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Mauritian Overseas Gazette

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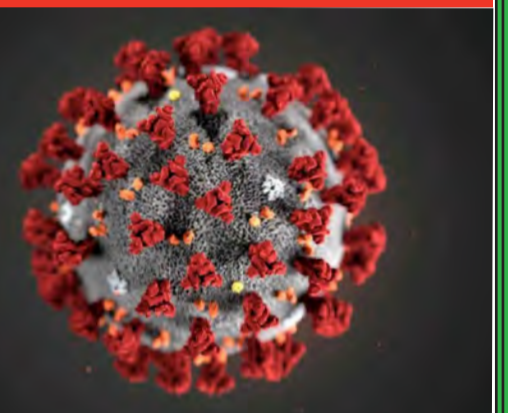
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Female reporter from Afghanistan who teared up over Taliban takeover during Pentagon briefing says Afghan people 'don't know what to do'

Even the Creator sitting & watching in His Heaven does not know what to do. How can he relish so much blood shed in His name?

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The Speaker's dilemma

If there is a problem, what's the solution?

Bravo to the honourable gentlemen and gentlewomen in the Mauritian Parliament who are good role models for the younger generation of the island. Little do they know in what derision they are held by the youngsters of this country, and the sort of nicknames given to them. Swearing is not uncommon in the sanctuary where the people's representatives can say whatever they like without fear of any sanction'

Bravo to the honourable gentlemen and gentlewomen in the Mauritian Parliament who are good role models for the younger generation of the island. Little do they know in what derision they are held by the youngsters of this country, and the sort of nicknames given to them. Swearing is not uncommon in the sanctuary where the people's representatives can say whatever they like without fear of any sanction.

This piece is written, as objectively as possible, taking into consideration that there are no angels in the House from whichever political parties sitting there. In a democratic country, the Opposition of today will sooner or later be the Government of tomorrow and vice versa. They will change seats from right to left and from left to right but the verbiage and acrimony will go on.

Much has been made of that "look at your face" statement from the Speaker of the National Assembly. Yes, there is definitely a dilemma for the man sitting in the hot seat in the Mauritian Parliament.

Mauritius itself is facing a dilemma with a Speaker in its Parliament who speaks, i.e. a Speaker who is not dumb in broad



Speaker under fire

sense of the word, i.e. a Speaker who can make use of his voice, on the one hand, and a man who is not stupid on the other hand, as the word dumb is also defined in the English language

In the past, there was usually only one leader of the Opposition in the House to reckon with. Today, there are several of them: Arvind Boolell of the Labour Party, Paul Bérenger of the MMM, Xavier Duval of the PMSD, and Nando Bodha of the new RM (Rassemblement Mauricien). Extra Parliamentary Opposition is made up of Navin Ramgoolam (actual Labour leader) and several activists like Roshi Bhadain of the new Reform Party, Rama Valayden, ex-promoter of MR (Mouvement Républicain), Bruneau Laurette (Party yet to be constituted), Percy Yip Tong, and the etceteras. On the other hand, there are elements of the hostile press to contend with, plus the hordes of knowledgeable facebookers in Mauritius and abroad.

Comparing the attitude and the delivery of Speakers of previous eras it is believed that they were better tempered. But Speakers of former times did not have to face such an army of grieved leaders sitting in opposite armchairs. If we take for instance a Sir Harilall Vaghjee (Labour appointee) of the 1950s facing capitalist MPs of the likes of a Jules Koenig and all, it could be said that the Legislative Council of the time was very much a gentlemen's club. The Assembly today has reached such a level of degradation and vulgarity that it can be said that the wrong message is being sent to the younger generation. It may be inferred that in the National Assembly



Former Speaker Mrs Maya Hanoomanjee kept on her toes by recalcitrant MPs

it is right to behave like hooligans at a football match. The Speakers of yesteryears were free from the social media postings where a lot of provocation is generated by a lot of 'con tout' people. While progress in communication is always welcomed it must be admitted that abuse can also be made by those who want to create chaos.

