

L'Union
fait
La Force



Mauritian Overseas Gazette

Truth
&
Trust

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Unity
is
Strength

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At the service of the Mauritian Diaspora

Editor: Peter Chellen (Former Editor of Mauritius News 1983 to 2015)

A totally independent platform

Views expressed by contributors are their own

A statue for SAJ

Because we have seen remarks on the social media, we wish to ask the question: Does Sir Anerood Jugnauth deserve a statue be erected in memory of his achievements for Mauritius? It is a tradition worldwide for nations to erect statues to perpetuate the memory of citizens who have distinguished themselves in the service of their countries. London is full of statues of heroes who have served the motherland be it in warfare or politics. It has also been part of the tradition to erect statues for nationals who have enhanced the image of their birthplace in other fields of activities such as by their literary contributions or who have obtained recognition beyond the shores of the motherland. One of the latest memorial in London for warfare and political achievements by a national is that gigantic statue of Sir Winston Churchill in front of the Houses of Parliament in Westminster. So it is not strange that in Mauritius the statue tradition should also be a normal occurrence as well.



Does this work of bronze do justice to the personality and memory of Sir Anerood Jugnauth erected in recognition of his immense contributions to the advancement of Mauritius as Prime Minister.

A statue is, after all, a symbol which may or may not do justice to the likeness of a departed, especially if the likeness is done from memory or copied from a picture. If a statute is executed while the subject is still living, he can pose for it. Let it be a lesson to those who believe that a statue will be due to them after they are gone that they should pose for it now.

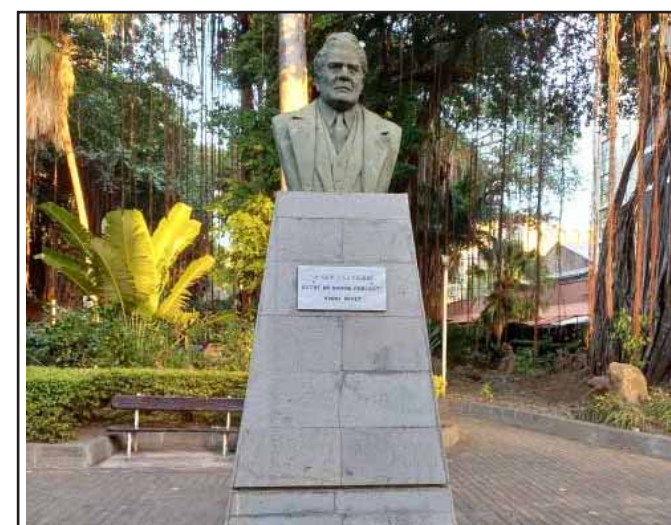
The two great tribunes, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and Sir Anerood Jugnauth, who have fashioned the destiny of modern Mauritius, standing side by side on the Port Louis Waterfront (Caudan), facing in the direction of Government House where they spent so many years struggling against the odds to make of Mauritius a success story for posterity.



Bust of Rémy Ollier, Company Garden, Port Louis



Statue of Mahé de Labourdonnais. Labourdonnais facing the harbour which he created



Bust of Raoul Rivet, Company Garden, Port Louis

A Statue for SAJ

Continued from Page One

The Port Louis waterfront (off Caudan) has been chosen to perpetuate the memory of the *filz du sol* who have shown distinction in the service of the motherland.

These days, with the full force of the social media, it is not strange that this sort of practice should give rise to comments and some form of controversy.

The latest erection in honour of Sir Anerood Jugnauth has been the cause of a few Facebook comments. It is reported that one drug-addict has thought it fit to attempt to desecrate the newly-erected statue of SAJ.

**One may ask whether when a statue Mahé de La-
bourdonnais was erected at Place d'Armes in Au-
gust 1859, did the people of Mauritius saw it
otherwise than a worthy tribute to a dynamic ad-
ministrator?**

As Governor of Isle de France (name of Mauritius under French occupation) from 1735 his “vigorous and successful administration” put the island on a solid footing to step into the future. Though Labourdonnais was not a native he may be regarded as the “original Father” of Mauritius, now ascribed to late natives Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (SSR) and Sir Anerood Jugnauth (SAJ).

