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fait
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Mauritian Overseas Gazette

Truth
&
Trust

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A totally independent platform

Views expressed by contributors are their own

The Devil Reincarnate

People often wonder how one creature like Adolph Hitler could have mesmerised, controlled and dominated a whole German people and won their support to attack and murder other nations.

The answer is in Putin, a replica of Hitler.

History will ask the same question of how could a small chap like Putin have subjugated a whole Russian nation to support him in his frenzied destruction of Russia's neighbour.

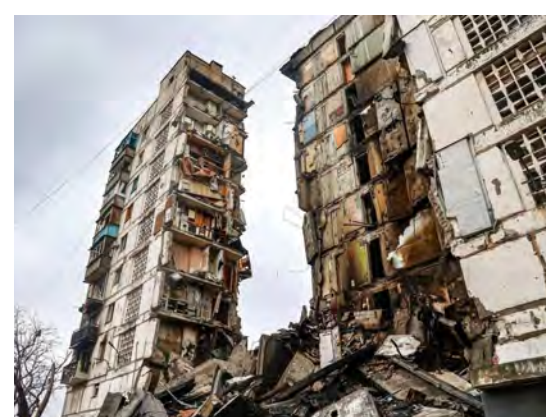
Evil will never leave Planet Earth. Crime of war, Crime against Humanity, Genocide, call it what you will, Russia Will have to answer and repair the damages, hopefully!



The Glory of Russia



Blood on the hands of Russia



The Trophy of Russia

Dérappages

The Silent Majority is simply watching the situation as it is brought to Bolling point in Mauritius. The day may come when the so-called activists, the men with political ambition, that section of the press eager for juicy headlines, the private radio animators suffering from verbal diarrhea may cross that one bridge too far. This is what is feared by members of the Mauritius Council of Religions who have been beseeching those suspicious characters to exercise caution in order not to cross that bridge to create any *débordement* in the country.

There have been racial riots in Mauritius before, with loss of lives. Hopefully it may not come to that occurrence once more. But who actually '*dessan dans la ri*' to set fire to buildings, to throw petrol bombs at police, to demolish traffic light robots, to place obstructions on the highway, to terrorise peaceful members of the public? Of course It's not those respectable suspicious characters themselves, but they incite and encourage the HCs, the drug addicts, and the street loafers to go on the rampage. Then, those aspiring MPs have a field day on the private radios providing fodder to lots of *ratés* on the social media. There is one rabble rouser in the community whose DNA is festered with social unrest.

Remember the Silent Majority is simply taking note.

Pierre Louis

UK Mauritians enjoy Easter Holidays

ACML Charity Ball

By Yvonne Goder-Persand

The ACML (Association Chretienne des Mauriciens de Londres) and East Indies Events organised a splendid, spectacular event the 'Mauritian Easter Charity Ball' this Easter Sunday 17th April at the St. Boniface Church Hall in Tooting, London.

ACML old presidents consisted of Max Louis and Antoine Marcel with a long history of organising Mauritian events within the Mauritian community with a strong connection to

the Notre Dame de France Roman Catholic Church in Leicester Square in central London.

From Page One



Promoters of the East Indies Events headed by Jean Paul Anne that were the main organiser for this event with the support of ACML to which he is also belongs.

Jean Paul Anne (JP), the new President of ACML (founder of East Indies events) was able to pull off an astonishing schedule comprising Kevin Neeliah also known as DJ Kevin, a poem from younger children Eleysha and Elsna, sega performances from Mario Im-mouche, Tipti Delia, Didier Clarel, Ivan Antalika with the support of live music band Destiny Music and sega dancers Green Island.



DJ Kevin Neeliah

There was a raffle with 3 prizes which was presented by myself, Vanessa Isnard and Jean Paul. I was fortunate to be able to host this event and was appreciative for being given this opportunity.

The event was an overall success and the guests were grateful for such a wonderful, professional event. They could dance away the night to their favourite Mauritian sega songs



Yvonne Goder-Persand was hostess for the night



Owner of Mauritian Paradise Restaurant, Kevin Lutchmiah (left), with Ashvin Persand



ACML President Jean Paul Anne showing a raffle winning ticket

and with their favourite Sega artistes performing in London.



Sega artiste Didier Clarel

We wish for more celebrations like this be held by ACML and East Indies events that have been long overdue after a tough couple of few years for everyone and the event organisers.

Mauritius's stable democracy and strong financial centre are great entry points for impact investors

Our stable democracy, a strong financial centre and an increasing focus on sustainability are great entry points for start-ups and impact investors. We will continue to encourage investment in the agricultural sector by providing the right environment, fiscal, financial and security of investment to investors'. The Prime Minister, Mr Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, made this statement on 28 April at the launching ceremony of the Katapult Mauritius Accelerator programme, at Ferney Agri-Hub, in Ferney. He also proceeded with the inauguration of a co-working space for the accelerator at the venue.

The programme is the first-ever African accelerator focusing on Regenerative Food and Agri-Tech for regional and international start-ups targeting the African markets. The accelerator is part of a larger plan to strengthen Mauritius as a focal point for sustainable innovation and transformation.

The Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Mr Soomilduth Bholah; the Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance, Mr Mahen Kumar Seeruttun; the Attorney General, Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security, Mr Maneesh Gobin; the Minister of National Infrastructure and Community Development, Mr Mahendranuth Sharma Hurreeram; the Chief Government Whip, Mrs Naveena Rammyad; the Founder and owner of Katapult Group, Mr Tharald Nustad; Katapult Mauritius's Country Director, Mr Thomas Berman; and the Katapult Mauritius Accelerator programme's main partners from Ferney Ltd (CIEL), IBL Group, Currimjee Group and MCB Group, were present during the event.

In his address, Prime Minister Jugnauth highlighted that on the medium term this groundbreaking accelerator programme will put Mauritius on the map of agri food tech start-ups in the world and it will strengthen Mauritius as a focal point for sustainable innovation and transformation of the regional and African food systems. Local entrepreneurs stand to benefit directly from the exchange of capacities and transfer of knowhow, he said.

The Prime Minister moreover spoke of the need to diversify and enlarge the food base in Maur-

itius and produce more nutritious food. Like all other countries in Africa and elsewhere, our country is exposed to the risks of food crisis and the compounding effect of the war in Ukraine, which is disrupting the whole process of chain production especially for agricultural products, he indicated.

Speaking about the country's food system, he recalled that a major shift in approach has been adopted since a few years ago in Mauritius but there is still more to be done to make Mauritius's food system sustainable and resilient. The national challenge is to restructure and strengthen our agriculture so as to secure domestic food supply, he emphasised. At present, 75% of our national food requirement is imported, Mr Jugnauth pointed out. We have to reduce reliance on import and addressing this challenge effectively demands actions and interventions at various levels of the agri food production and supply chain, he stated. Government is aiming high and is calling on agro entrepreneurs to pursue growth in terms of local production and enter into international markets, he highlighted.

The Prime Minister thus called upon the participation of public and private stakeholders to achieve these objectives. He also expressed gratitude to the main local partners of Katapult Mauritius Accelerator for being lead investors in the programme and for joining the public journey towards the transformation of food systems. It is indeed heartening to see the Mauritian private sector supporting this collaborative approach to business and innovation where large businesses and small innovators work together in partnership for new innovative development, he underscored. Mr Jugnauth expressed hope that the Ocean, under Katapult Ocean, will be the next investment segment by the Katapult Group in the future given that Mauritius has one of the largest ocean exclusive zones in the world.

As for Mr Berman, he gave an overview of the Katapult Group which is a global investment company focusing on early stage impact-driven technology with funding spanning three verticals namely Ocean, Finance and Food Tech. Over the last five years Katapult has made 145 investments in impact tech start-ups from 35 dif-



ferent countries including the seven start-ups present today, he shared. Katapult believes that Mauritius can become a global example of what a thriving and sustainable society will look like, he added.

The Katapult Mauritius Accelerator is a building block in making Mauritius a focal point for sustainable innovation and the future economy. It is an impact ecosystem that aims to create a tipping point for sustainable change, by: building financial capacity through impact investing; implementing infrastructure for collaboration that is open for all; and strengthening the ecosystem for entrepreneurship and innovation, amongst others.

Under the programme, a first exchange segment at Ferney is scheduled on 04 May 2022 where relevant stakeholders in Mauritius will be invited to connect with the accelerator. Budding entrepreneurs and emerging start-ups in the country will have this unique opportunity to interact regularly with mentors from abroad who are embarked on this accelerator programme. The accelerator is bringing world-class experts and investors to Mauritius by actively connecting them to the Mauritius ecosystem comprising start-ups businesses, academia and Government.

GIS

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Eulogy to Marc Grégoire

Marc Grégoire, expatriate to the UK, passed away in London on 22 February 2022 and his funeral took place on 8 April 2022 at the West London Cemetery

We reproduce hereunder the tribute paid to him during the funeral

ceremony by his friend of long-standing, Devadas Vassoodeven



Good Morning, my name is Devadas Vassoodaven and to my intimate friends and family they know me as Nonos.

Let me thank you all on behalf of the Gregoire and Laurenço family for your presence here today in celebration of Marc Gregoire's colourful, vibrant and fulfilling life from 4 March 1927 to 22 February 2022.

Marc was born in a village in the south of the island of Mauritius called L'Escalier. He was from a modest and humble family background. His father was a blacksmith and mother, a dressmaker. He was one of 8 siblings 4 sisters and four brothers. Only Marc, his late brother Paul and late sister Simone survived, the others passed away at a young age.

