



## Moody's Baa3 rating for Mauritius: Quo vadis?

A more than controversial Moody's report announces a 'downgrade' of the Mauritian economy by assigning it a rating of Baa3 (against a Baa2 previously) while stressing that Mauritius retains its 'investment grade status' (a position it shares with Botswana, the only other African country to have retained this status) and by attributing a favourable rating to the three main banks of the country, namely the MCB Group, the SBM and ABSA for "the resilient financial profile despite the increasing challenging operating environment."

The highly polemical rating of Moody has been severely criticized by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as being "hard" and "unjust". The APRM, an African Union blessed institution which supports African countries in the field of credit rating, blames in no uncertain terms Moody for ignoring the vigorous steps taken by Mauritius to revitalize the economy after

the devastating Covid-19 pandemic. The risk factors were qualified as "vague and quite subjective" in an article published by 'Africa Feeds'. The article goes as far as to say that Moody's rating amounts to no less than a "tick in the box exercise".

### The four observations of the APRM

In a series of observation APRM underlines the insufficiency of the analysis of Moody's modus operandi:-

- Moody's evaluation of the resilience of Mauritian institutions and governance is based on the fact that the Mauritian authorities have applied non-conventional policies and punctual economic measures in the last two years. That is a largely fallacious and fictitious reasoning being given that traditional economic remedies do not suffice to confront the economic crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

- The downgrading of Mauritius is in contradiction to Moody's observation according to which institutions proved to be resilient. Now, if the institutions were resilient, why downgrade Mauritius?

- The idea of "weakened institutional resilience and governance in Mauritius" has been probably motivated by the pessimistic turn of mind of the principal non resident analyst responsible of the Mauritius Desk.

- The fact that the Mauritian government was given only five days for any objection prior to the release of the report was indeed too short. This did not give the representatives of government time enough for consultation, appeal or request for modifications before the issue of the final report.

**D O D O**

## Mauritius is in an expansion phase and GDP growth will be above 7% in 2022, says Finance Minister



Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Dr Renganaden Padayachy (left) at the inauguration of the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank Group (TDB Group) Principal Office with TDB Group President Emeritus and Managing Director, Mr Admassu Tadesse

"Today, Mauritius is in an expansion phase while many countries are facing a slowdown in economic activity, fearing or even entering a recession. However, this will not be the case in Mauritius. Our GDP growth will be 7% in 2022 and above 5% in 2023, whereas exports of goods will reach Rs 100 billion in 2022."

This statement was made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Dr Renganaden Padayachy, at Africa FI Place in Ebène, where he was speaking at the inauguration of the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank Group (TDB Group) Principal Office. The Minister proceeded with the unveiling of plaque and a tree planting ceremony on that occasion.

The Secretary General of COMESA, Ms Chileshe Kapwepwe; Finance Ministers and Governors of TDB Group; TDB Group President Emeritus and Managing Director, Mr Admassu Tadesse; the Governor of the Bank of Mauritius, Mr Harvesh Seegolam; and other personalities were also present.

Mauritius is hosting, on 24 and 25 August 2022, the 38th Annual General Meeting of the Board of Governors of the TDB Group. The country will be taking up the role of Chairperson of the Board of Governors, in line with the Board of Governors' Rules of Procedure and the provisions of the TDB Charter.

## From Page One

In his opening remarks, Minister Padayachy highlighted that TDB has been operating since 1985 as an autonomous regional development finance institution of COMESA and has gradually expanded its scope by providing increasing financing facilities for large-scale projects to its 24 Member States. The institution thereafter established itself as the TDB Group with several subsidiaries and an even wider geographical reach, he recalled.

Mauritius, said Minister Padayachy, has been a Member State of TDB since 1991. Speaking about the present and future role of the country within the TDB Group, he underscored that Mauritius, as a renowned international financial centre, is one of the main gateways for cross-border trade and investment with the rest of the continent.

According to him, foreign direct investment will exceed Rs 20 billion in 2022 compared to Rs 15.4 billion in 2021. These excellent results are due to Government's strategy to increase the resilience of the sector and the growth of investments, he stated.

Mauritius, emphasised the Minister, is also well positioned geographically, has attractive regulatory frameworks, as well as human resources with robust skills. The Mauritius jurisdiction, complemented by an extensive network of investment promotion and protection agreements giving it access to more than five billion consumers worldwide, is known and recognised for its socio-political stability and for offering one of the best business climates in the world, he remarked.

For Dr Padayachy, the multiple shocks of the past two years including the COVID-19 pandemic, the FATF and EU lists, and the conflict in Ukraine, have not hampered the resilience of the Mauritian economy and society.