The Jardin de la Compagnie is the home, among other statues, of a bust dedicated to Rémy Ollier (19th century journalist and political activist), and one dedicated to Raoul Rivet (20th century Journalist and politician) *en homage* to their ‘mauricianism’.

Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, at the unveiling of the SAJ statue said that the country owed a lot to the late tribune. Well, so far, a samadhi (a memorial sepulchre) has been built at Pamplemousses Garden to accommodate his remains. A primary school in his former constituency in Rivière du Rempart is named after him. So are the Sir Anerood Jugnauth Recreation Centre at Riambel and Sports Centre at L'Espérance. The SAJ Bridge is the most modern one in the region. Academic Scholarships bear his name.

For Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, he has the statue erected on the Port Louis waterfront, the samadhi at Pamplemousses Garden, the Airport, the Hospital in the north. Desforges Street has been renamed after him. There is the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Government School, the SSR Medical School, He is featured on the Rs2,000-rupee banknote plus the SSR scholarships (Used to be known as the English Scholarships.)

Rémy Ollier has the bust in Jardin de la Compagnie, a Government Primary school, two streets, one in Port Louis, one in Quatre Bornes, the daily paper L'express operates as La Sentinelle Co Ltd in memory of the paper La Sentinelle founded and edited by Rémy Ollier in the 1840s. The Cercle Rémy Ollier existed in Port Louis. The Cercle was chaired by Marcel Cabon, an erudite himself.

Raoul Rivet has the Champ de Lort primary

school renamed after him, Pouce Street in Port Louis now bears his name. His newspaper *Le Mauricien* is still an on-going concern.

Labourdonnais, though not Mauritian-born has it all, as enunciated further down, to perpetuate his memory in Mauritius.

All that is said to show that Mauritian people (except the Facebook melancholics) should not despair to see the memory of the past tribunes perpetuated here and there in the country. The tradition goes on. I once heard a compatriot say that the people seem to be given the name of SSR to everything in Mauritius. Well, it's not really as much done for the memory of Labourdonnais in Mauritius, though. He has his own square as well. SSR and SAJ don't.

Mahé de Labourdonnais has the majestic statute at Place d'Armes in Port Louis harbour, the harbour which he constructed to replace the harbour of Mahébourg. Mahébourg, a town in the south of the island, named after him. In Port Louis, a principal artery of the capital, Labourdonnais Street, bears his name. A government school equally is dedicated to his memory while a Lycée, a private educational institution, honours his memory. The Labourdonnais Sugar Estate has been demolished but the locality is still known as Domaine de Labourdonnais. The Chateau de Labourdonnais is endowed with a beautiful orchard and still produces liquor of excellent quality. The Caudan complex in Port Louis provides the landscape for a 5-star Labourdonnais hotel. Has everything been included in this note about the memory of Labourdonnais' presence in Mauritius for five years from 1735.

There may be said about the memory of this famous Frenchman's presence in Mauritius. However, the memory of his presence was never dimmed even following the fact he was imprisoned at the Bastilles in Paris for corruption on mission elsewhere after his assignment at Isle de France.

All these reminiscences said about Labourdonnais, Rémy Ollier, Raoul Rivet, and Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam have one particularity in common. They all have a street named after them. SAJ has not. A street for SAJ may be the next thing coming to him. SSR has got the former Desforges Street. Since Mauritius is now a republic, is Rue Royal a misnomer? There is a Rue Royal in Port Louis, and a Route Royal at Rose Hill which need to be renamed true to the island's republic status. And the bank note? SSR has the highest denomination of Rs2,000. Who knows that, as Mauritius is classed among the richest countries in the world, we may have a R,5000 note in honour of SAJ !

