



July, 2022

A Sunami on the horizon ?



Nawaz Noorbux, Information Director at Radio Plus, who wormed out of the nose of Sherry Singh the sniffing information at Baie du Jacotet (Pic from RadioPlus)



Sherry Singh, outgoing CEO of Mauritius Telecom, who made allegations of sniffing the Internet operation of Mauritius by a foreign government (Pic from RadioPlus)

Outgoing Mauritius Telecom CEO alleged in an interview on private RadioPlus that PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth recently told him in a telephone conversation to allow technicians of a foreign country to interfere with the Department's Internet installations at Baie du Jacotet to monitor all email transactions and website contents passing through the system to and out of the country. This alleged illegal operation is referred to as sniffing, as stray dogs sniff one another's backside on the street. Even under much coercion from the interviewer Mr Singh declined to reveal, then, the name of the country involved in this illegal operation even though the interviewer tried to get him to state whether it was Israel or India.

Mr Singh told the interviewer that he refused to accede to the PM's 'sniffing' request as it was against his principles and against the interests of the country. This was the MAIN reason for his resignation from his post of CEO at the Mauritius Telecom (MT), he told the local radio. What about hacking then? Is this unauthorised operation foreign to the MT. Does not Mauritius depend on foreign ICTs service providers such as Huawei?

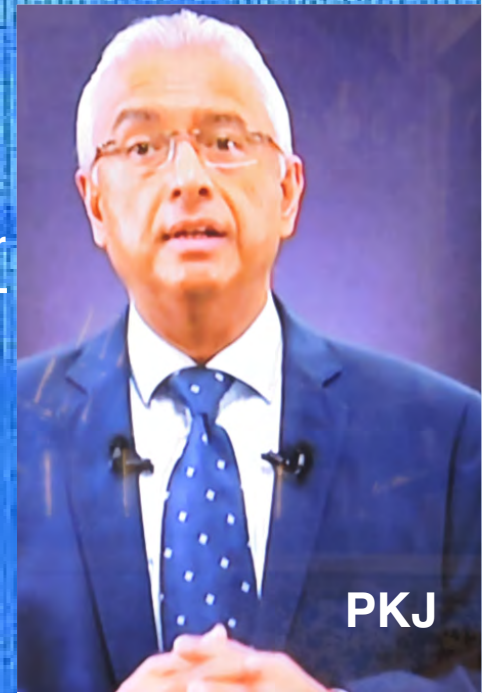
Following his letter of resignation to the chairman of the Board of Directors Mr Singh went public. Opinions are divided on that move. A school of thoughts agrees with the saying of Alfred de Vigny that "seul le silence est grand, tout le reste est faiblesse." i.e. it would have been much better for the ex-CEO to remain quiet after leaving the Mauritius Telecom Department, however frustrated he was in his job. Another school of thoughts argues

that the outgoing CEO may have breached the Official Secret Act by bringing into the public domain information he held as an employee of the Mauritius Government. Though he submitted his resignation in June, it is said that his contract with Mauritius Telecom expires in February 2023.

The RadioPlus interviewer did finally ask the ex-CEO of his future intention and whether he aspired to be PM one day. From Mr Singh's answer one could gather that he does intend to throw his hat in the political arena.

Such upheaval caused by Mr Singh is of course fodder to the Opposition *assoiffée du pouvoir* (PKJ dixit) and the press thriving on every opportunity to raise hell in the country, with their dancing bears having a field day.

But Mr Singh, who used to be a confidant of the PM within his inner circle, may have had his reason to go public. From his own statement and promise, his intention, like a *déchu*, was primarily to cause a Sunami by more revelations he was to make. Mr Singh has been back to the local radio with more revelations indicating that the party involved in the sniffing exercise was India. But the Sunami is yet to happen! Prime Minister Jugnauth has so far been able to fend off all attacks in Parliament and in public by affirming that there had been no sniffing operation and no breach of national security. The underwater cable network connecting Mauritius to the rest of the world needed maintenance, and India, a friendly country with the appropriate hightech and Internet expertise, was invited to conduct a survey to ascertain the network's good condition.