The Speaker of the modern era is seen as an enemy whose authority should be challenged. This view is endorsed by a lady caller who said on a private radio phone-in session, the authority of the Speaker is constantly under attack by the Opposition parties. The caller mentioned the tribulations of Maya Hanoomanjee as Speaker in the previous government. She was frequently disrupted by the Opposition and even by members of the Government. One can remember when members were making use of their mobile phones in the House even during sittings. Unruly and out-of-control were the so-called Honourable members. Mrs Hanoomanjee had to call to order members from both sides of the House. Roshi Bhadain was once ejected, and at one point she even had to ask Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth to withdraw the unparliamentary language he had used towards former chum Roshi Bhadain, who had moved over to the other side of the House. There were some MPs who wanted the Speaker Maya Hanoomanjee to be removed at the time.

There is nothing under heaven. But the situation is now getting worse in the Mauritian Parliament with the Honourable members becoming more uncontrollable. While trying to maintain a modicum of decency in parliamentary debates, the Speaker has become extremely unpopular among the fragmented Oppositions. There is an outcry from among the lot for the Speaker to be removed from Office by the PM. There is even speculation that he may not come back when Parliament resumes in October next.

The fragmented Opposition parties are a desperate lot who, on the one hand are still cannot accept their defeat at the last election, on the other find it hard to wait for the remaining four years to go to the polls for an opportunity to come to power.

One of the radio callers argued that the Speaker should not dismiss MPs who have been elected by the people to sit in Parliament especially as the Speaker has not himself been elected by the people to be there. In the same vein it may be asked if it is correct for the MPs to make a mockery of their mandate and to walk out as they do, so frequently. It may be argued that they have been elected by the people to sit in Parliament and not to sit on the pavement. If MPs have a right to walk out when it takes their fancy to do so, should not the Speaker have the right to exercise his authority to expel them when they challenge his call to order and whenever they make a nuisance of themselves in the House. Walkout protests are practically only known in Mauritius and not anywhere else in the world.

Again, one caller said during a radio phone-in that the Speaker perhaps meant to tell Honourable Bhagwan to look at his own face as he looked drunk himself when he (Bhagwan) arrogantly asked the Speaker whether he was drunk. This is not the sort of language expected of an MP, the PM pointed out in an answer to a question from the press.

It could well be that the Speaker, when provocatively asked by Honourable Bhagwan whether he was drunk, stopped short of telling him "shut your face" and preferred to use a language that was less rude in telling him "look at your face".

Shaddap Your Face

Honourable Bhagwan who has a skin condition, vitiligo, took no offence himself when told by the Speaker to look at his face but it was the league of Opposition leaders who took up the cudgels to tell the PM that the Speaker that should resign. Outside Parliament former Parliamentarians, hostile to the government, have taken exception to the Speaker's remark to say that even under provocation he should not lose his cool and to engage in a shouting match with an MP. There is here a possible gap in the legislation as to who can bring the Speaker to order. The Opposition factions are having a field day at the expense of the Government.

For his defence, the Speaker said that he uttered the expression "Look at your face" as a joke. This reminds us of that song of the 1980s, 'Shaddap Your Face', which was a rather funny melody. It can still be heard on the internet. But the Speaker cannot afford himself the luxury of saying anything in jest. Appointed by the ruling majority he is being taken to task by the Opposition determined to skin the government alive and put paid to its mandate.

The post of Speaker is not an enviable one. The holder can generate a lot of acrimony in the discharge of his responsibilities. Following in the Westminster style of government the Speaker is appointed by the majority party. Yet, he may even incur the wrath of members of his own party as was experienced by the outgoing House of Commons Speaker John Bercow. Appointed by the ruling Conservative Party he became la bête noire of the Conservative MPs who could not stand him.

In Mauritius there have been suggestions that the post of Speaker should be elective in the same way that an executive

President is elected in some countries. An elective Speaker could be an answer to the assault on the tenure of his office.

Former Infrastructure Minister Nando Bodha who moved over to the Opposition benches in February last and constituted his own party, the Reform Movement, has made suggestions for constitutional reforms to be introduced in Mauritius. He argues that a Prime Minister should not hold office for more than two terms. Because there is so much impatience on the part of the Opposition to get back to the polls soon after a general election, Mr Bodha may as well preconise that the life of a parliamentary session should be reduced from five to three years. Two terms of three years each should be adequate for a Prime Minister to implement the programme of his government.

