L'Union fait La Force

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A totally independent Publication

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

Views expressed by contributors are their own

Prison Inmates Training

Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Prisoners

Petit Verger Rehabilitation and Reintegration Centre in Pointe aux Sables for inmates to receive certificates and medals following the successful completion of an entrepreneurship training programme.

Organised by SME Mauritius in collaboration with the Mauritius Prison Service, the programme, conducted by officers of SME Mauritius, aimed to equip 30 inmates with entrepreneurial skills and facilitate their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

The rehabilitation programme comprised 12 sessions combining practical activities and interactive discussions. Participants explored business opportunities, developed entrepreneurial ideas and prepared individual business plans.

The Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives, Mr Sayed Muhammad Aadil Ameer Meea; the Commissioner of Prisons, Mr Rashid Ali Issa Beekun; the Officer-in-Charge of SME Mauritius, Mr Kishore Raj Bunjun; and other officials attended the ceremony.

In his address, Minister Ameer Meea underscored the importance of providing individuals with opportunities to develop their potential and prepare for a fresh start in life. He highlighted entrepreneurship as a pathway towards economic independence and successful reintegration into society.

The Minister stressed that having a business idea alone was knowledge and competencies to transform it into a viable enterprise. He pointed out that the training had equipped participants with essential skills in marketing, costing, pricing and communication, as well as knowledge of business registration procedures.

Commending the inmates for their commitment throughout the 12 training sessions and for preparing their own business plans, he encouraged them to apply the knowledge acquired and demonstrate patience, discipline and perseverance in pursuing their ambitions.

Minister Ameer Meea further emphasised that rehabilitation should extend beyond discipline to encompass education, training and preparation for the future. He reiterated the importance of giving individuals opportunities to regain their place in society and contribute to national development.

For his part, the Commissioner of Prisons recalled that this was the second initiative of its kind, following a similar programme held in 2019 at Melrose Prison, which benefited 19 inmates. He outlined ongoing efforts to improve inmates' welfare and indicated that vocational training was being provided in bakery, tailoring, welding and cooking.

Mr Beekun also called for a follow-up mechanism to support former inmates after their release and document their success stories.



Industry and Cooperatives Minister Aadil Ameer Meea presenting certificate to prison inmate in the presence of Prisons Commissioner, Mr Issa Bheekun

Flood protection & Other measures

National Solidarity Fund envisages flood protection assistance for vulnerable households



Social Security and National Solidarity, Mr Ashok Kumar Subron (Centre), Junior Minister, Mr Kuvalayan Kugan (Right), Chairperson of the NSF, Mrs Pouba Essoo (Left)

The National Solidarity Fund (NSF) is envisaging a new initiative to provide flood barriers to vulnerable households living in flood-prone areas, with a view to protecting lives and reducing damage to property during heavy rainfall, announced the Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, Mr Ashok Kumar Subron, on 19 November at the Municipal City Council of Port Louis.

He was speaking during the official launching ceremony of the NSF brochure, which aims to enhance public awareness of the various assistance schemes offered by the Fund.

The Junior Minister, Mr Kuvalayan Kugan Parapen; the Chairperson of the NSF, Mrs Pouba Essoo; and other personalities were also present.

In his address, Minister Subron highlighted the importance of strengthening national solidarity, particularly in the face of emerging challenges such as climate change and extreme weather events.

He indicated that the proposed initiative will target vulnerable households in areas identified as being prone to flooding, citing Vallée des Prêtres as an example. The provision of flood barriers, he observed, can help prevent floodwater from entering homes and minimise material losses.

The Minister also recalled that the NSF had provided financial assistance amounting to some Rs 1.8 million to households affected by flooding earlier this year.

Furthermore, Mr Subron underlined the introduction of a financial assistance scheme for victims of domestic violence referred to shelters, aiming to help them meet essential needs and rebuild their lives. He also dwelt on improvements in existing assistance schemes, particularly for cancer patients and persons requiring medical treatment abroad, stressing that NSF assistance complements the support provided by the Ministry of Health.

Referring to the recent deaths of three foreign workers in Mauritius, the Minister underscored the importance of extending solidarity to all persons living and working in the country. He indicated that steps had been taken to provide assistance to the affected families under provisions relating to exceptional hardship cases.

For his part, Junior Minister Parapen outlined improvements in the NSF's operational efficiency, noting that the time taken to process applications and disburse financial assistance has been reduced from several months to several weeks.

He welcomed the launching of the brochure as an important step towards improving public awareness of the Fund's services and facilitating access to assistance, particularly among vulnerable groups.

The NSF, established in 1991, provides assistance to eligible beneficiaries facing medical, educational and other social difficulties.

GIS

Tourism

Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) signs commercial partnership with BBC Studios on a global campaign for Destination

The Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) has signed a commercial partnership with BBC Studios at the World Travel Market 2026 in London. Destination Mauritius will be launching a campaign in 2027 around some of BBC Studios' upcoming travel content, including a Travel Show special for Mauritius.

