



# INDEPENDENT



Obligation to the people of Seychelles takes precedence over loyalty to an individual

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The betrayal of a whole nation



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## The Sea Horse one year on...



The IDC organized a church service in memory of the victims of the Sea Horse tragedy. Four crew members died on 26 August 2018; Darren Morel, AVR Premathilaka, Nigel Franchette and Norcy Serret, in the early hours when the Sea Horse cargo vessel caught fire and sank in the waters around the Coetivy Island. They were on a routine trip to the island with consignments of fuel, food and other equipment. The memorial mass was held on Wednesday 4th September at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Victoria and it was attended by family members, friends, work colleagues, officials from the Island Development Company and by other members of the public.

In an interview with the media after the service, the Chief Executive Officer of IDC said that the company will continue to assist the families of the lost crew members financially and that IDC will also support the children with their education until they turn 18 years old. It was further announced that IDC is assisting the families with obtaining a court order for the issuing of death certificates for the four crew members who are still missing. This will help the families to initiate their legal claims for compensation. It is not clear if the claims will be against the insurance company or against the IDC itself and/or the boat owners. They can make a legal challenge against all three entities if that is the path they want to follow. They must group together and hire the services of several good lawyers, maybe one legal representative for each family.

The issue of insurance for the crew members onboard the Sea Horse on that fateful day had never (Continue on page 2)

## Marie-Louise Potter for vice-president



This has been the talk around town and in the districts since our front page article three issues back, which stated that 'US still looking for running mate'. The fact is that Vincent Meriton the current vice-president of Seychelles, has already informed Danny Faure that he wants out for personal reasons. Meriton is known to have said to people close to him that he needs a break from politics to go and do other things that his political life didn't allow him time for. Jean-Paul Adam has expressed his desire to go and work abroad for at least the next five years with a reputable organization such as the UN to help build his profile. Patrick Herminie is waiting in the wings to see if he is called to come forward, however, he has indicated that he is happy to sit that one out; for tactical purposes and age is on his side.

The reason why Danny would prefer Marie-Louise Potter as his elected vice-president, is blaringly obvious – the son of Samson wants to succeed where both of his predecessors have failed; needless to say that Samson

was himself betrayed by a woman.

The lady has practically walked an identical path to the president; both have roots on the African continent, they went to the same senior secondary school around the same time, they both studied politics in Cuba, both were leaders of Government Business in the National Assembly. Potter was later posted overseas to be our top diplomat at the UN and in the United States. She has been back home for a while waiting patiently for her next big move, which many believe is coming soon.

### Danny Faure wants to succeed where Rene and Michel failed

Former President Rene had wanted to run Seychelles far beyond his presidency from 'Petit Barbarons' sitting in his retirement armchair; he had picked James Michel to succeed him in 2004, because he felt that James had demonstrated great loyalty since the coup d'état right up to the day that Rene handed over power to him – Rene had thought that with Michel at State House he will continue to rule beyond his reign. It didn't take (Continue on page 2)

# The Sea Horse one year on...

been made clear by IDC, at least to this newspaper. We believe that IDC's strategy is to try and avoid a lawsuit by the families of the four missing crew members. This could have been a landmark case - resulting in tens of millions of rupees in damages; if not hundreds of millions. It would help with securing the future of the children the victims have left behind.

However, the IDC has made a good job in managing this situation right from the outset. They have succeeded in turning a potentially explosive situation in their favour. They took control over the family members very early after the accident. IDC were able to keep the Outer Island Committee in the National

Assembly very quiet and on its side totally in the matter. Most media houses have refrained from digging deeper into the incident. The SMSA as always obeyed the master and sung the same melody. The Port Authority's actions were tantamount to collusion, they refused to cooperate with this newspaper. The Independent newspaper was never accorded a meeting promised by SPA. Paul Hodoul stood by his friends at IDC when he spoke to the Editor of the Seychelles Independent. The police didn't do their job properly, maybe on instructions from high up or because of pure laziness or incompetence.

The IDC aggressively went after the Marine Accident Investi-

gation Board (MAIB), threatening legal action if the report they had produced on the incident was not withdrawn. The president had to intervene by stating that the report will remain as is on the file. The police have never made public their findings in the spirit of transparency. After reading this article they might come up with some "cock and bull" sto-

ry to say that it was a confidential matter and the file is with the Attorney General. These kind of stories we have heard a thousand times before - it is a lame excuse being used by the police whenever they need to engineer a cover-up.

This newspaper is not looking to target anyone or any organization, however, the entire scenario

around the incident and its aftermath were shoddy and unprofessional. The IDC is probably the only organization that took this incident seriously enough and left no stone unturned in its determination to salvage its reputation and to protect its millions in their MCB bank accounts here in Seychelles and in Mauritius. And in the end they got away with murder, so to speak.



## Marie-Louise Potter for vice-president

former President Michel long, to cut himself loose from the grips of former president Rene.

Michel too had wanted to place Jean-Paul Adam in line to be his successor, but he was forced out before he could execute this plan. Now, Danny too is thinking about having influence over the affairs of State after he would have left office. It is a certainty, that he will not get that from Patrick Herminie. The obvious choice for Danny, without any 'shadow of doubt' for vice-president is Marie-Louise Potter.

The United Seychelles, on the instruc-



tion of Danny Faure, orchestrated a leak about Potter being the potential running mate to sense the reaction and level of nervousness within the opposition parties. Out of all the opposition parties; LDS has not taken this news well they have been aggressive with their propaganda against the lady and have shown their displeasure through the various nasty posts on social media. This, is another example of the aggression associated with LDS and its hard core supporters against their opponents. There's never been this level of animosity and hatred in Seychelles' politics; even during the days of SPUP and DP. Many opposition supporters are shocked at the bitterness that is coming from people in the inner circle around the leadership of LDS.

It is clear, that the LDS will never be able to control their radical fanatical factions if ever they win the election; many moderate folks fear for their life and this situation favours Danny Faure, who is playing it cool, "so cool". This is why the third force of both Patrick Pillay and Alain St. Ange are now so relevant to stop the US. Because Wavel alone cannot do to the job; he has failed six times, already.

## Bulgaria Air Launches Joint Flights to Caribbean, Seychelles and Maldives with German Condor

Bulgaria Air starts offering flights to some of the most exotic destinations in the world. The Bulgarian airline has signed an agreement with the German airline Condor, part of the Thomas Cook Group, allowing passengers from Sofia, Varna and Burgas to travel to exotics such as the Caribbean, Seychelles, Mauritius, Maldives and dozens of destinations in Malaysia, with convenient connections via Frankfurt.