Because there is so much bad blood and endless bickering during the life of a parliamentary session that it may be advisable to introduce a system of referendum to gauge the nation's reaction on any topic on which there is a general outcry leading to unrest. The Opposition no longer wishes to allow a government, put in place by the people, to deliver in accordance with its promises to the electorate. We have now in Mauritius an Opposition that is totally desperate for power. Certain issues could be decided by referendums, e.g. the present issue concerning the Speaker. Instead of all the tantrums within and outside Parliament people could say whether he should go or not. Public demonstrations could become useless if the silent majority was given a chance to have its say and express itself in frequent ballotings.

A Proactive Institution

One thing that can be said of our Parliament is that it is a proactive institution, very alive with a lot of energetic people when in sittings of course. Under the scrutinising of the tv camera, few would use it as a bedroom for an occasional nap. If they do, they would soon be woken up by the sudden outbursts that take place frequently in the House. No, the Mauritian Parliament is certainly not a dormitory.

There was a time when some Mauritians enjoyed taking the mickey out of people of the Seychelles. Today, it's people of that island who have a joke at our expense. Even the country's President could not resist to crack one regarding the behaviour of our parliamentarians and infer that the Seychellois MPs have a better code of behaviour in their legislature. But the Seychelles President's remark may be taken as a compliment to the Mauritian MPs as being kicking and alive. After all, that the explanations the Seychellois President gave to questions asked about his recent observations on the Mauritian Parliament.

With a lot of tension created by politicians, by the activists and by some newspapers' editorials in Mauritius there is a feeling that the country is sitting on a powder keg that may explode at any time. Poussé à l'outrance by these elements, there is fear of a political revolution taking place during one of those marches and public demonstrations. There have been lots of criticism against the authorities from marching politicians, activists and sections of the press when every precaution was taken in the past to prevent any débordement by the protesters

Here, a pleasing anecdote will not be out of place: Among the marchers and demonstrators, some Mauritians who have spent their lifetime overseas could be spotted. One such fellow, more unhappy about the political party in power than the economic development of the island, said to an interviewing tv broadcaster "I thought I had returned to Paradise". Well, the poor fellow did not know he was in Paradise. Having spent all his working life overseas and having never paid a single cent of tax to the Mauritius Inland Revenue, for being over 60 years of age, he is being paid a princely sum of Rs9,000 per month as old age pension. Together with his wife they receive Rs18,000 per month. In December, they receive the double sum of Rs36,000. Is not this country a paradise to that fellow? Even in England, old age pension is contributory via the National Insurance Contributions, and it's now payable from the age of 66 and not from the age of 60 as in Mauritius. What a culot to say he thought he was coming to Paradise.

We intimate once more that the purpose of this piece is not to throw mud on any political parties nor on the politicians themselves voted by the people to represent them in Parliament. We say it again that we do bear in mind the fact that the Opposition of today is the Government of tomorrow, and vice versa. The MPs will simply change places and new activists will crop up when change will become inevitable. Yet, the drama will go on. Yes, they are not angels sitting on either side of the House. They will fight on and the electorate will continue to get hot under the collar, whichever party is in power!

Cyril Louis



National Assembly deserted by fatly paid Opposition, en bloc

The National Assembly frequently boycotted, en bloc, by Opposition MPs who reckon they have the right, though elected by the people to sit, to walk out as they like, and still get paid.

POLITICS - EARLY 60s

THE BEST LOSER SYSTEM IS A MUST



By
Eliézer François

Everything that's old must go, is the general feeling. In that respect, many hold the view that the Mauritius Constitution, handed over to the country some 60 years ago by the colonial masters prior to letting the island loose, should be reformed. One provision that causes the new generation a some qualm is the Best Loser System (BLS).

Mauritius being a multiracial country, the British did not want to let go unless there was absolute guarantee that each community could feel safe in an independent Mauritius. So the Mauritian delegation, brought to Lancaster House in London to talk about the steps forward, agreed to the introduction of the Best Loser System. By this arrangement, communities who do not obtain adequate representation in the National Assembly through the general election, can have their 'losing' candidates with the best number of votes nominated as MPs to strike the right balance of representation in the Assembly. It is a formula that has worked well since it was introduced for the first time at the 1967 General Election prior to independence.