PKJ



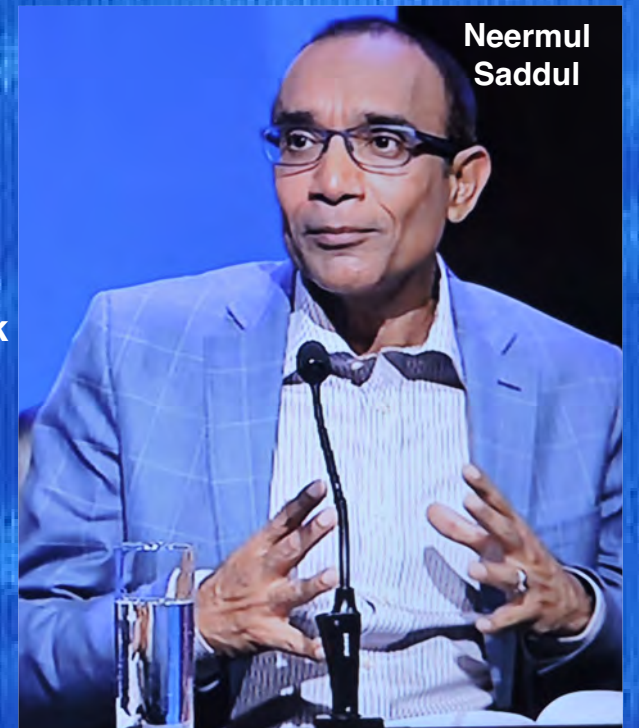
Maneesh Gobin

Since Sherry Singh went public on July 1, there has been a great outcry for the resignation of the PM: from the coalition of Opposition elements, in and outside Parliament, from activists and instigators to create havoc in Mauritius. One can feel the tension in the island resulting from such incitement. It has been said that one of the passions of Mauritians is politics. Some Mauritians are experts in every field of activities in the country and myriad of opinions have been expressed through every medium about the alleged sniffing operation. There are of course lots of experts on the social media as well. In one single issue of a newspaper, every article it carried by the dancing bears and numerous contributors was on the so-called sniffing allegedly authorised by the Mauritius Government. One former journalist even went to the extent of stating that the PM had lied on various occasions. This person was of course taking advantage of the freedom of the press.

When Sher Singh made further allegations on the private radio, the mongers were exasperated by the silence of the PM. He finally made a TV appearance to

affirm again that there had been no breach of security and explained the reason why the survey on the Internet network had to be carried out by international experts and why India was entrusted with the assignment. The attack on India is considered by some politicians as India bashing while others consider the attack to bring down the PM and his government as Jugnauth bashing. The PM made it clear that his prime consideration "is the security of Mauritius and the safety of the nation"

The PM's TV appearance was followed by a Discussion session made up of the Attorney-General Maneesh Gobin and Mr Neermul Saddul, a member of the Mauritius Telecom Board of Directors and an ICT expert. Hon Gobin asserted that in no way Mauritius could allow a foreign country to interfere in the affairs of the country. He even went to the extent of stating that the sniffing allegation was a conspiracy on the part of the enemies of the State to discredit the Government.



Neermul Saddul

One independent Mauritian ICT expert had already said that all the fuss about sniffing was nothing more than a storm in a teacup. On the other hand, Mr Neermul Saddul pointed out that it was totally unsafe for Mauritius to rely on only one ICT service provider, notably Huawei when Mauritius was in the past relying on as many as five providers. Mr Saddul affirmed that Huawei was not a safe option, a company that has been allegedly accused of spying with its chief executive officer being prosecuted by Canada for such an offence. Neither America nor the UK wishes to have any dealing with Huawei. Who suppressed all the other Internet service providers of Mauritius Telecom and entrusted the job solely to Huawei? It is said that this was done under the former CEO himself. This is a point that has still to be made clear by Police investigating the whole saga and by the Mauritius Telecom's own inquiry.

Chronological Events: May 2022

by Pearlshka Burrun

Peter Uricek handed over to Slovak authorities

Everyone - from the Bar Council to the former Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam - was reported to be on the alert. The issue related to the deportation and extradition of the Slovak Peter Uricek.

The Prime Minister, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, was pilloried for having in this case, allegedly, ignored the independence of the judiciary as Peter Uricek's case was being examined in court.

However, Government House issued a long press release to respond to the Prime Minister's accusers. The communiqué stressed the fact that in the case of the Slovak there was neither deportation nor extradition. There was a simple 'Removal' at the request of the Slovak authorities who subsequently condemned Peter Uricek to many years of imprisonment for drug trafficking.

Supreme Court rejects CEB injunction against IPP Terragen

The Supreme Court rejected a government-sponsored CEB injunction against Independent Power Producer (IPP) Terragen.

Terragen took action by suspending its 17% CEB Grid contribution, which in practice means 65 MW of less, with risks of Load Shedding at any time. This forced the CEB to use the gas turbines of the Nicolay station for ten to twelve hours a day as well as the maximum capacity of the other thermal power stations.

Terragen justified its action in the light of millions of rupees of losses per day. The Minister of Energy, Joe Lesjongard, reacted by saying that Terragen should have as well revealed the millions of benefits reaped over the last years.

State v/s MTC rope pulling continues

If the Mauritius Turf Club (MTC) is out, who will organize horse races at the Champ de Mars? Horse racing lovers are still in the dark although a new entity to that effect is in the pipeline.

The showdown opposing the MTC and the State continues. Yet the implicit incorporation with registration number C187369 of a State entity, the Côte d'Or International Racecourse and Entertainment Complex (COIREC), seems to be the solution.

COIREC is endowed with a capital of Rs 100,000, for the organization of horse races.

Massive rejection of the current political class, according to poll

An exclusive poll 'Le Mauricien Ltd/Straconsult' shows a massive rejection of the current political class, but indicates a strong desire to vote (82%).

