

**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

# Race Relations in Britain The Sunak Phenomenon

**The unimaginable has happened in Great Britain . . . The Sunak Phenomenon has taken place! Race-relations in this country have certainly come a long way. Over 50 years ago, more especially during the 1960s all those who were not Whites were referred to as Blacks. It did sound rather incongruous at the time for Asians to be called Blacks, and so the term was eventually restricted to the people of Afro origin. The Asian migrants were contemptuously called Paki - especially by the National Front movement, the ultra-right-wing element among the Conservatives.**

In 1962, the Conservative Party introduced the Commonwealth Immigrants Act, effective from July of that year, to keep the likes of the Rishi Sunak, the Priti Patel and Suella (Fernandes) Braverman, James Cleverly etc, out of Britain. For the protection of those undesirable non-white people in Britain from racial prejudice and discrimination, a Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) had to be created in the 1960s. The Notting Hill riot (1958) and that of Brixton (1981) are reminiscent of the hatred of many white people for the newcomers from the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Rooms available for renting expressly stated "No Blacks" on the doors of premises. Asians were blamed for turning their rented accommodation into Indian restaurants owing to the permeating smell of curry through apartments let to migrants from the Indian Subcontinent at the time.

Today we find the people of colour, Blacks and Asians, calling the Conservative Party "My Party, the Party I love." This could be considered as an insult by those who have lived through 1960s in the UK! But we must admit that the world has changed. Now, it's the descendants of those former migrants who vow to keep foreigners out of Britain. Priti Patel, Asian of Ugandan origin, did so as Home Secretary; Suella (Fernandes) Braverman, present Home Secretary, Asian of Kenyan and Mauritian descent is determined to do so; and Rishi Sunak, Asian of Tanzanian origin says we must protect our borders. Oh Enoch! Oh Enoch! How wrong you were! Racist Enoch Powell predicted in the 1960s rivers of blood, the blood of white people that would be shed by migrants of the likes of Patel, Braverman, Sunak etc etc. At the very moment, fervent Brexiteer and far-right extremist Nigel Farage is talking of "flood of Albanians" invading Britain, statement endorsed by Braverman but denied by many MPs. Braverman's attitude has been blamed for causing the spread of scabies and diphtheria among migrants detained in camps contrary to regulations in force in the UK.

# The March of Time History has been made: A non-white has been chosen as PM of the UK

**A member of the old detested ethnic minority is now in charge of a much divided Conservative Party with a white majority. A member of the ethnic minority community who at one time needed the CRE for its protection is now the Boss of the Conservatives and is ruling Britannia. 'True Blues' like Sir Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher must be turning in their graves. The Iron Lady must be asking herself "are these really one of us?". "One of us" was a favourite expression of the Iron Lady to indicate a "True Blue". All that may sound rather petty these days but all this was part of race-relations in Britain.**

What makes it more strange is that the new leader of the Conservative Party is from a community who was pejoratively called 'Paki' by the white extremists of the British society. Those white extremists were supporters of such right-wing elements as Enoch Powell who wanted to keep Britain white. Today, An Asian is the leader of such a party which could still contain elements with ultra-views. Can the leopard change its spots completely?

The British ruled India for nearly 100 years, and today a Rishi is at the head of the government of Britain. Something impossible has been made possible: An Asian chosen to be at the helm of a group of countries (England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland, The Channel Islands) made up of a 95% white and Christian majority. It is incredible and yet it has happened. Rishi Sunak commands that position. (Rishi means an enlightened and bold person in Sanskrit).

**From Page One**

# Race Relations in Britain

*(Continued)*

## Rishi Sunak says No General Election

Sunak has declared that he would not go to the people for a mandate to confirm his position as PM of Great Britain. His argument is that the Conservative Party received a mandate from the people to govern the country at the 2019 General Election. But the Opposition parties argue that the mandate was not for Rishi Sunak to be PM.

A General election at this juncture would be madness in the eyes of the Conservative Party. The Conservatives are not as popular as they were in 2019. A parallel has been drawn between the recent passing of power from Boris Johnson to Rishi Sunak and the transfer of power from Tony Blair to Gordon Brown in 2017.