The Travel Show is the weekly flagship travel series for the BBC News channel, bringing intelligent and engaging travel journalism to global audiences. Content from the show also runs on BBC.com and the BBC app. Each episode covers a single destination in-depth: exploring topics such as sustainable tourism, history and local culture. The Travel Show regularly wins awards for its storytelling including winning 'Broadcast Programme of the Year' at the recent Travel Media Awards 2026.

The Travel Show Mauritius episode will feature the BBC's bilingual presenter Emeline Nsingi Nkosi and feature the local gastronomy, nature, wildlife preservation and the beautiful scenery of this iconic island. The episode will be accompanied by digital content and be available as an in-flight programme on selected airlines. In addition, 'The Art of Escape' will be a 3-part branded content series produced by BBC StoryWorks Commercial Productions, exploring unseen Mauritius over 3 themes: Food & Culture, Action & Adventure and Nature & Wildlife. It will detail authentic scenes and speak with locals to paint a picture of a multifaceted destination with heart and soul that is inviting you to explore yourself. Featuring travel photographer, Jack Swynnerton, it will take us on a magical journey through the island.

About MTPA :

The Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Mauritius and was created under the MTPA Act 1996. Its main objective is the promotion of Mauritius as a Tourism destination of choice for international travellers. To this end, the MTPA drives promotion and international campaigns for Destination Mauritius, participates in international tourism fairs while working hand in hand with local stakeholders. It contributes to strengthen the visibility of the island as a tourism destination.

Mauritius website: https://mauritiusnow.com

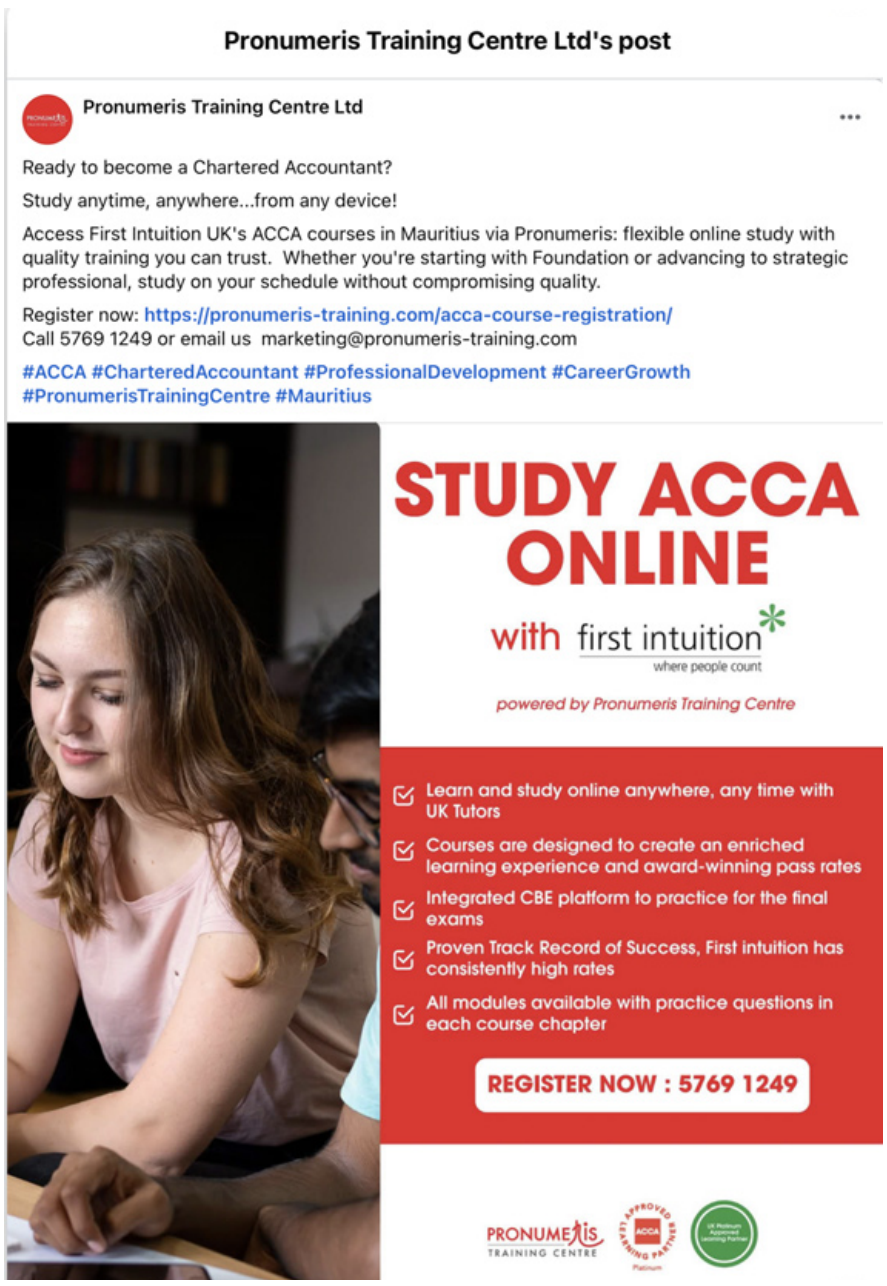
About BBC Studios:

BBC Studios is the main commercial arm of BBC Commercial Ltd and generated revenues of £2.1 billion in the last year and profits of over £200 million for a fifth consecutive year. Able to take an idea seamlessly from thought to screen and beyond, the business is built on two operating areas: the content studio, which produces, invests and distributes TV and audio globally, and media & streaming, with BBC branded channels, services including UKTV, BBC.com and BritBox and joint ventures in the UK and internationally. The business made almost 3,500 hours of award-winning British programmes last year for a wide range of UK and global broadcasters and platforms. Its content is internationally recognised across a broad range of genres and specialisms and includes world-famous brands like Strictly Come Dancing/Dancing with the Stars, the Planet series, Bluey and Doctor Who.

BBC Studios website: https://www.bbcstudios.com/

Source: MTPA





The Rodrigues Newsletter



From Paul Draper,
Port Mathurin

November 2026

Care-Co (Rodrigues). & the Trevor Huddleston Association for the Disabled (Rodrigues).
Camp du Roi, Rodrigues, R.519. Republic of Mauritius, Indian Ocean. Tel (230) 8311766
careco@intnet.mu: pdraper@intnet.mu: gonzaguepierrelouis@gmail.com
www.careco-rodrigues.com,www.gpl-centre.com

Hello again from Rodrigues ,

The GPL Centre

At the moment they are on Summer holidays (our summer is from October to May, and the Festive season extends into January.

Quite a number of folk who receive this NEWS from me, expressed interest in all the extra activities that the Team at the centre are engaged in during the year, apart, that is, from the daily teaching sessions at the Center here at Camp du Roi.

I asked Susan to compile a list and here it is !

The GPL School (Rodrigues) organised the following Special Activities during 2026:

April: Football team of deaf pupils qualified to compete in Algeria.
May: 7 pupils selected to participate in Inter-College sports day, track events.
12 pupils involved in Gardening project in association with RCEA
June: 20 pupils took part in Duke of Edinburgh Gold Medal Adventure Expedition (5 days camping)
Music Day, MRC activity at Baladirou for all pupils.'Ti Zenfants, Gran Talan' competition for SEN pupils. 3 of our pupils qualified for finals in Mauritius. All three won Rs5000 each in Mauritius.
July: Randonne Grand Baie. Visit to Bon Vieux Temps farm at La Ferme.
End of Term picnic at Graviers.
September: Visit to Francois Leguat Tortoise Parc.
October: Journee Sportive Handisports, 16+ , Visit to Reine de Rodrigues, Meteo, Baie du Nord.
Duke of Edinburgh Gold medal, Service Activity, 5 days, Anse aux Anglais Social Centre.
End of Year picnic and presentation of prizes, St. Francois.

So, as you can see it includes quite a lot, and brings the children into activities and able to feel more 'normal' or even more than normal !

Care-Co news has not been so happy recently due to the fact that we have been called to attend two funerals.

Danilo Evenor worked in the work shop for almost twenty years before his weakened state of health and constant admissions to Hospital for treatment for his weaknesses meant he was less and less in attendance. .

When he decided to cease attending altogether about 5 years ago we missed his inputs, as he was skilled in many of the handicraft operations that we so relied on him for in the work-shop production.

He could etch wood and do inlaid designs among many other things.
H started up his own production workshop at home and we met him on numbers of occasions at sales of work and street markets where he sold his products.
Eventually he passed away last month and a number of us, staff and former fellow workers attended his family and Church funeral.

Then, we were present for the funeral service of Mrs. Beverley Betsy, who was Manager of the Care-Co workshop for a number of years prior to Birgit taking up the post after Beverley left us to work elsewhere.

Paul spoke at her funeral which was held in the St.Barnabas' Anglican Church in Port Mathurin.

We remember these two folks and their considerable contributions to the work and accomplishments of the Care-Co Rehabilitation and Production Workshop.

On a much happier note we can report that Birgit is pleased that her ENSAMN pilot project of beekeeping in the local Prison –**'Bees Behind Bars'** was officially inaugurated, and , last week her second Pilot Project involving local women in beekeeping reached the stage when the women involved had their exams and tests, and were awarded their Certificates. The Certificate handing over was held at Care-Co and Paul was the invited guest to hand over the certificates to the successful trainees.

So that is the main news we have to share this month. Hopefully a further update on news will be forthcoming in December, and during the festive season. Again my apologies for the printed NEWS, but always assure that a personal reply will follow any personal mails.