As regards the political parties, the balance of power reveals a preponderance of the MSM (18%) on the Labour Party (13%). The respective leaders of both parties obtain 21% for Pravind Jugnauth and 12% for Navin Ramgoolam. As for the leaders of the other parties on the political scale, they are well below these scores. The implication is clear – MSM and Labour remain the main contenders for the post of Prime Minister and the other parliamentary seats.

Substantial increase, Rs 5 to Rs 10 plus, of bus fares

Fares in public transport are up, from 25 to 42%, on this Sunday, May 8, which, concretely, implies increases oscillating between Rs5 and Rs10.

Of course, the percentage of increase depends on the route. The Minister of Transport, Alan Ganoo, considers the increase to be necessary to avoid the closure of certain bus companies, which would have catastrophic effects, in particular with the loss of jobs.

Peaceful march in favour of MTC

The critical situation in the horse racing sector is much feared by racegoers. So much so that they decided to stage a protest march to sensitize public opinion.

In the horse racing world, the crisis persists so much so that worried racegoers decided to stage a peaceful march in the capital in support of the MTC (Mauritius Turf Club). The march was organized by Linion Pep Morisien (LPM) to protest against the recent actions of the Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA), and the City Council of Port-Louis to cancel the lease to the MTC to

use the Champ-de-Mars.

The metro on the Quatre-Bornes/Phoenix segment

After the commercial operation of the Metro Express on the Rose-Hill/Quatre-Bornes segment, commuters were waiting eagerly for the opening of the Quatre-Bornes/Phoenix segment.

This dream was fulfilled early May last. Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth and around thirty guests, a limitation imposed by the health crisis, were present at the official launch. So metro operations on the Quatre-Bornes/Phoenix segment started on Sunday May 8.

Prior to the launch a series of testings and trial runs were carried out. The new segment includes three stations, namely, Saint-Jean, Trianon and Phoenix. It is of note that Ascencia Ltd of the private sector is financing the building up the Phoenix station.

MTC president Giraud decided to resign

The so-called rope-pulling between the State and the MTC took an unexpected turn with the departure of Jean-Michel Giraud from the chairmanship of the MTC.

That was a hard blow indeed for the MTC when the trainers asked for its president, Jean-Michel Giraud, to depart. He allegedly refused to organise the horse racing meeting this season. Mr Giraud was quick to react by claiming that the mafia had taken control of the Champ de Mars where the racing business generates around Rs15 billion per year.

The bicentenary horse-racing organizer was reportedly under pressure to leave the horse-racing world.

Whatever is happening in Agalega?

Satellite photos of the airport infrastructure in the course of erection raise questions about the transformation of Agalega into a military base.

The Indian press has published satellite photos of the airport infrastructure in Agaléga. The photos indicate that the hangars can house Navy's Submarine Hunting P-81 Aircraft. That was enough to relaunch the controversy over the military base in the making in the archipelago.

Opposition's motion of no confidence turned down

Opposition leader Xavier-Luc Duval tabled a motion of no confidence against government. As could be expected the motion was rejected as the parties in government led by the MSM voted against it.

Mr Duval's motion of censure was rejected on the evening of Friday May, 13. However, debates round it will have allowed elected officials on both sides of the Chamber to take stock of government action since the last general election in 2019.

Unexpected government-sponsored pawn in horse-racing

The Côte d'Or International Racecourse and Entertainment Complex Limited (COIREC) was given the responsibility of the activities at Champ de Mars, which was quite surprising for stakeholders.

In the confusion that reigned in the horse racing world, the government placed an unexpected pawn. This was the Côte d'Or International Racecourse and Entertainment Complex Limited.

COIREC will be responsible for the management and maintenance of the of the Champ de Mars racecourse. This move definitely took all the other interested parties in surprise. What Next?

Prices of gasoline and diesel flaring

The Russia-Ukraine war, with the subsequent decrease in the supply of fuel, has led to skyrocketing rises in the price of the petrol barrel on the world market.

In practically all the countries of the world, including our neighbour Réunion island, prices of gasoline and diesel have risen. In Mauritius, the prices of gasoline and diesel underwent a few weeks back a new increase to Rs74 and Rs54

From Page 3

re-

spectively. This was the fourth increase since December 28 and, at each increase, there was a mark-up of 10%, making the litre of gasoline at the pump go from Rs 50.70 to Rs 74.10, an accumulation of 48%.

Mobilization against the loss of purchasing power

The loss of purchasing power, consequence of the rise of prices of all imported goods, is creating havoc among consumers. This is the result of both production decrease in exporting countries and freight charges increase.

Under pressure, people rioted in several localities in the island. Organizations such as ACIM (Association des Consommateurs de l'Ile Maurice) took various steps to voice out people's concerns. One mobilization of ACIM in Port Louis against the loss of purchasing power was a resounding success. Many motorbikes and vans carried demonstrators brandishing the national flag swept noisily through the capital.