As regards tourism, the Minister underlined that this key sector of the Mauritian

economy is doing well and the objective of welcoming one million tourists in 2022 is achievable. In the first half of 2022, the country registered the visit of 500,000 tourists while in July Mauritius welcomed 94,000 tourists, he indicated. Referring to export figures, Dr Padayachy pointed out that in the first half of this year, exports exceeded Rs 47 billion, compared to Rs. 39.7 billion in the corresponding period of 2019. This year, the Mauritian economy will attain its pre-pandemic level, with a GDP of over Rs 500 billion rupees for the first time. These projections can only call for Mauritius to play an increasing role within the TDB Group, he added.

Moreover, the Minister reassured that Mauritius will continue to work to ensure growth, employment, development and economic integration in the region. For his part, Mr Admassu Tadesse underscored that today is an opportunity to recognise the strategic role that Mauritius has played as a TDB Member State since it joining the shareholding in 1991. He expressed appreciation to the Finance Minister of Mauritius for his support and for providing strategic leadership in that regard.

In addition, Mr Admassu Tadesse gave an overview of the history of the setting up of the TDB Group and highlighted that 30 years have since passed and now TDB is the host of one of principal Offices in Mauritius. He further indicated that four subsidiaries of the Group are domiciled in Mauritius namely: Trade Finance Fund; Fund Manager ESATAL; Captive Insurance Company; and COMESA Infrastructure Fund.

Trade and Development Bank

The TDB is a multilateral, treaty-based, investment-grade development finance institution, with 42 sovereign and institutional shareholders and assets of USD 8 bn. It covers the tripartite region of COMESA, EAC, SADC and African economies aligned with the ambitions of the AfCFTA.

TDB serves 22 economies in its region, with the mandate to finance and foster trade, regional economic integration, and sustainable development. TDB is part of the TDB Group, which also comprises TDF (the Trade and Development Fund), ESATF (the Eastern and Southern African Trade Fund), TCI (TDB Captive Insurance), and the TDB Academy.

GIS

# Sports Minister launches Open Africa-Middle East Championships of Foil Kitesurfing



**The 2022 Open Africa-Middle East Championships of Foil Kitesurfing was officially launched, this afternoon (26 August), in the presence of the Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation, Mr Stephan Toussaint, at the Preskil Island Resort in Pointe d'Esny, Mahébourg.**

The President of the Mauritius Yachting Association (MYA), Mr Florian Bétuel, and other personalities were present on this occasion. The competition is being held for the first time in Mauritius from 26 to 31 August. A total of 18 participants from Mauritius, China, Brazil, Seychelles and South Africa, among others, will be competing for the Championship.

In his address, Minister Toussaint highlighted that it is a proud moment for Mauritius to be hosting the Championship for the first time adding that the event will portray the sporting spirit of the country on the international front. He encouraged local athletes to give their best in the competition and fly the Mauritian Flag high by winning medals. Furthermore, the Minister underlined that it will be a great opportunity for the young athletes to discover their talents and learn from the champions.

He thanked all the collaborators who have joined hands for the holding of this event adding that the Ministry will provide its full support to the MYA for this competition to become an annual feature.

As for Mr Bétuel, he pointed out that the MYA is responsible for some water-sports such as sailing, windsurfing and kitesurfing and is doing all in its capacity to promote these activities. The MYA, he said, has worked hard to make this event successful with the help of all close collaborators.

GIS

# Chronological Events: July 2022

by Pearlshka Burrun

## Pravind Kumar Jugnauth v/s Sherry Singh

**Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth is called upon to shed light on directives he would have given to the CEO of Mauritius Telecom, Sherry Singh, to allow a third party to install sniffing equipment to spy on internet traffic on the SAFE network.**

The Prime Minister challenged Mr Singh to make a statement to the police if he was serious about his allegations: "Si li serye e si li pa enn bluff, ki li al lapolis li fer enn deklarasion" ('If he means what he says and he is not bluffing, let him go to the police and give a statement').

This did not deter the Opposition to claim that the Prime Minister's act to be akin to "high treason towards the Mauritian State."

Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth hits back and wonders why Sherry Singh, who had initially opposed the access of technicians from India to the facilities at Baie de Jacotet for a survey, changed his mind in April and subsequently granted them access: "Be si ti ena, koman li pe rod fer krwar, sa bann alegasion pou install lekipman interseption la, ki fer en avril li pas ti demissione?" ('If there was, as he alleged, the possibility that sniffing equipment be installed, why did not present his letter of retirement there and then?')