Flights to the German city are operated by Bulgaria Air and from there to the

final destination - by Condor airplanes and crews. By transfer via Frankfurt, passengers can fly from Bulgaria to the USA, Canada, Central, and South America, Asia, and Africa. The airline entered into a number of new agreements this year to expand destinations for its customers. Thus, in cooperation with the Greek Aegean Airlines, flights to Cyprus and Israel were launched, with the Latvian Air Baltic to the Baltic capitals Riga, Tallinn, and Vilnius, and with Italian Air Italy to cities in the USA and Canada.

Source; novinite.com



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# Money...only money is keeping the LDS Executive Council together

The now disintegrating LDS Council, is sticking together just for the money that they are able to collect from government and also income that is being extorted out of the business community and from investors to Seychelles. The new hyenas of Seychelles have managed to outwit the SPPF in their appetite for bribery and they are creating havoc in the local economy. Several top businesses have come to complain to this newspaper, that they have been approached for money in return for protection and favours, if the LDS wins the 2020 election. This newspaper, is trying to get business owners and investors, who have fallen victim to come out openly with their allegations.

There are also allegations, that they are even fixing court cases for their clients in return for big money. It is evident that several judges are willing to do those favours in return for job security and protection against potential complaints from the public. This newspaper, have evidence where regulations have been made to suit a particular situation for a former judge on his retirement - who had done LDS leaders favours.

Patrick Pillay left the LDS in early 2018, because he couldn't operate according to the modus operandi of the LDS hierarchy; Pillay was the leader of the Lalyans Seselwa party, which had at least five other members in the National Assembly under the LDS ticket. They all stayed behind and refused to walk out in support of their leader. This is evidence that the people in the National Assembly are not being guided by principle or loyalty for their leader or party. It is the lure of big money and eventually full executive power, this is the 'common denominator' that is keeping them together.

Like the SPUP, SPPF, PL and now US, the LDS has lost all morals and the duty to deliver on the millions of promises they made during - both election campaigns in 2015 and 2016. Wavel is unique in the sense that he has befriended many of the people that he targeted during his battle to try win the presidency, and for a majority in the National Assembly. Wavel is using the FPAC to advance his political ambition. He is picking and choosing the people to target. There is never any mention



of his cousin Franky Petrouse in the deliberations of the National Assembly, not by him or by any of his sycophants... WHY? This is only one example of many this newspaper will be bringing out as we approach the presidential election.

The LDS, is presenting itself as an alternative to replace the US party that has been in power for 42 years. In the 2016 National Assembly elections, the electorates provided them with

an opportunity to prove themselves and to deliver in order to show that they are ready to form the next government. They have done nothing to very little to change the situation in the country, or the lives of the people who provided them with control of the legislature.

They have used the opportunity for personal gains. The LDS has failed, but they are making a lot of money in the process; 700,000 rupees of taxpayers'

money as monthly payments for political funding for the LDS party, fat monthly salaries for the MNAs, big allowances for vehicles, travel, clothing, committees and another 17,000 per month for constituency allowance, yearly gratuity for the MNAs, end of term gratuity for the MNAs, and special National Assembly pensions for the rest of their days after retirement. How about that for doing next to nothing for the people!

## Environmentalists in Seychelles concerned new dam will impact endangered jellyfish tree

Environmentalists in Seychelles are raising concerns over the impact that the construction of a new dam may have on the critically endangered jellyfish trees known locally as bwa mediz.

The new dam in the western district of Grand Anse Mahe is planned in an area where the bwa mediz grows in its natural state.

The plant can only be found in three other locations on Mahe - the main island of the Seychelles.

The tree is known as the jellyfish tree as the flowers resemble the tentacles of a jellyfish or the snakes that form the hair of the ancient Greek Goddess Medusa, which accounts for its scientific name *Medusagyne oppositifolia*.

"Bwa mediz is emblematic

for Seychelles as once it was considered as one of the rarest plants in the world," explained local environmentalist Lindsay Chong Seng, who said endemic plants must be protected.

For decades it was believed the species was extinct. No specimen was seen in Seychelles between 1903 and 1970 when it was rediscovered. It remains on the critically endangered list of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Back in 2016, it was estimated that the population of the jellyfish tree was only around a hundred mature individuals.

Bwa mediz can be seen at Bernica - where the new dam is expected to be constructed, and in the mountainous area of Mont Sebert, Mont Copolia and Mont Jasmin on Mahe.

The construction of the dam was announced by the island nation's utility company in November 2017. The Public Utilities Corporation (PUC) announced that a feasibility study was being done at the site.

An Italian-based company, Studio Pietrangeli, specialising in dam and hydropower engineering and design conducted a comprehensive feasibility study at the proposed site and will provide a report and design for the dam by January next year.

The Director for biodiversity conservation in the Ministry of Environment said that impact on the environment and biodiversity of the area is something that will be given a lot of attention.

"We will assess the quantity of biodiversity in the area and come up with proper conservation protocol," explained Ashley Dias who added that "all effort will be taken by the government to ensure that endangered plants and animals are not affected."

Not all is lost for the jellyfish tree as the plant is also being grown and can be found at the National Biodiversity Centre, a 17-hectare centre that acts as an ex-situ conservation area of



the rare and endemic species of plants that are only found within the archipelago.

Local conservationists also feel that more efforts and proactiveness are needed to relocate and propagate critically endangered species in other areas of a similar terrain where they exist so that they can thrive. This is needed especially where there is the development of major projects such as with the dam.

However, Chong Seng, who is from the Plant Action Conservation Group, is hopeful that the right design of the dam may cause little damage to the spe-

cies' existence. "If they are considering a dam of 60 meters high made of earth, this will destroy these trees but if they choose something in concrete or rocks and position it well, then this forest has a good chance."

When the announcement of this new dam was made two years ago, the chief executive of the utilities company Philippe Morin had told SNA that "PUC is estimating that the dam will be an arch shape made of concrete. We estimate it will be around 40 metres high with a capacity of one million cubic metres."

