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Mauritian Overseas Gazette

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A totally independent platform

Views expressed by contributors are their own

from Rasputin to Putin!
From the Rasputin era under Tsar Nicholas II to Putin via Stalin,
the Russians have known nothing but dictatorship. What a wonderful world!

Happy Mother's Day! celebrated in March or in May?

In UK, Mother's Day falls on 27 March 2022
while in Mauritius it's commemorated on
20 May 2022



While Mother's Day is observed in more than 50 countries around the world, not all of them do so on the same day. Many people follow the official date set by the United Nations, which falls on the second Sunday in May, while others observe their own traditional holidays.

Israel is the first country to celebrate this spe-

cial day on February 1, while Indonesia is the last on December 22, with the rest falling somewhere in between.

This is why many mothers living in Mauritius who have children in the United Kingdom are pleasantly surprised to receive two sets of presents a year. This year, they can expect flowers from Britain on March 27 and again on

Sunday 29, May 2022.

In the end, it doesn't matter when or how you celebrate Mother's Day, what matters most is that we remember that it is a special tribute to our mothers and the gift of motherhood.

Mylene

International Day of the Forest

Prime Minister inaugurates the Belle Vue Forest Trails at Daruty



The Prime Minister, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, accompanied by other personalities, proceeded on March 20, with the inauguration of the Belle Vue Forest Trails at Daruty, Petit Raffray, to mark the 2022 International Day of the Forests. This year's theme is Forests and sustainable production and consumption. The Belle Vue Forest Trails at Daruty has been chosen as the ideal place to mark the event by connecting the people with forests. The aim is

planting ceremony and undertook a trek along the Belle Vue Forest Trails accompanied by other personalities.

Daruty Forest Trails

The Forest Trails are situated at Petit Raffray in the North and are crossed by the Vale Road (B12). The forest is mostly composed of

to create awareness and visibility of the planted forests in Mauritius and the unique destination it offers for nature lovers and those seeking peace and tranquillity.

A pamphlet was also launched on that occasion following which the Prime Minister proceeded with a tree

planted exotic species of commercial value that played a significant role in the development of Mauritius in terms of employment and supplying timber to the forest industries involved in providing raw materials to the construction, livestock and agricultural sectors.

The Daruty forest extends over an area of 108.22 Ha, comprising of various botanical species giving an immersive experience of the history and beauty of Mauritius's natural environment with its mature flowering trees (Tabebuia pallida, Swieteniamahagoni, Cordia alliodora, Gmelina arborea, Vitex glabrata, Juniperusbermudiana, Eucalyptus tereticornis, Araucaria cunninghamii, Eucalyptus citriodora, Agathis robusta, Cassia siamea, Dalbergialatifolia). The site also harbours the vestiges of an earlier model of a sugar mill of colonial times.

The Daruty Forest Trails are appealing in terms of ease of trek and are flat in nature. The lack of water accumulation on the tracks are ideal for young and old alike to trek over a multi looped circuit that appeals to people of every fitness level.

GIS

Logement Social

Réplique d'Éliézer François à un journaliste



Un journaliste avait demandé à Éliézer François les questions suivantes concernant le logement social à Maurice pendant qu'il était ministre du Logement sous SSR:

* *Merci de me préciser la période pendant laquelle vous avez été ministre du Logement?*

* *Quelle était la situation à l'époque et (nombre de personnes sans logement, nombre de personnes locataires et ayant des difficultés pour joindre les 2 bouts etc) ?*

* *Quelles sont les mesures que vous avez prises pour adresser les enjeux du logement?*

* *Pensez-vous que logement et ethnies soient reliés à Maurice?*

* *Quel est selon vous la pertinence de la dimension d'un logement pour une famille composée, par exemple d'un couple et de 2 enfants?*

* *Pourquoi, selon vous, les habitants de certaines ensembles résidentielles, n'arrivent pas à décoller socialement?*

* *Avez-vous une idée de la dimension des mai-*

sons (si nous pouvons les appeler ainsi) des camps sucriers de l'époque?

