

Cooperatives

GO-EXPORT Programme: Preparing cooperative societies to access international markets

The Economic Development Board (EDB), in collaboration with the National Co-operative College (NCC), launched the GO-EXPORT Programme for Cooperatives on Monday 31 August 2026 in Ebène. Around 90 participants, mainly representatives of cooperative societies, attended.

The new capacity-building initiative seeks to strengthen the export capabilities and competitiveness of Mauritian cooperatives and equip them with the knowledge and practical tools to better access regional and international markets. This initiative is in line with the Government Programme 2025-2029, which provides for a revamped legal framework and an innovative package of incentives to bolster the capacity and competitiveness of cooperatives, while supporting them in tapping export opportunities.

The launch ceremony comprised a workshop and presentations focusing on several themes such as “Unlocking Export Opportunities: A New Growth Path for Cooperative Societies”, “EDB Export Support Ecosystems for SMEs”, and “Understanding Export Process, Logistics, Documentation and Trade Finance.”

The GO-EXPORT Programme subsequently featured training sessions covering key aspects of the export journey. Cooperative societies received practical guidance on assessing their export readiness, identifying suitable markets, understanding trade agreements and compliance requirements, obtaining certification, export pricing, Incoterms, logistics and documentation. Particular attention was also given to packaging and labelling to ensure that Mauritian products meet the expectations and regulatory requirements of international markets.

The programme paves the way for cooperative societies to embrace e-commerce, digital marketing and artificial intelligence as instruments to conduct market research, identify potential customers and enhance their visibility abroad. By strengthening their knowledge of international trade and modern digital tools, cooperatives will be better positioned to diversify their markets and develop sustainable export activities.

The initiative is a follow-up of a workshop on Tapping Export Opportunities for Cooperative Societies, organised by the Cooperatives Division of the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives on 08 October 2025. The workshop brought together 21 cooperators from 20 cooperative societies with the objective of empowering cooperatives to explore export opportunities, improve their understanding of export requirements and procedures, and assessing the needs of selected cooperatives to become export-ready.



Plantation Vanille: A Model of Innovation and Sustainability

Plantation Vanille Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Ltd illustrates the potential of cooperatives to develop value-added products and access export markets. Established in 2023 with five members, the cooperative produces around 500 kilograms of vanilla annually and has diversified into products such as vanilla powder, essence, paste and tea, all products marketed under the “Made in Moris” label.

It also produces cacao, vegetables, fruits and seedlings while adopting sustainable farming practices. Recipient of the Creativity and Innovation Award at the National Cooperative Excellence Awards 2026, the cooperative has benefited from Ministry support in training in export readiness and sustainable packaging. To support its efforts to explore international markets, Plantation Vanille obtained an Export Development Certificate in 2026.

Through the GO-EXPORT Programme, the Government’s strategy is to build on such initiatives and create greater opportunities for cooperatives to shift beyond traditional local markets. The programme is expected to contribute to the internationalisation of the cooperative sector by enhancing export readiness, encouraging innovation and value addition, and enabling Mauritian cooperatives to participate more effectively in regional and global trade.

GIS

How old is Planet Earth

Today, we know from radiometric dating that Earth is about 4.5 billion years old.

List of Public Holidays for 2027

Public Holidays are known in the UK as Bank Holidays

New Year: Friday, 1 January	Ougadi: Wednesday, 7 April
New Year: Saturday, 2 January	Labour Day: Saturday, 1 May
Thaipooosam Cavadee: Friday, 22 January	Ganesh Chaturthi: Sunday, 5 September / Monday, 6 September
Abolition of Slavery: Monday, 1 February	Divali: Friday, 29 October
Chinese Spring Festival: Saturday, 6 February	All Saints’ Day: Monday, 1 November
Maha Shivaratree: Saturday, 6 March	Arrival of Indentured Labourers: Tuesday, 2 November
Eid-UI-Fitr:* Wednesday, 10 March	Christmas: Saturday, 25 December
Independence and Republic Day: Friday, 12 March	* Note: the exact date for Eid-UI-Fitr remains subject to final confirmation, as its celebration depends on the sighting of the moon.

M.O.G’ s Note: No public holiday is earmarked for the Christian feast of Assumption Day. Our correspondent M. Eliézer François writes about it in French below, and on Page 3.

Le Rédacteur en chef
Mauritian Overseas Gazette,

28 Août 2026

Cher Monsieur Chellen,

Bonjour.

Je souhaite que tout va pour le mieux de votre côté.