Marc attended the local primary school in the village until the age of 10. He left school to help his father in his blacksmith business. At the age of 14, his dad wanted him to be an apprentice mechanic in the sugar cane factory, al-

though not a well paid job, it gave him a platform to develop some skills. Unfortunately, after an epidemic at the time, his dad passed away. Marc became the bread winner of the family as his brother Paul had already moved to the capital Port-Louis. Then, Marc's mum and sister too decided to move away from the village to Paul's place in Port-Louis. Marc carried on working in the sugar cane factory until he was 17 years of age. He then decided to move to his brother's place in the capital to explore for better work opportunities. It completely changed Marc's life. He got a job in the Telecommunication Industry as a bicycle mechanic. The area where he was living with his brother was an affluent area called Ward 4. Marc made acquaintances of some very influential and well educated people who took a great affection for him. By then Marc was in his mid-twenties and he was neither prolific in writing nor reading at the time. The two persons who dedicated their time to help Marc with his education were the late René Balancy, an accountant who taught him commerce and bookkeeping and the late Emmanuel Juste who was a prolific writer and poet taught him French. Marc in his books said how indebted he was to these two persons for their contribution in his education. He achieved Higher Certificate in Commerce and Associate and Fellow stages in Book-Keeping.

He became one of the founder members of Cercle-Remy-Ollier which is a literary society where high level and influential people in all walks of life would meet every Thursday night to debate on topical subjects of the day. Marc himself started writing articles and poems in the well known Mauritian newspapers of Le Mauricien and L'express which are still being printed today. Marc got to know a lot of famous and eminent personalities, to name a few like Marcel Cabon, Dr Jean Georges Prosper who wrote our National Anthem Glory to our Motherland, Rivaltz Quenette, Kenneth Nathaniel, politicians and ministers. In his second book Orchidée, you will see a picture of Marc and his wife Leonilde with his Excellency, Governor General and first President of Mauritius, late Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo at his official Residence at Le Reduit.

Marc was a self made man, although small in stature but highly intelligent with an outstanding personality. He was thirsty for knowledge and wanted to know what the wider world had to offer. In 1964, he left Mauritius for the UK. It was in December 1965 at the age of 17, I met Marc who shared a property with my parents who were on holidays at the time in Tachbrook Street in Victoria. When my parents left for Mauritius the following year, Marc took me under his wing. There were three of us all from Mauritius, Marc himself, our dearest friend, late Dr Kesso Ramsamy who won the freedom of the City of London and I worked as cleaners at Metropole Cinema in Victoria 6 days a week full time and on our one day off we attended day release at college. Marc eventually became a founder member of the Institute of Leadership and Management and also attained Member of the Institute of Supervisory Management (MISM).

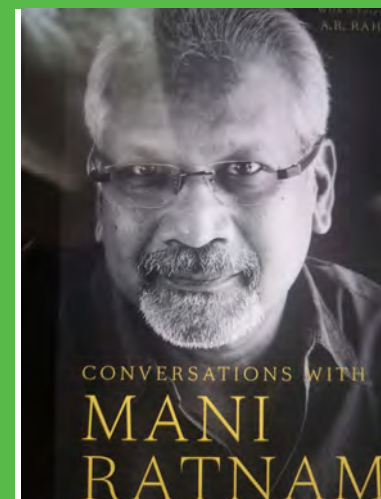
In 1969 Marc joined Harrods and spent 20 years in the Accounts Department until he retired in 1989. I believe the turning point in Marc's life was in July 1971 when he married his beautiful Portuguese wife Leonilde Da Silva Laurenço who was instrumental in Marc's success in life. Shortly afterwards they bought their house at 89, Leathwaite Road Wandsworth which both shared for the rest of their lives. I understand that Marc and Leonilde had also a place in Portugal where they invited their friends and family members to spend some lovely holidays in their company. Marc's life was all about entertaining and dining people. He carried on with this life style until COVID-19 which stopped all our daily routine in general.

Marc has had a wonderful life blessed with everything you could think of and he would have had it no other way, certainly no regrets. His greatest achievements would be writing three books entitled, Moisons Fragiles, Orchidee and Kellyann c'est moi(his autobiography).

I personally would like to say a personal thank you to Gillian Cooper of Gibson Young Solicitors who took care of Marc's and Leonilde affairs to make the last years of their lives comfortable.

Forwarded to MOG By Prega Vencatasawmy (UK) from his Facebook post

MANI RATNAM, FILM DIRECTOR, SCREEN PLAYWRIGHT AND PRODUCER



When the maverick film Director Mani Ratnam burst into Indian cinema in the south with Roja (1992) he brought with him a new inventive style and a well-worked craft, improving through a prestigious film career, spanning over three decades. Roja be-

came such a very massive pan Indian film hit, originally made in Tamil and dubbed later in Hindi and other regional languages and, at the same time, also introducing the Mozart of Madras, A.R. Rahman, who brought a new sound by his fantastic film score,

His first few films did not make any big impression but one can see a new talent unfolding through his sheer directorial skill, later maturing in producing some classics such as Roja, Bombay, Dil Se (the first Indian film ever to reach the UK top ten), among others.

Mani Ratnam was wooed by Bombay where he made some memorable films with big stars, Shah Ruhk khan and Aishwarya Rai, among others. His films navigated between mainly commercial and parallel cinema parameters. Most of his films are made in Tamil and some in Hindi that made him a very successful and gifted film director noted for his bold screenplays and audacious sociopolitical themes.