Sincerely

Paul

MMM Photo Souvenir



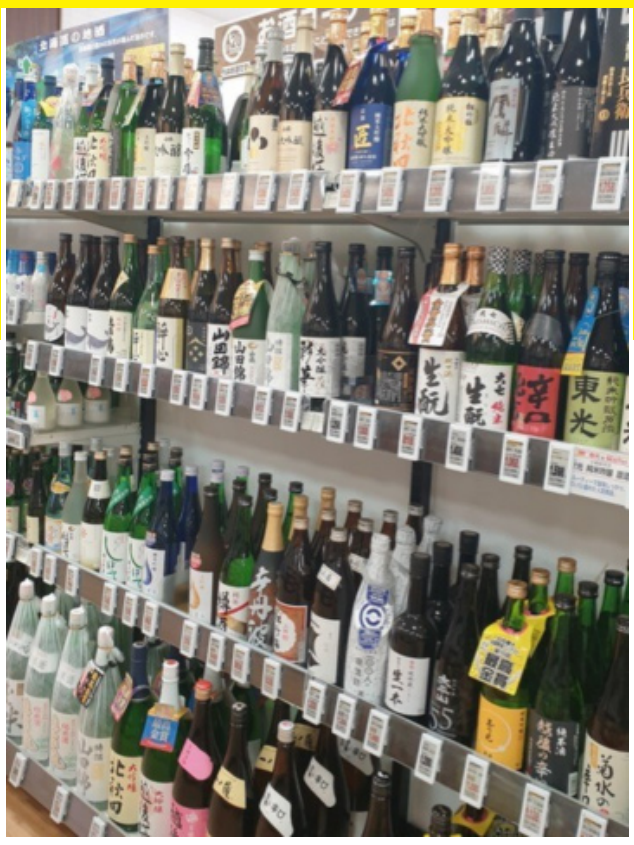
We thank our friend Alain Laridon (far right against the car) for this picture of the MMM. Though a head taller than everybody else in the picture, Alain was still a young man who was yet to make his debut on the political scene.

I wonder whether Alain was a member of the "Mouvement des Etudiants" founded by Heeralall Bhugaloo in the 1960s. Paul Bérenger joined the movement in 1968 and, typical of the man, he soon took over to create the MMM. The MMM attracted all those around him in the picture to become a political force to reckon with.

Some 65 years later, so much water has passed under the bridge. Bérenger is still kicking. Like a *prima donna*, he still occupies centre stage. **P.C.**

A Japanese Drink

THE RICE STUFF - SAKE





It looks like water, has a delicate aroma and a gentle flavour that slips smoothly down the throat. Made from rice, it is one of Japan's best known traditional alcoholic drinks.

Yes. It's saké!
(Not pronounced saki)

In Japan it is known as nihon-shu, as the word saké can be used more broadly to refer to alcoholic drinks in general.

With a history stretching back more than a thousand years, saké has an important place in Japanese culture. It features in festivals, religious ceremonies, weddings and other celebrations.

Making this liquor involves several stages, from steaming to fermentation. The brewing process takes several weeks, after which the saké is left to mature.



There are several classifications of saké, depending on how much the rice has been polished. Rice polishing involves removing the outer layers of each grain, which contains fats, proteins and minerals that can influence the flavour and aroma of the finished drink.

For example, there is Junmai, a pure rice saké, made without any added alcohol during the brewing process, and Nigori, a cloudy variety containing fine rice particles.

The seasons also play a part. Winter is the preferred brewing season, as cooler temperatures help brewers control the fermentation process.



Then there is the charming sight outside many Japanese breweries, the sugi-dama. Made from fresh branches of Japanese cedar (sugi), the branches are gathered into a large round spherical shape and hung above the brewery entrance.