## Speaker Soorojdev Phokeer still contested by the Opposition

**The July 5 parliamentary session was marked by a series of blunders on the part of Speaker Soorojdev Phokeer which provoked the ire of the Opposition parties.**

During that session he vehemently refused additional questions from Opposition leader Xavier Duval which sought to establish the link regarding the call made between Pravind Jugnauth and Sherry Singh on April 15, 2022 at 10.18 a.m., even going to the extent of ordering Xavier Duval's microphone to be cut off before decreeing his expulsion from Parliament. To justify his position the Speaker invoked a clause of the Standing Orders that, apparently, did not exist.

The pandemonium did not stop here. The Speaker continued ejecting and 'naming' in series, and suspended Rajesh Bhagwan for two sessions - which led the former Labour President of the Republic, Kailash Purryag, to state to Week-End: "The Speaker Phokeer is paralyzing parliamentary democracy". The Entente de l'Espoir described the Speaker as 'ridikil' (ridiculous) and 'worse than ever'. During that session, the Speaker even refused an intervention of the Prime Minister.

## Sherry Singh faced to 3 provisional charges

**Sherry Singh faces interrogation sessions at CCID HQ at Central Barracks on three provisional charges lodged against him. Minister Balgobin is sent to the front lines to deny any interference on the Internet network transiting from Mauritius, elaborating on the quasi technical impossibility to draw datas from the SAFE network.**

For his part, the leader of the Opposition Xavier Duval maintains that the Sherry Singh affair has only just begun by hammering that it is too easy for a Prime Minister to hide himself on the pretext of national security.

Minister Balgobin strongly denies that there has been Data Capture on 27 of the 41 Links at the Landing Station.

However, Transparency Mauritius believes that Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth should, at best, withdraw for the time for an independent investigation or submit his resignation.

The LPM of Bruneau Laurette invites the Data Protection Commissioner to act under section 5(1) of the Data Protection Act with an investigation into what happened on Friday April 15 at the Baie-du-Jacotet Landing Station.

*(Editor's Note: Now that the outcry from various sources about the so-called sniffing scandal seems to have died down, was it in fact a storm in a teacup or simply another failed attempt to disparage the Government?)*

## The tourist industry and the environment

**If the country is banking hard on the full start of the tourist industry after the years of pandemic, environmentalists are on the alert to see that hotel developers take at heart the preservation of the environment.**

At this stage, the country is in a race against time behind the Seychelles and the Maldives in the field of tourism by betting on a bouncing back of tourism from South Africa with a boost from the Reunion market and India while MBC Focus TV programme highlights the constraints in terms of air access and the 'testing conditions' on the main markets for Mauritius. There is no doubt that the foreign currencies earned by the tourist industry are vital to the economy of the island.

However, the work undertaken by hotel developers on the coast, whether in Wolmar, Rivière Noire and Roches Noires, is under the surveillance of NGOs such as Platform Moris Lanvironnman and political parties such as Rezistans and Alternativ, who want to ensure that these developers have the permits (EIA, etc.) in good and due form and that they comply with the conditions (eg the 44 conditions attached to the work undertaken by the Sands Suites Resort and Spa in Wolmar).

## In a nutshell...

### Impacted purchasing power

The purchasing power of consumers is seriously and substantially impacted with edible oil, the price of which is skyrocketing like Moroil, which literally doubles the prices of its various brands, i.e. the litre of Sunlife Sunflower at Rs 136.16 against Rs 61 (price subsidized at Rs 136.16 against Rs 61 (subsidized prices) and litre of Rani at Rs 109 against Rs 55.

### LUX\* Belle Mare damaged by violent fire

A violent fire (the probable origin of which would be waterproofing work on the roof of certain villas with sparks igniting the thatched roof) ravaged the LUX\* Belle Mare, leaving this sad legacy – at least a hundred rooms damaged, with almost 85% of the hotel establishment literally reduced to ashes.

### IMF expresses concern about Mauritius public debt

The IMF, referring to public debt, underlines in its Staff Appraisal Report: "Mauritius public debt remains subject to notable vulnerabilities and risks" while explaining serious doubts about the Rs 22 billion expected from the sale of NIC and Maubank, decision announced in the third Finance Minister Padayachy's budget.

### Amendment to Immigration Act raises concerns

An amendment to the Immigration Act, with the manifest aim of discouraging sham marriages, which grants all discretionary powers to the Prime

## From Page 3

Minister, is the subject of debate, which gives Me Shirin Aumeeruddy Cziffra the opportunity to make this pertinent observation: "We must take into account the possibilities of the dangers, but while preserving the rights to appeal to the Supreme Court by removing the absolute discretion that this amendment grants to the Prime Minister."