Maintenant que le calendrier complet des jours fériés de 2027 est connu, maintenant "q' Un lundi de congé supplémentaire grâce à la nouvelle loi," votée par le Conseil des ministres est connu, maintenant que "Ganesh Chaturthi tombant un dimanche, le lundi 6 septembre sera également déclaré jour férié en application des nouvelles dispositions légales," **je vous serais très reconnaissant, si vous pourriez publier, à l'intention de vos lecteurs, la lettre suivante que j'avais adressée au Père de St Perne le 4 avril 2017.**

Veuillez agréer mes cordiales salutations.

Eliézer François JP

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Eliezer Francois <mam.eliezerfrancois@yahoo.co.uk>
To: "hstpern@eveche.org" <hstpern@eveche.org>
Sent Tuesday, 4 April 2017 at 16:25:02 GMT+4
Subject: Re:

Mon Cher Père de St Perne,

Merci pour votre courriel.

Je suis désolé de constater que, malgré son élévation au rang de cardinalat, le Cardinal Maurice Piat n'a pas progressé spirituellement.

Tous les arguments qu'il avance ne tiennent pas debout. C'est toujours la même rengaine.

Nous savons tous que les chrétiens à Maurice n'ont droit qu'à deux jours de congé annuellement. Nous ne demandons pas un congé additionnel au gouvernement.

Est-ce-que le Cardinal Piat croit sincèrement que la Fête de l'Assomption et la Toussaint sont plus importantes que la Pâques qui commémore la Résurrection de Jésus Christ?

Si le Cardinal Maurice Piat ne voit aucune différence entre la célébration de chaque dimanche et celle du dimanche de Pâques, pourquoi demande-t-il aux catholiques de pratiquer l'abstinence pendant la période de carême?

Pourquoi demande-t-il aux catholiques de jeûner pendant 40 (45) jours avant le dimanche de Pâques?

Est-ce-que le Cardinal Piat est en désaccord avec le Père Maria Paschal, le Père Jean Michaël Durhône et le Père Roger Cerveaux sur la fête de Pâques?

Est-ce-que le Cardinal Piat ne sait pas que Mgr. Ian Ernest, l'Évêque de Maurice et l'Archevêque de la Province de l'Océan Indien, est favorable à l'idée de remplacer l'Assomption, en alternance avec la Toussaint, par le lundi Pâques?

Dans le livre de Timothée, St Paul met le jeune Timothée en garde contre ceux qui " ayant l'apparence de la piété, mais reniant ce qui en fait la force."

Je souhaite, une fois de plus, que le Cardinal Maurice Piat se laisse guider par le Saint Esprit afin qu'il puisse devenir un vrai témoin de notre Seigneur Jésus Christ.

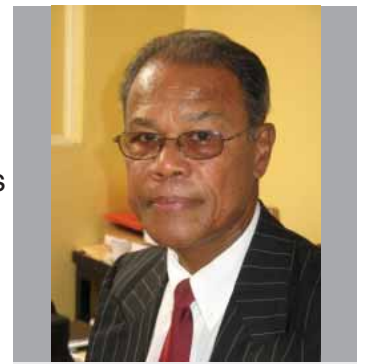
Avec mes salutations très respectueuses.

Eliézer François

PS Je vous envoie ci-joint 12 questions que j'ai adressées au Cardinal Piat sur la Fête de Pâques, au cas où il ne les a pas reçues.

De La Page 2

Douze Questions au Cardinal Maurice Piat sur la Fête de Pâques



Eliézer François

1 « Ce fut à Antioche que, pour la première fois les disciples furent appelés Chrétiens. » Acte 11 : 26

L'Église d'Antioche aurait été fondée en 38 par les apôtres Pierre et Paul. Et, la foi en la Résurrection de Jésus est au cœur du Christianisme car elle signifie le début d'une humanité nouvelle libérée du Mal. Êtes-vous d'accord ?

2 Croyez-vous personnellement que la Foi Chrétienne est basée sur la Crucifixion, la Mort et la Résurrection du Christ ?

3 « Je dirai que c'est LA Fête, le sommet de toute notre vie chrétienne. Toute notre foi est basée sur la Résurrection du Christ. Si le Christ n'est pas ressuscité, ma foi est vide. » « À partir de cette fête découlent toutes les autres célébrations. » *Père Maria Paschal*. Êtes-vous d'accord Éminence ?

4 « Pâques est la plus grande fête de son calendrier. » Père Jean Michaël Durhône faisant allusion à l'Église catholique. Êtes-vous d'accord ?

5 Êtes-vous surpris d'apprendre que le Père Roger Cerveaux était d'accord pour remplacer l'Assomption, en alternance avec la Toussaint, par le lundi Pâques, comme jour férié pour les chrétiens ?

6 Savez-vous que Mgr. Ian Ernest, l'Évêque de Maurice et l'Archevêque de la Province de l'Océan Indien, est favorable à l'idée de remplacer l'Assomption, en alternance avec la Toussaint, par le lundi Pâques ?