[illegible]

Note: In reply to a Facebook adverse comment following a previous piece in Mauritian Overseas Gazette, we wish to state the above comments are not written by a Jug Jug, as it was said then.



As an independent platform, the Mauritian Overseas Gazette follows in the tradition of Mauritius News (edited by P.C. from 1983 to 2015) to criticise as and when applicable, and, accordingly, to give credit where credit is due.



Statue of Labourdonnais at Place d'Armes in Port Louis with his square to himself. No SSR or SAJ statue can match this.



*The massive statue of Sir Winston Churchill in front of the Houses of Parliament, London.
Can his face be recognised?*

Breakdancing

(also known as Breaking) is now an added competitive event at the 2024 Olympic Games

Breakdancing, when it was originally created by the Afro-Americans in New York City's Bronx district in the 1970s, was referred to as Street Dance.

The Street Dance has become very popular among the young people in many parts of the world who have brought it to a high level of performance. In April 2022, Mauritian national, Jamie Nobin, held a Break Dance Workshop at the Caudan Art Centre in Port Louis which was a real success.

Since then, the dance has gained in popularity. Earlier this year, a show was held at the venue with Mauritian performers of good standard. It is to be hoped that the organisers will hold more frequent workshops, especially as this dance is now included as a sporting event in the Olympic Games in Paris next month. The Olympic Breakdancing competition will be held at La Place de la Concorde on 9 and 10 August. 16 Boys will challenge 16 Girls in the same event.

In Paris, a young Franco Mauritian, Krish Narrainamamy, is becoming an adept of this dance, (also called freestyle dancing), and here he tells us of his passion for this body movement within the BTM (Beyond the Moves). ***Please see Mauritian Overseas Gazette (MOG) Issue Number 33 for a write-up on BTM, a movement initiated by Niket Yudat.***

Young Franco Mauritian enamoured of Breakdance in Paris



Krish Narrainasamy

As a student of BTM (Beyond the Moves) since 2019, freestyle dance has been a grow

ing passion for the last few years. I see through the years how Nickel Yudat teaching has helped many dancers around the world. I've been a witness of the growth of his company through : teaching, events, video making ...

Beginning of 2024, Nickel Yudat introduced me to the idea of « BTM Tribe » which I found brilliant. He suggested to me to be part of the development team which I couldn't refuse. With the years, I felt that I wanted to combine my technical skills in IT as a software engineer and my passion for dance but I could not find what to build which would help the dance community. So this is for me the opportunity to combine both worlds.

Concerning BTM Tribe, the biggest issue I found to travel to dance events in Europe was the accommodation. As an example, in August there is one of the biggest Hip Hop dance event called « Summer Dance Forever » in Amsterdam. If the train ticket cost me 80€, the accommodation will cost me 350€ even though I'm sharing the hotel with others. This



A BTM Member in action

is quite a significant budget for a dance trip and I can see how it can be an issue for dancers over the world but also how BTM Tribe would help.

Krish Narrainasamy

Beyond The Moves (BTM) needs support.
To find out how you can support, Please send email to:
support@beyondthemoves.com.
We'll get back to you right away

A Quote for this Issue

An entire sea of water can't sink a ship unless it gets inside the ship. Similarly, the negativity of the world can't put you down unless you allow it to get inside you.

STAMPS OF MAURITIUS

Definitive Series (Part 3)