Source; SNA



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# Political theatre at Anse Aux Pins

The honorable elected member for Anse Aux Pins, is being nominated for an Oscar after his performance at the old Anse Aux Pins fish market two weeks ago over the weekend. This guy is a born actor, and could easily make it in the film industry in Hollywood. The information we have, is suggesting that the whole episode was orchestrated for political mileage by activists of the majority party in the district of Anse Aux Pins. The double size mattress with other items were allegedly transported by a pick truck to the old fish market the previous day ready for the show to begin on the next day. They knew that the DA was on leave, and that on a Sunday there will be no reaction from the district administration's office.

The SBC was conned, and they rushed to the scene like flies to fresh dung. They aired the whole scenario in the news at 8pm on Sunday 1st September. Viewers from all over the country were seriously unhappy at the way that the elderly lady was being treated by the system, and the hero of the day was non-other than the former SPPF MNA, now a con-verted LDS member. The man was chatting on his mobile phone like a parrot that had just learned to talk. This was the same clown, who had attended the Anse La Mouche meeting two weeks ago, and had not uttered one single word in support of the Anse La Mouche residents, about the sale of 200 acres of government land to foreign investors to build another big hotel; when thousands of

Seychellois are still waiting for a small plot of land to construct a dwelling house.

When the right information finally emerged about the theatrics of the homeless persons at the old fish market at Anse Aux Pins - there was a serious blow-back on Facebook against the former SPPF clown; Clifford Andre. The people realized that they had been tricked and taken for a ride for political points and that the reality was totally different from what the SBC had aired. The SBC, must not take everything at face value and broadcast any rubbish as told to them by bystanders. They must do some real work, apart from just turning up at an incident and then broadcast the footage without having investigated the



background story. This is not the first time SBC got it totally wrong. In fact, it is happening on a regular basis under the watch of the new administration at Hermitage. It is a distortion of the reality, and the wrong mes-

sage is conveyed to the viewing public. The SBC, hardly correct their mistakes, their strategy is to remain quiet hoping that it will be forgotten with the passing of time. It does a lot of damage to their victims.

## Seychelles reviewing framework for real estate transactions in bid to prevent shady sales



Seychelles' authorities have started a consultative process to review the framework governing estate agents and land registration to combat anti-money laundering and terrorist financing activities, a top government official said last Tuesday.

The review comes after concerns raised by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) on the increasing number of unlicensed individuals undertaking licensable activities as real estate agents, said Patrick Payet, the Secretary of State for Finance, Trade, Investment and Economic.

"Some of the risks relate to individuals doing illegal activities who are finding ways to cover their money by buying properties such as land or buildings. In the process, an unlicensed agent is identified to facilitate the transaction. Sometimes the unlicensed agent might also be at risk for not knowing the proper procedural requirements," said Payet.

He said that a lot of people selling their land are not going to licensed estate agents who have the responsibility to report any suspicious illegal activity concerning selling and buying land.

An estate agent is a person or business who arranges the selling, renting or management of properties and other buildings.

"At FIU we have noticed that there are weaknesses in the informal sector as people are looking that way to launder money. This is why we are reviewing the framework and are putting emphasis on estate agents as we rely on proper reporting to be able to come up with a case and stop money laundering," said Rampal.

The primary role of the FIU is to protect Seychelles from being used by terrorists, organised crime groups or other criminals to conduct activities or launder monies in the financial services sector.

The consultative meeting started last week with the participation of relevant government authorities in line with the objectives of the national Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism body.

The Finance Secretary of State said there is also the issue of illegal advertising.

"There has been growing concerns about unlicensed individuals who are continuously advertising the sale of properties on behalf of third parties without the required AML/CFT control measures, which may result in putting the country to threats of money laundering," said Payet.

The chairman of the Estate Agent Board, Patrick Lablache, said reviewing the framework is the first step in the right direction to put an order in things.

"Sometimes there are unlicensed agents operating even outside the country and we don't have the jurisdiction to take action. The new framework will be drafted clearly to give us guidelines on how to proceed in that manner," he said.

Lablache added that the review will not disallow individual to sell their property or land themselves, but advising to go through an agent who knows the legal procedures.

According to the Estate Agent Board, there are only 10 licensed estate agents in operation where clients can go for their respective transactions.

Source; SNA

## Indian Ocean Migration Being Discussed in Seychelles - Human Trafficking, Climate Change, Security On Agenda

Issues surrounding migration in the region -- including maritime security, climate change, human trafficking and health risks -- were discussed in Seychelles last week by members of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).

The discussions were part of a three-day consultative meeting on the establishment of a Migration Dialogue for the Indian Ocean Commission Countries (MiDIOCC).

The August 26-28 meeting was hosted by Seychelles, which holds the presidency for the Indian Ocean Commission. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) was partnering with IOC to organise and conduct this meeting.

The Indian Ocean Commission -- an intergovernmental organisation set up in 1982 -- includes Seychelles, Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius, and Reunion, a French Overseas Department.

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organisation in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.

The Principal Secretary for Immigration, Alain Volcere, said that "the two organisations have partnered to start this discussion and we are hoping that it won't be the last, that it will be an exercise that will continue under a



better structure in the future."

"The forum is one that allows us to express and exchange ideas, and explore opportunities in regards to the challenges out there. More emphasis must be placed on how to maximise the benefits of migration instead of only seeing it as something negative, which needs to be minimised," said Volcere.

He added that there are about 260 million migrants in the world and this region has not been left unaffected. It is important that islands of the Indian Ocean start having such a dialogue to see how to manage these issues better.

Such dialogues already exist for countries in the northern, southern, western, eastern and central regions of Africa.

"Countries in the Indian Ocean do not have land neighbours like there is on mainland Africa and these are countries boarded by a vast ocean. It is important that you look at your

own specific realities and address them and, in this meeting, we are hopeful that the member states will discuss some of the priority issues," said Charles Kwenin, the International Organisation Migration's regional director for Southern Africa.

Kwenin explained that the movement of people within the Indian Ocean revolves mostly around tourism and labour migration, especially in Seychelles and Mauritius.

"Especially in Mauritius and Seychelles, you have a lot more ageing population because they are high-income countries so they have a higher life expectancy as compared to other countries," said Kwenin.

He added that the visa regime of a country is also a factor that affects migration.

In his opening address, Vice President Vincent Meriton said, "Seychelles hosts about 21,000 foreign workers. Most of them are employed in the construction, tourism and fishing sectors. To date, we are among the countries, if not the only one in the world, where the visa exemption is open to all. This means that migration and the free movement of people are at the heart of Seychelles' economy and life."