In 2017, the nation was clamouring for a general election but Gordon Brown, though Labour was at the summum of its popularity, did not agree. Because of this failure, the Opposition was able to hammer the Labour Party down in the public eyes, and by the time the country went to the people two years later, Labour had become a dirty proposition. Gordon Brown was out of office, but he had had two years of premiership to satisfy his PM ambition. The refusal of Gordon Brown has been considered as a mistake on his part. Had he accepted to go to the poll he would surely have had a fresh mandate in view of Labour's popularity then.

### Lowest Ebb

In the case of the present situation, the Conservative Party is at its lowest ebb in the public opinion. Rishi Sunak is right. A general election now will send the Conservative Party into the wilderness, more especially as a result of the piling up of recent scandals, involving Suella Braverman and all. Sunak is reportedly stuck with Braverman's scheming tactic. She naturally knew on which side of the bread was the butter when her Party's leadership campaign was on. She was reported to have made a last-minute deal with Sunak. On Sunday, 23 October, she changed side to support Sunak in the Conservative Party's leadership race and ditched friend of long-standing, old man Boris. Knowing the score, Boris Johnson withdrew from any competition with Sunak for a second helping as PM.

It is very natural that Rishi Sunak Should prefer 'frottement' with the Tories as a result of his wealth. He was privileged to receive the best British education. Billionaires can be expected to find affinity within their own world. But the irony is that the likes of Sunak have become more royalist than King Charles III. While outgoing PM Liz Truss wanted to increase the number of migrants to Britain to over the one-million mark, Sunak of migrant stock says the limit of one million should not be exceeded. On the other hand, migrant descendant Suella (nicknamed Cruella by MPs) Braverman is reported to have publicly declared that she is obsessed with the idea of seeing a planeload of Rwandans leaving Britain. Whatever the definition of the word Obsession may be, it must surely be associated with a state of mental aberration. Such a state of mind demands a study of its own to find out what is her problem.

Various British Prime Ministers have in the past, granted immigration amnesty to illegal migrants to stay in the UK. Now is a time when Britain is in dire need of manpower following Brexit which was vehemently supported by the likes of those New True Blues of the Conservative Party, especially Suella Braverman. A diehard Conservative like Lord Philip Hammond, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, has told the press that the "Home Secretary's policy position on migration needs to be more relaxed to boost growth." Asked as to whether he was happy that Suella Braverman has been brought back to the Cabinet, Lord Hammond diplomatically replied "I'm concerned about her policy position on this issue (immigration)." It has been said that a servant is not greater than his master. A master can at times be magnanimous! A servant may always have a servile mentality!

### Race Relations in Great Britain have certainly come a long way!

#### The New True-Blue members of the UK Conservative Party

The Defensors of UK Immigration Policies to keep others of their own kind out of Britain. The White Britishers can lay their heads peacefully on their pillows with these champions around.

Had Enoch Powell been successful, they themselves would not be here.



PM Sunak



Home Secretary Braverman



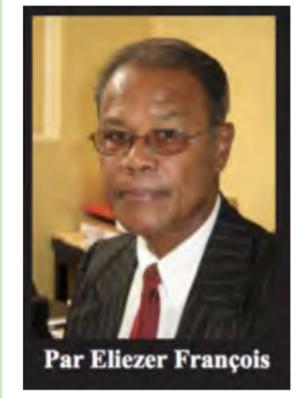
Foreign Affairs Minister  
James Cleverly



Minister for Women and Equalities  
Kemi Badenoch

# Quelques Commentaires sur les Actualités Politiques

## *La carence dans tous ses états à Maurice*



Par Eliezer François

Nous reproduisons ci-dessous l'article que M. Eliezer François, Président du Mouvement Authentique Mauricien (MAM) nous a fait parvenir, aussi bien qu'au quotidien *Le Mauricien*. L'article parle de la carence administrative qui existe dans la fonction publique à Maurice. En accomplissant leurs responsabilités les employés semblent se moquer de tout le monde avec une attitude de "aller vous faire f. . ."