Unfortunately, he made a few films that flopped, and equally many blockbusters that redefine Indian cinema. In that respect, his

film, Iruvar (1997) remains a tour de force in film-making on acting and period drama on many levels, bringing to the screen the life of the legendary film southern star and chief minister, M.G. Ramachandran (MGR). This film bagged him the Best film award at the Belgrade Film Festival and it is worth mentioning that MGR is the recipient of Six National Film awards, six Filmfare awards south, and numerous prizes at various festivals across the world!

Ratnam consistently surrounds himself with the best cinematographers such as Santosh Sivan, PC Sreeram etc. Since Roja, he has always kept A.R. Rahman as his favourite film composer who has produced numerous memorable film scores and went on to become an Oscar winner!

His films have dealt with many themes never been explored in the Indian society and he is never shy to experiment, writing mainly his own script. His Nayakan (1987) about the tamilian Bombay Underworld don, Vadarajan Mudaliar, is such a classic in film-making that it was included in TIME "100 All time best films". Kamal Hassan plays the film role of a lifetime and his performance is pure master class in film acting!

Mani Ratnam has now decided to concentrate mainly on Tamil films working at present on the famous Indian epic novel, Ponniyin Selvan. written by Kalki Krishnamurthy. He has lined up a very impressive cast, shooting in Thailand with opulent sets and exteriors. Only time will tell if an another film classic is in the offing!

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

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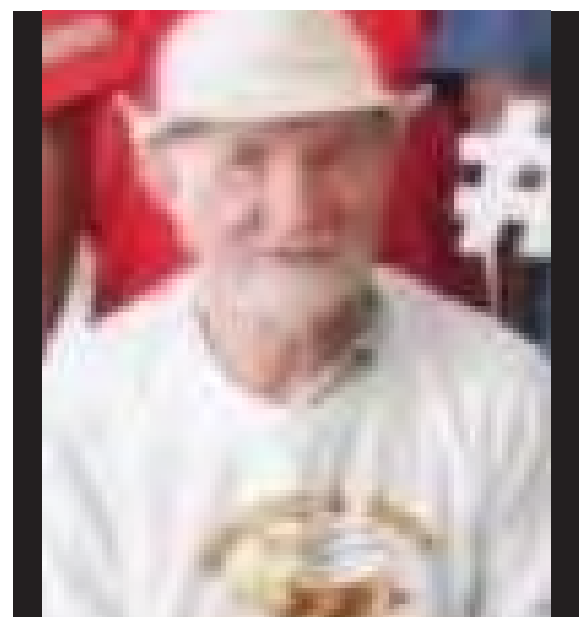
Rodrigues News

from

Paul Draper

Port Mathurin

April/May 2022



General News

Since the March 2022 NEWS, the most significant of local events has been the re-opening of the Airport in Rodrigues to regular commercial flights and the leveling off of Covid 19 infections in Rodrigues.

Also, the newly elected Rodrigues Regional Assembly has immediately been at work putting into actions their programmes that they outlined in their various manifestos.

I was on one of the first flights to Mauritius to deal with administrative and financial matters and where I had some medical tests and found that I have a deteriorating eye sight problem called AMD which is progressive and for which there is no treatment, except for expensive injections into the eye, given over a period of time, to slow the degradation of the retina down. This treatment is not available in Rodrigues so I have to decide whether it will be possible for me to have this treatment.

Care-Co News

As we approach May we have seen the number of flights increase and numbers of visitors to the island are now noticeable on the streets of Port Mathurin and in and around the island. As Rodrigues and certainly the work of Care-Co and our handicraft products made by our disabled workers, depends on sales to visitors and income generated by our own efforts to supplement the support we get through CSR and donations, this is good news.

Then: - Congratulations to Aurele Andre our longstanding friend, supporter and Member of the Board of Directors of Care-Co on his appointment as a Member of the Board of the Seychelles Islands Foundation.

The GPL Centre (Trevor Huddleston House- Association) has been able to re-open although

due to the local covid protocols the 62 children on the attendance list have been divided into two groups and they come in of alternate days. This means that, at the moment, they are only here at the Centre for half the normal school hours.

We have to bear with this situation for a while, and it is not ideal as the running of the school, the feeding programme, and the transportation of the children to and from the Centre from all over the island is disrupted from its normal plan. At the moment all the children are on Easter Vacation, and we do not know when the Covid restrictions will be lifted so that we can return to normal school days and hours.

National Social Inclusion Foundation offices

While in Mauritius Jean-Liode and myself were able to call in to the National Social Inclusion Foundation offices and express our thanks and gratitude to all the staff there for their work in keeping up the financial subsistence that we exceptionally received and which has been crucial in our survival as an organization working now and in the future for the support and care, employment and education and training of people with disabilities in Rodrigues.

My own annual visits to all other CSR supported had to be put off again this time, for which my apologies.

So the work continues and we see a glimmer of light and hope as the effects of the Covid virus infections decreases here on Rodrigues and also in other places in the world leading us to have hopes that life is beginning to return to a 'new' normal.