Extinct Species

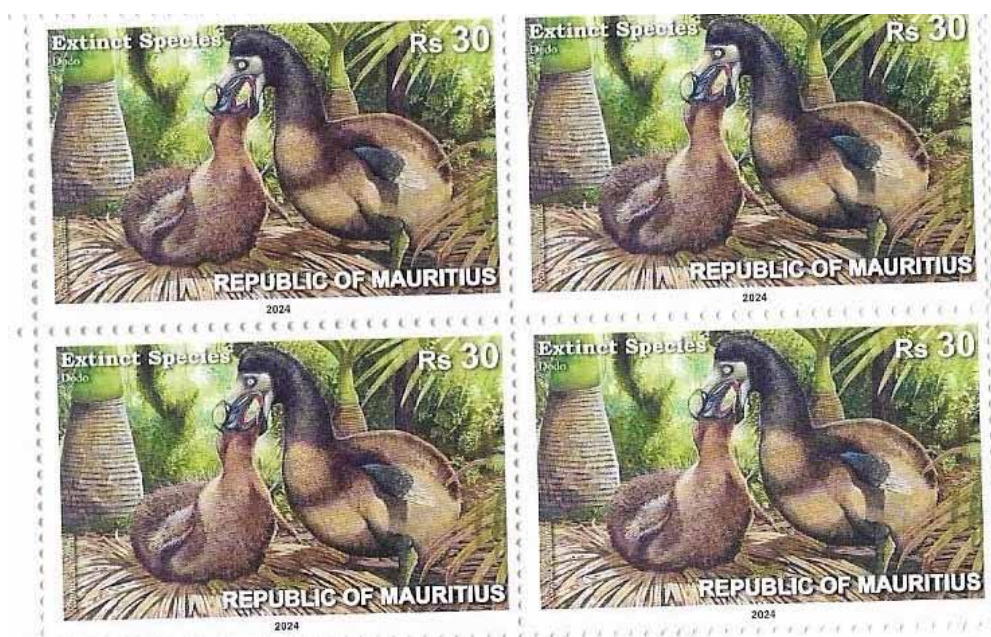
The Mauritius Post Ltd issued a set of three Postage Stamps on the 01 June 2024 for the International Day for Biological Diversity

This is the third issue in a series of definitive stamps depicting extinct pigeons and parrots from Mauritius and Rodrigues.

At least ten species of pigeons and eight species of parrots occurred on the Mascarene Islands of Mauritius, Réunion and Rodrigues, all derived from ancestral species in Southeast Asia. The islands were mammal-free, so some like the Dodo *Raphus cucullatus* and Broad-billed Parrot *Lophosittacus mauritianus* became large and flightless.

Humans settled the islands in the early 17th century, resulting in the rapid extinction of almost all pigeons and parrots due to a combination of over-hunting, deforestation and predation by introduced mammals. Réunion and Rodrigues lost all their pigeons and parrots whereas on the Pink Pigeon *Nesoenas mayeri* and Echo Parakeet *Alexandrinus eques* survive today on Mauritius because of intense and continuing conservation efforts.

Rs 30 – Dodo *Raphus cucullatus*



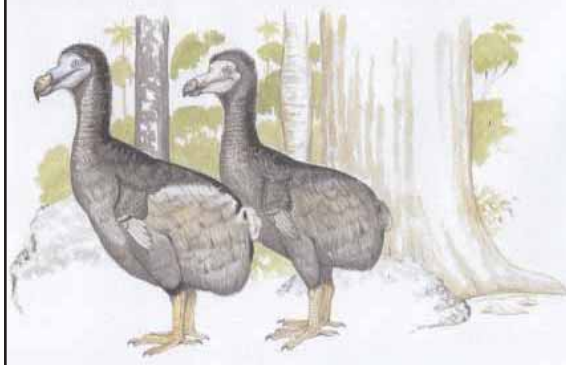
More has been written about the Dodo, a giant, flightless ground pigeon, than any other bird, yet we know almost nothing about its life history. According to the fossil record, it was once widely distributed on Mauritius but most abundant in the lowlands and drier parts of the island.

They were long-lived with slow reproductive rates, breeding at the end of the Austral winter and laying one egg per year in a nest on the ground. The chicks grew rapidly, reaching almost full size within a few months.

Dodos fed on fallen fruit and seeds and were perfectly adapted to the environment in which they lived. Yet, once humans arrived on the island, it was doomed. First mentioned in 1599, the Dodo became extinct within 80 years, due to the predation of eggs and chicks by introduced pigs and rats.