Les ministres du gouvernement peuvent avoir des grandes idées qu'ils énoncent pompeusement sur toutes les plateformes, mais ces politiciens sont pas eux-mêmes sur les chantiers pour assurer que le travail soit exécuté. C'est là où le bât blesse: les ministres eux-mêmes n'assistent pas aux accouchements. On a beau se plaindre dans les medias: journaux, radios, fessebook. Ecrire aux ministres eux-mêmes, tout ça, c'est peine perdue: on ne sait pas si les missives leur parviennent ou c'est 'f' au panier par les préposés et autres, que M. François appellent des 'carapades' récemment durant une con-

Je suis très heureux de me retrouver au pays natal, l'Ile Maurice, après avoir été bloqué en Australie pendant plus de deux années et demie, par rapport à la pandémie Coronavirus et l'interruption des vols internationaux d'Air Mauritius entre Maurice et l'Australie. Malgré que j'ai un billet pour un vol d'Air Mauritius Melbourne – Maurice, 24 mai 2020, j'ai dû m'acheter un autre billet d'avion de Emirates Airline passant par Dubaï (30 h de vol), car Air Mauritius ne pourra pas me transporter avant le 23 novembre 2022. Le vol d'Emirates Airline a été très bon mais trop long (5 h de transit à Dubaï.)

Maurice a reculé 50 ans en arrière.

Depuis mon arrivée à Maurice jeudi 29 septembre 2022, j'ai constaté avec tristesse que Maurice a fait un recul de 50 ans en arrière dans presque tous les domaines, surtout dans le domaine politique et social. Les administrations gouvernementales, dans l'ensemble, sont déplorables. Dans la plupart des ministères la carence, l'incompétence, l'indifférence et la mauvaise volonté de servir la communauté mauricienne y règnent en maître. Les employés de ces ministères veulent être payés pour ne rien faire. Comme me l'a si bien dit un leader des Agaléens « Ils sont des ABC – Asisez Beze Casse » En d'autres mots ce sont des employés qui s'assoient pour être payés des deniers du public mauricien. Par ailleurs, ils n'ont aucune notion de la courtoisie (les bonnes manières.) Ils ne répondent pas au téléphone; mais s'ils prennent le téléphone, ils vous font attendre de longues minutes avant de vous passer la communication. Le bouquet, après 10 à 15 minutes d'attente, la communication est coupée et vous avez à recomposer le même numéro pour une deuxième ou troisième fois. Cette situation déplorable existe même à la MBCTV. Hélas !

Cette situation scandaleuse existe dans plusieurs ministères, personnellement j'en ai fait la triste expérience tout récemment avec le ministère de la Sécurité Sociale. Même au niveau de la ministre, il existe un manque de courtoisie. Quand j'étais ministre du logement, des terres et de l'urbanisme, j'avais un PAS attaché à mon ministère. La coutume veut que chaque ministre ait un PS ou un PAS. Comment se fait-il que la ministre Fazila Jeewa-Daureeawoo n'accuse même pas réception d'une requête qui lui est adressée personnellement ? Comme on le dit souvent : « l'exemple vient d'en haut » c'est à dire, le bon comme le mauvais exemple de la ministre Fazila Jeewa-Daureeawoo. J'y reviendrais dans un prochain papier sur le ministère de l'Environnement et le ministère du Transport Public. La récente déclaration de Dan Maraye à propos du dysfonctionnement qui perdure dans certaines institutions gouvernementales me donne entièrement raison concernant ce recul de 50 années en arrière dont j'ai fait mention au début de mon exposé. Je cite : « ... libérer certaines institutions d'une bureaucratie pesante, dépassée ».

L'Administration Municipale de Port Louis.

L'Administration municipale de Port Louis, la capitale de l'Ile Maurice est une honte. Elle est la plus mauvaise administration municipale que je n'aie jamais connue. Partout où l'on passe, on ne voit que la ruine et la désolation.

Quelques Exemples :

férence de presse.

Quand on voit ces beaux ministres se libèrent de leurs belles intentions à l'adresse du bon public et à la population d'une voix staccato ponctuée par des pauses impressionnantes on se dit volia un quelqu'un "who means business". On se demande même si c'est le même 'malendrin' qui était sur le balcon de 'l'école du gouvernement où se déroulait le dépouillement des bulletins de vote, attendant humblement l'annonce de sa victoire ou de sa défaite. Quand il parle à la télévision comme ministre, là - comme dit l'anglais - 'c'est un "different kettle of fish".

L'ironie de tout cela est que M. François fut lui-même un ministre du gouvernement quand les ministres d'aujourd'hui étaient des bambins avec leurs cartables "unwillingly to school". M. François est aujourd'hui "at the receiving end of a dull service.". Ces messieurs-dames d'aujourd'hui seront eux aussi "at the receiving end" un de ces jours!

