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Mauritian Overseas Gazette

Truth
&
Trust

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A totally independent platform

Views expressed by contributors are their own

Dear God, be good to me,
The sea is so wide and my boat is so small.
— Breton fishermen's prayer



Women cooperatives urged to use e-marketing for increased sales of products

The maximal use of e-marketing methods by women cooperative societies to promote the sales of their products was highlighted on May 19 by the Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Mr Soomilduth Bholah. He was speaking at the

opening of a two-day workshop focusing on e-marketing for women cooperative societies at the National Cooperative College (NCC), Bois Marchand, Terre Rouge



Minister Soomilduth Bholah

The workshop, a joint initiative of the Ministry, the Mauritius Women Entrepreneurs Cooperative Federation Ltd, and the NCC, is seeing the participation of around 40 participants. It

aims to elaborate on methods to improve the quality of products, increase competitiveness, and create platforms to promote the sale of products.

In his address, Minister Bholah commended the progress made by women cooperative societies in their entrepreneurial activities while emphasising that there were 85 registered women cooperative societies in the country with over 950 members. He reiterated Government's support to continuously provide assistance to women cooperative societies in their endeavours.

He further pointed out that e-marketing facil-

ities has shown its efficacy during the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore called upon women cooperative societies to continue to evolve with the use of e-marketing methods. To this end, he observed that the training would act as a facilitator to bring forth e-marketing strategies which would help to bring added value to their businesses and increase their visibility.

The resource person, Mr Kaviraj Rookny, an expert in e-marketing, spoke of the importance of e-marketing to promote the sales of products of women cooperative societies in this era of connectivity.

GIS

Maintaining Mauritius's relevance and competitiveness on international market

Against a fluid and rapidly-evolving global financial landscape, the introduction of this new enhanced automated platform will further liberalise and modernise our capital market ecosystem to maintain

our country's edge, our relevance and our competitiveness in the international marketplace.

This statement was made by the Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance, Mr Mahen Kumar Seeruttun, at the launch of the Stock Exchange of Mauritius's (SEM) brand

new Automated Trading System (ATS), "Avento" and its state-of-the art online trading app, mySEM, yesterday, at the Labourdonnais Hotel, Caudan Waterfront, in Port Louis.

Minister Seeruttun highlighted that with the launch, we are moving the exchange to an influential investment posi-

From Page One

tion poised to play a key role in the country's financial architecture. "The natural consequences of such innovative development for policy-makers and market players is the contribution of the capital market to our country's economic development and ultimately to wealth creation for our people," he pointed out. Furthermore, he emphasised that the imperative for the country is to remain at par with global best practices and front-line developments in technology and business models and, in so doing, this will take to another level the evolution of the Mauritius International Financial Centre as a business-friendly and conducive environment for investments and reinforce our position as a trustworthy facilitator for investments into Africa.

Minister Seeruttun also dwelt on the support that is being given at the level of his Ministry to provide the necessary enabling legal and regulatory environment for the Exchange to pursue its internationalisation strategy as the aim is now to open Mauritius even more to the world by allowing international brokers and custodian banks across the world to connect to our platform at a mere click.

These include: building bridges with the world and inviting more players into the system; stimulating competition in the domestic market; providing new business opportunities to the Global Business sector for their growth-seeking clients to fund their expansion through a SEM listing and; raising capital in different international currencies and asset classes.

As regards the ATS, Minister Seeruttun indicated that this system will allow SEM's Surveillance Team to pick up in real-time alerts relating to market abuse, manipulative practices and other irregular trading activities, thus, greatly assisting the Financial Services Commission in its supervisory role. The new sys-

tem, he stressed, allowing enhanced surveillance, comes in to strengthen our resolve and ability to maintain our reputation as a clean and trusted International Financial Centre.

As regards the mySEM app, it can be accessed from a basic smartphone and, as such, allows investors to follow the market real-time, order real-time as well as login to Central Depository and Settlement Co. Ltd (CDS) accounts and access interactive charting of a company's shares over one year. "With the appropriate education, mobile-based trading will definitely help make the stock market more accessible to the public and pursue Government's vision of building a nation of Investors, an Inclusive Mauritius leaving nobody behind," the Minister stated.

For his part, the CE of SEM recalled that this new ATS comes after 21 years after SEM made history by becoming the first Exchange in Africa to set up a fully automated Exchange platform from trading to clearing and settlement.

This change, he declared, comes due to several factors, including a generous grant given to us by African Development Bank (AfDB) to fund the implementation phase of the system; the relentless drive to innovate, embrace new state-of-the-art technology so as to better service our stakeholders, investors, issuers, regulators, data vendors and; so that Avento facilitates SEM's pursuance of its differentiation and internationalisation strategy.