Extinct Species

Definitive Series (Part 3)



Republic of Mauritius
Official First Day Cover

Rs 10 – Rodrigues Parrot *Necropsittacus rodricanus*



The Rodrigues parrot was a large, big-headed, long-tailed bird that occurred all over Rodrigues feeding on the seeds of trees, as well as fruit and leaves. It nested in tree cavities and perhaps in hollows amongst rocks.

By the 1720s, it frequented the southern islets off Rodrigues, returning to the mainland only to drink water due to persecution from introduced rats.

The arrival of tortoise hunters in the 1730s, coupled with an increase in hunting and deforestation, reduced the population further. In 1761, the French astronomer Alexandre Gui Pingré described it as very rare, and no one has observed it since.

Rs 2 – Mauritius Grey Parrot *Lophosittacus bensoni*



Thirioux's grey parrot was a long-tailed, large-billed bird and considered one of the commonest species on Mauritius during the 18th century. Large flocks of many hundreds gathered in the forests to feed on fruits, seeds and leaves and it used tree cavities for nesting.

When using one as a decoy, Dutch accounts talk about the ease of catching the parrots with their bare hands, enabling an entire flock to be taken for the pot.

During the 1730s there was large-scale slash and burn forest clearance, which had a serious impact on tree nesting birds, and Thirioux's grey parrot disappeared rapidly as a result. The last mention was in 1759.

With the erection of the statue in Port Louis of late Sir Anerood Jugnauth (SAJ) in memory of his patriotism, his visions for the country were once more brought to the fore.

MOG itself has shown on Pages 1 & 2 of this issue, the justification for a monument dedicated to SAJ.

It is in the wake of this happy occasion that we reproduce here-under, an interview that appeared in Mauritius News edition of March 2013 under the pen of DODO. The

SAJ Remembered

interview was about the book, *A Living Legend: Sir Anerood Jugnauth*, authored by Ebrahim Alladin PhD, in which he explained why he believed, some eleven years ago, SAJ was a living legend: namely his visions and dedications for the uplift of the fatherland.

Of course, SAJ was already a legend when the book was written.

Hence, the title of Living Legend.

At the time of penning his book the author said: *"I believe his destiny is to serve the people. While he may not be called the 'father' of the nation, he is certainly the 'Saviour' of the nation."*

Mr Alladin further said of SAJ: *"Two decades ago I described Sir Anerood Jugnauth as the architect*

of the economic revolution that made Mauritius 'take off'. (Please read more in the text below.)

The maison d'édition "Osman Publishing has not come out with another Living Legend, it seems there is none! One & Only Legend!

Today such 'éloges' from author Alladin would be qualified as *chatwa* by Jugnauth's enemies. Some sick mind would even refer to such praises as *Jug Jug*, which has happened in the past.

LIVING LEGENDS: SIR ANEROOD JUGNAUTH

by Ebrahim Alladin PhD - (Reproduced from Mauritius News of March 2013)



Sir Anerood Jugnauth, premier titre de la nouvelle collection:

Living Legends by Ibrahim Alladin

La maison d'édition Osman Publishing a lancé

le premier titre de sa nouvelle collection, Living Legends, dans le courant de février: Sir Anerood Jugnauth. Un livre de 150 pages d'Ibrahim Alladin*, résidant au Canada, qui retrace l'histoire et le parcours de cette "légende vivante".

"Il n'était pas difficile pour nous de choisir notre première Légende vivante car Sir Anerood est le seul, à avoir été ministre, Premier ministre à cinq reprises et Président de la République durant deux mandats", devait faire ressortir Shafick Osman, directeur d'Osman Publishing. "Et sans oublier qu'il est avocat de formation et de profession et qu'il a été leader de l'opposition et aussi président du conseil de village de Palma, son village natal", devait-il ajouter.