7 Savez-vous que les chrétiens dans 114 pays, ainsi que tous les évêques catholiques, anglicans et protestants, les cardinaux, l'Archevêque de Cantorbéry et le Pape François vont célébrer lundi Pâques 17 avril 2017 ?

8 Deux pays musulmans, le Liban et la Jordanie célèbrent lundi Pâques comme un jour férié. Est-ce que votre Éminence le sait ?

9 À Hong Kong, pays Chinois, lundi Pâques est un jour férié. Le savez-vous ?

10 Pourquoi les Chefs Religieux et Guides Spirituels des Tamouls ont choisi le Thaipoosam Cavadee à la place de Varusha Pirappu comme jour férié ? Le savez-vous ?

11 Est-ce vrai que c'est « À partir de l'an 2000, le 15 août, fête de l'Assomption, est devenu jour férié, en alternance avec le 1er novembre, jour de la Toussaint, sur la demande de l'Église au gouvernement. » ?

12 Est-ce que votre Éminence sait que les Créoles, les Descendants d'Esclaves préféreront fêter Lundi Pâques 17 avril 2017 à la place de la Toussaint 1 novembre 2017 ?

Éminence, si vous répondez correctement à ces 12 questions, vous devrez réfléchir sur votre apostolat, après votre élévation au rang de cardinalat.

Sinon, vous ne pourrez pas, plus tard, dire comme St Paul dans 2 Timothée 4 :7

« J'ai combattu le bon combat, j'ai achevé la course, j'ai gardé la foi. Désormais, la couronne de justice m'est réservée, le Seigneur, le juste juge me la donnera dans ce jour-là... »

Avec mes salutations fraternelles,

Eliézer François

The Mauritian Creole in Parliament: As the Mauritius National Assembly resumes today, we wish to spare a thought about the use of the country's national language by MPs

Well, the time is not far off when the Mauritian vernacular will be argent courant in the National Assembly of Mauritius. A special debate took place in the Assembly recently and every single speaker spoke in favour of the introduction of our national lingo at par with English and French, the authorised mediums allowed for official business in the House.

The Mauritian Creole language is already part of the curriculum at all levels of education in Mauritius from infant to the Higher School Certificate. It is expected that time will come when Mauritian Creole will be taught for the diploma and the bachelor degree.

Late sega singer Serge Lebrasse, a primary

school teacher, said that when he wanted to promote the sega - the Mauritian folksongs - sung in Creole), his mother advised him not to do so. She said it would damage his reputation as a teacher because in Mauritius sega singers are considered as Cholo's, the lowly class of society. He, however, persisted to become a reference of Mauritian folk music.

To keep the Mauritian tongue in a straight jacket will be a tough proposition. Even now, parliamentarians while expressing themselves in English and French, now and then, suffer from a *déravage de langage*.

The most famous quip is when a well-known figure, expressing himself during a debate, said that the country will be "baissetted". When

the MPs will expressing themselves in colourful Creole, it is not too sure that, carried away, they may not get involved in a bit of vulgarity.

We must admit that Mauritians can be very rude at times, even more rude than the French people themselves when expressing themselves in French.. Let's take for example the word "fesses". It's a word that is habitually used in society in France. In Mauritius, it's rude to use this word on any occasion. In the Mauritian vernacular, it is rude to say "so femme" (sa femme). One must say "so madame" i.e. "sa dame", a bit like Old French.

It is said that a committee has been set up to study the proposition to use Creole in Parliament. We may know the outcome soon.

P.C.



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“Astere nen-nier pas bon” says PM Ramgoolam

“Nothing is good” Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam exclaims in exasperation at his public meetings. The Opposition is finding faults with performance.



The greatest blame he has been facing for the past two years is regarding the question of Old Age Pension, universally payable before him from the age of 60. Without prior notice he has introduced legislation to scale the OAP payment over a period of five years to 65 when pensioners will likely be in receipt of the full amount payable.

The popularity which brought him to power with a 60-0 majority has been washed away. “*Valeur du Jour*”, an expression dear to the Mauritian people, if a general election was held tomorrow it is believed that Ramgoolam and his ruling partners will suffer a crushing 60-0 defeat.

Ramgoolam’s Government is doing rather well as regards other policies. but the OAP stigma is undermining all his other efforts. He is exasperated and he is tearing off his hair not knowing how to regain favour. The other parties in his coalition government are not too happy but they are staying on board. Will they stay until the next polls in three years’ time? It’s a very long time in politics. Well, when he was on the Opposition campaigning against the previous government, he too did not find anything good about their delivery. The shoe is on the other foot now and it’s pinching.