Avento, Mr Benimadhu underscored, will give a new impetus to this internationalisation strategy on several fronts, namely: enhancing SEM's attractiveness as a listing and trading platform for Exchange Traded Funds; setting the stage for international brokers to connect to SEM platform as remote members and attract more international order-flows to our market, creating thereby the space for enhanced liquidity; opening the door for the SEM to enter the derivatives space and plan for future mar-



Minister Mahen Seeruttun

ket development of new products, including futures and options on foreign underlyings; ensuring real-time market surveillance of market activities and promote enhanced market integrity as it comes with a full-fledge state-of-the-art surveillance system, called Clarity and; bringing the stock market within the palm reach of the retail investor in Mauritius as Avento comes with a brand-new high-end and state-of-the-art on-line trading app, the mySEM app.

In addition, he pointed out that the SEM has been chosen among seven African Exchanges by the AfDB to be part of an African Exchanges Linkage Project, which will integrate these exchanges through technology with the aims of ensuring better financial integration in Africa and enhancing secondary market liquidity on African Exchanges.

On this score, Mr Benimadhu indicated that Avento will facilitate this integration process for the SEM and create space for more global order flows to converge to SEM's platform from the other African Exchanges.

GIS

The Mauritian Guy Fawkes?



Jean-Raquel Jolicoeur arrested at his place at Roche Bois on May 3 on suspicion that he intended to blow up the Mauritian Parliament. On the right are weapons, ammunitions and dynamite sticks allegedly seized at his house on his arrest.



The National Assembly, also referred to as Parliament



April Reviewed

by Pearlshka Burrun

Torrential rains again in the news

Torrential rains (flash floods) were again in the news, and even if they did not reach the peak of 375 mm of rain recorded in Riche-en-Eau (in the Grand Port District, South East of Mauritius) in 12 hours on April 16, 2022, they did water the whole island.

Several regions found themselves with more than 100 mm of rain (such as Mon-Bois, St-Félix, Wooton and Mare-aux-Vacoas in the Grand Port district in the range of 200 to 250 mm since Friday April 1), prompting the Vacoas weather station to extend until the morning of April 3 the warning of torrential rains.

Covid-19 impacts on inflow of money

With the Covid-19 pandemic which had a serious impact on the inflow of money, Mauritius had to borrow heavily to meet its obligations.

The Annual Audit Report of the National Audit Office highlighted: "In 2020/21, borrowings ranked first as a source of Government revenue and constituted some 47% of total revenue". This represents, in figures, Rs135.3 billion, not counting Rs55 billion to Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd (MIC) from the Bank of Mauritius.

Fact-Finding Committee's report on dialysis patients kept secret

The non-publication of the Fact-Finding Committee's report on the dialysis patients who died at the Souillac Hospital at the start of the second wave of Covid in Mauritius, arouses incomprehension, anger and frustration among relatives.

The relatives are not in a position to complete «leur deuil», while the Ministry of Health argues about the need to preserve patient confidentiality.

Soft launch of Phase I of the Victoria Urban Terminal

Thousands of visitors, despite the bad weather, moved around the new complex at the soft launch of Phase I of the Victoria Urban Terminal (VUT), following the conversion of the old and disused Mauritius Railways Central Station at the Victoria Square in Port Louis. Victoria Square itself had for a long time been used as a terminal for buses operating from Port Louis to the south of the country.

The visitors described the new terminal as "friendly, warm and modern". They appreciated that the developers, Victoria Station Ltd, had succeeded in their bet to transform the southern bus station of Port Louis into a modern public utility terminal, which is part of the urban regeneration of the capital.

Status quo for prices of petroleum products

To maintain the status quo on the prices of petroleum products, which is a good thing for consumers, the government acceded to a request from the Standard Trading Corporation (STC) for a loan of Rs4 billion.

The purpose of this loan was to avoid the Petroleum Pricing Committee (PPC) from applying, for the third consecutive time, the maximum rate of increase to 10%. The applicable of the litre of gasoline has risen to around Rs67.

(Editor's note: the PPC has been compelled to recommend a further 10% increase, and the litre costs Rs74.10 from May 19.)

AHRIM for a fully open destination for tourists

As regards the opening of borders, to facilitate the entry of tourists, the Association des Hoteliers et Restaurateurs Ile Maurice (AHRIM) affirms that the country is "not yet a fully open destination for tourism".

In the process, the hotel industry, with debts of Rs53.6 billion, pleads for a one-year extension of the moratorium on the repayment of capital to banks.

New requests to MTCSL from GRA

Mauritius Turf Club (MTC) – also known as the Mauritius Turf Club Sport and Leisure Ltd (MTCSL) – has been the organising body of the horse racing events in Mauritius for some 210 years (from 1812).

A conflict has arisen for a while between the MTCSL and the newly-created Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA) mostly on a matter of procedures while the Mauritius Government is adamant that all new regulations are intent to prevent illegal betting and the black money transactions. The country had for a while been blacklisted by some international institutions for money laundering. Owing to this conflict the horse racing season which was to start April seems to have been delayed for good.