L'auteur, Ibrahim Alladin, a, lui, expliqué qu'il a commencé à s'intéresser à Sir Anerood Jugnauth (SAJ) après avoir lu, plusieurs années de cela, quelques reportages très élogieux sur le développement économique de Maurice dans la grande presse nord-américaine. "Je me suis demandé quel est le moteur derrière tout cela et c'est ainsi que mon intérêt pour SAJ a vu le père du développement économique de Maurice", a-t-il laissé entendre.

"Cassure de 1983: un mal pour un bien"

Karl Offman, un des deux invités d'honneur, a, lui, surtout relate les événements politiques de 1983, la cassure de l'alliance MMM-PSM et

les années MSM. "J'étais un collaborateur direct d'Anerood mais cela ne veut pas dire que j'étais d'accord avec tout ce qu'il faisait. Je lui disais aussi que c'est à lui de prendre les décisions finales", devait avouer l'ancien Président de la cassure douloureuse de l'alliance MMM-PSM en 1983 était finalement une bonne chose, un mal pour un bien", s'est laissé dire Karl Offman pour qui, "sans cassure", il n'y aurait pas eu "ce développement économique".

Cassam Uteem, autre invité d'honneur, a, lui, avoué de ne pas connaître intimement Sir Anerood mais "je sais qu'il incarne des valeurs profondes dont les valeurs familiales". L'ancien Président de la République devait dire, lui aussi, qu'il respecte profondément SAJ, véritable "légende vivante même si je l'aicritiqué de façon virulente dans le passé". Cassam Uteem a émis le souhait qu'Osman Publishing choisisse soigneusement ses "legends vivantes" car, selon lui, "il n'y en a pas beaucoup à Maurice".

Dans son bref discours, SAJ a mis l'accent sur le fait qu'il est devenu ce qu'il est grâce à l'éducation et qu'il encourage toujours les gens et les jeunes, en particulier, d'investir dans l'éducation. Il a fait allusion aussi à sa carrière politique où il a côtoyé de près les plus grands dont Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (dont il fut un des ministres avant l'indépendance), Sookdeo Bissonndoyal et Sir Gaetan Duval, entre autres.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth a été publié, tient à préciser l'éditeur, sans contribution financière aucune car ce sont les fonds propres d'Osman Publishing Co. Ltd qui sont mobilisés. Le livre est en vente à Rs 850.

Mauritius News questions Dr Ibrahim Alladin on his work on Sir Anerood Jugnauth

(Reproduced from Mauritius News of March 2013)

Mauritius News: How did the idea of writing a book on SAJ crop up?

Dr Ibrahim Alladin: I was on a flight from Dubai to Toronto, returning from one of my many trips to Mauritius. On the Plane I picked up the New York Times dated March 26, 2012 One of the headlines read "Mauritius: The Glittering New Gateway to Africa and Asia". I read it with a great deal of interest. A few hours earlier I was in Maur

itius and saw the signs of economic growth and prosperity that the article was referring to. As I put the newspaper away it reminded me of a similar newspaper article on the Globe and Mail almost two decades ago that prompted me to write *Economic Miracle in the Indian Ocean: Can Mauritius show the Way?* (EOL, 1993).



Dr Ibrahim Alladin

From Page 5

The Globe and Mail had described Mauritius as the “miracle” economy following the footsteps of the giant tigers of Asia, for example Singapore. What happened in Mauritius in the last two decades that is catching international attention? This led me to start a new analysis and in the process **I decided to examine the contributions of one man, who perhaps shaped the destiny of modern Mauritius. He had just resigned as the President of the Republic of Mauritius, and decided to enter the political arena to “save” the nation from economic calamity.**

This is the story of one man: Sir Anerood Jugnauth. I believe his destiny is to serve the people. While he may not be called the “father” of the nation, he is certainly the “Saviour” of the nation.

Some leaders are born to lead, and in his eighties Sir Anerood is back at the political helm to take Mauritius to new heights. But what kind of legacy will he leave behind and how shall history depict him?