During the turbulent political period that precedes the Independence of Mauritius, there was a great apprehension of hegemony expressed by the minority ethnic groups - Creoles, Whites, Muslims, Chinese etc.

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, leader of the Labour Party with his allies Bissoondoyal, IFB and Mohamed, CAM were campaigning for Independence, whereas Koenig and Duval, Leaders of the PMSD, campaigned for an Association with Great Britain.

The contest between the Pro-Independence and Pro-Association groups was rough and tough, often carrying the country on the brink of racial clashes. Tension was high in the air. And, violent racial explosions could have occurred at anytime due to the existing fear, suspicion and mistrust in the country.

LONDON CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE 1965

Fortunately, thanks to the participation of technical advisers from the British Government and other experts on constitutional matters, the Mauritian Political Leaders meeting in London finally reached a compromise: The Best Loser System (BLS).

"The essence of politics is compromise", says Macaulay. No doubt, the task of the participants – Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, Sir Harold Walter, Sir Satcam Boolell, Jules Koenig, Sir Gaëtan Duval, Sookdeo Bissoondoyal, Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed at the London Constitutional Conference, had not been an easy one.

They however allowed Understanding, Common Sense and Wisdom to guide them in reaching their final decision. Mauritius, because of its diversity

and specificity, is in need of a specific Electoral System like the BLS.

"Je connais les raisons pour lesquelles ce système a été introduit. L'histoire a démontré que nous avons raison," Sir Anerood Jugnauth, *an extract from Le Mauricien, Lundi 24 septembre 2012.*

Mouvement Authentique Mauricien (MAM) verily believes that the BLS is 'A MUST' for the General Population, the Muslims and the Chinese.

One must not forget that the BLS has also been applied in the case of the nomination to the National Assembly of Sir Kher Jagatsingh, Motee Ramdass and Ravi Yerigadoo, all three, members of the Hindu Community.

The Electoral Commission is empowered to do the needful in regard to a minor change, just as it did after Gaëtan Duval had stood as a candidate in four different constituencies at the General Elections in 1982. Since then, no other cheat 'Froder Elektion' can stand as candidate in more than one constituency at an election.

BANWELL – ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Banwell recommendations (among others) – 20 constituencies in Mauritius returning 3 members each, and Rodrigues 2 members.

At the same time Banwell divided the population into 4 sections: Hindu, Muslim, General Population and Chinese for electoral law purposes.

The final proposal and actual electoral system is based on Banwell recommendations and modified by Stonehouse.

THE BEST LOSER SYSTEM

(a) "BLS was designed to provide "balanced" ethnic and political representation."

(b) "The Best Loser System is a method used in

There has been for some time now from among the some newer elements of the nation, including from among the minority groups, a sort of campaign for the country to rid itself of the Best Loser System on the ground that it encourages sectarianism. They find it objectionable that parliamentary candidates should specify their ethnicity on their electoral registration application forms. As pointed out by the article below the objectors seem to know better than the old guards who advocated for the introduction and application of the BLS.

Somewhere else in this issue it is suggested that in its constitutional reform advocated by the Rassemblement Mauricien leader Nando Bodha, Mauritius should have provisions for public consultations by referendums to find out if the abolition of the BLS would be acceptable by the majority. Mauritius should not be found in a position where a handful of countrymen should dictate their idiosyncracies on the whole nation.

P.C.

Mauritius to make sure that the minority ethnic groups are well and equitably represented in the parliament."

(c) "The Best Loser System was set up long ago to prevent political tension in the country..."

COMMUNALISM IN MAURITIUS

Can the movement 'Resistans ek Alternativ' eliminate communalism in Mauritius? We all should face reality and stop acting like hypocrites, like white sepulchres.

What we desperately need in Mauritius is a change of mentality. Until that can happen, I will tend to share the view that "As long as Mauritius exists, communalism will exist." (*Mauritius Times 21-27 March 2008.*) – Yousouf Mohamed.

Finally, there is nothing wrong with the BLS; it has helped to prevent political tension in the country and to maintain peace and harmony among the various ethnic groups after an election.

According to MAM, the status quo of the BLS should be maintained, except for a very minor change by the Electoral Commission.