Seychelles was the top-performing African country on visa openness in 2018.

Source; SNA



# LETTER TO THE EDITOR



## Decaying Society



Dear Editor,

The responsible authorities, particularly those concerned about violence and abuse against women, must pressure to full length investigation against a former convict of drug importation and trafficking for aggressively, brutally, severely and physically assaulting a mother causing grievance bodily harm with injury in a manner that could kill her in front of her children..... They are living a painful misery tormented life, dozens of children. The incident took place in public, on August 21 at 17:30 along Revolution Avenue causing traffic congestions.

Since being released from prison, based on questionable medical report in collusion with

a controversial office at the national house, the addict has assaulted an Indian shop keeper causing injury and damages to property. On one night, he was throwing stones on the main road obstructing traffics and pedestrians causing risks with dangers to cause injury and accident. Despite all those offences reported to the police and recorded by CCTV cameras at places of businesses showing cause of nuisances, disturbances, posing threats and infringing on other people's rights, liberty and safety. The police have never investigated these matters, apprehend or prosecuted the offender. The neighbours know why the police are acting with ill will fear and favour!

*Traumatized*

# Privileges neglecting unfortunates

Dear Editor,

According to figures made public, a bus shelter could be the price of a house or even more if finance by the state using taxpayers' money. Everyday lots of Seychellois that cannot afford cars like judges and parliamentarians attend the two other branches of

government, which are the Judiciary and Parliament. After years of spreading some asphalt on the road surface to make bus lay-by that turns into a swimming pool each time there is rain, the ordinary mortals are pleading to the extraordinary overpaid politicians and constitutional appoin-



# One Chairman for Regulator & Caterer



Dear Editor,

Much publicity was given to the cafes and restaurants in the extravagantly designed over-spent new extension building at the international airport domestic terminal. Omitted they all belong to a same circle of share-

holders under different names fronting each other. It is obvious that the surrounding car parking facilities are neglected. Private jets and airplanes bringing in the country billionaires, millionaires, investors and visitors, are parked next to construction debris and construction yards for

building contractors. The main car parking along highway is not demarcated and not fenced to the inconveniences and risk of users.

Thank you Mr. Editor for the space.

*Visitor*

# One System Too Many Policies

Dear Editor,

It is nepotism, nationalism and communism, policies under wrong government without innovation that is delaying the evolution and progression of the country. The failed monopolized state owned Transport Company got a Board but sycophant gives mind boggling interview about its efficiency, operation and financial needs following an audit by international body.



These suggest that in all public enterprises with the exception where a Savy is the Chairman, there are direct interferences in the management and decision making. The alternative is to liberalize and privatize the bus transport service without dictatorial condition and restriction but prevent cartelization.

As is the norm in free market economy, the public will chose and decide as factors for determining competitive fares based on reliability, readability, comfort, efficiency and affordability. Flunkys without business

knowledge must not argue on outdated method of nationalize public transport system running at a loss since its existence. This is burdening the taxpayers and stretching the economy. With taxpayers money, the state is immorally subsidizing; national airline that keeps making losses while priding on aircraft paid by Arabs and Chinese banks, and pensioners travelling on privately owned ferry services.

It is a fact, that PS Prat had

many ideas, which have costs the government a small fortune using taxpayers' money; such as with the trucks shenanigans which delayed the La Gogue Dam project. The court case for unlawfully preventing a building contractor from using its own buses, to transport workers and stopping asphalt works by private company. It is obvious, that the oversize administration with duplications is causing employees to be paranoid.

*Commuter*

tees to at least get the respective government agency to make a sitting facility since bus on the route is every hour.

stand that long for several reasons in particular elderly and people with a disability let alone a cover from the sun and rain. Not to forget the lay-by serves the roads named after two academic intellectual former Presidents this country had, which brainy sees as insulting and degrading.

iticians are voted out of position, is for SLTA to make a similar bus lay-by in both directions in the vicinity of Airtel and Intelvision as employees working in the area for the many high luxury residential developments with more to come are struggling to and from work in the sun and rain, fit or ill.

*Caiman*

Many people cannot afford to

Another plea before those pol-

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## Public Health & Sanitation:



I think people will generally agree that even if we have more public toilets installed in Victoria, men, in particular, will continue to urinate openly and unashamedly in street corners or elsewhere. This is a pertinent and challenging topic that our city planners in consultation with our Mayor of Victoria will need to address, while keeping an open mind to outsourcing innovative solutions.

Most developed or developing cities of the world tend to approach this issue with prohibitive or punitive solutions aimed at shaming the offenders. Some have declared public urination as illegal simply because it is totally disgusting. But let's face it. You can name and shame or take the culprits to court, but people will

still do it. Urination in public, especially by men, will continue in secret nooks and crannies and even in broad daylight on street corners or on major roads. What can we do about it?

In Seychelles, our own LWMA is already in discussion with the government to try and build more public toilets around Victoria. They should involve the Mayor's office in their endeavours. The pursuit of educational programmes and awareness campaigns by government and NGOs aimed at changing people's behaviour or mindset are also a welcome step in the right direction. But I think we should also seriously consider finding more innovative solutions and ideas for our small town, subject to the community-based

# FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THE PUBLIC URINATION PROBLEM

by A G Yakub, A concerned citizen and resident of Victoria.

cost-benefit analysis of any proposed project investment being both socially and environmentally feasible.

Policy makers and those responsible for overseeing our Victoria town planning should not only focus on building more toilets in the hope that the problem will go away. We need to learn from other countries' experiences, however practical, impractical or sometimes downright funny their approaches may seem. Here's a few examples:

In one neighbourhood of Hamburg, Germany, the residents were getting sick of the night time revelers of bars, clubs, and a football club urinating on walls. So, the local community group came up with a scientific solution: they coated walls around their neighbourhood with a special hydrophobic material that repels the liquid back onto the feet and ankles of the urinating person. Some laughed and called it payback. I think in reference to the Berlin Wall, some journalists jokingly named it the Hamburg "Peeback" Wall.

As for the UK, its contribution to finding a solution is often more restrained and so typically British. In the N.W. city of Chester, for instance, any public urinator caught on CCTV camera are given a choice: go to Court, and risk paying a huge fine, or agree to participate in a "Heritage Awareness Course".