Paul

EDITORIAL DU JOURNAL KOZÉ RODRIGUAIS 27 APRIL 2022

Rodrigues : situation difficile avec la flambée des prix

Les prix des produits de base augmentent drastiquement. Les denrées de base comme le diesel, l'essence et le gaz ménager prennent l'ascenseur. Avec la flambée du prix de l'essence, diesel et du Gaz, ce sera un sale coup pour ceux au bas l'échelle. En puisque les frais pour le transport maritime sur Rodrigues soient élevés, voilà maintenant que la situation est devenue encore plus difficile.

L'augmentation de ses denrées de base va donner lieu à l'augmentation dans le domaine du transport et encore des dizaines de produits qui utilisent le transport pour être acheminé dans différents lieux de Rodrigues. Il y aura prochainement l'augmentation dans le tarif d'électricité et encore plusieurs services.

Rodrigues, qui se trouve parmi la région la plus pauvre de la République, aura davantage des difficultés avec l'augmentation des prix. Il y a là une urgence à revoir la situation de Rodrigues, car ces augmentations peuvent donner lieu à des crises sociales ou des gens de bas de l'échelle, deviendront plus pauvres et des fléaux vont

augmenter. Les gens n'auront pas suffisamment à manger et des délits de vols vont augmenter. Le cas de Rodrigues demande une attention particulière et certaine, personne ne pense se retourner à la méthode de faire la cuisine de bois ce qui va augmenter la pollution de l'atmosphère.

Il est urgent de développer une politique de retour à la terre et de consommer ce que nous produisons. La commission de l'agriculture a une intention ferme à mettre à la disposition de la population davantage de possibilité pour produire. Le développement dans le domaine de l'irrigation a été exposé et la production de l'eau est une priorité pour ce gouvernement. Le problème pour arriver à ce développement pour le bien-être de la population demeure l'obtention du budget nécessaire de la part du gouvernement central afin d'aider Rodrigues à résoudre des problèmes aigus et à rattraper ses retards qui ont été toujours une réalité.

Le Premier ministre est en mission en Inde et il serait souhaitable de donner une attention particulière à Rodrigues qui fait partie intégrante de l'île Maurice. Nous témoignons des grands chantiers de développement qui sont une réalité actuellement à Maurice et Rodrigues a besoin des développements de base dans le domaine tel que la pêche, l'agriculture, la production en eau, la production d'énergie, l'artisanat et l'économie. Il faut que cette visite du Premier ministre soit une occasion à développer Rodrigues dans le domaine de l'énergie et au niveau de l'agriculture.

Aujourd'hui, il est essentiel que Rodrigues passe au vert. L'huile lourde utilisée pour produire de l'électricité qui également pollue l'environnement vont encore aug-

menter et ces ressources provenant de l'extérieur vont devenu de plus en plus rare. Il est essentiel de trouver d'autres moyens de produire de l'électricité. Nous avons le soleil et le vent en abondance et afin d'aider les Rodriguais, le gouvernement a la responsabilité de doter chaque famille un système photovoltaïque afin d'alléger les foyers en ce qui concerne les frais d'électricités et en même temps protéger notre environnement immédiat. Il faut favoriser l'utilisation des véhicules électriques à Rodrigues afin de diminuer l'effet de serre dans la nature. Il y a urgence de donner la priorité à la production de gaz par les déchets, la biomasse. C'est un système qui n'est pas difficile à réaliser et d'autant plus que les déchets des animaux sont abondants à Rodrigues. Les matériaux pour la fabrication d'un système de biogaz doivent être subventionnés par le gouvernement. Notre île dépend énormément sur les produits importés.

Avec la flambée des prix, le gouvernement a les responsabilités de réunir les acteurs locaux, les consommateurs et ceux voulant apporter leur idée afin d'éviter des problèmes de famines, problèmes sociaux, des délits de toute sorte et des malaises au sein des familles par manque de moyens afin de vivre correctement. Il est essentiel de trouver d'autres alternatives et de produire pour notre propre consommation.

Il faut changer de mentalité et se tourner vers le non-gaspillage et également réutiliser des choses qui ont des valeurs économiques. Une sensibilisation générale est essentielle pour la survie de notre population. Les Rodriguais ont la chance d'avoir une parcelle de terre cultivable et nous devons utiliser nos ressources existant afin de ne pas sombrer dans la pauvreté et aussi d'assurer une génération de producteurs pour la durabilité de l'humanité.

Hotel Stay

Is daily housekeeping becoming extinct?

During a recent vacation at a high-end Japanese hotel, I spotted two magnets behind the door. One read: Clean the room & new towels. The other: Empty bins. If you needed one of these services, you would place this sign in front of your door. There was also a note stating that rooms are cleaned every six days unless otherwise requested.

It made me think. Is it possible that daily housekeeping is disappearing?

higher prices is not an option. Therefore, they cut costs by lowering the quality of service.