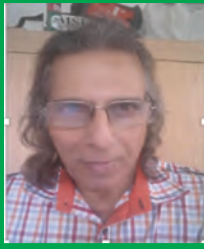
In fact, the country needs No Electoral Reform, No Proportional Representation, No Senate, No Assembly of 90 Deputies, No Party List System in order to make that change, and at the same time, satisfy Resistans ek Alternativ, in line with the UN Human Rights Committee's recommendation.

However, if the Electoral Commission implements that change that would allow Resistans ek Alternativ not to state their ethnic belonging in their nomination forms, the Electoral Commission should automatically exclude them from any allocation of the Best Loser seats.

Eliézer François JP
Leader MAM

This article has also been forwarded to Mauritius Times by the author.

Paedophilia, Teenage Prostitution, Schoolgirl Pregnancies



By
Ahmad Macky

Because of the numerous paedophilia incidents, schoolgirl pregnancies, and teenage prostitution recorded in the outer island of Rodrigues, Ahmad Macky has sent us, as a reminder, the article below which was published in the local Sunday Times in September 2017. We trust that the weekly will have no objection of its reproduction in our column to find out to what extent its contents are still relevant today in Mauritius.

Human Trafficking in Mauritius

Many Mauritians do not know what's going on behind the walls of our luxurious cities! According to such report a different standard and type of civilization in ghetto areas of Mauritius does exist such as abusive treatment of women and children, exploitation of workers, poverty and modern slavery.

'Eradicating human trafficking' is the struggle of Florence Boivin-Roumeshan, responsible for the Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) on Justice and Equity which fights against human trafficking on the black Continent. She collaborates within the NGO for the launching of a campaign on this issue recently. This human trafficking has rightly been denounced in the last trafficking report of the United States where Mauritius is concerned in this field.

"This news reality in Mauritius goes beyond what is denounced" maintained Florence Boivin-Roumeshan. How does she know? In fact, as a militant she has conducted several enquiries on the ground whilst in Mauritius for about a month. Besides, the American state is not going to elaborate on too many details without tangible proof but only publishes a few hints. However, several facts could not be proved because they were hidden, she explained.

Forced labour and prostitution are not the only problem Mauritius is facing, insists Florence Boivin-Roumeshan. She quotes an example about immigrant workers who are employed on the black market run illegally in certain remote part of the island. "We have the interviews of those immigrant workers recorded." The militant Boivin-Roumeshan confides that she has also got access to certain reports of complaints made to the police as well as access to dossiers and files of various lawyers and trade unionists who collaborate with the NGOs.

"The problem of forced labour and abusive treatment of people is quite true. Everybody is aware of it but they don't talk about it" She affirmed. According to her, traders who are involved in the business are well aware of the situation. "When I talk to certain traders of fabrics and other clothing at 'la rue La Corderie', they describe a catastrophic situation".

There exist also, according to her, forced prostitution of women and young girls by their families. This situation is well known in certain regions of the island and is often connected to drugs, she alleged. But the biggest problem, according to Florence Boivin-Roumeshan is the complete omission or absence of regulation concerning the adoption of Mauritian children by foreigners " We have noted that many cases of adoptions are not done properly in accordance with legal procedures and are being done in doubtful conditions. This has been going on for many years." said Florence Boivin-Roumeshan.

She reckons that if Mauritius has only recorded a very slight drop in the human trafficking business, it is because nothing has been done to stop such trafficking for many years. Beyond this trafficking of humans, she warns that it is the economy of the country itself that risks being affected if no action is taken. We all know that a country like England has voted the Modern Day Slavery Act, meaning that such country prohibits the import of products made by forced labour as we have in Mauritius.

What the American report reveals on Mauritius regarding human trafficking is shocking. In 2019 the country passed to the second position under surveillance because it does not align on the elementary norms against human trafficking. The country is a destination which is a place of transit for men, women and children victims of forced labour and sexual trafficking. Adolescents mainly young girls coming from Rodrigues also are forced into prostitution.