La réplique de M. François se trouve dans la déclaration suivante qu'il fit parvenir au journaliste.

Préambule

La Politique

La politique, au début, n'a été qu'un accident dans ma vie. J'ai commencé à faire de la politique pour combattre une Grosse Injustice contre ma famille, six semaines seulement après la mort de mon papa en 1962. À la veille de la fête Divali, le gouvernement d'alors avait jeté sur le pavé notre famille d'une façon cruelle, arbitraire et inhumaine pour la construction de l'autoroute M1. Cependant, comme Edith Piaf, dans cette chanson que j'aime beaucoup, je dirais : « Non, je ne regrette rien » Non, je ne regrette pas d'avoir fait de la politique qui me permet de combattre les Injustices sous toutes ses formes. Non, je n'ai pas de virus politique comme pourraient penser certains. Mon combat, le combat du MAM, c'est un combat pour la Justice. Je me sens inspiré par les paroles du roi Salomon dans Proverbes 31 : 8,9 - « *Ouvre ta bouche pour le muet, juge avec justice, et défends le malheureux et l'indigent.* »

Often, I ask myself the question; why am I still in politics? If as I say, 'Politics has been an accident in my life.'

Each time, I seem to find the answer in king Solomon's wise teachings:

"You should defend those who cannot help themselves. Yes, speak up for the poor and needy and see that they get justice."

Also, in the writings on the wall, inside Flacq District Court:

"Defend the poor and fatherless. See that such as are in need and necessity have right. Keep the simple folk by their right. Defend the children of the poor and punish the wrongdoer."

This is what I have been doing all my life, and still am striving to do.

LOGEMENT SOCIAL

Logement

Dans presque tous les pays, quel que soit le gouvernement du jour, le logement est considéré comme un des problèmes prioritaires, si ce n'est 'Le Problème.' Depuis les temps immémoriaux l'homme a toujours eu à chercher refuge contre le soleil, la pluie et d'autres intempéries naturelles. Que se soit une tente, une cahute ou une villa ; que se soit une cabane, une case ou un château, nous les humains en avons tous besoin. Et, pour beaucoup de familles mauriciennes, le problème logement demeure la priorité de toutes leurs priorités.

Cyclones Alix et Carol

Coïncidence ? Intuition ? Inspiration ? Oui et non ; je n'en sais rien.

Mercredi 24 février je suis allé à la Bibliothèque Nationale pour me documenter sur le passage dévastateur des cyclones Alix et Carol en cette année fatidique 1960. Ceci, après avoir lu avec une grande anxiété la déclaration de Marie-France Hyppolite, une habitante de la Cité EDC à Rivière Noire : « Nous vivons dans des maisons cercueils. » Cette déclaration a été publiée dans 5-PLUS du 21 février. En tant qu'un ex-ministre du logement dans le gouvernement de Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, je n'ai pas pu rester indifférent à ce cri de détresse. Donc, j'ai lu avec un intérêt particulier l'article sur le cyclone Carol qui a paru dans Week-end de ce matin.

En janvier-février 1960, Alix et Carol semèrent la désolation et la consternation parmi toute la communauté mauricienne. Ils ravagèrent tout sur leur passage et affectèrent « les couches sociales les plus diverses :- la très riche, la riche, la moins riche, la classe moyenne, le prolétariat. » Ce fut une véritable catastrophe nationale. Alix causa la mort à 7 personnes et envoya 14,370 autres dans les centres de refuge. Le nombre de maisons détruites s'éleva à 20,000. Quant au cyclone Carol qui s'abattit

sur l'île un mois plus tard, il laissa derrière son passage 39 morts et 48,755 sans-abri dans les centres de refuge. En quelques semaines plusieurs milliers de 'Longères' furent construites à travers le pays pour reloger les sinistrés. Pour la première fois à l'île Maurice une décision fut prise pour le lancement d'un vaste programme de reconstruction en béton. Par ailleurs, la délégation ministérielle dirigée par Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam qui se rendit à Londres se montra favorable à la construction de maisons préfabriquées pour abriter les 21,000 familles sans logis après le passage d'Alix.