The book is much about jugnauth as it is about contemporary Mauritius. Two decades ago I described Sir Anerood Jugnauth as the architect of the economic revolution that made Mauritius “take off”. The island has gone through a revolution and twenty years later I find myself having to re-examine its prospects and those associated with it.

It is a daunting task but an inevitable one. This is not a biography of Anerood Jugnauth, but rather an examination of his political career and his rise to political fame. Recently someone described him as a geriatric whith dyed hair who made a political comeback to save his family’s name and fortune. But is that so? Or did he make a comeback as Navin Ramgoolam’s government is showing signs of weakness.

Some say that Ramgoolam has left the country in decline and yet again it seems Jugnauth is coming to the rescue. Is history repeating itself? The book is very revealing and answers these questions.

MN: I presume this was indeed a challenging task. How did you manage?

Dr I. A.: Writing about a personality like SAJ is always challenging. He has been in politics for almost 50 years and been involved in so many other things. It is an incredible journey. So to organize it into a book is not an easy task.

I developed the book in stages and planned it that way. Many people helped with the research and gave me guidance to understand SAJ as a person.

In my endeavour I always start with a theme and try to keep it throughout the book. I usually have a plan of what I want to cover, so it keeps me focused and gives me the direction. There is so much material, it can be overwhelming.

MN: In your interesting speech at the launching ceremony you stated that SAJ’s career can be summarized in a nutshell “Saviour of the Nation”. How have you justified this in your book? By the way, one of the chapters of the book is precisely “The Return of the Saviour of the Nation”.

Dr I.A.: I have done an analysis of his political career and no doubt he is the most experienced politician in the country, five times as a prime minister and served two terms as president. **His contributions have been immense.** His political career has also been marked by controversy and he has faced criticisms on many fronts.

The book has examined some of these controversies. But he remains **a statesman with a mission**, that’s why he is back and I describe him as the “Saviour of the Nation”. I believe history will remember him as such.

MN: After “A President of the People” in 1997 where you depict former President Cassam Uteem’s life and works, you delineate the exceptional political career of former President SAJ. Any other former president in your sight?

Dr I.A.: Not at the moment, but who knows in the future perhaps.

MN: It seems that you favour political figures of the ‘militant’ stock in your endeavour to portray Mauritian public figures. A deliberate choice?

Dr I.A.: Not really. I look for characters that are unique and interesting to write and people would enjoy reading. So it really does not matter who that person is or what is the background. I am always searching for some uniqueness.

MN: When writing on political figures that one admires, can one be objective and neutral? How do you avoid being bias in such a case?

Dr I.A.: It is not always easy to be objective, but one tries. I am more interested about the person and I try to present the character in the most objective way.

I avoid getting into the personal or private life of an individual. However, I do not discard controversies and criticisms. I make sure that these are addressed in the most objective manner.

Interview by Dodo

UK Politics



Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer is the new tenant at 10 Downing Street. From this picture, he looks very much like a constipated fellow. He is out to rid the Labour Party of antisemitism, i.e. of those who are against the excesses of Israel Prime Minister B. Netanyahu.

Starmer is said to be a replica of Tony Blair who was at one time known as the son of the Conservative dictatorial PM Margaret Thatcher.

In his zeal to wipe out antisemitism his first immediate victim was Jeremy Corbyn, MP for Islington North, whom he expelled from the Labour Party.

Jeremy Corbyn has stood as an Independent Candidate at the recent UK General Election and retained his parliamentary seat with a very comfortable majority over the accredited Labour Candidate pledged by Starmer.

It can well be understood why Briain is so much behind Netanyahu. Palestine which was a British Potectorate was ceded to the Jewish terrorists under Menachem Begin to create the State of Israel.



Jeremy Corbyn, independent MP for Islington North, La bête noire of Labour leader Keir Starmer

Dicton populaire

Il y a des gens qu'on regrette d'avoir connu.