Skimpflation

One way to express what's going on is this new phase coined by economists: Skimpflation. It describes the way firms respond to higher costs by reducing or cutting down on quantity of goods/services.

In a nutshell, the consumer gets less for the same price.



The days of well-made beds plus complimentary drinks in hotels are gone?

Are the days when you returned to your room to find your bed made-up with crisp white sheets and a fresh set of fluffy towels in the bathroom, gone? Is it a thing of the past to go in and discover a lovely towel decoration on your bed and the fridge stocked with alcohol?

The practice of stopping daily housekeeping in luxury hotels began with COVID-19 as a way to reduce contact between staff and guests. Admittedly, guests were scarce at the time.

That was back in 2019. We are now in 2022, and housekeeping has not returned to the way it was.

True, over the years, many hotels have made it a practice not to clean rooms for stays of three nights or less. Many also have a note in the bathroom stating that toiletries can be obtained from the front desk, if necessary. Despite the fact that it is free, it seems few people take advantage of their offer. I mean, who wants to go down to the lobby to get a disposable toothbrush or shower cap?

Without a doubt, the hotel industry is very competitive. Responding to rising costs with

This can be seen everywhere you look. From self-checkins to buffet style meals. No more complimentary breakfasts, champagne, room upgrades, early check-ins, late check-outs, turndown services, and so on. Even the small one-use bottles of shampoo, conditioner, and soap that used to find their way into our bathroom at home have been replaced with dispensers.

During the pandemic, the hospitality industry was the first to close and the last to reopen. Supply chain issues, inflation, vacant rooms, didn't help either. The bottom line, there simply isn't enough money to cover the cost.

This flexible housekeeping policy is not a big deal for me, though I'm aware it is important for others. I'm not going to criticise it if it helps to keep a business afloat and keep people employed. This, however, does not appear to be the only factor at play. Workers and unions see it as a way to cut labour costs over the long term.

Many full-time staff are now employed part-time as guests embrace the on-demand housekeeping service.

Hotels need to tread carefully

Even if we're told it will reduce our carbon footprint, most people won't pay top dollar for a no-frills stay. Guests, after all, are customers who are willing to fork out a premium for exceptional service.

According to an internet search, the Ritz-Carlton, EDITION, W Hotels, Luxury Collection, St. Regis, Bvlgari, and JW Marriott still provide daily housekeeping service with all the frills (there are probably others, but they were not listed).

In contrast to Japan, it never ceases to amaze me that in Japan, even a small hotel will provide indoor slippers and a yukata (cotton kimono). Many have spas or public baths with saunas that are open from late afternoon to early morning, ensuring the body is sparkling clean before bedtime, and wearing slippers ensures that the carpet stays clean and lasts longer.

Security is also a top priority. Cameras are installed throughout, and card access is required to enter rooms,



Ask Reception

elevators, gyms, and other facilities (just as in luxury hotels worldwide).

Although not everyone wants to fork out £830 per night to stay at the Bvlgari in Knightsbridge, London, we do pay out for a high-end hotel and expect all the benefits and extras because it's more than just about the accommodation.

Above all, we want a pleasant experience, and many believe having fresh linen and clean towels on a daily basis is a key part of that.

M.L.

May Day Commemoration



Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth laying flowers at the statue of Soobdeo Bissoondoyal at Place d'Armes, Port Louis



MMM leader Paul Bérenger taking flowers to the tombs of Emmanuel Anquetil, Guy Rozement & ors at St Jean Cemetery, Quatre Bornes



PMSD leader Xavier Duval and party members gathered by the tomb of Sir Gaetan Duval at St Jean Cemetery, Quatre Bornes



Syndicalists marching to the graves of former Trade-unionists



Activist Anjalay Coopen remembered at Poudre d'Or

**Where was the Labour Party?
No flowers for the Great Tribune, S.S.R.
Father of the Nation,
Defensor of Workers' Rights
from the 1930s?**

Appeler un chat un chat, et Rollet un fripon



Par Eliezer François

Le 24 juin 2021, dans mon avant dernier papier sur le plaidoyer du Mouvement Authentique Mauricien (MAM) pour un Lundi Pâques, Congé Public je déclarai ceci : Ce dernier papier sera basé sur la dénonciation de l'apôtre Paul de ceux qui "Ayant l'apparence de la piété mais reniant ce qui en fait la force." 2 Timothée 3 :5. Et aussi, sur la mise en garde du Seigneur Jésus aux hypocrites dans Matthieu 23. Matthieu 23 : 27,28 "Malheur à vous,

scribes et pharisiens hypocrites ! parce que vous ressemblez à des sépulchres blanchis, qui paraissent beaux au-dehors, et qui au-dedans, sont pleins d'ossements de morts et de toute espèce d'impuretés. Vous de même, au dehors, vous paraissez justes aux hommes, mais, au-dedans, vous êtes pleins d'hypocrisie et d'iniquité." J'ai aussi annoncé que ce dernier papier sera une occasion pour moi d'appeler un chat un chat, et Rollet un fripon.