Oddly enough, this consists of paying £75 to watch yourself pee in public on CCTV and then undertake a historical walk through the city's centre while an expert explains the damage that your urine can do to the various historical landmarks and cobbled streets that date back to the Roman Empire's occupation. How terribly British!

In Paris, as far back as the 1830s, French officials have experimented with discouraging people from peeing in the streets by installing "pissoirs" on major boulevards, but people have continued to relieve themselves on the streets and against magnificent sight-seeing historical architectural monuments.

Now in the 21st Century, long after the first Paris public toilets, the city is trying out a new innovation called "Uritrottoirs" (a combination of the French word for "pavement" and "urinals"). These uritrottoirs are marked with a signpost and look like red trash cans with walls to hide the user's private parts. But it is only designed for the menfolk and male chauvinism is so politically incorrect.

It is claimed that these contraptions have a bed of straw that mitigates the odour and they are supposed to collect nutrients from the waste for the composting of public gardens and parks. Hmm...That may be hard to believe, but as one male Paris official posted in a

tweet, the uritrottoir is "an invention of genius".

By far one of my favourites among the various innovative ideas that have been launched comes from Brazil. As everyone knows, Rio de Janeiro's Annual Carnival always gets bombarded with body paint, food and drinks and of course, lots of urine, because there are hardly any toilet facilities in the city centre.

One of the Carnival's organisers, AfroReggae, came up with a great idea back in 2013 whereby their floats at the 2013 Carnival contained turbo-charging urinals, which converted pee into electricity, and so powered the float's sound system. Here's a simple layman's illustration of the Brazilian model.

According to Reuters, this idea initiated by Afro Reggae to take decisive action came in anticipation of Rio's World Cup and 2016 Olympics because the last thing you want is a "lake of urine" on the streets of Rio.

Of course, other countries have taken more radical actions such as publicly humiliating the urinating offenders and blasting them with large water hoses (e.g. Calcutta, India) or punishing them in other ways via the law courts. But I feel the best way forward for our cherished town of Victoria would be to explore innovative, eco-friendly ways to tackle this problem which is not going away anytime soon.

## Date for Seychelles' 2020 presidential election to be announced next August, official says

The next presidential election in Seychelles will take place between September and November next year, according to the Elections Act, said the chairperson of the Electoral Commission.

Danny Lucas told SNA that the official date is expected to be announced in August 2020.

In anticipation of next year's election, the Commission is liaising with the government to have the election budget prepared in advance. This is separate from the regular three-year budget of SCR7.5 million (\$550,000).

"Once an election is called, we have to work within three months to conduct the whole process. We know there will definitely be an election next year, so this time around we are proposing that the elections budget is disbursed earlier so that we can make some prior preparations," he said.

Lucas, who took up the post in April 2019, said the Commission's priority in the coming year



is to ensure the secretariat is fully functional in time for the presidential elections.

Presently, the secretariat does not have a Chief Electoral Officer. The amendment to the Elections Act 2018 makes provision for a permanent Chief Electoral Officer.

"We are interviewing potential candidates and we are confident that we will have a person in the post by the end of September," said Lucas.

He added that contrary to people's belief that the Commission has been neglecting this important task, the members "were be-

ing thorough to ensure we have the right candidate for the job, one who has experience in running an election."

Lucas also confirmed that the Commission is presently running an intensive recruitment drive to fill in key posts within the secretariat including that of the chief registration officer, finance manager as well as an Information Technology manager.

The chairperson of the Electoral Commission said another huge task is the setting up of its electronic voter registration. The system which was initially managed by the Department of Information, Communications Technology is being migrated to the Commission.

"We need to have this system up and ready before the elections and for this we need to invest financially. However not having the system in place right now will not prevent us from conducting an election if one was to be called tomorrow let's say, but its best we

have it in place as soon as possible," Lucas told SNA.

The voter register is also a contentious issue with some political parties accusing the former Commission of not having a credible register.

"Since taking over in April, I have challenged anyone who feels there might be issues and anomalies with the register to come forward and make their complaints. We are always open to comments that would help us make this process fair and transparent," Lucas said.

With regard to concerns that some political parties were not active and had not submitted their financial and administrative reports, Lucas says so far "we haven't had any reason to deregister a political party based on that. As far as we know, their books are in order. We constantly verify this information and we will

increase our monitoring once the secretariat is fully functional."

There are presently 12 political parties registered in Seychelles. Only two parties have so far made known their intentions to take part in the presidential election.

The United Seychelles party endorsed its candidate, the incumbent president Danny Faure, last Saturday, while the main opposition bloc -- Linyon Demokratik Seselwa -- has started the process to register potential candidates ahead of its convention on 15th September.

Source; SNA



# Angels Choir sings in aid of Alzheimer's sufferers

We have already seen the 5 to 8 year olds from the original Montessori Children's House preschool sing their little hearts out to assist Alzheimer's sufferers and we have seen the Mont Fleuri Secondary School join in the event for a very good cause and now we have Angels Choir based at the Cathedral in Victoria following in the footsteps of the young in our society doing something for the old and doing it with a level of excitement and enjoyment. We must never under-estimate the talents in our young generation and the goodwill in their hearts when it comes to lending a helping hand. These young people do not need to know much about Alzheimer's disease, how it creates memory impairment, how it affects one's nerves and some people shake their hands involuntarily suffering from Parkinson's disease which falls in the same category of nervous disorders.



Angels Choir in the grounds of the Cathedral



Cecile Payet (centre) with Choir in recording studio



Angels Choir at the Flag Raising ceremony

## Cabinet to soon consider India-Mauritius free trade agreement for approval



India and Mauritius have been negotiating the pact, officially dubbed as the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), since 2005.

The Cabinet will soon consider the proposed India-Mauritius free trade agreement, aimed at liberalising norms to boost two-way commerce and investments, for approval, an official said. In a free trade agreement, two trading partners cut or eliminate duties on majority of goods besides liberalising norms to promote services trade and boost investments. "The Cabinet would soon take up the agreement for its consideration. After its approval, a date would be finalised for signing of the agreement, after which it will be implemented," the official said.

India and Mauritius have been negotiating the pact, officially dubbed as the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CE-

CPA), since 2005. According to experts, India may not get huge benefit in goods sector as Mauritius is a small market, but services sectors such as IT and tourism hold huge potential to enhance economic ties. Mauritius was the second top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India in 2018-19. India received USD 8 billion (about Rs 56,000 crore) foreign inflows from the country. The bilateral trade between the countries increased marginally to USD 1.2 billion in 2018-19 from USD 1.1 billion in 2017-18.