Maisons CHA et EDC

Vu l'ampleur de la catastrophe que l'île Maurice n'avait pas connue depuis le terrible désastre de janvier 1945 et la pénurie de logements qui en résulta, le gouvernement était contraint d'agir vite. Il fut alors décidé de construire en masse des maisons CHA et EDC partout à travers le pays, dans le but de reloger les sinistrés et soulager leurs misères.

Asbestos - L'Amiante.

Les Cités EDC de Rivière Noire, Grand Gaube et d'ailleurs furent construites avec des plaques composées de l'amiante. En 1960 personne ne pouvait se douter que l'amiante était un produit toxique ; un produit cancérigène qui représentait un danger pour la santé. Même du temps où j'étais ministre du logement dans le gouvernement de Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam 1976-1982, le danger de l'amiante n'avait pas encore été détecté ni à Maurice, ni ailleurs. Autrement, j'aurais fait démolir toutes les maisons EDC et les faire remplacer par d'autres, car la santé des occupants et l'environnement, doivent primer toutes les autres considérations.

Néanmoins, depuis que je suis retourné de l'Australie, je ne cesse de tirer sur la sonnette d'alarme contre le danger de l'amiante dans les Cités EDC à Grand Gaube, Rivière-Noire et ailleurs. Je l'ai fait à travers des meetings publics, des articles dans les journaux, des conférences de presse et des émissions sur les Radios Privées. J'ai même cité des cas en Australie et ailleurs où les autorités concernées ainsi que des compagnies privées ont dû payer des compensations aux victimes de l'amiante ou à leurs parents, après leur décès.

Il faut que le ministre du logement, Abu Kasenally, que j'ai rencontré récemment à ce propos réagisse vite. Le ministre s'est montré sympathique lors de notre rencontre, car il est conscient de ce grave problème qui affecte la santé de beaucoup de personnes. Nul à Maurice n'a le droit d'ignorer les cris d'angoisse de Marie-France Hyppolite, Jean-Michel Lahache, Christina Deise de Rivière Noire et ceux de la Veuve Marie Amédée et d'autres de Grand Gaube qui habitent les Cités EDC. Ces cris se résument en ceci : « Nous vivons dans des cercueils. Ce n'est plus possible. », Marie-France Hyppolite. « Pour la santé de nos enfants, nous souhaitons nous battre. », Christina Deise. Toutes deux de la Cité Rivière-Noire. Oui Christina, battons-nous tous contre cette grosse injustice. Ensemble, et à la mémoire de ce grand fondateur des « Compagnons Bâtisseurs », M. Edwin de M. Edwin de Robillard, après le passage des cyclones Alix et Carol, bâtissons- nous de nouvelles maisons dans les Cités EDC.

Minister (1976 – 1982)

As Minister of Housing, Lands, Town and Country Planning, I was privileged and blessed to have, in my ministry, a real 'A Team' to work with. The task was daunting and very challenging; we had to build 40,000 Low Cost Housing for the cyclone Gervaise victims. Crown land had to be found quickly and new building sites identified to enable my ministry to meet the needs and requirements of the cyclone victims that included "this exploited, abused, oppressed and underprivileged section of the population," (the Creoles).

CHA houses were built all over the island, both in rural and urban areas. In regard to Port Louis, I personally got involved in activating the construction and allocation of houses in regions like Camp Yoloff, Plaine Verte, Vallée Pitot, Tranquebar, LaCure, Ste. Croix, Roche Bois etc.

Under my leadership as Minister of Housing, the Central Housing Authority became 'un vrai arc-en-ciel'.