It has been reported that, surprised by the speed with which the MTCSL responded to its demands for information, the GRA sends a series of 12 new requests for information. These fresh requests are allegedly aimed at "buying time" and embarrassing the MTCSL (concerning, in particular, the new structure of the board and the accounts audited to June 30, 2021).

It is believed that at least two alternative candidates to organise the horse racing are known in circles close to the public authorities.

Flash floods hit Plaine Magnien

As a result of the torrential rains, several houses and courtyards in various places in Plaine Magnien, south east of Mauritius, were flooded. Furniture and electronic equipment were damaged, and barnyard birds were destroyed.

The residents of the area were quick to identify the source of the problem. The construction of the DBM industrial park on 'wetlands' had been filled in. The accumulated water from recent rains deviated to private yards and flooded homes as the natural outlet was blocked after the filling of the swampy area. Subsequently the Grand Port District Council, which granted the building permit, issued a Stop Order prohibiting further construction work.

A stalwart of the Mauritian press passes away

The founder of Week-End and CEO of the group Le Mauricien Ltée, Jacques Rivet, occupied the front page of his weekly (created in 1966) announcing that he died on Sunday April 10.

The edition of April 17, 2022 of the weekly devoted its pages 3 to 5, its central spread, and its page 54, to pay homage to Jacques Rivet. This was a well-deserved tribute to the man who had been able to fructify the legacy left to him by his illustrious father, Raoul Rivet. His remains were laid to rest beside his father's at the Western Cemetery in Port Louis.

On the way to the cemetery, the coffin of Jacques Rivet, like that of his father's on November 30, 1957, passed in front of the premises of Le Mauricien at the mythical address of 8, St Georges Street in Port-Louis.

BoM operates single largest intervention on foreign exchange market

The Bank of Mauritius achieved a real feat by initiating procedures to operate the 'single largest intervention' on the foreign exchange market by injecting Rs8.6 billion (\$200 million), which must have caught speculators of all stripes off guard, including the Grand Argentier (The Chancellor of the Exchequer), Mr Renganaden Padayachy himself.

Mr Padayachy had, the day before, denounced the practice of currency 'hoarding' in response to the leader of the opposition: "Until now, apart from some - and here I want stress on it - who are trying to speculate on the value of the rupee and who are withholding foreign currency in their accounts, and that is why you have banks who refuse to sell them foreign currency, but, in general, the Central Bank is in the process of supplying the currencies."

Prime Minister in India for 'ground-breaking ceremony'

The Prime Minister, Pravind Jugnauth, travelled to India this Sunday, April 17 as the guest of honour of his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi for the 'ground-breaking ceremony' of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar, in Gujerat.

The ceremony took place on Tuesday, April 19 in the presence of the Director General of the WHO, Tedros Ghebreyesus, before participating in the Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit 2022 in Gandhinagar on Wednesday. The Summit was followed by a highly anticipated face-to-face between Indian President Modi and Mauritian Prime Minister Jugnauth where several issues of common interest at bilateral and multilateral levels were discussed.

Postponement of municipal elections from June 14

A proclamation signed by the President of the Republic, Prithvirajsing Roopun, based on section 12 (A) (1) of the Local Government Act 2022, with the Covid-19 pandemic as a backdrop, justifies a new postponement of municipal elections from June 14.

Prime Minister Jugnauth ironically says that this extension of the mandate of the five municipal councils of the island and their city councillors may allow the disparate opposition parties time to settle their differences and make a common front for these regional polls.

Riots in a dozen localities in protest against escalating consumer prices

Serious incidents occurred in a dozen localities including Camp Levieux and Roches Bois on the night of Friday April 22 to Saturday April 23. Three participants were arrested, including Darren the Activist. One demonstrator was shot and injured, 13 police officers were wounded. The protest was against escalating consumer prices.