Unilateral decisions against MTC denounced

The Mauritius Turf Club (MTC) affair is not over. On the contrary, after the crisis which shook the MTC, public opinion raised questions on several decisions taken.

Several questions arose in the strife opposing the government and the City Council of Port Louis to the MTC. Have the authorities respected the clauses of the 'Concession of privilege' binding the municipality of Port Louis to the Mauritius Turf Club for the period April 23, 2008 – April 22, 2028? For what public utility did the Ministry of Lands and Housing take over the Champ de Mars track from the MTC?

SMS Pariaz, the betting agency, was also taken to task for going against clause 5 of its contract with the MTC. It seemed to have ignored the fact that any modification in the use of the Champ de Mars must be made "by mutual agreement between the concessionaire MTC and the tenant SMS Pariaz."

Prime Minister accuses Giraud and Béranger of connivance

In the mind of the Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, it is clear that the blockage of the horse racing meetings at the Champ de Mars, was the doing of the duo Giraud/Béranger.

The Prime Minister, during a gathering in the north of the country, accused Jean-Michel Giraud, the former president of the MTC, of being in connivance with the leader of the MMM, Paul Béranger to boycott the start of the horse-racing season 2022. The objective of this boycott was to bring the blame on government: "Zot pa le ena lekours ek apre met blam lors GM." (They do not organise horse races so that people will blame the government for it.)

Videos of torture sessions of suspects circulated

It was a real shock when people saw on the net video sequences of police officers torturing suspects. Physical Torture was apparently employed to force suspects to confess their crimes.

Linion Pep Mosisien, a new political party, denounces, with evidence in support, the torture sessions of a suspect under arrest. The suspect was filmed handcuffed and naked while five police officers, in civil, abusing him.

Reacting to the video, the police commissioner noted that the case was not so recent. However, he promised a tight investigation as well as exemplary sanctions against the police culprits. He made it clear that the police is waiting for the main witness of these recordings before initiating procedures.

DPP throws out case against 34 demonstrators

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) ordered the police to drop criminal procedures against demonstrators who voiced in public their concern about shortage of drinking water.

It was indeed a phew of relief for the 34 demonstrators of the village of Bambous Virieux who had decided on Sunday, September 26 last to alert public opinion about their situation of shortage of drinking water.

The shortage had been going on for at least two months. The lack of reaction from the relevant authorities was the last straw. Fortunately, the DPP ordered the police to drop the criminal proceedings against these demonstrators. This intervention was in the nick of time as hearings were scheduled in court on 2 June.

Allègement des restrictions sanitaires

More harm than good?



GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

28 juin 2022

COVID-19 LA VIGILANCE RESTE DE MISE

PROTOCOLES SANITAIRES à partir du 1^{er} juillet 2022 :

PORT DU MASQUE

- Aucune obligation légale pour porter un masque dans les lieux publics.
- Le port du masque reste obligatoire dans les endroits suivants :
 - Hôpitaux
 - Cliniques privées
 - Pharmacies
 - Consultations médicales du privé
 - Consultations dentaires et autres prestataires de service médical
 - Maisons de retraite
 - Institutions accueillant des personnes vivant avec un handicap
 - Terminal passagers - au port et à l'aéroport
- Le port du masque est recommandé pour :
 - ceux âgés de plus de 60 ans
 - les personnes vulnérables vivant avec des comorbidités
 - les personnes ayant des symptômes de troubles respiratoires, fièvre et toux
 - Le port du masque reste recommandé dans les endroits publics clos, les endroits très fréquentés et dans les rassemblements

ACTIVITÉS AUTORISÉES / OUVERTES sans restriction sur le nombre de personnes présentes

- Rassemblements publics et privés (incluant mariages et funérailles)
- Complexes sportifs et gymnases
- Jardins d'enfants
- Jardins publics et parcours de santé
- Bars et boîtes de nuit
- Compétitions sportives et concerts
- Activités socio-culturelles
- Lieux de culte
- Salles de réception, village halls, centres communautaires etc.
- Sports individuels et collectifs
- Courses hippiques
- Plages (pique-niques autorisés)
- Événements et rassemblements dans les hôtels



Moody's point of view

« Mauritius remains the only investment-grade International Financial Centre in Africa. Banks operating in Mauritius remain stable, highly liquid, with comfortable capitalisation levels and buffers, and have demonstrated sustained resilience since pre-Covid times. »

Bashers' point of view



Copy of a letter from Eliézer François to the Prime Minister



Par Eliezer François

An Umpteenth Appeal To The Hon. PM, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth For Fairness And Justice!

For the Personal Attention of the
Hon Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth.

Dear Mr Prime Minister,

Please allow me this umpteenth appeal to you for your kind consideration.

As I've already mentioned in my previous emails to you personally, I'm not asking for any special favour from the government of Mauritius.

There may be some other old age Mauritian pensioners, who like me, are still stranded overseas and facing huge financial hardships because Air Mauritius hasn't yet resumed its normal operations Mauritius - Australia.

