

L'Union  
fait  
La Force



# Mauritian Overseas Gazette

Truth  
&  
Trust

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A totally independent platform

Views expressed by contributors are their own

## Goodbye Your Majesty *Farewell to a Grand Lady*



TV pic

This is the picture which most people will remember of The Queen of England, A Queen who is always smiling. Here she is dressed up in green but when I met her at Buckingham Palace in 2007 (See invitation reproduced on Page 2) she sported a blue dress. What has been stamped on my mind is her indelible smile when she shook hands with me. It was if she was greeting an old acquaintance. There she was on her feet, with the Duke not too far, shaking hands with the guests - lined up to be introduced, one by one. I was there as a result of my community involvement as Editor of Mauritius News. When it was my turn to shake hands with Her Majesty, the Master of Ceremonies announced Peter Chellen from Mauritius. "Mauritius," exclaimed Prince Philip and Her Majesty's smile became more pronounced. Why did Prince Philip exclaim "Mauritius"? This is explained in the press cutting that is featured further down on Page 2.

Shall remember that moment? Oh Yes, I shall remember that moment for as long as I live. A great honour to shake hands with Queen Elizabeth II. People will in years to come read from History Books about the reign of Queen Elizabeth II just as we, at some time of our student days, have read about the reign of Elizabeth I. All of us of this present era have been witnessing history unfurling before us. We sometimes wonder of the kind of people who thrived during the reign of Elizabeth I. Generations to come may wonder about the existence of us all who have been "strutting and fretting our hour on the stage" in the reign of Elizabeth II. We are all part of her history, part of the history of the 20th and 21st centuries, the History of England.

From Page One

Farewell . . . (Cont)

An invitation to meet Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh



*The Master of the Household  
has received Her Majesty's command to invite  
**Mr. Peter Chellen**  
to a Reception to be given at Buckingham Palace by  
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh  
on Monday, 12th November, 2007 at 6.00 p.m.*

*A reply is requested to:  
The Master of the Household,  
Buckingham Palace,  
London SW1A 1AA.*

*Dress: Lounge Suit / Day Dress  
National Dress*

*Guests are asked to arrive between 5.15 and 5.50 p.m.*

## Why did Prince Philip exclaim "Mauritius" as mentioned on Page One?

In the December 2007 issue of *Mauritius News* we narrated the incident involving Cyril Mootoo that caused Prince Philip to exclaim "Mauritius" when I was presented to The Queen at a BP reception on 12 November 2017.

In August 2016, HRH Prince Philip was visiting a factory in Scotland when the British national press reported an occurrence of a faulty fusebox had caused a fire incident at Windsor Castle.

Questioned about the incident by reporters in Scotland Prince Philip jokingly said that an "Indian" was responsible for it.

The press descended on BP in London to look for the Indian. A BP informer indi-

**Her Majesty awarding the Royal Victorian Medal to Buckingham Palace Chief Electrician Mauritian-born Cyril Mootoo on his retirement in 2007 after 28 years' royal and loyal service at BP and Windsor Castle**



cated Cyril Mootoo to them as the man in question and they invaded his premises at East Dulwich where he resided to ask questions about the fire. Driven out of his wits he threatened the reported with slabs of stone from the street pavement. On the other hand The Duke was taken to task by all and sundry for saying that it was an Indian when in fact the man in question was a Mauritian. In his joke the Prince was probably referring to Indians in the sense of

Cowboy and Red Indians. In the English language there is a tendency to refer a job done by a cowboy as being a job done by a reckless and an unskilled worker.

It is understood that the Prince took a bit of stick for his cowboy statement because of that Mauritian, and he was not quick to forget about it.

A year later he heard the word Mauritian being announced and a Mauritian chap being presented to HM.

It was not Cyril Mootoo for certain who was being presented. As for our compatriot he had little to worry about his job. Within a few months The Queen was to pin a distinguished service medal on his lapel in recognition of his devotion to his royal duties.

**P.C.**

**See also  
Pages 3 & 4**



# AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE



*First Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, pictured at Buckingham Place with his family and members of the Mauritius High Commission in London following his knighthood investiture.*



*High Commissioner for Mauritius, Girish Nunkoo, presenting his credentials to HM Queen Elizabeth on taking up his appointment as his country's representative to the UK.*

## The Queen in Mauritius During Royal Tour in 1972



**The royal yacht Britannia laid anchor in the harbour of Port Louis and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her consort HRH Prince Philip were brought to the Chien de Plomb. From there they were taken in an open-top car up Place d'Armes to Government House.**

In 1972, as a civil servant, I was posted to the newly-created Management Services Unit (MSU) within the Prime Minister's Office. The Unit itself occupied a few rooms on the first floor of the wooden building on the left entrance of Government House leading to other departments within the premises. From the first-floor balcony we had a front seat view of the royal vehicle coming up Place d'Armes to enter Government House by the majestic statue of Queen Victoria. The wooden unit of colonial days on the side entrance to Government House has today been replaced by a concrete block that accommodates various offices on the compound.



**The Queen in radiant white dress sporting her usual smile, accompanied by Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, at Champ de Mars. The crowd was delighted to be able to see Her Majesty at such close quarters**



From Page 3

## Queen mourned by Mauritius

## Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth pays respects to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth signing the Book of Condolences at the British High Commission in Mauritius



Prime Minister Jugnauth and wife Kobita at the lying in state of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Hall in London

## The Queen is dead Long Live The King!



A somber Prince proclaimed King at mother's funeral



King Charles' first contact with the crowd at Buckingham Palace

The former Prince Charles has overnight changed into a totally different personality indicating that he is made of sterner stuff and his past attitude to life is gone. Some people at some time used to consider him as a real 'charlie', someone who could not be relied upon, especially as reported that he used to talk to trees. His involvement in issues which should not be within his royal prerogatives did cause concern to

some people. Following his proclamation as King of England he made it known that as such his approach to life will no longer be the same as before.

There has been in the past serious contention from some quarters that the days of monarchy are numbered and constitutional change should take place for a Republic of England to be installed. On his shoulders now rests the responsibility to ensure con-

tinued respect for royalty in the UK. However, my belief is that though he will be a rather liberal monarch he will fulfil his responsibility to strengthen the role of the monarchy in the kingdom. The trouble is that he is likely to be judged by the standard set his mother.

P.C.



# Memorabilia of Elizabeth II as Queen of Mauritius

The late monarch was Queen of Mauritius within the British Commonwealth until Mauritius became a republic on March 12, 1992

*The Queen's effigy was featured on our coinage, bank notes and postage stamps*