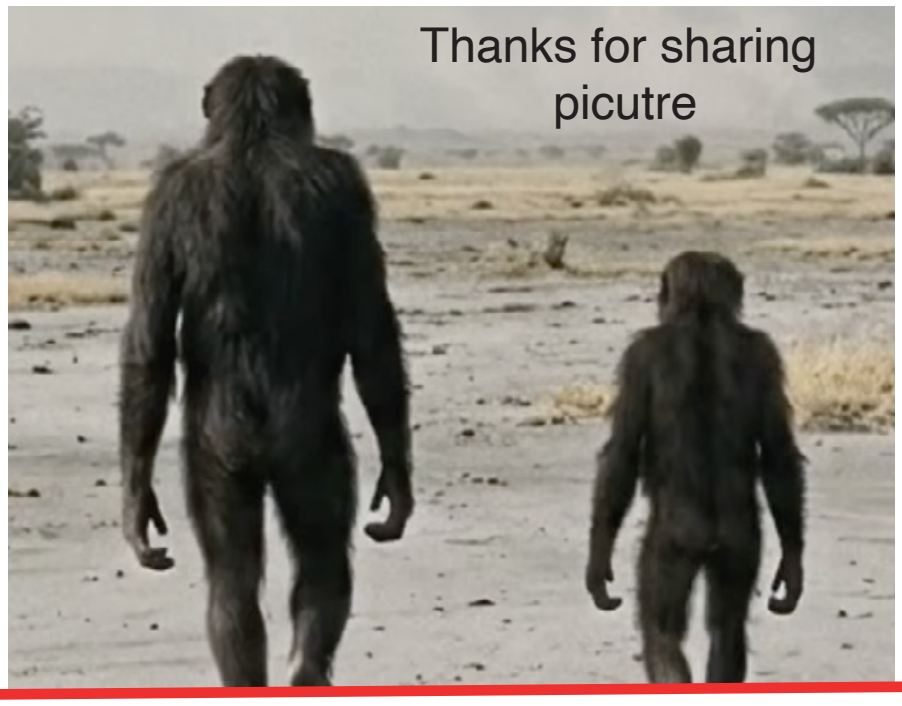


When newly made, the cedar ball is bright green, signalling the arrival of freshly brewed saké. As the months pass, it gradually turns brown.

This changing colour marks the passage of time while reflects the development of the new saké, as well as signalling to customers that a new brewing season has begun.

Kampai! (cheers)

From Mylene, Japan



Not much has changed in a million years:

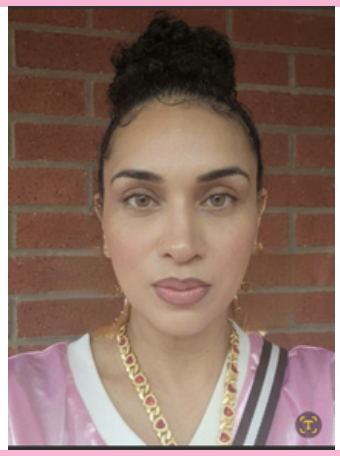
A proud father taking his son to a football match.

Except that Now they do not use the head of the enemy as the ball.

Mauritian Creole : An Overseas Mauritian's Point of View

Are We Losing Part of Our Identity?

From Belinda K. Balloo (UK)



Belinda is a UK-born Mauritian who grew up in London in a family where parents have retained their Creole language heritage as the medium of communication within the family, in spite of the fact that they are in a foreign country. Such young people grow up speaking our Creole without any accent. The parents' philosophy has been that their children will inevitably pick up the language of the new country as they grow up and go along in life. This approach has proved to be absolutely right. The children speak Creole without any complex. The situation can sometimes be very funny. I remember that little boy asking his father "shall I ***ferme*** the ***la porte***, daddy?" Almost all these children have taken advantage of the dual citizenship offered by Mauritius. In Mauritius, they feel totally at home.

On the other hand, there are parents whose philosophy is not to speak to the offspring in Creole but in the language of the new country. Such children grow up without practising the mother tongue of their parents. The "beauty" of it is that when grandparents from Mauritius come to visit the family in the UK, the children cannot communicate with the elders who are left in a corner. I have personally witnessed such a situation. One day, I spoke Creole to a young girl in London of Mauritian parentage, she looked at me a said, most impolitely, "are you speaking to me?" When such young people try to speak Creole later in life they experience difficulties to do so. They express themselves in a "Creole Bancal" to the amusement of their listeners. They thus prefer not to speak the language at all in order not to be laughed at.

To get back to Belinda's views, there are very few people in Mauritius these days who think that the promotion of the Creole language by the authorities is unnecessary. But there are people who, like of our correspondent, believe hat the Mauritian cultural heritage, in all its forms, should not only be preserved but should also be encouraged and promoted. We can therefore sum up in saying the preservation of the Creole language in Mauritius is safe. Creole is part of academic curriculum at primary, secondary school levels, and even at university level for degree studies with the approval of the Cambridge Overseas Syndicate Examinations. There is persistent talk in the country of the Creole language being introduced in the National Legislative Assembly for parliamentary debates.

P.C.

I increasingly fear that Mauritius is slowly losing part of what makes it uniquely Mauritian: our language, our culture and, ultimately, our identity.

Mauritian Creole is more than simply a way of communicating. It carries our history, our humour, our expressions, our music, our stories and the everyday experiences that connect Mauritians across different backgrounds. In a country made up of people with such diverse origins, Creole is one of the things that unites us. Regardless of ethnicity, religion or social background, it is a language through which generations of Mauritians have understood one another.

One of the things I find completely admirable about young Mauritians today is their ability, often from a very young age, to speak English, French and frequently another language as well. That is an incredible strength. Mauritius should be proud that its young people can grow up multilingual and communicate confidently with people from around the world.

But what I find sad is hearing young Mauritians increasingly choosing to converse amongst themselves in English or French rather than Creole.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with speaking English or French. The concern is what happens when Creole gradually stops being the natural language young Mauritians use with one another. If our children stop speaking Creole amongst themselves, who will keep the language alive for the generations that follow them?

Languages survive because they are spoken. They are passed from grandparents to parents, from parents to children, between siblings, cousins and friends. They survive in playgrounds, around dinner tables, at family gatherings and through everyday conversations. If Creole becomes something that young people understand but increasingly choose not to speak, we risk reaching a point where future generations feel less connected to it.