I've always been a strong supporter of our National Airline, Air Mauritius. However in spite of my valid MK Air Mauritius electronic ticket, the company hasn't been able to fly me back to Mauritius.

I've requested Air Mauritius to make arrangements with Emirates Airline to enable me to travel back to Mauritius via Dubai. Instead, they have offered me a seat on an Air Mauritius Flight on 23 November 2022.

Meanwhile, I'm facing very great financial difficulties in Australia, even though I have to honour my commitments to: CWA, CEB, TELECOMS, CAR INSURANCE, HOME & CONTENTS INSURANCE etc, in Mauritius.

I therefore reiterate my request for your personal intervention in Cabinet to address the issue, pending the time the situation is back to normal.

I'm a Mauritian Old Age pensioner, a permanent Mauritian resident who is not getting any old age pension in Australia.

I do sincerely hope, in the name of fairness and justice, as the Prime Minister of Mauritius, you will give due consideration to my umpteenth appeal to you.

Please see attached my latest life certificate dated 1/6/2022 and my MK Air Mauritius valid electronic ticket. *(In next columns)*

Editor's note:

Above letter is published in our columns at the request of Mr Francois to highlight his plight.

As a former Minister of Housing, he once sat in a similar ministerial Cabinet to which he refers in his letter (though in another government.) What an irony of life!

Eliézer François's Air Mauritius ticket

**ELECTRONIC TICKET
PASSENGER ITINERARY RECEIPT**

AIR MAURITIUS

AIR MAURITIUS VIP COUNTER DATE: 10 FEB 2020
AIR MAURITIUS CENTRE AGENT: 6027
PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY STR NAME: ELIEZER FRANCOIS
MAURITIUS FQTV: MKFP0020355
DATA : 524 90885
TELEPHONE : 230 2077575, 230 2077101

ISSUING AIRLINE : AIR MAURITIUS
TICKET NUMBER : ETKT 239 2403247805
BOOKING REF : AMADEUS: MFP99E, AIRLINE: VA/KCMORT
BOOKING REF : AMADEUS: MFP99E, AIRLINE: MK/MFP99E
BOOKING REF : AMADEUS: MFP99E, AIRLINE: VA/KCMORT

FROM / TO	FLIGHT	CL	DATE	DEP	FARE BASIS	MVE	MVA	BAG	ST
MAURITIUS SIR S. KANGOOLAM INTL	MAURITIUS								
PERTH PERTH TERMINAL:1									
LATEST CHECK-IN: 2115									
PERTH PERTH TERMINAL:1									
MELBOURNE MELBOURNE AIRPORT TERMINAL:3									
LATEST CHECK-IN: 2115									
PERTH PERTH TERMINAL:1									
MELBOURNE MELBOURNE AIRPORT TERMINAL:3									
LATEST CHECK-IN: 2115									
PERTH PERTH TERMINAL:1									
MAURITIUS SIR S. KANGOOLAM INTL									
LATEST CHECK-IN: 1205									

AT CHECK-IN, PLEASE SHOW A PICTURE IDENTIFICATION AND THE DOCUMENT YOU GAVE FOR REFERENCE AT RESERVATION TIME.

BAGGAGE POLICY

NRINR1
1ST CHECKED BAG: FREE OF CHARGE UPTO44LB 20KG AND62LI 158LCM
2ND CHECKED BAG: FREE OF CHARGE UPTO44LB 20KG AND62LI 158LCM
NAME OF THE CARRIER WHOSE BAGGAGE RULES APPLY: AIR MAURITIUS

MELNBU
1ST CHECKED BAG: FREE OF CHARGE UPTO44LB 20KG AND62LI 158LCM
2ND CHECKED BAG: FREE OF CHARGE UPTO44LB 20KG AND62LI 158LCM
NAME OF THE CARRIER WHOSE BAGGAGE RULES APPLY: AIR MAURITIUS

CARRY-ON BAG:
MROPER: MAX 1PC FREE OF CHARGE CARRY7KG 15LB UPTO45LI 115LCM
PERMEL: MAX 2PC FREE OF CHARGE CARRY7KG 15LB UPTO45LI 115LCM
MELPER: MAX 2PC FREE OF CHARGE CARRY7KG 15LB UPTO45LI 115LCM
PERMBU: MAX 1PC FREE OF CHARGE CARRY7KG 15LB UPTO45LI 115LCM

Life Certificate for Eliézer François

**DOVETON
MEDICAL CENTRE**

Dr Priyanthi Gunawardana
M.B.B.S FRACGP
Provider No: 2949119Y

Dr R Wijesekara
M.B.B.S FRACGP
Provider No. 289862LB

80 Power Road
Doveton, Vic. 3177.
Telephone 9792 4060
Fax 9793 2890
Email gdoveton@bigpond.net.au

To Whom It May Concern

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Mr Eliezer Francois
3 Fulham Court
ENDEAVOUR HILLS VIC 3802
21/1/1936
0402643040
97005093

This is to certify that Mr Eliezer Francois is well and alive to date.