### Rashid Imrith, well-known trade unionist, passes away

Rashid Imrith, well-known trade unionist, president of the Federation of Public Service Unions (FSSP), died on Wednesday July 20 at the age of 65 following a serious illness against which he had been bravely fighting

for 16 months, is one of the few to be decorated under two different political regimes, first OSK, then CSK, and whose achievements civil servants will remember, among this 'over generous' report (SAJ dixit) by salary commissioner Donald Chesworth released in 1987.

### Taiwanese boat Ruey Chien Tsai on fire for the 3rd time

Bad luck seems to dog the Taiwanese boat Ruey Chien Tsai which was on its 3rd fire on Saturday July 23. This time while it was in the drydock of the company Taylor Smith to be dismantled. The two other fires which had affected the boat took place, at the interval of two hours, on August 24, 2021 in the harbour of Port Louis.

# The New 'True Blues' of the British Conservative Party?



Rishi Sunak, laughing all the way to No 10?



Liz Truss, A True Blue. Is it in the Bag?



Suella Braverman, out of No 10 race, supports Truss. Hope to retain Attorney General's job? The top is Blue, though!

Sajid Javid

Former Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Left No 10 race early

Kwasi Kwarteng

Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

**The big question of the day in the UK is whether the kingdom is ready for a non-white Prime Minister. In the two-horse to No 10 at the moment is an Asian, Rishi Sunak, competing with a true blue conservative Liz Truss. According to public opinion, the true blue one is the favourite.**

The Blue-blooded Conservatives have in the past included Sir Winston Churchill, Enoch Powell and Margaret Thatcher. When a noble personality like Mahatma Gandhi led India to independence 75 years ago to the ire of Sir Winston Churchill he was derogatorily described by the latter as "a naked fakir".

Remember the "Rivers of Blood

speech" made by racist Enoch Powell in 1968? Powell was worried of people from the Commonwealth of the likes of Sunak, Fernandes, Patel, Javid, Kwarteng, Cleverly, Sharma etc flooding his country. "As I look ahead, I am filled with foreboding; like the Roman, I seem to see 'the River Tiber foaming with much blood'." The likes of Sunak and the lot, and their 'progénitures' were feared in the course of time would spill the blood of the English people in the UK. It is believed that Powell's speech led to the victory of the Conservatives in 1970.

What about the other 'blue-blooded' Conservative like Margaret Thatcher?

Thatcher was very jealous of the Conservatives' membership, and used to refer to

the True Blues of the Party 'as One of Us'. Can Sunak and the lot ever be "one of us"?

If not, it may be said that they benefit from "frottement" by mingling with the cream of the British society. As a result they are happy to defend and promote the racist policy of Enoch Powell, who must be rejoicing in his grave. These outsiders now ensure the enforcement of the Commonwealth Immigrants Act of 1962 which was introduced by the Conservative Government to keep people like themselves out of the UK.

Will Sunak and the lot ever become blue-blooded Conservatives or the true blues? Great Britain is on the brink of choosing a non-white PM. A non-white may never again get so close of leading the True Blues of the country? The situation begs the question: If not Now, When?

*Pictures from television broadcast*

## Copy of 2nd letter from Eliézer François to the Prime Minister



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

Dear Mr Prime Minister,

With all due respect to you, please allow me to remind you that I served my country Mauritius, with pride and honour in various capacities.

First as a scout, then a secondary school teacher, Principal of St John College, a politician, a municipal councillor, a member of parliament, a trade union leader, a member of the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund, political party leader and government minister.

Now, as an old age Mauritian pensioner who has been stranded in Australia for over two years, I reiterate my multiple appeals and multiple requests to you to amend the old age pension regulation for a second time, with retrospective effect, until all international borders are open, all international flights, including Air Mauritius, have resumed their activities, and the chaotic situation that had been created by the pandemic Covid-19, OMICRON (etc, etc?) is back to normal.

Please note also that I'm not begging for any special favour from you and your government. I'm sure there are other old age pensioners who are still trapped overseas, through no fault of theirs, but simply because of the pandemic. They are in an awkward predicament just like me.

Your government has just decided to remove most of the restrictions in regard to the movement of Mauritians throughout the country. Well done! This is a very good, sound and wise decision.

Finally, I would like to point out to you, once again, that I'm not getting any old age pension in Australia because I'm not considered as a permanent resident anymore.

I live in Mauritius which I consider as my beloved Motherland. As such, I regularly pay on a monthly basis, through direct debits at the MCB, my CEB, CWA and Telecoms bills.

I also have to pay for my car insurance at the SWAN, plus car registra-

## Last Open Letter to the PM

# Reiterated Appeal To The Prime Minister

tion tax and for my Home and Contents Insurance with the MUA.