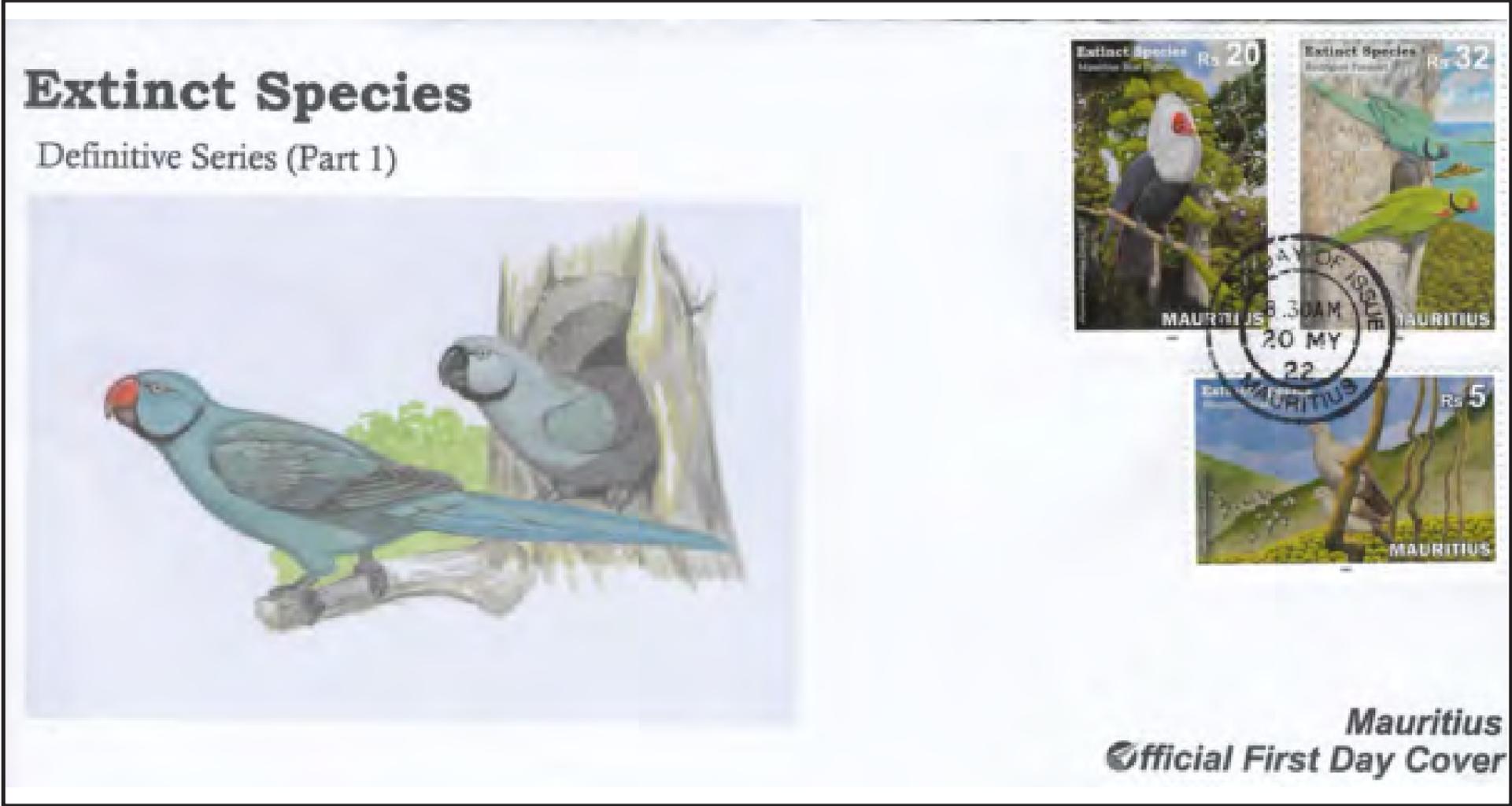
There was a unanimous call for calm from the highest level of government, Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth who was on official visit to India, and the religious leaders of the country who pointed out that violence and destruction lead to nowhere.

Conspiracy behind the localized riots according to government

At government level, there was allegation of a conspiracy with regard to the localized riots that took place in the night of April 22.

Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth from India did not hesitate to accuse those behind this unrest of wanting to revive the infamous Kaya episode of February 1999. Deputy Prime Minister and acting Prime Minister Steven Obeegadoo affirmed that it was a conspiracy well prepared and organised in advance.

Stamps of Mauritius



Extinct Species

Definitive Series (Part 1)



The first three postage stamps in the Definitive series on Extinctive Species are being issued this year o 20th May 2022. Six other postage stamps will be issued along the next two years in batch of the three with respective designs on extinct species as well.

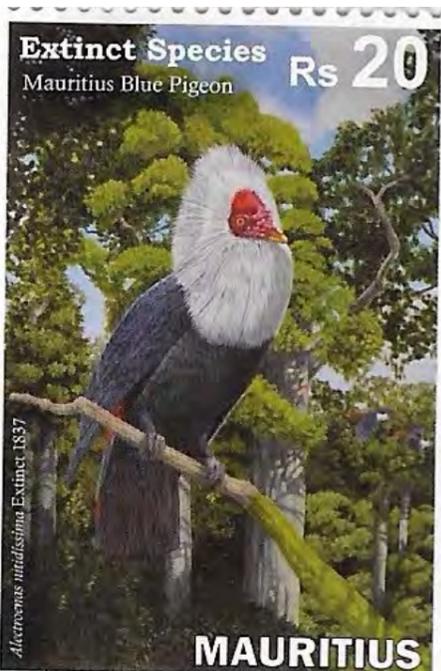
These three postage stamps are being issued in the context of the World Biodiversity Day which is celebrated on 22 May. The stamps depict extinct pigeons and parrots from Mauritius and Rodrigues. The Mascarene islands of Mauritius, Reunion and Rodrigues were once home to a great diversity of pigeons (10 species) most notably the giant, flightless Dodo “*Raphus Cucullatus*”, and a number of endemic parrots (8 species). With no mammalian predators to contend with, the pigeons and parrots were inherently tame, and some occurred in