Le Combat Pour La Justice

Ma sœur cadette, Esther aime dire : "St Paul a mené le combat de la foi, moi je mène le combat pour l'amour." A ceci, j'ai ajouté : "moi Eliezer, je mène le combat pour la justice". Ensemble avec Jacques Tsang Mang Kin et José Jacquet (Major), nous menons un combat sans relâche pour la justice au sein du Mouvement Authentique Mauricien (MAM). Jacques Tsang Mang Kin ne peut pas prétendre être plus chrétien que le Cardinal Piat. De même, Major ne peut pas prétendre être plus catholique que le Cardinal Piat. Un jour, un ami de la France m'écrivait pour me dire : "Eliezer vous avez fait de cette question de lundi Pâques un vrai sacerdoce." Oui, en effet, je mène ce combat pour la Justice depuis plus de vingt ans. Car, malgré mes convictions personnelles au sujet de toutes les fêtes religieuses, y-compris la Pâques, je me permets cette citation qu'on a attribuée, à tort ou à raison, à ce grand philosophe, Voltaire : "Je ne suis pas d'accord avec ce que vous dites, mais je me battrai jusqu'à la mort pour que vous ayez le droit de le dire."

Lundi Pâques est un jour férié dans environ 114 pays à travers le monde, y-compris L'Inde, L'Indonésie, La Jordanie, Le Liban et Hong Kong, pays chinois. Tout près de nous – La Réunion, Les Seychelles, Madagascar, Mayotte, L'Afrique du Sud, L'Australie et La Nouvelle Zélande fêtent le lundi Pâques.

Quelques Citations en faveur du lundi Pâques Jour Férié:

(1) De nos jours les Agaléens reçoivent la visite d'un prêtre à l'occasion de deux principales fêtes au calendrier de l'Eglise, à savoir Noël et la Pâques.

(2) "Pâques est la plus grande fête de son calendrier." Père Jean Michaël Durhône faisant allusion à l'Eglise catholique.

(3) Le Père Maria Paschal, Curé de Sainte Anne, témoigne sa foi et sa confiance dans la Pâques. (La Vie Catholique).

Q. Est-ce (la célébration de la Pâques) la plus importante des célébrations pour les Chrétiens?
R "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. (1 Cor. 15 : 17). A partir de cette fête découlent toutes les autres célébrations." A l'instar de St Paul dans 1 Cor. 15 : 14, le Père Paschal a parfaitement raison : - "Sans la résurrection de Christ, la prédication de l'Evangile est vaine. Sans elle, l'église ou

toute la foi chrétienne n'a pas sa raison d'être."

Le message de Pâques de deux évêques, l'un catholique et l'autre anglican sur la Radio Ethnique 3ZZZ de Victoria Australie :

(4) "La veillée pascalle représente la nuit la plus importante pour les catholiques. Elle symbolise une vie nouvelle qui commence avec la résurrection du Christ." Le Révérend Richard Ross évêque catholique.

(5) L'évêque anglican, André Ah Sing, a mis l'emphasis sur la victoire du Christ sur le péché et sur la mort.

(6) Père Mongelard : "Un examen de conscience." 2 Mars 2021

(7) Weekend 27 Février 2022 - "Pâques, la plus importante fête du calendrier chrétien."

(8) Dhanilall Domah : " Lundi Pâques doit être un jour férié."

(9) L'Évêque de Maurice, le Très Révérend Ian Ernest que j'avais rencontré en deux reprises, était très favorable à l'idée d'avoir le lundi Pâques comme un jour férié, remplaçant L'Assomption en alternance avec La Toussaint.

(10) Le Pape François, L'Archevêque de Cantorbéry, Justin Welby, tous les Cardinaux ainsi que tous les Évêques catholiques, anglicans et protestants fêtent le lundi Pâques. Aussi Monseigneur, personne ne peut prétendre que la Toussaint, en alternance avec l'Assomption, soit plus importante pour les chrétiens que le Lundi Pâques.

En 2011, après la grande messe du jeudi saint à la cathédrale St Louis, je me suis mis à l'entrée de l'évêché, tenant une pancarte à la main et réclamant le lundi Pâques comme jour férié. La plupart des prêtres m'avaient jeté un regard approbateur. Un prêtre blanc m'a parlé gentiment ; un prêtre français m'a dit que c'était bien ; quant au père Roger Cerveaux que j'avais rencontré en délégation, à deux reprises à Bel-Air/Rivière Sèche après son interview sur le Malaise Créole, il m'a fortement serré la main et m'a fait un grand sourire. Son geste et son sourire étaient éloquentes et très significatifs: "Le silence est d'or"

Lettre à un Prêtre Catholique

J'ai expliqué à Mgr. Piat que je ne fais pas du lundi Pâques une question politique, quoi que j'aurais pu le faire. La politique a été un accident dans ma vie. J'ai commencé à faire de la politique pour combattre des injustices faites à ma mère veuve, et à mes frères et sœurs orphelins. Et c'est ce combat pour la justice qui me fortifie. Comme le Pape François et Nelson

Mandela, je ressens toujours une soif inlassable pour la justice. Au nom de tous les chrétiens, au nom de la communauté créole et au nom des descendants d'esclaves, je fais un appel à la sagesse, le bon sens et la chrétienté de Mgr Piat afin qu'il m'aide à éviter certains propos et commentaires qui pourraient faire de la peine à une section de la population générale.