**P.C.**

- La Municipalité elle-même.
- Le théâtre de Port Louis.
- Le Champ de Mars.
- Le Jardin de la Compagnie.
- Le Jardin Robert Edward Hart (Les Salines)
- Les Toilettes au Marché Central et dans la Cité.
- Celle du Trou Fanfaron est dans un état épouvantable. Des centaines de litres d'eau se perdent à chaque minute.
- Les Marchands Ambulants.
- Le Pont de Paris & Le Ruisseau du Pouce.
- Le Mépris pour (Law & Order)
- Le Chaos, L'Insécurité Routière & Le Danger pour Les Piétons au Feu de Signalisation, avant La Gare du Nord.
- Le Terrain de foot à Ste Croix.

Au Marché Central, les maraîchers se plaignent d'une odeur nauséabonde qui se dégage en permanence et qui est nuisible à leur santé. Les drains, d'après leur dire, ne sont pas nettoyés régulièrement. Ils m'ont rassuré qu'il y a des asticots (Gros, Gros Moutouques) et d'autres pourritures qui affectent leur santé. Par ailleurs, l'horloge à l'entrée du marché indique une heure de retard. Quant à l'horloge qui est en face du bâtiment de la Mairie de Port Louis, elle ne marche plus depuis des années. Les aiguilles sur les quatre faces, indiquent chacune une heure différente. Quelle Honte pour Le 'Big Ben' de la Municipalité de Port Louis !

La Bibliothèque Municipale Rémy Ollier est restée fermée au public depuis plus d'une année, sous prétexte que le bâtiment coule. Les jeunes qui viennent pour faire la lecture des journaux, les Seniors en particulier, sont invités à aller à la bibliothèque de St François à Plaine Verte. Quel manque d'égard et de compassion pour nos aînés!

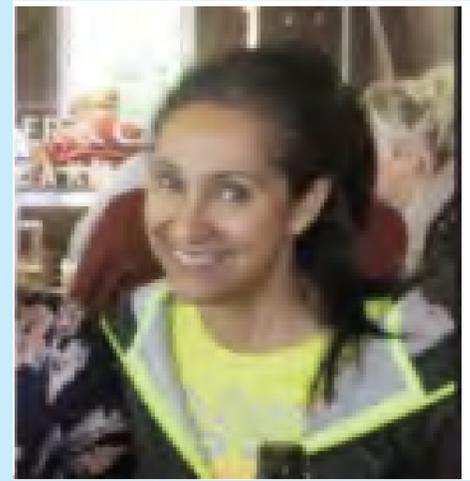
L'autre grand scandale consiste au paiement de R 10/ que la municipalité de Port Louis exige à chaque fois que quelqu'un/e ressent le besoin de se servir de la toilette. La Toilette Publique Payante n'existe pas dans presque tous les pays du monde. Même à Maurice, il y a 5 toilettes publiques à Plaine Verte, aucune de ces toilettes n'est payante. C'est très bien! Pourquoi alors, au Marché Central et au Jardin de la Compagnie même les Seniors doivent payer R10/ pour faire pipi, à chaque fois ? Ceci représente une très Grosse Injustice et une Discrimination envers une bonne section de la communauté mauricienne. Au Jumbo, au Super U, au Caudan personne ne paie pour se servir de la toilette. En Australie, toutes les toilettes publiques sont non-payantes.

En guise de conclusion, j'invite tous les mauriciens à revisiter le jardin de la Compagnie dans le centre de Port Louis. Le Jardin de la Compagnie ressemble à un cimetière abandonné ! Tout comme Alan Paton, je me permets de crier : «Pleure, ô pays bien-aimé ! »

**Eliezer François JP**

# *Mylene's Observations*

## Do the Japanese Celebrate Halloween?



**Mylene, Japan**

*In the wake of the South Korean's great tragedy among young people celebrating Halloween 2022, we welcome this piece from Mylene in Japan about celebration of the event in her country of adoption.*

Despite the fact that Jeremy Hunt's Halloween budget was moved to November 17, Japan is going all out to celebrate on Monday, October 31. Forget about trick-or-treating, bobbing for apples, or anything related to All Hallows Eve, because there won't be any. This is a time of year when many young adults dress up.