great flocks numbering many hundreds. When humans first settled in the early 17th century, the birds were fearless and could simply be knocked out of the sky with sticks or grabbed with bare hands. Almost all parrots and pigeons disappeared rapidly, due to a combination of over-hunting and deforestation, and only two species survive today. The Pink Pigeon (*Nesoenas mayeri*) and Echo Parakeet (*Psittacula eques*), both endemic to Mauritius, narrowly avoided extinction because of intense conservation efforts.

Rs 5 - Mauritius Wood Pigeon *Columba thiriouxi*

Pigeons and doves were mentioned on numerous occasions by visiting mariners and settlers, but little information was provided about the number of species involved. The fossil record shows that at least four species were present. One of these, the Mauritius Wood Pigeon was the smallest Mauritian pigeon and mostly arboreal. According to reports, it once occurred in large numbers. But disappeared by the 1730s due to excessive hunting and deforestation.

Rs 20 – Mauritius Blue Pigeon *Alectroenas Nithidissimus*

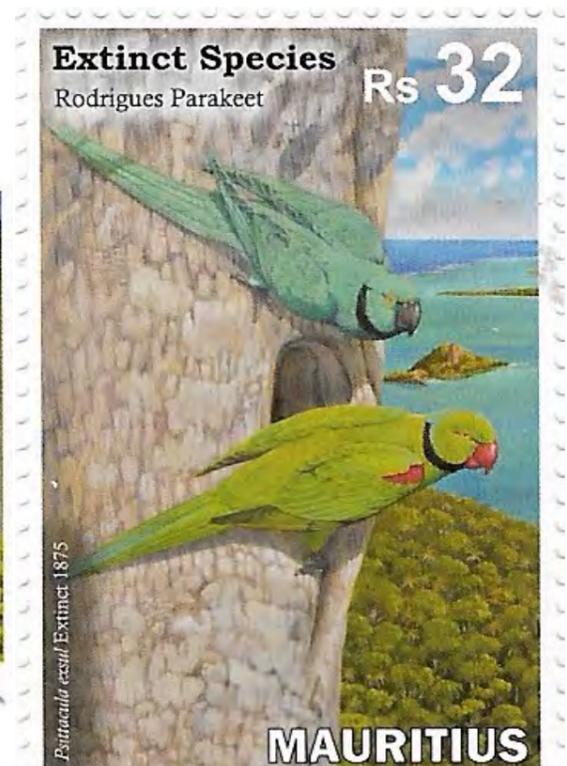
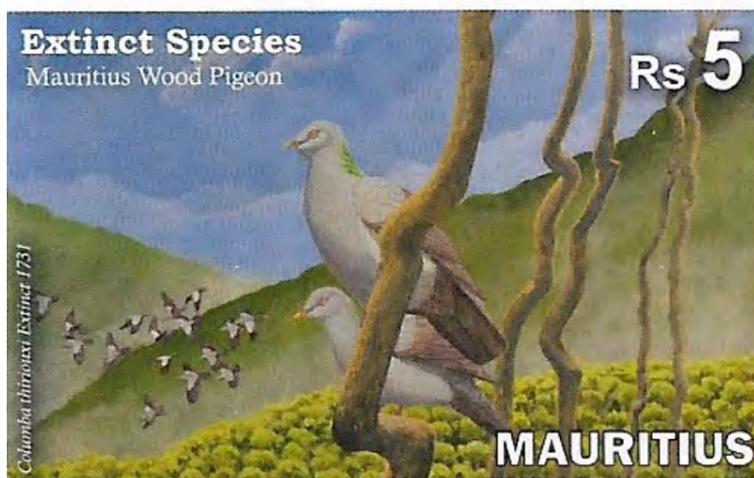


Blue pigeons are widely distributed in the southwestern Indian Ocean occurring in Madagascar, Comoros, the Seychelles, and formerly Mauritius and Rodrigues. The Mauritius Blue Pigeon was the largest of the genus and, like the Dutch flag, was coloured red, white and blue; hence, the local name “Pigeon Hollandais”. Considered common at the turn of the 19th century, it rapidly succumbed to deforestation, and disappeared around 1837. Only three museum skins survive today, and one of these, the last collected, resides in the Natural History Museum, Port Louis.