India exports petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, cereals, cotton and electrical machinery, apparel and clothing accessories to Mauritius. The island nation's exports to New Delhi include iron and steel, pearls, precious/semi-precious stones and optical, photographic and precision instruments.

Source; Press Trust of India

Angels Choir was started by Cecile Payet some 12 years ago with just a few small children singing in harmony and then the parents were invited to join and many mothers joined but fathers could not accept the challenge, consequently the whole choir is made up of mostly girls and women with only 5 boys who are currently on various work attachments. Angels Choir sings every Sunday at the 9 am mass at the Cathedral and they take part in several events throughout the year. They sang during President Faure's inauguration at State House on 16 October 2016 and at the Flag Raising ceremony on 18 June 2019. They also sang alongside the National Choir at the Stadium on the 29 June 2019 celebrations and all in all they have a very busy schedule. Cecil Payet is to be congratulated and commended for her dedication leading this choir and

the devotion she exudes in her work with this choir. We were extremely lucky to have them spend some time with us recording a few songs for the forthcoming new CD to be released end of September this year. All proceeds from the CD sales will be donated to Seychelles Alzheimer's Foundation (SAF) to assist in building a Memory Care Facility for Alzheimer's sufferers.

As you have probably read before this is not all, Angels Choir will be participating in a Country Music song and dance "Howdown" (show) to be held on Saturday 23 November at the NSC Hall (Old SMB Hall) and they will have the opportunity to show case their dancing talents in addition to their singing talents. The Hoedown will start at 6 pm and will go on until 1 o'clock the next morning and readers of this newspaper are invited to join us for an exciting

night of country song and dance. We will have at least 2 Country Music performers from overseas as our Special Guests.

Like with the Seychelles First Country Music Jamboree in 2012 this new event is already attracting interests from overseas media and it is very likely that this new CD will be released globally. All proceeds from this Hoedown will also be donated to Seychelles Alzheimer's Foundation (SAF). You can read about the work of SAF on their web site [www.seychellesalzheimersfoundation.org](http://www.seychellesalzheimersfoundation.org) and join us in making this event a success. There is something in it for you.

This is not all this Triple X Country Music project is raising funds to purchase a pedal steel guitar and train 2 young people to play the Pedal Steel guitar which Jack Yokowo used to play before he passed away and no one else in Seychelles can play this instrument and bands rely on using the keyboard to create steel guitar sounds which is not quite the same. You may wish to know that for this CD we are sending the recorded tracks by electronic format to John Davis in England who will add the pedal steel guitar parts and send back to us to complete the CD production. This is how new technology can help us move forward because in the old days John Davis would have to travel to Seychelles to record his tracts. In fact John will join us for the Hoedown on 23 November.

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2012 - Jack Yokowo playing the pedal steel guitar



SUCCESS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY ANY MEANS

# India's Quest To Dominate The Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is widely regarded as the hub of global economic and strategic activities for several reasons. For instance, it provides the predominant outlet for oil from the Persian Gulf to various destinations across the globe. More than 80 percent of global oil trade passes through the IOR.

India has long held the desire to dominate this region via the presence of its naval forces and by attempting to exert greater control over its related economic activities. Alfred Mahan once declared that 'whoever controls the Indian Ocean has prospects of ruling the world. Perhaps it is this theory which best describes India's quest to dominate the IOR. In the last few years, the region has once again gained significant importance by becoming a hub of strategic competition among regional and extra regional rivals. India's interests in the region are challenged by the emerging global powers' roles such as China's role in the Indian Ocean.

In order to secure its strategic interests, India initiated an unprecedented naval buildup under its vision to turn the Indian Ocean into 'India's Ocean'. As a result, India is allocating more and more of its budget to its naval war fighting capabilities including both its conventional as well as strategic forces. Additionally, India's growing economic interest has heightened the IOR's strategic significance. India wants to secure 'sea-lines of communications' to the Middle East, comprising of vital oil and energy supply chains. In this regard, India is not only strengthening its naval capabilities but also seeking to strengthen relations with smaller states within the IOR. These include Sri Lanka, Maldives, Myanmar, Thailand, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Mauritius and Seychelles.

This has been further evident in Prime Minister Modi's emphasis on greater engagement with the littoral states of the Indian Ocean. After securing a landmark victory in the 2019 general elections, PM Modi chose Maldives and Sri-Lanka as his first official visit abroad for this term to consolidate India's position in the Indian Ocean. Such choices clearly show India's foreign policy priority in the IOR. Moreover, Mr. Modi adopted an agenda which is led by trade and investments, to achieve its great power status that is also benefiting its economy at the same time. A reflection of his Indian Ocean outreach is thus reiterated in the Budget 2019-20 which in itself is aimed at maintaining such a hegemonic influence. India not only economically assists such smaller states in terms of their trade and economic development but is also attempting to build a lasting military relationship with them. This is to play a significant role in its blue water great game. This is further evident in India's plans to build up its naval and air bases in 300 islands of Andaman and Nicobar.

Prime Minister Modi sees control over the ocean as fundamental to keeping the strategic circle of India over also its rivals forming a significant component of the Indian State's global ambitions. The progression in its financial approach, political mindset and effective discretions has empowered India's articulation towards its desire for ruling the Indian Ocean Region.

Likewise, to achieve its objective, India is spending huge amounts for the development of sophisticated naval technologies. India's naval modernization and its approval of \$16 billion for nuclear powered submarines and naval warships are creating challenges for the stability of the South Asian region. Under the aspiration of hosting a Blue Water Navy, India plans to develop more than 160 naval ships, 3 aircraft carriers and more than 40 warships and submarines. Furthermore, India took the first step towards the nuclearization of the Indian Ocean region in 2016 by conducting a successful test of the K-4 indigenously developed intermediate range submarine launched ballistic missile. This is likely to compliment the capabilities of its existing, ballistic missile submarine, the 'Arihant'.