Jours Fériés En Alternance

Monseigneur, dans l'avant dernier paragraphe de votre lettre en date du 26 février 2007 (lettre que vous m'aviez dit je pouvais rendre public) vous aviez déclaré ceci "Cet arrangement ne peut être modifié, vu d'une part que le gouvernement donne aux chrétiens de choisir deux de leurs fêtes pour qu'elles soient décrétées congé public et que d'autre part les chrétiens n'accepteraient pas que le 1er Novembre ou le 15 Août ne soit pas congé public"

Malheureusement pour vous Monseigneur, ces deux arguments ne tiennent pas debout.

Premièrement, en voici la déclaration gouvernementale : "A 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'Eglise au gouvernement."

Donc, il serait inexact de dire que c'est le gouvernement qui a choisi l'Assomption en alternance avec la Toussaint, au lieu du lundi Pâques comme jour férié pour les chrétiens Mauriciens, Rodriguais et Agaléens. C'est un gros mensonge, une violation du 9eme commandement qui dit : "Tu ne mentiras pas."

Deuxièmement, La Pétition. Durant les mois de mars-avril 2008 des centaines de chrétiens avaient signé une pétition que j'étais venu vous remettre Mgr. pour ce congé pascal. Par ailleurs, beaucoup d'autres mauriciens ; parmi lesquels, des maraîchers, des bouchers, des poissonniers, malgré qu'ils n'appartiennent à aucune dénomination chrétienne, sont d'opinion que le lundi Pâques devrait être un jour de congé public pour les chrétiens. Au cours de ce long combat, j'ai aussi apprécié le soutien de plusieurs leaders politique et de certains journalistes qui ont écrit en faveur de la fête de

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Pâques. Parmi ces leaders politique figurent, Sylvio Michel, Maulana Sahodeea, Feroz Maudarbaccus, Raj Dayal, Luchmeeparsad Ramsahok, Cehl Meeha, Mario Edouard, Serge Antoine, etc.

Vladimir Putin

Le monde entier a condamné l'invasion de l'Ukraine par la Russie. Plusieurs chefs d'États, de Gouvernements et chefs religieux ont adressé des pétitions à Putin pour que cesse immédiatement cette agression injustifiée contre le peuple Ukrainien. Même le Pape François lui a envoyé des messages dans ce sens. Mais, tous sans succès. Pourquoi ? Parce que Putin se croit être tout puissant. Il est dominé par son obstination, son intransigeance, son orgueil personnel. En sus de ça, Putin est un grand men-

teur. Aussi, c'est avec un sentiment de peine que je constate qu'il n'existe aucune différence entre Vladimir Putin et le Cardinal Maurice Piat. Putin fait bombarder des hôpitaux, des maternités, des écoles, des centres de refuge, etc. tuant des innocents et causant la consternation et la désolation parmi la population civile, tout en faisant des grands signes de croix, à chaque fois. Quelle hypocrisie !

De même, le Cardinal Maurice Piat refuse toujours le droit aux chrétiens de Maurice, Rodrigues et Agaléga, tous des créoles, descendants d'esclaves, de fêter la Pâques dignement. Ceci, malgré sa déclaration publique : "les deux principales fêtes au calendrier de l'Église ...sont Noël et la Pâques." Quelle hypocrisie ! Que voyons-nous dans les deux cas, si ce n'est qu'une apparence de la piété, le mensonge et l'hypocrisie comme dénoncés par l'apôtre Paul et le Seigneur Jésus.

Pour terminer ce dernier papier je me permettrais de citer un extrait de l'avant dernier que voici : 'Finalement, après plus de 20 années de lutte, et puisque je considère ce papier comme ma dernière intervention sur le congé du Lundi Pâques, j'invite le Cardinal Maurice Piat, sans aucun manque de modestie de ma part, mais toujours dans un esprit d'humilité, à un débat, soit à la Radio, sur la Télévision, sur les Radios Privées, dans la Presse, afin d'établir quelle est la plus grande fête chrétienne pour tous les Mauriciens, Rodriguais et Agaléens, surtout les catholiques :-

La Mort et la Résurrection du Christ, la Pâques ou La Toussaint en alternance avec L'Assomption ?

Néanmoins, je tiens compte de ce proverbe : "A laver la tête d'un âne, on perd sa lessive".-

Elzézer François JP

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Picture News & Views

The dream of Black American leader Martin Luther King Jr may be said to be realised when the world witnessed the embracing of first ever black Press Secretary to the White House, Karine Jean-Pierre, by the outgoing white holder, Jen Psaki. Yet, racial prejudice is still rife in the U.S.A.



When a PM fares badly at the Poll, he goes dog walking, which Boris Johnson does after the local elections debacle,