Rs 32 – Rodrigues Parakeet or Newton Parakeet

Newton’s Parakeet also known as Rodrigues Parakeet are

adept island colonisers, having reached Seychelles and Mascarenes. When first discovered, the Rodrigues Parakeet occurred in large numbers on the mainland and offshore islets, but became extremely rare by 1870s due to almost complete deforestation of the island. A female collected in 1871 and a male in 1875 are the only known specimens, and the last record of the species. Both species exhibit a parblue colour mutation, but the majority of the Rodrigues parakeets are all green. The stamp illustration shows the two colour mutations.



Ukraine burning



The arsonist challenges our faith in a good god who sits up there in his heaven watching the destruction and murders of innocent people, old and young, and babies, on his Planet Earth.

VILLAS EVASION

L'île Rodrigues – Océan Indien

Un coin privé à 1h30 de vol de l'île Maurice pour vivre un séjour inoubliable...
à l'île Rodrigues



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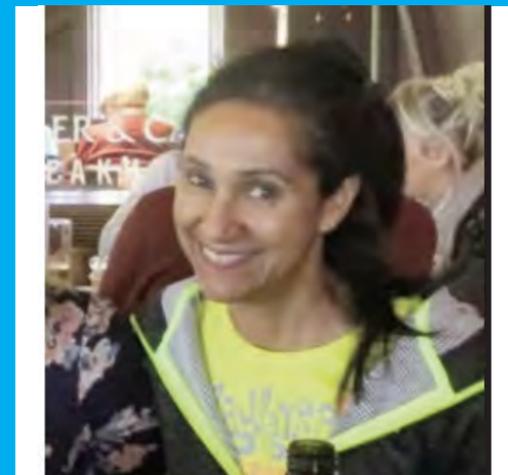
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Site Internet: www.villasevasion.com

A l'écart de tout, **VILLAS EVASION** sur deux niveaux est située sur les hauteurs de Port-Mathurin, la capitale de l'île Rodrigues à Montagne Charlot. Dans un cadre chaleureux, l'établissement vous accueille pour un séjour inoubliable et relaxant. Deux balcons offrent une vue magnifique sur les environs de Port-Mathurin en contrebas

The Other “God Save The Queen”

*From Mylene,
Japan*



It's a known fact that on February 6 this year, Queen Elizabeth became the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years on the throne. It is also a known fact that in 2015, she became the longest reigning queen in history, surpassing her great, great grandmother, Queen Victoria (1819-1901), who reigned for 63 years and 216 days.

What is probably a little-known fact is that the Sex Pistols are set to *re-release* their anti-royalist anthem, “God Save the Queen,” ahead of her Platinum Jubilee celebrations.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the offing

It was a provocative song when it was released in 1977, a song in which the UK was compared to a “fascist regime” and the Queen was described as ‘not a human being.’ It was deemed offensive and promptly banned by the BBC, commercial radio stations and television. Nonetheless, it didn't stop the song from reaching number two in the charts.

How did a song that sparked so much controversy become available for the Queen's silver jubilee in 1977?

Looking back may provide some clarity. The 1970's were a tumultuous time. We saw the first jumbo-jet, the birth of the Apple Computer Company, and the resignation of President Nixon. It was also a time of conflict. The genocide in Bangladesh in 1971, the Cold War, the troubles in Northern Ireland and Vietnam. During this volatile period, where the bell-bottom was the height of fashion, two musical forms emerged: disco and punk. Both had a huge impact on the music scene, resulting in two distinct, diametrically opposed styles.

The Sex Pistols were created by Malcolm McLaren in 1975 to promote his London clothing store, Sex. Johnny Rotten (born John Joseph Lydon) was the group's controversial frontman, and he wrote his own version of “God Save The Queen.” Despite the chorus's declaration that ‘we love our Queen,’ the lyrics are dismal and cynical.

The initial members were Rotten, guitarist Steve Jones, drummer Paul Cook, and bassist Glen Matlock. Sid Vicious would later replace Matlock.

Together, they pioneered the punk movement in the UK, and were often

associated with anarchism. They were outrageous, spouting obscenities, snarling instead of singing and dressed in torn clothes fastened together with safety pins. (Fashion from the shop, Sex).

Paul Cook, the drummer, later said they were not even aware of the the silver jubilee and the song was originally named No Future. McLaren changed the title and had them perform aboard a boat called the Queen Elizabeth, sailing down the Thames. Listeners were enraged.

In March 1977, the band signed with A&M, but were let go six days later. They were taken over by none other than Richard Branson.

According to the official Twitter account of the band:

“One of the most sought after vinyl records in history returns to the shelves. Get your hands on a repress of both the A&M & Virgin God Save The Queen 7” vinyl, limited copies available of each.” followed by a link for orders.

Although their initial career lasted only two and a half years, they did release one album, “Never Mind the Bollocks. Here's The Sex Pistols.” They paved the way for other punk rock bands to thrive and become mainstream.

After forty five years, there is still a buzz surrounding this punk anthem, so if you have the original vinyl, who knows, you could strike it rich.