When I became a Minister in 1976 -

· Mr. Webb was promoted to the position of General Manager of the CHA;

· Mr. Benoît Arouff was appointed as Chairman. I nearly resigned as Minister because of the opposition of one or two of my Cabinet colleagues to the nomination of Benoît Arouff;

· My PAS was Mr. Toofany, his assistant Mr. Dulloo;

· My Chief Surveying Officer was M. Rault, his assistant Mr. Derblay;

· My Chief Planning Officer was Mr. Danjoux, his assistants were Mrs. Saha and Mr. Tirvengadam;

· My Personal Private Secretary was Mrs. Ip Chee Fong;

· My Special Adviser on Housing was Mr. Brown;

· My driver was an ex-Docker, Floricourt Perrine, of Ste. Croix;

· The personnel of the CHA, both clerical and manual, were composed of Muslims, Creoles, Hindus, Tamils and Chinese. Of course, many Creoles were appointed as Foremen in order to uphold the balance of ethnicity representation at the CHA. New houses were built and allocated to all those

who were eligible, regardless of ethnicity. Crown land was identified upon request to meet the demands of all religious and socio-cultural organisations, namely Hindus, Muslims, Tamils, Telegus, Marathis and Christian denominations.

Comme ministre du Logement, des Terres et de l'Urbanisme, j'ai eu le privilège de diriger plusieurs missions à l'étranger. En Europe et en Lybie. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam voulait que la délégation ministérielle que je dirigeai en Afrique du Sud, persuade le gouvernement Sud Africain d'acheter notre thé, mais j'avais aussi pour mission en tant que ministre du logement et chef de la délégation ministérielle de solliciter une aide financière pour la construction des maisons pour les victimes du cyclone Gervaise.

Mon ministère avait construit plusieurs proto types de maisons sur les terrains de la couronne à travers l'île, comme à Roche Brunes des maisons PADCO, des Core Units ou Maison Évolutive.

Pour répondre à vos autres questions, je dirais :

Deux chambres à coucher, si les deux enfants sont du même sexe. Autrement, trois chambres à coucher, une pour les parents, et une pour chaque enfant.

Ils sont pauvres et appartiennent à cette catégorie qu'on appelle des familles défavorisées ou démunies.

En ce qui concerne la dimension des logements sociaux, je pense que ce genre de logement en 2022 doit pouvoir se composer de trois chambres à coucher, un petit salon (véranda), une cuisine, une salle de bain et une toilette (offrant un minimum de confort).

Quant aux maisons des camps sucriers, je dirais qu'elles ont servi leur époque, elles sont maintenant dépassées.

Éliézer François JP

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Rodrigues News

*from Paul Draper
 Port Mathurin*



Hello, and welcome to my NEWS from Rodrigues

A lot has been happening on Rodrigues since my last News and of course the events I will now relate, affect all the members of Care-Co and also all the Children and staff of the GPL Centre in one way or another.

First of all Covid

In the 30 days since the first case of Covid infection was reported on Rodrigues on 26th January there has been a rapid spread of the Virus on the island and a further 8343 cases in total have been reported to the authorities. The number increases daily but slowed down slightly last week.

Remember that Rodrigues was Covid free for the two previous years of the pandemic.

This number of cases reported includes me, as I tested positive on Feb 24th and about 50% of our Care-Co employees have been tested Positive.

We are all on medication and self-isolating for 7 days and happily only showing mild symptoms.

Regional Elections

The Regional elections for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly were postponed because of the health situation but then held on Sunday February 27th.

The turnout was the lowest ever for a Rodrigues Regional election, but at 77.17% was considered good in the circumstances.

Although some potentially eligible voters may have been hesitant to risk going out to vote, and others (like myself) who were not able to do so because of being tested positive for Covid and thus having to isolate.

The final results were announced on Monday 28th February, after the calculation and allocation of the Proportional seats.

It was a very close result and somewhat unique in that the 'winners' are a grouping of all the opposition parties into two Alliances who have agreed to a joint electoral deal and claiming 9 of the available 17 seats.

The outgoing ruling party won 6 seats and were allocated 2 more proportional seats.