Your's Sincerely

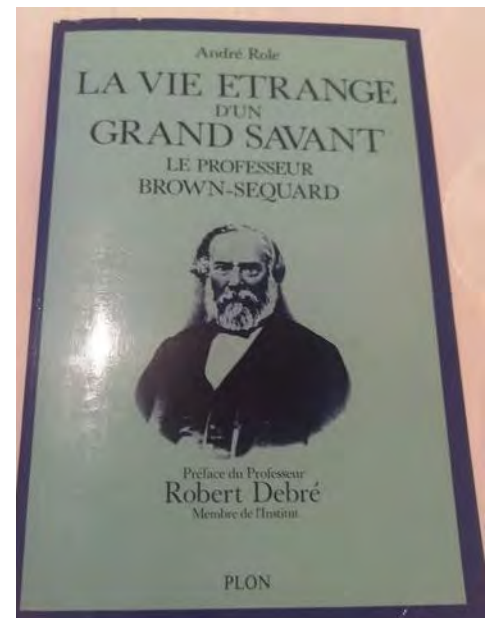
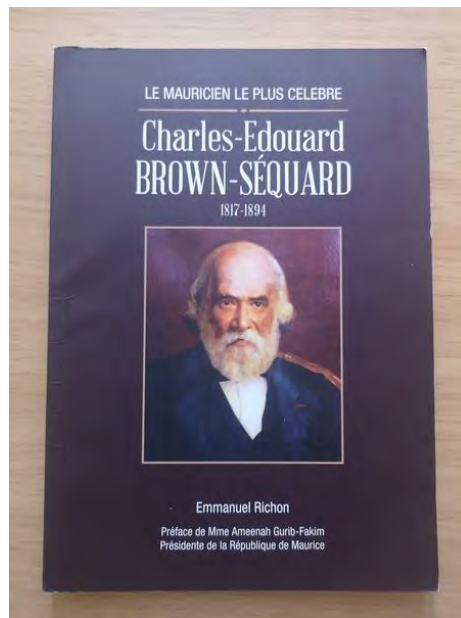
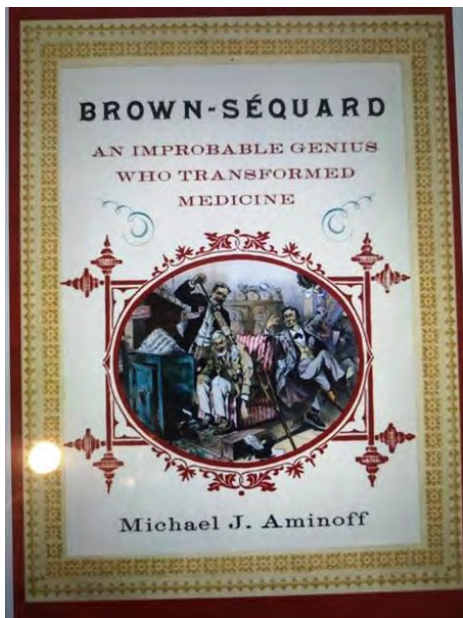
Dr Ravi Wijesekara
P/N289862LB
MBBS, FRACGP
1/6/2022

Dr Ravi Wijesekara
Provider No. 289862LB
Doveton Medical Centre
80 Power Rd, Doveton
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Mauritian Heritage

My four books on Charles Edouard Brown-Séquard 1818-1894, Born in Mauritius and Died in France

By Prega Vencatasawmy



Charles Édouard Brown Séquard was born on 8 April 1818 in Port Louis, Mauritius. He was a polymath who is immortalised by an eponym for his description of a syndrome resulting from spinal cord injury, known as The Brown Sequard syndrome.

Brown Sequard's advice was sought by none other than Charles Darwin. He was a friend of Robert Louis Stevenson who based his Dr Jekyll and Hyde on his research and findings.

No other Mauritian than Brown Sequard (of British nationality) had attained then so much international recognition with immense praises heaped upon him!

Brown Sequard is known as the father of endocrinology. He made groundbreaking results in Neurology with the syndrome named after him as an acclaimed scientist!

When I was making research on him for an exhibition, I came across mountains of vol-

uminous documents that attest to his erudition and international repute. He was professor at Harvard, USA and at the College de France . He wrote 500 essays and papers.

The people of Mauritius may be proud of his achievements and contributions to science! All credit goes to late Dr Cader Raman who named the mental institution at Beau Bassin, after *un vrai du sol*, as the Brown Sequard Hospital.