Pictures from Pexels free stock images



Mauritian singer Ivan Antalika with Segalancers Petits Zoiseaux.

We attended the Segal Festival on Sunday 8th May 2022 at the Brixton Jamm venue in South-West London and for the affordable £10 per person tickets. We were unbelievably astonished by the creativeness, the mass of Mauritian DJs, and Mauritian singers and performers who were present.



Mauritian singers, Brother duo Zeno and Sharmz

They in fact released a few free tickets, then the price increased to a still affordable £15. The admission fee did not include food and drink. The event we attended at St Boniface Church Hall for Easter



Ashvin Persand, Yvonne, blogger Lorenzo and cousin.

Sunday, guests could bring their own drinks but food was prohibited and could only be purchased. Please always contact the promoters of each event if uncertain or carefully read the flyer. Food on sale at the Brixton Jamm was also priced reasonably.



Singer Zeno, Jyotsna, singer Bigg Frankii, Yvonne & Ashvin

Regardless, for the reasonable entrance price, the lineup was what Mauritians could only dream of. The event was organised by a relatively new company called Segal Festival UK. However, they consist of promoters who have had experience organising Mauritian events before, and hence this is reflected in the shows they put up.

The collective of these organisers could rather be known by the motto 'For the Community, by the

Segal Festival (UK)

The New Era of British Mauritians



By Yvonne Goder-Persand

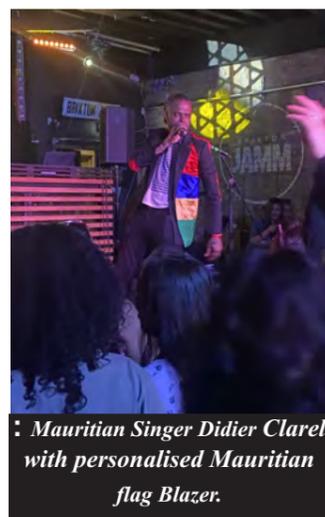
Community'. They state it is the community supporting them, They are able to pull this event off because there are more backers behind the scenes.

Segal Festival (UK) has so far organised two free events before showcasing this event at the Brixton Jamm. They held a Boxing Day event on 26th De-



Gavin Pullia (aka DJ Papi), Yvonne, friend Jyotsna (middle), popular Mauritian comedian Cedrik and daughter Hazelle

cember last year known as the 'Segal Festival Launch Party', and a 'Mauritian Independence Family Party'



Mauritian Singer Didier Clarel with personalised Mauritian flag Blazer.



Mauritian singers Music Vibe

on 12th March, 2022. They have been backing Radio Moris (UK) which has a large platform of online music followers.

The organisers Segal Festival (UK) aim to unite Mauritians in GB. They are inspired when they observe their guests of the new generation dancing to Mauritian Segal. It is pleasing to see the different ethnics enjoying themselves and having fun under one roof. To continue to deliver, Segal Festival (UK) needs to have the support of the Mauritian community in the UK.

The Segal Festival (UK) organisers have so far managed to bring over Mauritian artistes from Mauritius at their own costs. This is risky but they feel rewarded



Mauritian singer Tipti Delia, son of Segal artiste Dorian Delia, playing the Ravanne. at the back



Mauritian singer Bigg Frankii enjoying his time in London.



Mauritian singer Jor'd with supporting friends.

when they see in amazement how their events are well attended for free or at reasonable admission fees. Their efforts are welcomed and applauded by the community.

Nevertheless, some competitors in the Mauritian event field have not been completely supportive. Segal Festival (UK) whose main objective is to bring the Mauritian community together is putting on free events. We can only hope the competitors will support them in the future. There is room for more Mauritian events to take place as the Mauritian diaspora in the UK is large enough.

The Mauritian DJs who took part in the Segal Festival at the Brixton Jamm were DJ Kevin (originally from Mauritianparty.com), DJ JP (The New President of ACML & founder of East Indies Events), DJ Tricksta, DJ Sparky, DJ Ally, DJ Jordan (also associated with the duo 'Music Vibe') and many other DJs and musicians who came out to support the festival.

Equivalently, in attendance were musicians Music Vibe, Didier Clarel rocking a Mauritian flagged blazer, brother duo Zeno and Sharmz, Jor'd that performed as a trio, Ivan Antalika performed his hit single 'Roseda', Tipti Delia - the son of Segal artiste Dorian Delia and headlining the festival from Mauritius was Bigg Frankii with his supporting DJ, Jor'dan. The Segal dancers were from the group 'Petits Zoiseaux' consisting of 3 sisters (Jessica & Katrina are twins with younger sister Shona Irapah).

Also in attendance, were DJ Papi (Gavin Pullia), DJ Florian, British Mauritian blogger Lorenzo of London, upcoming popular Mauritian comedian Cedrik Aristide with daughter Hazelle amongst other beloved Mauritian performers.