So now we have a new Regional Assembly in Rodrigues with a one seat majority, but have

yet to see how and to whom the various posts will be allocated, and what, if any effect this will have on the functioning of Care-Co and the GPL Centre.

Weather & Storms.

Rodrigues has been spared the effects of a serious cyclone so far this season, but the effects of the Pandemic in the outside world and locally has brought the Island's economy to almost a standstill from which it will be difficult to recover quickly.

We will have to wait to see what the new Regional Administration will decide for the re-opening of schools and Special Needs Centre's, realizing that this will not be their sole concern and pre-occupation in this unique and new situation for the administration of Rodrigues.

The airport is still closed and the borders with Mauritius and the outside world are still closed at the moment.

This is, and has been affecting life on the island for the past two years, and we, like the rest of the world are waiting and hoping that a new normal will begin to emerge.

Greetings from us all at the GPL Centre and Care-Co (Rodrigues)



No photo can beat this one on Women's Day !

This picture shows women's power in India. Unfortunately, there are instances of ill-treatment of women in the country. Gang-rape of young girls is a favourite pastime in certain parts of India.

Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth rightly said on Women's Day that women should be respected and not be seen an object of pleasure.



Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II takes place from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June 2022

The monarch's reign has reached 70 years. She has been on the throne of England from 1952 to 2022

70 limited chocolate eggs have been issued for the occasion and I am fortunate to own one of them. I am number 36 of the 70, says MOG UK correspondent Yvonne Godersand



Happy Days Celebration in Japan



From Mylene

Japan celebrates a wide variety of commemorative days, many of which have been adopted and adapted from other cultures and giving them their own unique twist. Christmas, Halloween, Easter, and more recently, Valentine's Day.



On February 14, it has become customary for women to give chocolates to the men in their lives. That's right, women give chocolates to men. Father, brother, spouse, coworkers, and friends. Given with a smile, but no one believes that all are given with affection, so there are words to differentiate between the two. Giri-choco (obligatory chocolate) and honmei-choco, for romantic partners.

How unfair, I hear you say. But, wait for it. A special day has been created for men to repay the favour. It's known as White Day and falls on March 14. There is an unspoken rule that a bigger, more expensive gift is expected in return. From jewellery to lingerie to fine dining. The expression, 'using a shrimp to catch a fish' is widely used to convey this idea.

When it comes to profiting from a fun or solemn event, no one can deny that Japanese businesses have the Midas touch. Thanks to their ingenuity and imagination, a whole new culture has emerged, dictating what to eat, drink, wear, do, and say on these auspicious days. The end result, an increase in sales.

However, it's not just about the money. Gift-offers, family gatherings, outings, and having fun are all part of the mix, providing a welcome break from the monotony of daily life.

Here are a few examples:

Doll Festival: (March 3) Also known as, Girl's Day. In late February, families decorate their homes with a doll display. These dolls, dressed in traditional court costumes, represent the emperor and empress, as well as all their attendants. Many of these displays are ancient and beautiful, having been passed down through the maternal line.

Girls dress up in pretty kimono and pay a visit to the shrine. Chirashi-zushi, a colourful rice dish made with a variety of ingredients, as well as several kinds of sweet treats, are on the menu. According to superstition, the dolls should be put back in storage on March 3, or their daughters may marry late, or not at all.

Eel Day: Yes, there is a day designated for eating eels. Forget jellied eels. The traditional method is to glaze the eel with a soy-based sauce, then caramelize it under a grill and serve it on top of steamed rice. Eating this delicacy has become a summer tradition, and despite



Carp flying on Children's Day

the lack of scientific evidence, it's said to provide energy in the oppressive heat.

Children's Day: (May 5) In honour of children. When this day approaches, colourful fish-shaped flags are hoisted up and swim through the sky. These carps represent the men in the family. As a tribute to strong and courageous young men, some homes display a miniature Samurai armour and helmet. Popular snacks include rice cakes wrapped in bamboo or kashiwa oak leaves. It might sound a bit one-sided, but the girls had their own special day on March 3.