Prime Minister Ramgoolam and his 30 million rupees berline/sedan



A few days ago, a journalist asked Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam about the criticism being made against him for buying a berline/sedan car worth Rs 30 million rupees at government expense at a time when he himself has been saying that the Public Till is empty (la caisse est vide). The country is bankrupt, he has been telling the nation since he assumed power nearly two years ago.

The PM asked the journalist whether he wanted him to go to work on foot. He further asked the journalist whether he wanted him to make use of a charette (cart). (Hence, the oxen-drawn cart featured above made its apparition then on the social media.)

The PM laid emphasis on the importance of a reliable car for the Head of the State. He stressed on the fact that the new official car is “blindé”, i.e. it is an armoured vehicle meant to be bulletproof.”

The PM said the armoured car has a lifespan of only three years and should be replaced accordingly at end of that period.

Suresh B. Coonjeebeeharry

Mauritian Football Tournament UK 2026

We are informed by Abdool Sahid Emambux that the 2026 Football Tournament UK was won by Cosmos FC for the 4th year running.

The competition was held at Eltham, South London, on 31 May, and 10 teams competed for the title.



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SCHOOL OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Project Title: “AR and VR to Create Equal Opportunities in Career and Subject Pathway Choices”

The University of Technology, Mauritius, invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the position of Research Assistant to support research activities under the above-mentioned project.

Key Responsibilities:

The Research Assistant will assist the project team with activities including:

- Fieldwork and research data collection;
- Administration of surveys and interviews;
- Collection and organisation of photographs, videos, and other research materials relating to career and subject pathway choices;
- Organisation, documentation, and preliminary processing of research data;
- Support for project-related research, documentation, and reporting activities; and
- Undertake any other related duties as may be assigned.

Qualifications:

Applicants should possess a relevant degree in an appropriate field such as Information Technology, Computer Science, Software Engineering, Interactive/Digital Media, Multimedia, Communication, Social Sciences, or a related discipline.

Relevant experience or demonstrated competencies in one or more of the following would be an advantage:

- Research and data collection;
- Survey and interview administration;
- Fieldwork;
- Photography/video or multimedia documentation;
- Data organisation and analysis.

Conditions:

- Period of Appointment: Six months on a full-time basis.
- Remuneration: Rs 22, 000 per month inclusive of travelling subject to the satisfactory completion of agreed milestones and deliverables.

A letter of application, together with a detailed CV, copies of relevant qualifications, birth certificate, testimonials, portfolio and/or other evidence of relevant development work, and any other supporting documents, should be submitted by email to n.laloo@utm.ac.mu, with copies to ssunhaloo@utm.ac.mu and registrar@utm.ac.mu.

The email subject line should clearly indicate: “Research Assistant – AR and VR”.

CLOSING DATE: 10 September 2026

For further information, please contact Dr Nassirah Laloo at n.laloo@utm.ac.mu, with a copy to Dr Mohammad Sameer Sunhaloo at ssunhaloo@utm.ac.mu.

The University reserves the right to shortlist only the best-qualified applicants for interview and not to make any appointment as a result of this advertisement.

August 2026
Registrar

Obituary

Sad News from Friends of Souillac

Vinod (Jack) Ramjoorawon

We are very sad to announce that **Vinod Ramjoorawon of Souillac with many friends in Surinam passed away peacefully on 20 August 2026.**

Affectionately known as Jack, he was born in the early 1950s. He was a dear brother to Bishun Ramjoorawon, son to Lakia, and nephew to Bolom Horia, the owner of Cinema Florida. Through his father's sister, he was also a close cousin to the Bholah family at Riv Batates.

From the MMM's founding in 1969, Vinod was a spirited, loyal party member who stood firm by his principles. During his college years, he built strong friendships with Robert Fabre, Seewchurn, and Naik.

Moving to England in 1972, he trained as a nurse at the famous Guy's Hospital in London, and subsequently served at the Mauritius Embassy.

Like many of his generation, he maintained deep connections with Mauritius. He kept property on the island and visited the country two to three times a year. For his final 10 years, he was fortunate to return and live there full-time.

We extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends, praying for his soul to find eternal peace.

Aum Shanti

Editor's Note: I associate myself with the Friends of Souillac in extending my deepest sympathy to the Jack's family on their great loss. I made his acquaintance in the 1990s through a mutual friend, Benoit Chavrimootoo, while I was editing Mauritius News in London.

Jack used to live on Bushey Hill Road, London SE5, just a street away from the office of our publishing company at De Costa House on Peckham Road.

The Mauritius High Commissioner at the time was Sir Satcam Boolell and Benoit Chavrimootoo was the chief maintenance man of the Commission. Jack was there.

Of Jack, I can say he was a very softly spoken and amiable person. **R.I.P.**



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