The construction sector employs about 3,700 workers. Some of the workers are victims of forced labour. Mauritius does not respect the elementary norms in so far as the elimination of human trafficking is concerned. The authors of the report recognize that Mauritius is not doing any effort to combat human trafficking. The Ministry of Labour, according to a spokesman is taking the matter in hands. Poverty is augmenting in various outskirts of Mauritius and these together with massive unemployment are creating pockets of ghettos where drugs addictions are taking place.

Sunday Times

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The Rodrigues Newsletter

From Paul Draper,
Port Mathurin



Hello,
Greetings once again from Rodrigues.

Here, we are in our winter and with the strong anti-cyclones passing to the South of us and going from West to East, we get storms and very chilly and windy weather. In Mauritius they recorded 8C at one time - the coldest recorded temperature on the Island, I believe.

Covid News

In Mauritius, there is still, at the same time of writing, a measure of 'lockdown' where the number of active positive cases at present is around a thousand three hundred. However, it is recorded that less than fifty of those have any symptoms at all, and there are only a very few cases that require medical assistance. The number of deaths is also extremely low with only a few being added to the 10 who died during the first outbreak in April last year.

The Government in Mauritius has decided, along with a lot of other countries, to maintain the easing of the lockdown with an intensive vaccination campaign with over 60 % of the population now being protected against the virus with two doses of vaccine.

The International border was partially opened on July 16th but many restrictions on quarantining were maintained and there was no great rush of visitors coming to spend their holidays in Mauritius. The next stage in the opening of international borders will be end of September.

In Rodrigues, the airport is still closed except for a few repatriation flights. Post has been slowly arriving, and this is mainly shipped over from Mauritius on the 'Black Rhino' supply ship.

There are still, up to now, no cases of Covid-19 here, but at the end of September the borders between Mauritius and Rodrigues will open for travellers, and the International borders also, with all the implications.

Vaccination

Vaccination is now offered to all the population of Rodrigues, and there is sufficient vaccine available for the population, so we are informed.

Here at Care-Co and the GPL Special Educational Needs School, we are particularly appreciative of the special attention that has been paid to us by the Commissions of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. We have been able to participate in the Solidarity Markets thanks to the

Commission for Trade & Commerce. We have been given chain link fencing to make by the Commission for Youth and Sports, and the Commission for Social Security has given us the opportunity to help with the distribution and repair of Wheelchairs on the island.

We have also been offered assistance to upgrade and improve the conditions in the premises of the GPL Centre along with the improvements which were sponsored by the Emtel Communications Company as part of their CSR programme.

This is all very encouraging and the GPL Centre is now back to full swing with all the 60 or so children coming each day in transport provided by the government.

We also hear that the Commission for Agriculture will engage in Forestry policies which highlight the planting of 'useful' trees and plants as well as the indigenous plants campaign that has been pursued so far. Melliferous trees and plants will be given priority and beekeeping will be encouraged. This gives our beekeeping and honey production a hope for the future.

Honey

The Care-Co workshop is however, very quiet at the moment and most of those who are employed there are engaged in improvements to the premises, and preparing our beekeeping department for the next season when more bee colonies can be raised. The garden where we plant our own melliferous trees and plants gets a lot of attention too. The soap making proceeds and Birgit, our manager, finds sales are quite good locally. Furniture painting and other improvements are a daily activity.

Unfortunately, our annual participation at the UK National Honey Show has had to be put off once again, as international travel holds too many risks and uncertainties at this time. So, Nicodeme and Peddy who are due to have the trip have to be patient for yet another year.

Many of our raw materials which we have shipped over from Mauritius are in short supply there, and prices have risen sharply due to the global increase in freight rates and also the depreciation of the Mauritian rupee against major 'hard' trading currencies.

Food prices have managed to stay stable for essential items due to the initiative of the Mauritian Government to subsidise essential food items. Shopkeepers and wholesalers can apply for the subsidy which they are expected to carry over to the consumer.

Paul

From Prega Vencatasawmy's F/B posts

The Four Masson brothers

A personal assessment

by Prega Vencatasawmy

Mauritius occupies the unique distinction of producing not one but four artists in one family, Loys, Hervé, André and Lucien, all in one generation! And also they can trace back their ancestors through Abraham Masson who came to Mauritius during the first batch of French settlers of 1715-1810.