The goodies in shops for the Girls Day

Tanabata: (7 July) This event, which is also known as the Star Festival, will appeal to our romantic side. According to Chinese legend, on the seventh day of the seventh month, two stars, Altair and Vega, which are normally separated by the Milky Way, are able to come together. People write their wishes down on a piece of paper and hang them up on an improvised bamboo tree.

Marine Day: (July 18) People come together to connect with the sea through special events and activities held at national aquariums, schools and in local communities.

Mountain Day: (August 11) Another chance to raise awareness about the environment. Over 75% of Japan's land surface is mountainous which is ideal for mountaineering and trekking. However, if mountainous terrain isn't your thing, you might enjoy soaking in an outdoor hot spring while admiring the natural beauty around you.

With sixteen bank holidays and a slew of other celebrations spread throughout the year, you could say, they know how to work hard and play hard in Japan.

Yo-i-chi-ni-chi-o!
(Have a nice day)

Friends of Mauritius News who have left us



Marc Grégoire and wife Léonilde

Marc Grégoire passed away at Clapham Junction, Battersea, South London on 22 February 2022 at the age of 94, a fortnight short of his 95th birthday on 4 March.

On his 80th Birthday, when the picture on the left was taken, he wrote an article in Mauritius News "Why am I young at 80." Yes, Marc was a dynamic fellow-countryman. When I first knew him in Mauritius, he was a bicycle mechanic at the Mauritius Telecom Department in Port Louis. Already on the way up, he was with such elite as Marcel Cabon, a founder member of the Cercle Rémy Ollier. By the time he retired from active employment he was a qualified Senior Accountant at Harrods in West London.

Marc's beloved wife, Léonilde passed away in December 2017.

"Chez les Grégoire on reçoit bien." was a well-known saying among visitors from Mauritius holidaying in the UK. Their doors were always open.

Marc was a contributor to Mauritius News from the early days of the publication. Marc and Léonilde were dear friends of ours.

Guy Saide (left) ...



... With Paya Chetty (right) at Mauritius News office on Wandsworth Road, London.

We are deeply moved by the passing of Guy Saide of Wallington, Surrey, on 17 March at the age 83. Guy and his late wife Christiane were great supporters of Mauritius News with whom we developed a lasting friendship.

Guy was a policeman in Mauritius before emigrating to the UK in the 1970s.

BINGEING ON JAPANESE FILMS

By Prega Vencatasawmy (UK)

Dear friends,

This article has been gestating in my mind for a while and I was mulling over how to string it together for a reasonable write-up.

Being a movie buff I wanted to expand my spectrum of knowledge and appreciation of Japanese Cinema by going to repertory cinemas (specialised in showing classic or notable old films) dotted around London. My first interest started with the legendary Akira Kurosawa with his famous *Seven Samurai* (later remade in Hollywood as *The Magnificent Seven*) and many more.

In the UK there were some cinemas who would screen Japanese films. As far as I can remember, they were In the Electric Cinema on Portobello Road, Notting Hill, the Ritz, a 1911 cinema in the heart of Brixton, the Everyman Cinema, built as far as 1933 in the heart of posh Hampstead and, of course, the iconic British Film Institute.

There were many film lovers and hardcore enthusiasts flocking to see them. It was more or less a niche market that catered and entertained for that category, quickly increasing!



For me, born in Mauritius, I only read about Japanese films, and this was a golden opportunity to view them. I would use every available occasion and time to travel across the length and breadth of London to see them. I was thrilled to bits and my hunger grew unabated and I socialised with other film lovers, and that is important, accessing film magazines, newspapers and journals.

My favourite Japanese film director is the unique Kenji Mizoguchi with his classic *Ugetsu*, a tale depicting the struggle of two peasants and another masterpiece, *Sansho the Bailiff*. Kenji Mizoguchi, well known for his stand for women, impresses with his elegant long takes, allowing the camera to glide and hover slowly like a ballet over his actors and some magnificent low angles shots.