And if we lose the everyday use of our language, we lose far more than words. We begin to lose the expressions, jokes, sayings, cultural songs, stories and ways of communicating that are uniquely Mauritian. Language is one of the ways culture is carried from one generation to another.
This concern becomes even more apparent when you look at what is happening in everyday life.

Increasingly, when you walk into supermarkets, petrol stations, restaurants, shops and other businesses in Mauritius, you can find yourself being addressed in English or French by employees who cannot communicate with you in Mauritian Creole. If you speak to them in Creole, you may have to switch to English or French in order to be understood.

Again, this is not an argument against English, French or people who have come from elsewhere to live and work in Mauritius. Mauritius has always been shaped by different people, cultures and languages. That diversity is part of our story.

But surely there has to be a balance. Think about our elderly population. Imagine my 80-year-old grandmother walking into a supermarket in her own country and asking a member of staff, in Creole, where she can find something.

She should not have to worry about whether she will be understood. She certainly should not be made to feel that she needs to communicate in English or French simply to receive basic assistance.

There is something deeply concerning about an elderly Mauritian potentially finding herself unable to communicate comfortably in the language she has spoken throughout her life — in Mauritius itself.

And that raises a wider question: How can we expect Mauritian Creole to survive if it is being squeezed from both directions — spoken less frequently by some of our younger generations while becoming less useful in some of the everyday places where Mauritians shop, eat and work?

This isn't about resisting progress or rejecting the outside world. Mauritius should remain outward-looking, multicultural and multilingual. Our ability to embrace different cultures and languages is one of our strengths.

But progress should not require us to surrender the things that make us distinctive.
Mauritian Creole is ours. It developed on this island. It carries our history and has evolved alongside our people. There are expressions, humour, emotions and ways of speaking in Creole that simply do not translate perfectly into English or French because they belong to a specifically Mauritian experience.

We should encourage our children to speak English. Encourage them to speak French. Encourage them to learn Hindi, Marathi, Mandarin, Spanish or any other language that opens doors for them.

But encourage them to speak Creole too. Let them understand that speaking Creole does not make them less educated, less sophisticated or less international. Being able to speak several languages while remaining proud of your own is something to celebrate.
Because ultimately this isn't about choosing Creole instead of English or French. It is about making sure there is still room for Creole alongside them.

We need to ask ourselves what kind of Mauritius we want future generations to inherit. A modern, successful, multicultural Mauritius? Absolutely.

But also one where a grandmother can walk into a shop and speak Creole without wondering whether she will be understood. One where children naturally joke with their friends in Creole. One where our expressions, stories and humour continue to be passed down rather than remembered as something previous generations used to say.

Because once a language begins to disappear from everyday conversation, bringing it back is far more difficult.

If we want to keep Mauritian culture alive, we have to keep speaking the language that carries so much of that culture.

Nou kapav koz Anglé. Nou kapav koz Fransé Nou kapav koz boukou lang. Me fodé pa nou bliye koz Kreol. Fodé pa nou bliye kisannla nou eté

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Here & There

Condolences





Mr France Jean-Marain

Our deepest sympathy to Michel Marain of Cambridge (UK) whose father, Mr France Jean-Marain, passed away on 2 November 2006 at the age of 98 years at Curepipe, Mauritius.. His funeral took place at the St Therese Church of the locality on 7 November 2026.