Of course, there are the typical witches, vampires, and ghosts, as well as a wide range of other cos-

tumes, from scary to sexy, from fictional characters to celebrity look-a-likes. This isn't a case of getting dressed up with nowhere to go. In Tokyo, everyone flocks to Shibuya Crossing, the iconic scramble crossing, to show off their costumes and party the night away. Over 40,000 showed up in 2019, so the area increases police patrol during this period.

The entire event has been dubbed a cosplay extravaganza. Cosplay is a combination of the words, cos-

tume and play, which speaks for itself.

Every year, Halloween becomes more commercialised. Purple Frappuccino, a spooky lineup of doughnuts, and even the Grand Hyatt hotel's The Oak Door Bar has been transformed into a laboratory complete with test tubes, beakers, and love potions, whipping up meals suitably named eyeball jelly and finger cookies.

## *More on Race Relations in UK and US*

# Rishi Sunak Makes Political History, Others Follow

**When King Charles III appointed Rishi Sunak Prime Minister on October 25, 2022, Sunak became the first British Asian and, the first Hindu to hold the office.**

Some people see this turning point as an occasion to celebrate multiculturalism and an inclusive democracy. Some view it as †Reverse Colonization, which is when former colonial rulers think they are now victims of the same injustice.

When Trevor Noah, an American comedian, portrayed the United Kingdom as racist in a three-minute video, some people got angry and said that there was no backlash to the fact that a non-white person was now the prime minister.

One person even remarked, "Across the broad spectrum of British society, people are genuinely proud that a person of South Asian descent is PM."

If we cross the pond to the United States and look at the result of the mid-term elections, we also find a number of firsts. Both the Democrats and the Republicans chose candidates who would go down in history. Although we may not know their names, these significant wins deserve our attention. Let's meet

some of them:

### **In the LGBTQ Corner**

These winning nominees disclosed their sexual orientation and, went on to win. We've never seen so many people "out" running for public office before.

The people of Massachusetts chose Maura Healey as their new governor, while Tina Kotek, became governor of Oregon. Becca Balint, represents Vermont in Congress.

James Roesener was chosen to represent his state in the legislature. He became the first transgender person in U.S history to do so.

Robert Garcia, an immigrant, was sworn in to represent California's 42nd District. His family moved from Peru to the United States when he was a child. He had no papers before he became a citizen. Erick Russell is now Connecticut's state treasurer.

### **On the Question of Race**

In the State of Maryland Wes Moore became the first Black governor. Anthony Brown will serve as attorney general, and Aruna Miller will be the first Indian American to be lieutenant governor.

In Other States, Markwayne Mullin is the first Native American senator in Oklahoma. Summer Lee of Pennsylvania is elected to Congress, while Andrea Campbell of Massa-

chusetts became Attorney General.

### **Women Firsts**

Sarah Huckabee Sanders is sworn in as governor of Arkansas, and Kathy Hochul becomes the governor of New York. Katie Britt from Alabama gets a spot in the Senate.

### **Gen Z**

Gen Z is the first generation to have never experienced life without the internet.

25-year-old Maxwell Alejandro Frost, is the only zoomer (born between 1997 and 2012) going to Congress.

### **What Does It All Mean?**

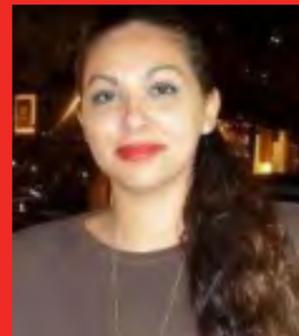
Well, when we look at our leaders and legislators, we're starting to see a group of people from different backgrounds, ages, sexual orientations, ethnicities, experiences, and ideals.

They mirror our society and serve as good role models, demonstrating that anything is possible and that it's okay to be different.

†Reverse Colonization: *Science Fiction, Imperial Fantasy, and Alt-Victimhood* by David M. Higgins

# Adoption in Mauritius in the 1970s

By Yvonne Goder-Persand



We previously reported on adoptee Fabiola Sommer, born on 26th August 1976 in Rose Hill, Mauritius. Fabiola was placed in an orphanage in Quatre Bornes and was adopted in 1978 by a Danish family, She has lived in Denmark, and most of her adult life she has been looking for answers concerning her Mauritian biological parents.