Of course, Akira Kurosawa, arguably the most celebrated, was the first director to plunge me head-on into the Japanese film industry. I watched classics like *Seven Samurai* (later remade by Hollywood as *The Magnificent Seven*), *Rashomon*, *Yojimbo* and many others. Many actions and sequences were meticulously calibrated and the end product was sheer magic on the screen to the delight of the fans! His *Throne of Blood*, a transposition of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* in medieval Japan, made in gritty *Black and White*, is a masterpiece of high calibre putting to shame many films made about *Macbeth* in the west!

Yasujiro Ozu, the director of the 1953 classic *Tokyo Story*, is a poignant story of an old couple coming to visit their children and grandchildren in the metropolis, Tokyo, only to find that they are busy and occupied and the visit goes sour. This film is directed with great compassion, shot in black and white with the camera, in typical low angle shots, tracking and observing in keen details the couple's great sadness and pain of their children not connecting with them! *Tokyo Story* brings tears to my eyes reminiscent of some old Indian films!

Finally, the iconoclast experimental film maker, Nagisha Oshima from the new wave Japanese directors made a visually stunning masterpiece. In the realm of senses, a ghost story with an *amour fou* for its center, was heavily censored and banned! The film deals with death, eroticism and a sadomasochistic theme.

There were scenes too graphic to show, especially a woman infamous for asphyxiating her husband in a ritualised love making! He also directed, *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence* in 1983 which based on a British soldier (David Bowie) and a captain in the Japanese army played by the Japanese idol and singer, Ryuichi Sakamoto.

Japanese films and its techniques are known for its carefully balanced framing and compositions with the predominantly low angles takes. They import lots of theatrical elements from Kabuki theatre and incorporate them. Costumes, props and sets. There is an absence of obtrusive editing commonly used in the west! Some of the Japanese genres are Yakuza films about the mobster, Samurai films dealing with strict code and ethics of the Samurai. *Shomingeki* portrays realistic common working people. Zen philosophy theme is common in those films.

To wrap up, I became quite obsessive about Japanese films, bingeing on them and I particularly like Kenji Mizoguchi (my favourite) Akira Kurosawa, Yasujiro Ozu, Nagisha Oshima, Kon Ichikawa, Shohei Imamura and many others. They enhance my knowledge and passion for their films, at the same time I had to deconstruct and toss in the bin many films in my viewing repertoire! Tough choice!

Finally, there is a special Japanese director, Hiroshi Teshigahara who made a cult film, *Woman in the Dune* in 1964 which won the special jury at Cannes Film Festival. The film has got a woman trapped in an open sand dune. It is spooky and I will spare you the gory details on Halloween!

Merci chers amis SAYONARA

Unveiling of special 'train-wrap' sponsored by Air Mauritius



The unveiling of a special 'train wrap' under the theme 'Proudly Mauritian' to mark the National Day celebrations, was held on 12 March at the Metro Express **Victoria Urban Station** in Port Louis. This special 'train wrap' was sponsored by the country's airline, Air Mauritius.

Present on this occasion, the Chief Executive Officer of the Airports Holdings Ltd, Mr Ken Arian, indicated that the 'train-wrapping' was part of a national campaign that Air Mauritius was launching in line with the celebrations of the 54 years of independence and 30 years of the Republic of Mauritius.

This event, he stated, also marks a collaboration between two transport services, the Air Mauritius and the Metro Express Ltd, which according to him, will help improve the visibility of the country on both local and international level.

Air Mauritius, he added, has been at the service of the country and the population during the COVID-19 pandemic for the repatriation of citizens, supply of basic necessities, the transportation of vaccines, medicines and medical equipment.

The campaign, he said, will also give a boost to Air Mauritius for the relaunch of its activities especially to other travel destinations such as South Africa, India, Europe, La Réunion and Kuala Lumpur, and consequently give Mauritians the possibility to travel more.