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



CONTACT & RESERVATION:

E-mail : info@villasevasion.com

Tél. + 447703049579

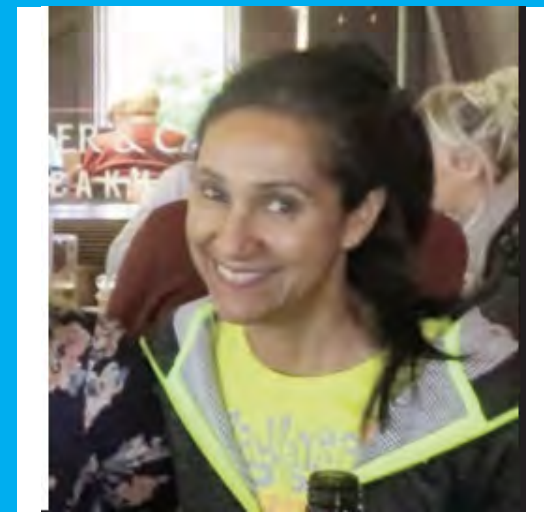
Site Internet: www.villasevasion.com

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

Farewell to Shinzo Abe

(1954 - 2022)

*From Mylene,
Japan*



Friday July 8, 2022 will forever be etched on the minds of the Japanese people. It was the day that Shinzo Abe, the former prime minister of Japan, was shot during an election campaign speech in the city of Nara, east of Osaka. He sustained two shots, the fatal one entering deep enough to strike his heart. He was unconscious when he was flown by helicopter to Nara Medical University hospital. However, he was pronounced dead at 5:03 local time.

The assassination stunned the nation and the world. How was it possible that a prominent politician could be gunned down in broad daylight in a nation with the toughest gun laws and, regarded as one of the safest countries in the world?

As condolences poured in for the 67-year-old Abe, Japanese citizens began to realise that their carefree, fearless days were coming to an end.

A Political Family

Shinzo Abe was born into a political family. His father, Shintaro Abe, was a former foreign minister, and his grandfather, Nobusuke Kishi, was Prime Minister from 1957 to 1960.

Abe was the longest serving prime minister and led the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to victory twice. His first stint as PM lasted a little over a year (2006) before butting out for health issues. He went back into politics in 2012 and stayed in power until 2020, when he again quit for health reasons.

Abenomics

He was a key figure in a comprehensive economic initiative that became known as 'Abenomics,' (Abe + economics), a policy package aimed at making Japan strong by reviving the economy.

The Suspect

Tetsuya Yamagami, 41, a former member of the Japan Self-Defence Force, has admitted to the killing. When he was apprehended, the weapon, a home-made gun, was found by his feet. He has spoken at length to the police. It seems his motivation was more personal than political. He was upset that his mother had given a sizeable sum of money to the religious group, The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, widely known as the Unification Church, (the Moonies), which had caused the family to go bankrupt. He held a grudge against this sect and had made unsuccessful attempts to target church officials. Yamagami wrongly thought Abe was somehow affiliated with the church and set out to take his revenge. Homemade guns and projectiles were later discovered at the accused assassin's house. It has been reported that Yamagami will undergo a psychiatric evaluation.

Attacks on politicians in Japan are not without precedent

Some people might be surprised to learn that political figures have been attacked and killed many times in the past.

In 1921, Prime Minister Takashi Hara was fatally stabbed at Tokyo Station, and nine years later, Prime Minister Osachi Hamaguchi was attacked by a gunman at Tokyo Station (again) and died of his wounds the following year. In 1932, a group of armed naval officers stormed the PM's office and shot and killed premier Tsuyoshi Inukai, in what has become known as the 'May 15 incident.'

Abe's own grandfather, Prime Minister Nobusuke

Kishi, was stabbed in the thigh in 1960 during a reception at the PM's office, and that same year, Inejiro Asanuma, head of the Japan Socialist Party, was fatally stabbed while making a speech in a public hall in Tokyo.

In the years that followed, Prime Minister Takeo Miki (1975), Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru (1992), and Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa (1994) all survived attacks.

Surprisingly, the list would be much longer if local-level politicians were included. Would-be politicians, take heed.

A State Funeral

On September 27, there will be a state funeral held at the Nippon Budokan, an arena built for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Budokan is well-known for hosting events like sports games and concerts, as well as the annual World War II memorial service on August 15.

There is a small group of people who believe this state funeral should not be paid for by the taxpayer.

Aftermath

Needless to say, security has been heavily criticised, but let's cut them some slack - while they were prepared for stabbings and physical assault, they never anticipated a shooting. Having said that, security should be prepared for any eventuality, right? The Unification Church has also drawn some criticism.

However, nobody has yet asked the question. Will there be a change in the canvassing for votes? Will



making political speech on street corners vanish? There are tight regulations that need to be followed during election time. Going door-to-door is prohibited. The most noticeable forms of campaigning include placing posters on specially constructed noticeboards, distributing pamphlets in public places, giving speeches, and using sound trucks to repeatedly shout (and occasionally scream out) the names of candidates throughout neighbourhoods. The icing on the cake, however, is when candidates and prominent politicians who back them, give speeches on street corners, as Abe did.

Even the most ardent critics of the late Abe have expressed shock and sadness. We all agree that violence in any form is unacceptable. Perhaps we should remember an Indian proverb that says, "The supreme law of life is nonviolence."