The huge event at the Brixton Jamm organised by the Segal Festival (UK) was an immense success. The guests fully appreciated the music from the various providers and the devotion of the promoters to put up such a wonderful show.

Yvonne Goder-Persand

Editor's note:

Judging from Yvonne's comments, the Brixton Jam show seems to have been quite a large event. We can appreciate the efforts that went into preparing and organizing it. Mauritian Overseas Gazette fully supports these refreshing showcases and wish them continued accomplishments.

I can understand the amount of work involved having in the past, with the help of Yvonne, put up the Open Air Mauritian Day on Clapham Common, the Miss Mauritius GB, the Mauritius Segal Competition at the Wandsworth Hall, and the one-day Mauritius Football Competition on six pitches of Clapham Common, the first ever Pere Laval Mass at the Westminster Cathedral, and the numerous soirees in London including one at the Banqueting Suite of Lord's Cricket Ground in St John's Wood.

All that was done while at the same time editing and publishing Mauritius News, the first Mauritian newspaper overseas

P.C.

UK Mauritians - The New Generation

Jean Paul Anne, the new chairman of the ACML

From Yvonne Goder-Persand

The Association des Mauriciens à Londres (ACML) was founded in the 1960s by Mauritian migrants to the UK who attended mass at Notre Dame de France, the French Catholic church located in Leicester Square in the West End. Mass is said in French and the newcomers from Mauritius found a very welcome venue to meet.

The clergy of the Notre Dame de France, namely Pere Leclereur and Pere Jourdain were happy to receive the new parishioners who actually resided in various localities of the metropolis and even outside the capital. The Catholic members of the Mauritian community even found a venue to meet and hold their committees. Mauritians were able to organise their social functions in the community hall of the Church while the adjacent Charles Peguy Centre provided recreation facilities for members. It was a good place to meet the French au pair girls and quite a few Mauritians found their future wives there. That was the Swinging Sixties and it was a lovely time to be in the heart of the West End of London.

The first president of the ACML was Antoine Marcel a former member of the Mauritius Police Force who migrated to the UK with his family. He used to live in Stockwell where lots of Mauritians found accommodation.

The ACML was a very active association with the fervent churchgoers among the Mauritian Catholic community who even constituted the choir that included such musician as Mauritian Tino Rossi, Mario Armel. Mario Armel was himself a former member of the Mauritius Police Band and provided good entertainment at concerts organised by the ACML in the Church's social hall. The ACML was able to hold at least one dance every fortnight. Max Louis and his



Jean Paul Anne, President of the Association Chrétienne des Mauriciens à Londres (ACML), Founder of the East Indies Events.

brother Chico, who were already in the catering trade in London, ran the bar. In August 2000, jointly with the Pere Laval Benevolent Society (UK), under the management of Peter Chellen, held the Jubilee 2000 Mass at the Westminster Cathedral, the one and only Mauritian mass at the Cathedral.

The New Generation

Things have inevitably changed over the years with the new generation, living in various parts of the country. Even the choir is provided by other French-speaking groups. However, over the past of some sixty odd years, the ACML has still been striving to exist under various leadership. ACML's present

leader is a younger element of the UK Mauritian community in the person of Jean Paul Anne.

Jean Paul was born in Tottenham, north London. He did quite a bit of travelling in his younger days. His parents moved to Mauritius when he was 4 years old, to Milan (Italy) when he was 14 and back to the UK 22 years ago, i.e. in 2000.

He is a graduate from the University of Greenwich with a master in Business Administration (MBA). He works in the education field as a Head of Programme.

The ACML can pride itself of a capable leader to keep the Association on track and even to take it forward.

Some 20 members of the ACML meet on the last Sunday of the month at the social hall of the Notre Dame de France Church to discuss the activities of the Association that include Christmas dinner, Easter party, and outings. The ACML raises funds to donate to the Church.

“At the local level, as part of the Mauritian diaspora, we try to connect with the other ethnic minority groups. We are trying to establish a national and international network,” says Jean Paul. “We are currently developing a set of activities to get the young members interested in the Association,” he told us.

It is very commendable that the ACML, like the other ethnics from Mauritius, is trying to provide its members a sense of direction in their country of adoption.

Police Brutality



The picture that brings shame on Mauritius. That this sort of savagery has been happening in Mauritius is beyond imagination. One of the sadists is wearing gloves. What for? What did he do with his middle finger? Such beasts should never be recruited by the police force. Activists are alleging that several detainees have been murdered in police cells over the years.



A monumental achievement for his party, the MSM. SAJ's contributions to make Mauritius a prosperous country were equally monumental. If SSR is regarded as the father of Old Mauritius, SAJ is the father of Modern Mauritius.

70 years of Rule Britannia



Happy Platinum Jubilee Anniversary, Your Majesty!