The naval modernization of the Indian navy is thus in line with its ambitions to maintain its hegemonic status and to exert more control over important chokepoints such as in the Straits of Hormuz and Malacca. But with all these developments, the Indian navy lacks the required professionalism and efficient response capability. This lack of an efficient response capability has remained evident since the post Balakot tensions with Pakistan. This was evident when an Indian submarine failed to covertly enter into Pakistani waters. Detected and thwarted by the Pakistan Navy, this recent failure has cast serious doubts over India's purported ability to project its naval power. Hence, the Post-Balakot environment has raised glaring questions over India's self-alleged capability to dominate the IOR. All despite being numerically and financially superior to Pakistan as it has often proclaimed itself to be.

In all, the Indian Ocean has considerable geostrategic and geopolitical significance within the current scenario unfolding in the region. While the world's major powers are competing with one another to secure their interests in the region, India is also attempting to secure its own foothold as a dominant regional power. By developing closer relations with other IOR states and spending huge amounts of money on the modernization of its naval forces, India's hegemonic quest to dominate the Indian Ocean Region is creating asymmetry with other comparatively smaller naval powers of the region. This asymmetry would likely pose as an increasingly grave threat to the stability of the South Asian region over the long run.

Source: Syeda Saiqa Bukhari

# Chagos children 'stuck for years in unsafe lodgings'



Families descended from islanders evicted from the Chagos Islands are being housed in council-allocated accommodation deemed by social services to be inappropriate for young children, the Observer has learned.

The latest revelations prompted fresh calls for an independent investigation into the treatment of British Chagossians, forcibly removed by the UK in the 1960s and early 70s to allow the US military to establish a base on the largest island, Diego Garcia.

Last month the Observer revealed British passport holders from the Chagos Islands were being systematically targeted by council officials to get them removed from the UK. Now it has emerged that British Chagossians in Crawley, West Sussex, are being accommodated in lodgings about which social services have expressed serious concerns.

A West Sussex county council social services document, seen by the Observer, cites the case of a child living in a Crawley hotel, location of a sizable community of British Chagossians. "I am worried there are ongoing housing issues which impact on [name] having a safe and appropriate space to grow and support his development," the document, written by a social worker, states.

The child, who turns three next month, has lived in the hotel all his life despite the accommodation being classed as temporary. Other Chagossian families with young children also claim they

have been stuck there for several years. They say white British tenants are prioritised and usually given social housing after a few weeks or months.

Calls are mounting for an inquiry into the attitude of UK authorities towards the community with local Tory MP, Henry Smith, writing to Crawley borough council "expressing significant concerns at disturbing reports in the Observer".

Chai Patel, legal policy director at the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants said: "We need an independent investigation into how the government has been able to put these families in this appalling position, and what steps are needed to ensure it never happens again?"

"The government needs to act now to ensure that these families are able to continue their lives in the UK safely and securely. It's the least that it can do."

The Chagossians were expelled from their homeland by Britain and exiled in Mauritius and the Seychelles, 2,000km away. In 2002 native Chagossians and their children were given the right to British passports and since then more than 3,000 have emigrated to the UK, most of them settling in Crawley.

One of them, a mother, has begged Crawley borough council to find her more suitable accommodation and says that her family finds it difficult to live in a single room.

"It's not an easy life. Crawley

council say they can't help me. Even when I was pregnant, they didn't want to help," she said.

Another British Chagossian and former resident claimed the hotel, which declined to comment, was "not safe ... there are men living there with drink and drug problems."

While Crawley council denies reports of mistreatment, the council's leader, Peter Lamb, has said they have investigated claims of discrimination from the Chagossian community but they were not acted on due to insufficient evidence.

Crawley borough council said: "Unlike the housing act, which limits family stays in hotel accommodation to six weeks, there is no limit under the children's act. This may explain why those families have been there for an extended period of time, and may also explain why others are being reported to have moved on more quickly. We take complaints very seriously and all are thoroughly investigated."

"We are genuinely committed to getting to the bottom of these allegations and take appropriate steps if found to be true."

During a meeting set up last year to air grievances from the town's Chagossian community the council spokesperson added: "We were informed that on occasion housing officers were unsympathetic to their situation, unfriendly and considered unhelpful. The council apologised if this was how officers were behaving, and a commitment was made to raise the matter with the housing department to ensure that such behaviours were addressed."

A West Sussex county council spokesman said: "In some circumstances we support families with children who have urgent housing needs. When this happens we make every effort to find a suitable placement. As temporary accommodation is not best suited to meet longer term needs, we work with a family to identify accommodation that meets the children's needs as soon as we can."

Source: theguardian.com

# Cuba condemns interference in China's internal affairs

Over the last few weeks we have noted with concern the succession of violent demonstrations and acts of vandalism in the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong, encouraged from abroad, attempting to disrupt the political, economic and social order, and create insecurity in the People's Republic of China.

Hong Kong's return to Chinese sovereignty in 1997 was an act of historical justice and an expression of the peaceful spirit of the People's Republic of China, despite having been victim of the imposition of unequal treaties by imperialist powers.

Since then, while holding its

current status, Hong Kong has been an inseparable part of the People's Republic of China and has managed to achieve a sound development with stability and economic prosperity, based on the successful implementation of the "One China" and "one country, two systems" principles.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns interference in the internal affairs of China and rejects any attempt to harm the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the People's Republic of China.

Cuba supports efforts made by



the central government of Beijing and the authorities of Hong Kong to reverse this situation, preserve peace, and re-establish stability.

We are fully confident in the capacity and wisdom of the Chinese authorities to put an end to these destabilizing events and return to normalcy.



# How cannabis oil has become a multi-million pound industry

For decades, cannabis was associated only with the rise in recreational drug use and the seemingly endless debate over its legalisation.

But today, derivatives from the plant are being viewed not as a potential threat to the health of users, but of medical benefit.

And as society changes its perception, a huge industry has grown up around it. So what's changed?

Well, nothing really, but what you find being offered in our high streets as a medicine or in products as diverse as e-cigarettes and sweets, is very different to that smoked or consumed.

In short, cannabis comprises more than 100 compounds known as cannabinoids. Among these is tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC - the controlled psychoactive substance chiefly responsible for the 'high' experienced by those smoking it.

However, another is cannabidiol (CBD). It has none of the THC and, in a pure form, is thought to have medical benefits.

In fact, last November, the government allowed a highly purified liquid version to be prescribed on the NHS. Worth noting, however, is that it has yet to be licensed and is prescribed only for particular rare forms of epilepsy.

But since the medical benefits have emerged, CBD has grown into an industry which industry experts suggest could top £1billion by 2025.