NB: Foreigners are not permitted to vote or to run for public office in Japan. Even though we are on the sidelines, we keep a close eye on the political scene.

Shinzo Abe's legacies include Abenomics and the military. He made several attempts (with limited success) to amend Article 9 of the Japanese constitution, a clause that forbids Japan from establishing a military or solving conflicts through war.

This clause came into effect on 3 May 1947, and debate has been ongoing since 2000 whether to amend or delete it completely.



Street Scene in Japan (Pexels)

Care-Co (Rodrigues) & the Trevor Huddleston Association for the Disabled (Rodrigues)

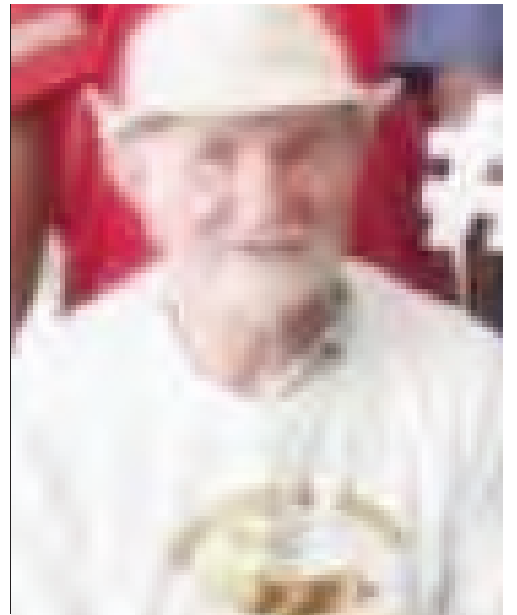
Camp du Roi, Rodrigues, R.519. Republic of Mauritius, Indian Ocean.
Tel (230) 8311766

Rodrigues News

from

Paul Draper
Port Mathurin

July 2022



See us also on facebook (GPL Centre-Rodrigues) and on Youtube. Care-Co Rodrigues. Making a buzz. & <https://mauritianoverseasgazette.com>

Hello once again.

As we gradually return to some sort of 'normality' from the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic I have been looking back over the years that we have been operating Care-Co for the disabled and the Gonzague Pierre Louis Special Learning Centre (GPL Centre for children with learning difficulties), and remembering how it all started.

I first visited Rodrigues in September 1987 on a goodwill and exploratory mission to visit some children who were sponsored from overseas and also enquire if there was any training or rehabilitation programme for unemployed disabled.

I have always been hesitant to duplicate work that was already being done, and only if there was no other NGO or Government programme tackling the needs in society in the way I had been working in Mauritius with Craft-Aid would I think of starting something new.

In those days I had been promised financial support from overseas if there was a need for a programme aimed at the needs of the disabled to be launched in Rodrigues.

I was satisfied that we would not be working in exact parallel with any other organization, NGO or government when I arrived in Rodrigues in September 1987, and started up the first workshop for people with disabilities who would be employed on regulation wages and conditions.

Gonzague Pierre Louis and Danilo Ravina were among those first recruits employed in our makeshift rented premises in Port Mathurin. They are both still with us today, and have since been joined by numbers of others.

I believe, and with all due respect, I accept, that our aims and objectives were considered to be doomed to failure by many people. "Once the funding runs out- the place will close down"

Certainly the startup funding and the financial support since have been very important to the continued activities of the "Care-Co" of today.

However I believe that we have proved the point that people with disabilities can work and produce goods which are marketable and bring in the revenue needed to pay their wages and secure them a job to be proud of.

It is only really recently during the covid pandemic that we have had to rely on extra support in order to meet our aims of providing creative and remunerative employment for our workers.

We are certainly not the only enterprise to have had this experience in the past 2 years.

So, we are very grateful to all our CSR partners, to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, to the National Social Inclusion Foundation, and to all our customers and other supporters who purchase our goods for the support that has helped us to maintain our activities and our services to the disabled.

The same story is valid for the GPL Centre which also, when opened in 1994 did not directly duplicate any other service of its kind on the island in the programme for the deaf, and depended on its own resources entirely until the Rodrigues Regional Assembly recognized the work being done for children with learning difficulties that was not being met generally in the schools of the island, and eventually agreed to offer regular support and of various services to the GPL Centre.

I am still holding the helm now, although we have a wonderful team of Managers, Financial Clerk, beekeepers, handicraft workers, teachers and staff, as well as domestic and ancillary staff.

I have started treatment of the Age Related Macular Degeneration mentioned in my last letter and thank deeply all those who have enquired and given generously to this need, and enabled me to plan to receive further treatment for this ongoing condition. Treatment that is not available in Rodrigues.

As always I will reply personally to emails sent to pdraper@intnet.mu

Warmest greetings.

Paul

UK Conservatives' Leadership Race

Is Great Britain ready for non-white Prime Minister?

In a few days' time we shall know

P.C.