Regularly, every month I've been sending a life certificate to the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity.

As a strong supporter of our National Airline MK Air Mauritius, I hold a valid electronic ticket, and should have been taken back to Mauritius since May 2020. Air Mauritius has booked me instead for 23 November 2022.

I've also requested Air Mauritius to make arrangements with Emirates Airlines so that I could get back to Mauritius via Dubai. Meanwhile, my financial situation in Australia is desperate.

I therefore hope and pray that you will allow Fairness, Justice, Wisdom, Common Sense, Humanitarian Feelings to guide you, as the Prime Minister & Head of the Mauritian Government, in your consideration of my case.

You are the only person who can take the decision through a Cabinet Memo from the Minister, Mrs Fazila Daureeawoo-Jeewa, for a second amendment to the old age pension regulation.

A Quote from The Gospel: "Lord ... But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed." The Roman Centurion to Jesus - Matthew 8:8.

Sincerely,

Eliézer François JP

### Editor's note:

It may be advisable for Mr Eliézer François to contact the High Commissioner for Mauritius in Australia.

It is part of an ambassador's role to provide assistance to any compatriot who may find himself in distress in the country to which he is accredited.

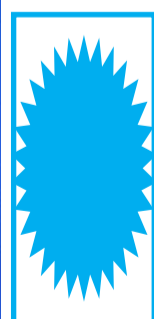
On the other hand, the High Commissioner could ensure that the Mr François' missive receive attention at the PM's office.

# Global Peace Index 2022

## Maurice



# Pays le plus paisible en Afrique



# Top 30 mondial

Mauritian Heritage

# À l'ombre du grand jacquier

Amenah Jahangir-Chojoo Édition Vizavi

*Review by Prega Vencatasawmy*

This small book of octavo size, reduced format, bordering on 160 pages, landed on my desk recently and I dipped into it immediately and flipped through the pages in one sitting, more or less.

The author is Ameenah Jahangir-Chojoo, PhD in geography. written in a simple, direct and limpid style spread over 22 chapters.

Incidentally, the author shared the prize of Prix Jean Fanchette 1996, Contes et nouvelles, and rightly so! She has literally dug into her childhood days and conveyed to us in a beautifully crafted French prose (no artificiality) many episodes that constituted her childhood memories, growing up in a village among her relatives in a traditional Muslim family attached to family values

.In some ways, this book echoes some parallels with the Malgudi days of RK Narayan delving into childhood and family life in a village together with the ebbs and flows that come with it.

The author instills lots of warmth and pertinent observation in her narrative when fleshing out many slices of childhood and village life, alternating with joyous discoveries and painful segments of her life stemming from inhabiting a big family .



On a personal level, this book strikes a chord with me as I share more or less the same age bracket with the author and I can identify and relate to many situations she alluded to. She has invested

lots of emotions and sentiments in her approach spanning over 21 chapters with a glossary at the end.

The scene where the village midwife delivers the baby makes my eyes well up! She brings to life many trials and tribulations attached to family life, especially living with nana and nanni.

This book is viscerally very Mauritian in its contents and realities and it sails through the choppy waters of growing up on an island. I sincerely recommend it to a wider audience. It has the distinction of not preaching at us but makes aware of our upbringing.

Childhood days are to be cherished reminiscent of Le Grand Maulnes of Alain Fournier. Jahangir-Chojoo has given us in a little gem to be treasured.

I was pleasantly surprised to stumble on Camp Yo-loff in the book, a place I grew up in my childhood days and a very apt remembrance for me! Small world, I might add. Thank you, Jahangir-Chojoo!

**Ed Note:** The picture of the milkman dispensing milk from his cycle tank is very evocative. Children used to bring an extra goblet in which the milkman would drop a bit of backshish which the kids would drink immediately, raw and unboiled!

## 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



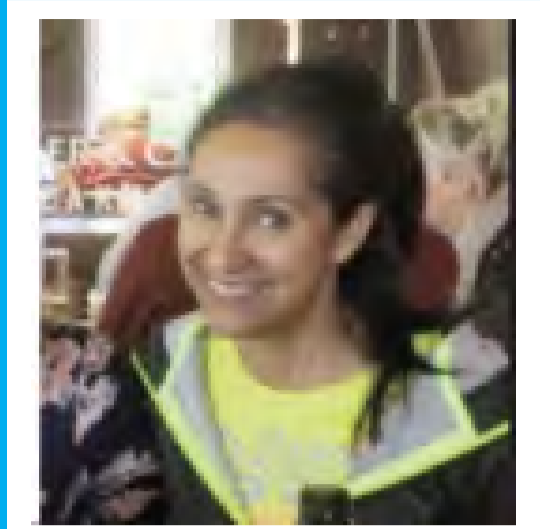
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A l'écart de tout, VILLAS EVASION sur deux niveaux est située sur les hauteurs de Port-Mathurin, la capitale de l'île Rodrigues à Montagne Charlot. Dans un cadre chaleureux, l'établissement vous accueille pour un séjour inoubliable et relaxant. Deux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

