS' EYE ASSOCIATION

N'oubliez pas de nous écrire soit par voie postale ou nous envoyer un courriel pour nous laisser avoir vos idées et vos attentes de la qualité de service que vous attendiez des entreprises économiques (détails sur notre site web)

Le « Consumers' Eye Association » (CEA) est une nouvelle association de consommateurs et entièrement à votre disposition pour vous aider dans tous vos problèmes de consommateurs.

Vous pouvez visiter notre site web sur consumers' eye association ou nous écrire sur consumers.eye.association@gmail.com

Veuillez bien noter notre nouvelle adresse d'email. Nous avons aussi une page sur Facebook. Vous pouvez également nous contacter sur le 59743962. Venez nous rejoindre pour mieux défendre vos droits de consommateur car n'oubliez pas que c'est l'union qui fait la force.

Air Mauritius Strengthens Emirates Partnership

A delegation led by the Divisional Senior Vice-President of International Affairs of Emirates Airline, Mr Sheikh Majid Al Mualla, paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, this afternoon, at the New Treasury Building in Port Louis. The meeting aimed at exploring new avenues to strengthen strategic partnership between Mauritius and Emirates.

In a statement, the Deputy President and Chief Commercial Officer of Emirates, Mr Adnan Kazim, who was also part of the delegation, indicated that the meeting with the Prime Minister was cordial and fruitful, adding that it was an opportunity for both parties to discuss the way forward concerning air connectivity and tourism. He underscored the airline's commitment to expanding its presence in Mauritius by consolidating the 23-year partnership between Dubai and Mauritius in air travel.

He pointed out that the existing 15-year agreement between Mauritius and Emirates has facilitated around 8,8



Divisional Senior Vice-President of International Affairs of Emirates Airline, Mr Sheikh Majid Al Mualla's hand shake with Mauritian PM Navin Ramgoolam

million passenger movements. Emirates, he observed, contributed to about 32% of tourist arrivals in Mauritius, thereby bolstering the local economy and boosting the tourism industry.

Noting the increase in the number of flights by Emirates to Mauritius per day, Mr Kazim emphasised the growing demand for premium cabin seats. This, he observed, can give an additional boost to tourism in Mauritius, support star hotels and create more employment opportunities. « We are contributing to more than USD 900 million in terms of direct and indirect investment », he indicated, while highlighting their intention to strengthen collaboration between the two parties and open more new business avenues.

He also listed a number of initiatives that will be taken to deepen the partnership. They include: signing of an agreement with Air Mauritius as a five-year extension to the already existing agreement, and opening of a new retail shop to provide upgraded services to Mauritian customers. An agreement with the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority to attract more tourists in the country will also be signed with the Emirates Airlines, added Mr Kazim. GIS