Recently, I have been poring over their contributions in the literary world and, believe you me, it is one heck of a contribution to be immensely proud of! The leader of the pack, of course, is Loys who burst into the literary scene in France under the most difficult times during the German occupation.

It is not given to everyone coming from Mauritius to be the Editor of Les Lettres Françaises and at the same time being in the company of Louis Aragon and other illustrious writers in the literary arena!

Loys established himself as a unique writer whose works bear the stamp of his country of origin, Mauritius, in a very unmistakable way. His works, fortunately, did not fester exoticism like other Mauritian writers at that time. On the contrary it shows a Mauritius replete with full political and social disturbance, and social inequality. I challenge you to read 'Le Notaire des Noirs, Les Noces de la Vanille, l'Etoile et la Clé etc etc.

What makes this, all the more, interesting is the fact that he comes from a privilege background! He was a key observer of the political turmoil and social unrest that were gripping the country and, on his unique style, let this permeate through his works. His books garnered many literary prizes in France but, sadly, died a premature death at the age 54. Last but not least, Loys' works were published by prestigious Robert Laffont, Pierre Seghers and others!

By the way, Loys tried many forms of literary art: the novel, poetry, theatre and essays. The adulation of his works (if I can put it that way!) must have had a great impact on budding writers in Mauritius desperately trying to emulate him! By my own reckoning only one writer managed to do that, the iconoclastic Malcolm de Chazal. Sens plastique dazzled the surrealist in Paris!

Then, there is brother Hervé, a very well known painter who made it big in Paris and indeed in many capitals in the world. He was also very steeped in esoteric and occult world, publishing some books dealing with that subject. Recently there has been a resurgence in his paintings and many of his works are sought and bought at very high prices in the Art world. One must salute his daughter, Brigitte, on her endeavour in organising and disseminating the paintings of her late father, especially in the recent celebration of his centenary anniversary.

André Masson was very good writer in his own right, publishing novels and theatre plays dealing with mysticism and philosophy and at the same having his works marketed by reputable book companies, Calmann Lévy etc. Before that, he was a journalist on the island, churning out very interesting articles and his gift as a polemicist in newspapers for the Mauritian public!

Lucien Masson, a sculptor, also was a very important artist.

So I strongly believe that the Masson brothers must be revered and celebrated (in the literary sense) for the mere fact that they all achieved international status in the literary world and, in that respect, making Mauritius proud of.

So to reiterate my early point it is not given to any single family to produce one but four artists in the same generation of international repute, but the Masson just did that! Hats off to them for this unique feat! A very tall order to emulate!

Mauritian Criminals convicted by Snaresbrook Crown Court, East London

As reported in our Issue No 8, three of the four Mauritians, namely Sandeeren Mareemootoo (known as Jason), Ylliana Hengary and André Allen Vencatesin, (President of the UK Chagos Council based in Crawley) have been found guilty of the alleged fraud, abuse of trust, kidnapping and sequestration by the Snaresbrook Crown Court. Sentence will be passed in November next. Lambeth Sols of London represented the victim, late Mrs Marie Norga Anodin, who was allegedly robbed of some £25,000 and tortured by the criminal gang.



IS OPEN!

15 July - 30 September

VACCINATED GUESTS

- * Enjoy a hotel holiday in one of our certified COVID-19 safe hotels. You can book through your tour operator, travel agent or direct with the accommodation
- * Relax on the beach and use the hotel facilities
- * You will need a mandatory PCR test at the airport on your day of arrival.
- * Depending on the length of your stay, you will also need a PCR test on day 7 and 14 of your stay.
- * After a negative PCR test on day 14, you are free to go and explore the island

UNVACCINATED GUESTS

- * You must book a quarantine stay in an official quarantine hotel, which includes meals and transfers.
- * You will need to stay in your hotel room for 14 days and meals will be delivered to your room
- * You will have a PCR test on your day of arrival, day 7 and day 14
- * After a negative PCR test on day 14, you can freely explore the island and move to new accommodation or to your home

Explore the island

OCTOBER ONWARDS

Full opening of the island

Fully vaccinated travellers will be allowed entry subject to a negative PCR test 72 hours prior to boarding

Relax on the island and explore attractions throughout your holiday

LEARN MORE

Ts & Cs apply. Dates subject to change. Visit MPTA travel advice page for full details.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS APPLY

Source: Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MPTA)

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Anusha & Jon James Show on Vertex FM

By Yvonne Goder



Anusha & Jon James

Anusha & Jon James Show on Vertex FM was founded by Jon James who has put together an online radio and magazine.