# Some memories from a tour of Scotland

*From Mylene, Japan*



## Fàilte! Welcome!

After touring the Scottish Highlands, Lowlands, and major cities recently, I found that Scotland and Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan (where I live), have many things in common. They're both about the same size. Life expectancy and GDP are pretty much the same. They are rich in history and pageantry. Scotland has Scotch whisky, castles, and Nessie, while Hokkaido has Sapporo beer, castles, and the legendary sea monster, Kussie.



## Whisky à Go Go



## The Edinburgh Tattoo

This famous tourist attraction has nothing to do with ink drawings on the body and everything to do with the Dutch phrase "Doe den tap toe," which means, turn off the tap. It all dates back to the early 17th century, when drummers and trumpeters would appear at closing time to alert the landlord to stop serving drinks so the soldiers would go back to their barracks. Over the years, doe den tap toe has been shortened to tap-toe (Tattoo). As a direct result of turn off the tap, we now have a global celebration of music and dance that has evolved over the course of several centuries.



## Is It whisky with an "e"?

Do you write whisky or whiskey? You decide. In the USA and Ireland, it's whiskey, while in Scotland and Canada, it's whisky. It may surprise you to know that Scottish whisky has a long-standing relationship with Japan.

**Masataka Taketsuru** went to Scotland in 1918 to learn the process of distilling whisky first-hand. When he returned to his homeland, he was a key player in the production of the first Japanese malt whisky known as, Shirofuda. Thanks to him, Japanese whisky has gone on to win many prestigious awards. Slàinte Mhath! (Scots Gaelic for "cheers!")

## The University of Glasgow

**Masataka Taketsuru** studied organic chemistry here in 1919, an important part of his path to becoming a whisky maker.

The university, in the Gothic revival style, was designed by George Gilbert Scott. It is the second oldest university in Scotland.

## The Scottish Parliament or Holyrood



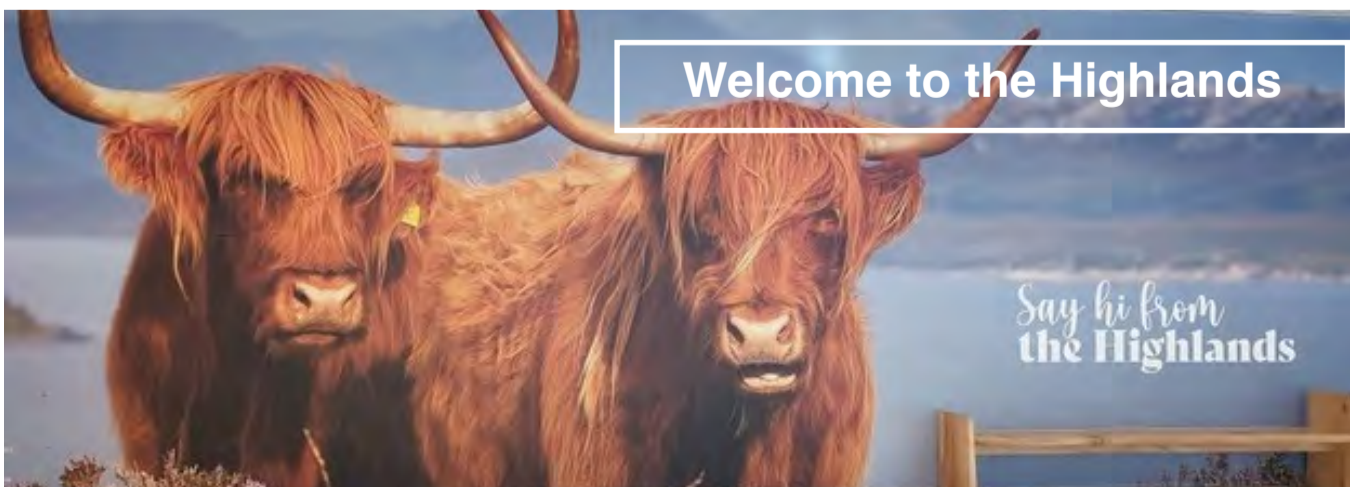
When Nicola Sturgeon speaks here, nobody ignores her and she gets all the attention she needs.