Similarly, we have been in touch with another female adoptee, Joy Keck, (initially named Henrika Ramsen by the orphanage with no bearing to her biological parents).

Joy was born on the 10th March 1979, also in Rose Hill and was taken to a children's home, reportedly run a certain Mr Harold Johnson, but it is hard to locate any information on this. The children's home known as Organisation for Rehabilitation of abandoned children (ORAC) has since been closed.

On Joy Mauritian birth certificate, her mother's name is absent and information at the hospital with Mauritian officials is missing. Joy was adopted by a Dutch family when she was 6 months old.

## Birth Place Information

Unlike adopted Fabiola who travelled to Mauritius in 2000 to find some information, Joy has never jetted to her Mauritian birthplace. The orphanage she was once in had some kind of relationship with the Netherlands. She knows of 47 Mauritians who were adopted from that orphanage. It is not possible to ascertain the time frame of all these adoptions. It is also not possible to know if these adoptions were done in secrecy like Fabiola and Joy. Joy believes the connection to adopt Mauritian children for the Netherlands ended when Mr Johnson passed away in 1984.

If Joy knows of 47 Mauritian children adopted in the Netherlands, then how many Mauritians have been adopted and sent to Europe or the rest of the World without any question?

Joy knows this to be an accurate figure because the agency in the Netherlands held a few meetings with the adopted Mauritian children when she was younger. Joy has kept in contact with some of the other

Mauritian adopted children in the Netherlands on social media as well as her Mauritian brother (born to different father) who was also adopted to the same family as her.

As both adopted ladies were born in Rose Hill in the late 70's, questions have to be asked on the relaxed legislation involving adoptions in Mauritius.

## National Adoption Act

In the early 1980s the adoption of Mauritian children by foreigners through intermediaries was an ongoing practice. To put an end to this practice, which it was suspected was not always in the interest of the adopted children, in 1987 the National Adoption Act was passed to set up a council to inquire into the applications for adoption of Mauritian children by foreigners. T

he Council screens all such applications before giving its veto. The Supreme Court is the ultimate authority to decide upon any case of adoption."

It is apparent in 1987 the National Adoption Act was set up to screen adoptions of Mauritian children by foreigners but what about all the adopted children born before these regulations were put in place?

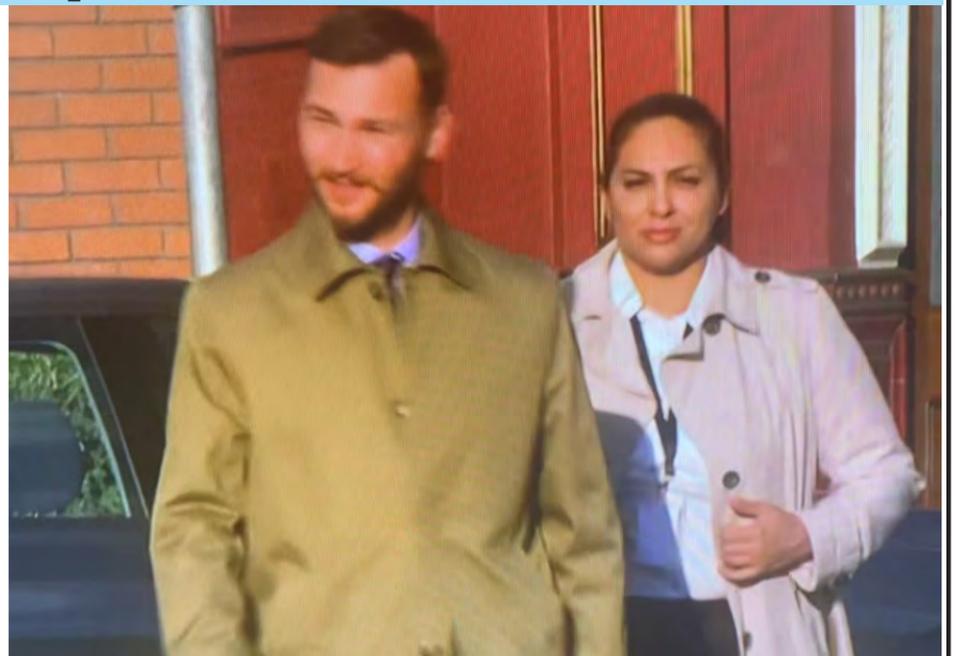
We hope Mauritian officials will investigate this as both Fabiola and Joy are requiring an explanation into this lacking information and records. It appears Fabiola and Joy have had happy lives and their adopted parents did a great job raising them. They both have good careers and are well educated. Nevertheless, no-one monitored them once they left Mauritius. Their parents never had to make contact with any Mauritian authorities or officials. What about the adopted children unhappy in their new environments? What has happened to them?