Jon James, British-born of St Lucian origin, works alongside the very beautiful and talented Anusha.

Anusha was born in Cardiff, Wales to a Mauritian mother and Sri Lankan father and is a singer/songwriter based in the UK.

The team works well with Jon James' hardwork ethics and Anusha's presenting skills, they have managed to interview Sway, Maverick Sabre, Misha B, DJ Fresh, Wretch 32, Melissa Steel & Kiesza to name a few.

They have interviewed over a hundred music artistes between them and for an independent online radio and magazine, funded completely by themselves, this is beyond impressive. Their interviews can be accessed at <https://soundcloud.com/jon-vertex-james>

Anusha studied for a Politics degree in London. So as well as being extremely beautiful and talented she is also intelligent. At the time, she met Chris Patrick who started Anusha on the road of becoming a professional performer and music artiste.

She enjoyed success of two RnB/Pop singles in 2008 and 2009. Her first single 'Are you Ready', was listed the Music WeekCharts and remained on the MTV Base charts for 10 weeks.

Her second single 'Have it All' gave Anusha a chance to support acts like Shayne Ward in his UK Arena tour and she played hundreds of venues across the country until this project ended in 2009.

Anusha then travelled to embark on a journey of enlightenment and spirituality. On her return she played 'Kayal' in feature film 'Gangs of Tooting Broadway' and began hosting numerous events across London with Kroft Management whilst co-hosting a radio show on Vertex FM.

The 'Anusha and Jon James Show' enabled Anusha to fuel her passion for music and an opportunity to interview some amazing music artistes.

Mauritian Overseas Gazette wishes Anusha and Jon James the best of luck as well as Anusha's solo music career at which she has been working on a steady and progressive pace over the years.



Beautiful Anusha born in Cardiff, Wales, to a Mauritian mother and Sri Lankan father

She definitely has built a good rapport with music artistes whilst presenting on the show and we hope this can be of an advantage to her.

Vertex FM plays a wide range of music from R&B, House, Drum & Bass to Afro beats and can see more on their website at <http://vertexmagazine.com>

Happy Birthday, Jordan



Congratulations to Abdool Sahid Emambux (Jordan to friends), of Croydon who had a banquet for his 67th birthday on 9th August. Great supporter of the Mauritius Football Competition (UK). Favourite team: Cosmos FC.

The two girls believe they are twins



A picture to bring warmth to your heart!

4 years old Jia and Zuri are convinced they are twins, and they tell everybody so.

Source: The Net

Crying over spilt milk



He was welcomed like a 'Messie' in France, and like a Prince at the Parc des Princes, with a pot of gold thrown in his lap. What is he crying about!

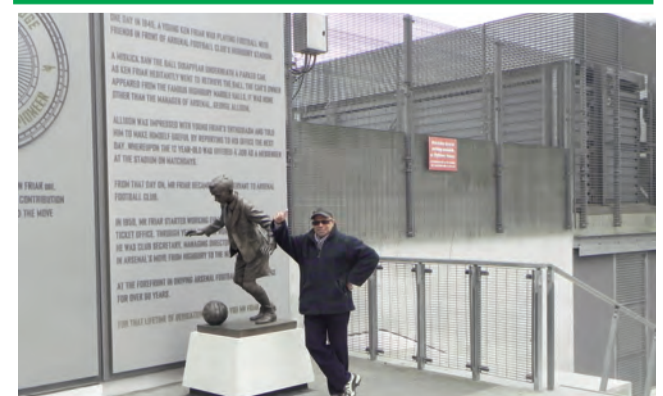


This statue of Princess Diana, when unveiled, did not receive the general approval of the British people. Firstly, it is not a true likeness of the Princess, and perhaps of Marble, it would be more appealing.



The Talibans have won

Please show mercy on the children. Many children have been killed



I'll have to bring back my support to the Emirates. Arsenal beaten by a newly-promoted team (P.C.)