Editor's Note:

Not surprising that the Scots listen to their PM.

The Scots want Scotland to be an independent nation and to be part of the European Union. Nicola Sturgeon is fighting for it.

**Scotland for the Scots!**



**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>**

Rodrigues Newsletter

Greetings from Rodrigues.

Life here at Care-Co and the GPL Centre continues to return to a 'new' normal.

But this does not mean that things are the same as before.

The GPL Special Learning Centre will re-open tomorrow (Monday 22nd August )and although all the more than 60 or so children who are on the attendance list can all come each day, and not be divided into two groups, mask wearing and some social distancing will still be in force.

This is not easy for our kids, many of whom do not really understand what Covid 19 is, or the effect that it has had on our island and, indeed our world. But they dutifully comply, and we do our best to see that they do understand why they have to wear masks and wash their hands so often.

The newly installed Local Government (Rodrigues Regional Assembly) has mostly continued with support and the benefits accorded to our organization, by offering special excursions and visits and picnics and other events during our 'winter' holidays, as well as the financial support. As has also, the National Inclusion Foundation.

Other support in cash and in kind has been coming in, for which we are most grateful and has enabled us to continue to offer the services of care, education and rehabilitation to all those who attend the Centre.

Mr. Orlando Auguste, our School head, and all his staff are doing a wonderful job, and the benefits and rewards are there to see as the children not only to be able to get out of their homes, which are sometimes poor and deprived, and meet and interact with their friends, but are also able to learn and develop their skills and abilities.

The global pressures on the cost of living hits harder on people who have been managing to live just above the edge, and their already limited expectations of any major changes in their conditions and lifestyles are reduced even further.

In the Care-Co workshop there is also a slow but steady return to normal activities as orders for beehives and chain link fencing are placed from local buyers, but also from the seasonal influx of visitors to the island now that travel restrictions are being lifted, bringing in clients to our shops to buy our local handicrafts and handmade soap. Birgit and her team of skilled workers, all of whom have disabilities of one kind or another, are getting busier.

The honey flow was again very poor, and we still are examining the various reasons why this should be so and find that we are not the only beekeeping and honey producing organization that has seen exceptionally poor yield this season.

We hope that things will improve in the future, as we cannot see any major reason why the results of our beekeeping should not bring a better honey flow.

As people all over the world look hopefully to the future and take stock after the different calamities that are so widely reported in the media, we also remain cheerful and hopeful for better days ahead.

Peddy and Nicodeme who are both former students at the GPL Centre and now employed full time at Care-Co will be coming with me to Europe in September on a trip for which they have had to wait since 2020 to be realized.

There has been no change in the situation regarding treatment for my AMD (Age-related Macular degeneration) in Rodrigues, and the main Government Eye Hospital in Mauritius is being rebuilt at present, so services there are reduced, leaving the very expensive treatment being only available at private clinics.

My thanks to all who have kindly and generously, or in other ways sent me help to find an answer to this need.

Please excuse the non-personal communication, but I promise as always, to respond personally to any mails or letters.

Sincerely

*Paul*

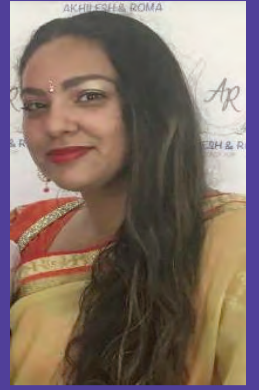
**The Mauritian Overseas Gazette is a periodical for Mauritians residing outside Mauritius.**

**Articles are welcome from the Diaspora telling compatriots all over the world of life as you experience it in your country of adoption and where you have set new roots. Email us at [<mauritianoverseasgazette@yahoo.com>](mailto:mauritianoverseasgazette@yahoo.com)**



# A report from the UK

By Yvonne Goder-Persand



## Secrecy of a Mauritian Adoption



### Fabiola as a baby

In amazement a post was made in a Mauritian Facebook group by a Danish journalist Erik Holm concerning a Mauritian lady only known as 'Fabiola'.

Fabiola was born in 1976 in Mauritius and was adopted by a family from Denmark in 1978. She has been seeking to find information on her biological parents or even her mother from the year 2000 with not much luck.

We understand the difficulties of adoption and maybe the biological family do not wish to be found. You hear stories of adopted children finding their biological parents to be let down with not finding the answers they have craved for or even the biological parents not showing much interest. Adopted children can also feel failed by then finding out their biological parents have moved on by getting married and having a new family they are engaged in.

However, without seeking the information Fabiola requires, she will never have a resolution to the

### Fabiola as a toddler

mystery of her adoption. She should at least have the opportunity to find out who are her parents and their names.