**Editor's note:** Y.G. Persand who holds an LLM degree believes that the adoption law in Mauritius was too lenient in the 1970s and hopes the adoption legislation to be introduced soon will be more strict to protect adopted babies.

## MOG UK rep on set



No, this is not a police arrest. In the picture on the left, our UK correspondent, Yvonne Goder-Persand, is seen during a pause on a set with Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan while filming in London. Yvonne has got herself a part as a policewoman in a



not yet titled film. The Bollywood star was wearing no makeup at the time. From her overcoat one can imagine how cold it is in the UK at this time of the year.

In the picture on the right, Yvonne is seen as Assistant to Detective Sergeant

Manners (Johnny Palmiero) investigating a murder in an East Enders' sequence.

Yes, Yvonne can certainly act!

P.C.

# The Rodrigues Newsletter

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

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Hello again from Rodrigues...

As the winter starts in the Northern Hemisphere, so here in Rodrigues we are just feeling the heat of the Tropical Summer.

This is not always easy to live through, and especially as this year it is very dry and the prospect of heavy rains are said to be distant, and water supplies are at a low ebb.

The children & staff of the GPL Centre are now officially on Summer Holidays, until mid-January.

To end the term we had an outing to the seaside at Mourouk on the south eastern side of the island on Thursday, with games and a lunch on the beach.

The 60 or so children from the GPL centre really enjoyed this.

There are also some additional seasonal events promised from people and organizations who are regular supporters and donors to the Centre, with a visit from the staff of Emtel, Mauritius and also a donation of spectacles is planned from the Lions Club members.

We are also looking forward to a visit from the Rogan Hearing Centre (Starkey) in Mauritius in November who are establishing a link with Rodrigues to offer their Services to the hearing impaired on Rodrigues.

This is with the collaboration with the Commission for Health of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Some of our kids will also be going to Mauritius for a sports event together with Laval Plaiche for a Taekwondo contest.

All this is happening in the GPL Centre, and will take place during the summer vacations and festive season.

In the Care-Co workshop Peddy and Nicodeme had a great time on their trip to Europe visiting Dubai on the way and then in the UK, France, Spain and Italy.

Almost all of the team at Care-Co have now been able to travel to distant destinations and this has widened their outlook and experience of life.

We thank those who made it possible and also to Mike and

Sue of Staines UK, who offer hospitality, and also a welcome from the folks at Ashford (Middlesex) Congregational Church.

As far as sales of our handcrafted goods in our two shops in Port Mathurin is concerned, things have not been too bright.

Rodrigues has not seen the expected number of visitors from the nearby French Island of La Reunion as we had prior to Covid, but the flights from Mauritius are full and we have a good number of visitors from Mauritius coming over to sample what Rodrigues has to offer.

So this means that sales in our shops are down as, apart from our handmade soap, our crafts and gift items are of more interest to people from La Reunion than from Mauritius.

With the extended period of dry weather recently it does not bode too well for an improved honey flow this year but our woodwork department has been quite busy making bee hives and beekeeping equipment and chain link fencing for an increased number of people investing in beekeeping.

We are in summer mode now and preparing for the heat and rush of Christmas and the New Year.

On behalf of us all at Care-Co and the GPL Centre (Trevor Huddleston House) I send you our greetings for a very happy Christmas time and good prospects for the New Year 2023.

We will not be sending out a calendar by post again this year but will be emailing a Christmas greeting.

Thank you for your continued interest and your support.

Of course I cannot just end like that without apologizing again for the printed NEWS as a personal letter would have been much better, but I do promise to respond personally to incoming emails.

*Paul*

*A saying worth noting*

*If you do not read newspapers you are uninformed,*

*If you read newspapers you are misinformed!*

*Mark Twain*