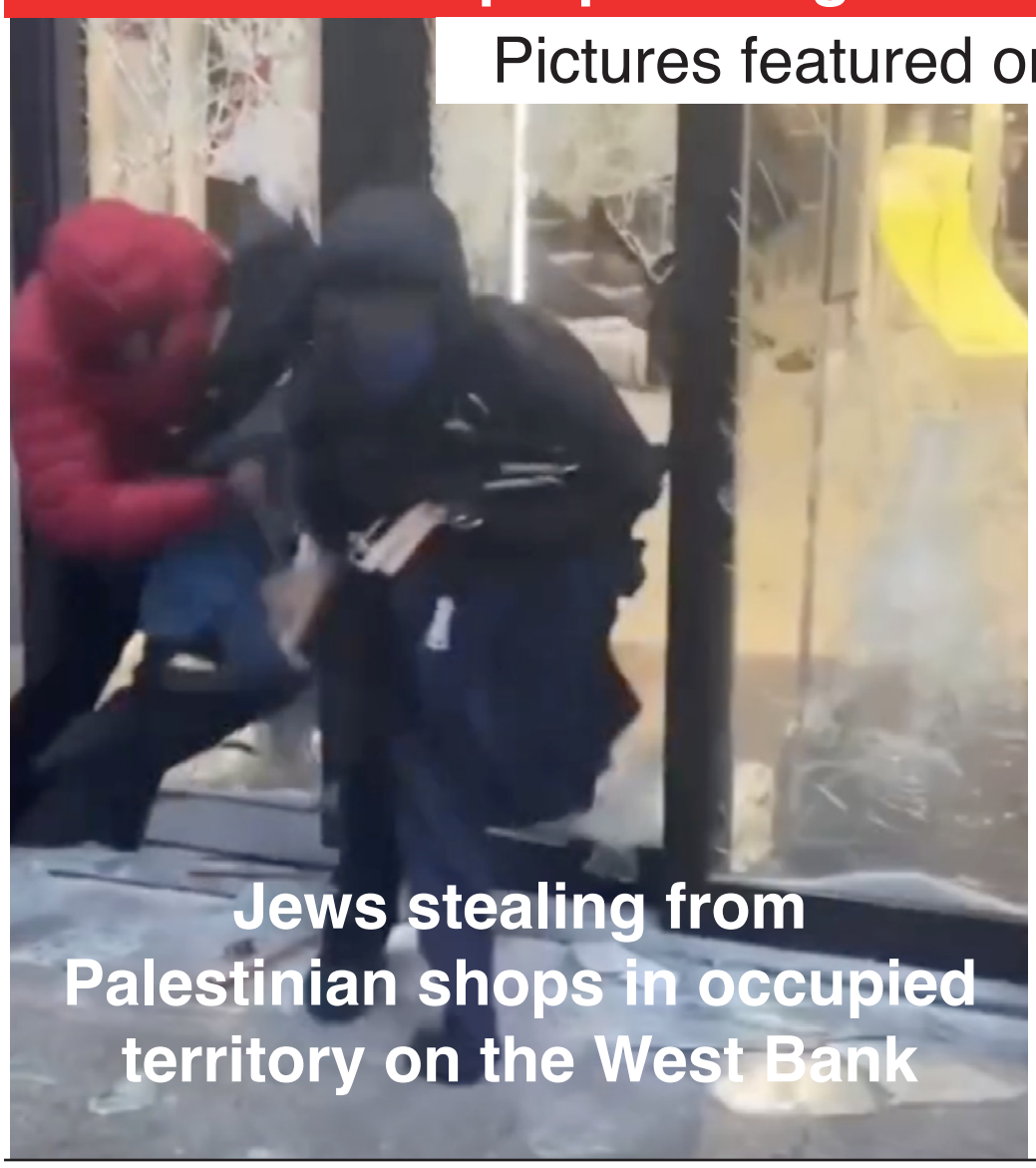
Our compatriot, in his younger days, served in the British army during the World War II. He was posted at Fanara in Egypt and at Famagusta in Cyprus.

Michel Marain has been the photographer of Mauritius News since the creation of the paper in the 1980s. His latest photographic contribution from the World Travel Market 2026 at Ex-Cel Exhibition Centre, London, appeared in MIM edition No 127.



Questionable: It's scenes like those below that make one question the existence of a supreme creature sitting in his heaven with all his angels, probably sipping the "Wine of Astonishment" while the backside excrement-carriers on his favourite planet Earth are perpetrating such execrable crimes.

Pictures featured on the Internet





New Tourism Strategy to Follow Blueprint

The Ministry of Tourism will prepare a strategy and action plan after the World Bank submits its 2026–2035 tourism blueprint in April 2026. The strategy will focus on seven pillars, including diversification, sustainability, skills and local value, with an action plan detailing initiatives and expected outcomes.

Tourism Businesses Focus on Resilience

The Tourism Authority and OIF opened a workshop on sustainable practices for tourism operators on Wednesday 4 November 2026. Tourism Authority Director Niven Muneesamy highlighted how energy and water efficiency, waste reduction and local sourcing can lower costs, improve resilience and help protect Mauritius's tourism appeal.

Learning Opens New Doors

Seventy-five participants received certificates after completing the National Certificate Level 1 in Adult Literacy. The MITD and NSIF programme develops literacy, numeracy, IT and life skills, supporting personal growth, lifelong learning and social inclusion.

Mauritius Builds Orthopaedic Expertise

French surgeon Dr Bruno Zipoli's second mission in Mauritius has included 80 consultations, 15 major operations and 10 shoulder infiltrations. The initiative supports local access to specialist care and knowledge-sharing, with plans for a multidisciplinary orthopaedic unit and another visit in March 2027.

160 Educators Join Career Programme

A new HRDC programme will train some 160 secondary-school senior educators in career guidance, labour market trends and AI-assisted job preparation. Participants will also review Career Toolkit exercises for use in schools' 2027 guidance activities, helping students explore professions and make informed choices.

Media Professionals Explore Gender Equality

A one-day programme organised by the Gender Equality Ministry and Media Trust trained media professionals in gender-sensitive reporting. The course covered bias, stereotypes, inclusive language and responsible coverage of gender-based violence, while emphasising journalists' independence and the need to protect victims' dignity, privacy and safety.

Workshop Explores Digital Public Infrastructure

A workshop in Ebène brought together government, business, banking, telecom and academic representatives to explore Digital Public Infrastructure for Mauritius. Participants considered lessons from India and discussed secure information-sharing, digital identity, wallets and electronic payments to improve public services and support innovation.