The secrecy of this adoption is that since her search she has been unable to even access information of her Mauritian surname which should have been on her birth certificate. The story is very intriguing.

The post by Erik Holm reads:

"Dear Mauritians in the UK

The little girl in the pictures attached is Fabiola. She was born at Clinique Du Bon Pasteur in Rose Hill Mauritius on August 26th, 1976. Seur Claude was one of the attending nurses.

In January 1978, Fabiola was adopted by a Danish family. For most of her life, she has searched for answers about her biological family.

We have reason to believe that her mother might have moved to the UK shortly after she gave birth.

### Fabiola at 37

We know this is a long shot, but should you recognize Fabiola and have information that could help us move forward please reach out. We really appreciate it.

E-mail: erikholm1@icloud.com or whatsapp: +45 5115 8007 Thank you in advance."

It is believed Fabiola was placed in an orphanage in Crèche de Quatre Bornes until she was adopted.

The adoption agency has failed to provide any answers to Fabiola including any information of her birth mother.

We wish for Fabiola to find the answers she requires and wish her luck in her search.

Very interesting!.

Thanks for sharing!

## Hit and Run

Nitesh Bissendary (40) (pictured left) of Manston who ploughed into a family of five in his Alpha Romeo at the seaside resort of Margate, Kent, in the evening of August 10 killing 38 Years old Cambridge physicist Mrs Noga Sella and her 78 years old father, Yoram Hersfeld. The holidaying family were strolling in the area.

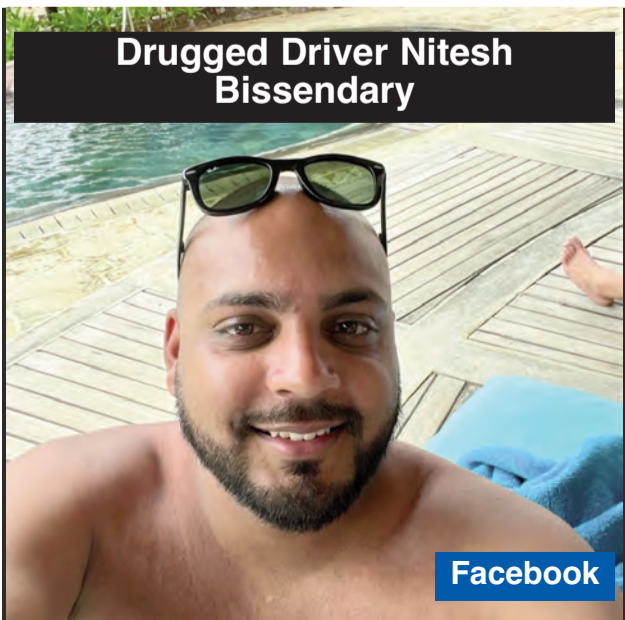
Bissendary fled from the scene and was later arrested at his home. His mother and father were also arrested (and released) on suspicion of offering him protection after the accident.

Bissendary was charged with dangerous diving under the influence of drugs and alcohol and was remanded into custody.

Mrs Sella's six years old suffered serious bodily harm while her husband and eight years son suffered minor injuries.

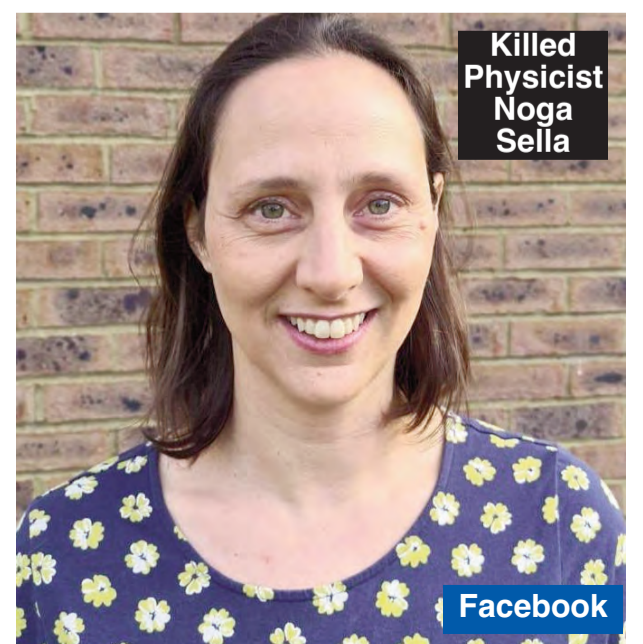
Source: The Sun (UK)

Drugged Driver Nitesh Bissendary



Facebook

Killed Physicist Noga Sella



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