Flood Preparedness Campaign Launched

Mauritius launched its 2026–2027 flood preparedness campaign with rescue demonstrations at Port Louis Waterfront. Officials urged residents to understand local risks and heed warnings, while highlighting the need for trained responders, regular exercises and community awareness. Landscope also outlined flood-mitigation measures at Caudan.

Prison Service Welcomes New Cohort

Fifty-six recruits, including six women, joined the Mauritius Prison Service after completing six months of training. At their Passing Out Parade in Beau Bassin, officials highlighted officers' roles in security and rehabilitation. Five trainees received awards for performance in categories including leadership, marksmanship, athletics and academics.

Workshop Focuses on Arms Trade Treaty

Mauritius has opened a three-day Indian Ocean workshop on implementing the Arms Trade Treaty and preventing illicit arms trafficking. Participants are discussing national controls, transparency, reporting and regional cooperation. EU support includes a €3.1 million outreach programme to help countries address legal, administrative and technical challenges.

Water Security Policy Under Review

Mauritius is developing a National Water Policy to 2050, with targets for 2030, 2040 and 2050. The draft focuses on diversifying supplies, improving coordination and reducing water losses. A Rs 2.9 billion programme to replace 114 kilometres of pipes is set to begin this year.

Mauritius Clarifies Modified Exhaust Rules

Mauritius has clarified that a Rs 10,000 penalty applies only when a silencer is modified and the alteration increases exhaust noise. Decorative tailpipe extensions alone are not an offence. Police have been asked to explain the specific grounds for any Fixed Penalty Notice.

Lesotho and Mauritius Exchange Tax Justice Practices

A Lesotho delegation visited Mauritius to study reforms to revenue dispute resolution. Discussions covered streamlined procedures, taxpayer access, institutional independence, adjudicator tenure and financial autonomy. Mauritius' Revenue Tribunal began operating in January 2026, building on earlier tax appeal and review institutions.

Emergency Reconstruction Under Way After Landslide

Reconstruction is under way at Rue Monseigneur Leen after a landslide damaged the road and threatened nearby homes. The route is expected to reopen on 21 December. A diversion, morning one-way traffic and a parking ban are planned during the works.

Chagos Agreement Ratification Remains Stalled

Mauritius expects a clear UK roadmap by December 2026 for ratifying the Chagos agreement. Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam said sovereignty over the entire archipelago remains non-negotiable, while reaffirming Mauritius' preference for diplomacy and its readiness to consider legal options.

BoM Sells US$15 Million

The Bank of Mauritius sold US$15 million on 18 November at Rs 46.75 per US dollar, its second intervention this month and 12th this year. Domestic foreign-exchange transactions reached US$13.5 billion from January to October, up 7.5% year-on-year.

Up to 500 New HIV Cases a Year

Mauritius records 400 to 500 new HIV cases annually, with people aged 25 to 34 among the most affected, Dr Shivanee Annah-Woodun said at an Indian Ocean HIV/AIDS symposium. Awareness and testing programmes are being conducted, alongside medical follow-up for pregnant women living with HIV.

Investigators Trace Cannabis Shipment

Adsu investigators are analysing an iPhone seized during the arrest of two suspects in a cannabis importation case. The shipment contained 3.2 kilograms of cannabis concealed in boxes declared as spices. Investigators are examining the phone for communications that could identify other people linked to the Rs 5 million operation.

Proposed Fines for Market Abuse

The Competition Commission is proposing major amendments to Mauritius's Competition Act. The changes would prohibit abuse of a dominant position and introduce fines, mandatory notifications for qualifying mergers, and a broader ban on cartel agreements.

Foreign Nationals Arrested

Police arrested 21 foreign nationals in Mauritius. Eighteen workers from Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan were detained in three operations, while three Cameroonian nationals with expired residence permits were arrested in Quatre-Bornes. The Cameroonians appeared in court the following day and were remanded in custody.

Thomas Shooting: DPP to Review File

The IPCC has recommended criminal proceedings against four officers over the shooting of Élodie Thomas in Camp-Levieux. Its findings, based on witness interviews, surveillance and forensic evidence, were sent to the DPP on November 17. The DPP will decide whether charges should proceed.

GRA Revises Racing Calendar

The GRA has revised the end-of-season racing calendar because the US-Africa Business Summit will require significant police resources from 6 to 9 December 2026. The 6 December 2016 meeting is cancelled. Racing will take place on 28 November, 5 December and 13 December, allowing horses to return after a two-week break.

British Chamber Launched

The British Chamber of Commerce Mauritius has been launched in Floréal to strengthen commercial ties between the two countries. With 15 founding members, it will support businesses through networking, market advice and policy dialogue. The initiative builds on a bilateral trade partnership, with trade reaching £2 billion in 2025.

Minister Outlines Poverty Programme Results

Since December 2024, 1,537 households have left poverty-support programmes, including 1,290 whose circumstances reportedly improved. Minister Ashok Subron said the poverty threshold will rise to Rs 16,400 in 2026–27, potentially expanding eligibility to about 27,000 people. Household debt is not currently included in assessments.