If THC is not present, it can be sold as long as no medicinal benefits are claimed. It also has to come from plants grown by industrial hemp producers, not a bloke down the pub.

It has created a boom in the use of CBD oil.

From ranges in independent stores

across the county, shoppers will even have noticed cannabis products in high street chains.

So just what levels of CBD do everything from oils to lip balms to infused pillows - all claiming to potentially aid ailments from anxiety to insomnia, chronic pain to inflammation - have in them?

The answer is probably not what you expect.

A study commissioned by the Centre for Medicinal Cannabis (CMC) which examined 30 different products available in UK shops found several worrying issues.

It found 38% of the products tested had less than 50% of the advertised CBD content. One product had no CBD at all.

Perhaps most worryingly, 45% of the selected products had measurable levels of THC (on average around 0.04%) or another compound, cannabitol (CBN), which is thought by some to have psychoactive effects.

As a consequence, they were technically illegal in the UK.

To add to the concerns, one product had 3.8% ethanol - above the level which qualifies it as an alcoholic drink. In addition, seven products had levels of solvents and heavy metals which put them above food safety limits.

In light of the report the CMC has called for robust self-regulation from the industry.

Simon Bell, who owns Kent CBD - an Aylesford-based business selling cannabis products, feels strongly about taking the product seriously and being responsible.

Consumers buying some of his products can trace the batches and see independent lab reports on what they are taking. He also stays away from CBD-infused products like sweets.

He explains: "At the end of the day when you sell it as sweets you are going down a road you don't need to go down.

"Some brands are taking away what CBD is for. It's there to help people, not as a retail product."

He claims products he stocks have helped customers to cope with arthritis, period pain, and

skin blemishes among other ailments.

Despite its reported medical benefits he says he has had to fight to open bank accounts, advertise, and find a premises in the face of stigma attached to cannabis products and their association with illicit drugs.

"It's been a hell of a battle because it's got a stigma around it," he said. "As soon as I say I'm selling cannabis products the doors are shut and the curtains come down. One day it will be OK but at the moment it is incredibly frustrating."

CBD is termed a 'novel food' by the Food Standards Agency - which means it was not widely consumed prior to 1997 meaning the impact of consumption has not been sufficiently monitored. The agency has launched a consultation with local authorities, businesses, and other government departments to ensure compliance to regulations.

One of the newest companies trying to break into the UK market is Ignite. At a launch event on the terrace of a trendy London hotel, marketing reps poured out sparkling wine to journalists and offered free samples of CBD e-cigarettes, lip balm, and oil in a range of flavours - all packaged like cosmetics.

Caitlin Lockridge, director of public relations for Ignite, which also sells similar products in North America, said: "In this industry regulations seem to change every week - it's what we expect.

"I foresee a lot of regulations going away in the next couple of years. CBD is going to be the norm."

For those on the production end, things are just as troublesome.

While producing CBD in the UK is legal, hemp farmers are forbidden from extracting the oil from the the plant's flower bud meaning CBD oil invariably comes from abroad - depriving growers of potential profits.

And in case you were wondering, the government says it has no intentions of relaxing laws on the recreational use of cannabis.



'It's really helped me'

Around two million Brits have used CBD products for medical uses in the last year.

Among them is 71-year-old Peter Hart who, for the last four years, has suffered with a tremor making it impossible for him to carry out everyday tasks most people take for granted.

As his condition worsened he found himself unable to do something as simple as picking up a cup of tea without spilling it.

However, for the last 18 months the Margate resident has seen a dramatic improvement thanks to cannabis oil.

"A friend recommended it to me and I gave it a try - the results were startling and I have been using it ever since," he said.

"It's calmed the tremor down tremendously. I still can't hold a mug by the handle but I couldn't even get one off the counter without spilling it before. A simple thing like putting a fork of food to my mouth was quite an adventure.

"When I was diagnosed the doctor gave me medicine which I still take now and then but I find the cannabis oil much more effective than the 90 pills a week they gave me."

As well as helping to control his involuntary shaking, the retired security guard has also seen his symptoms stabilise. Before, they kept worsening.

Mr Hart noticed an improvement within just three days of taking CBD oil.

"One day I got up in the morning, put two drops under my tongue, and about an hour later went downstairs to make a cup of tea," he remembered. "I picked the kettle up and normally that would be a two-hand job but I did it with just one hand and spilled very little of it.

"I get a piece of paper and sign my name and you can see it getting better and better and better every day. Before using the CBD it looked like a spider having an epileptic fit."

Source: kentonline.co.uk



Kong, blan ki bezwen kontrole sa Sesel. Faderr i en nwar pare ou, zot bezwen ekout sa ki mwan ek mon bann dalon gran blan pou dir zot ki pou fer. Tro bokou nwar dan Sesel.

Ou pa en angle ou? Be ki kalite blan ou ete, en blan koko, en blan ovan oubyen en gran blan? I paret ou pa en blan rafinnen, eropen, ou pou fer Fader perdi sa eleksyon ou.

Tintin oun koze ou frer, mwan mon dakor pou vot pou Faderr pou ou ansariz pei.

Pa kapab dir li mon pa pou vot pou Faderr, mwan osi mon en nwar mon per sa blan sovaz mwan.

# The betrayal of a whole nation: C7983 given away for next to nothing

## LOCATION PLAN



This is a very big property by any standard; 813,241 Sq. metres of prime property in the South West coast of Mahe, it stretches from the beach at Anse La Mouche to - up into the hills of Les Cannelles. On 16th April 2018, the said property was transferred on a leasehold agreement to Anse La Mouche Development Company (Seychelles) Ltd; for 99yrs for a premium of USD4.5 million only and for an annual rent of (SCR1.00) one rupee, which was paid upfront in the full sum of SCR99.00. This situation took place under the watch of both the PL Executive and an LDS majority in the National Assembly. The LDS cannot say they knew nothing about this transaction because the Regional Council for South Mahe, which Godfra Hermitte is the chairman was fully involved in supporting this fraudulent affair against the people of Seychelles. The LDS in collusion with the US kept it a secret for sixteen months, they had their reasons. This project came to the larger public attention when they had to hold a public consultation meeting, which they tried to micromanage by involving key persons from the majority party in the National Assembly.

This massive piece of real es-

tate had previously been leased to the Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company (Seychelles) Ltd. They decided that they wanted nothing to do any longer with the development of the property, after a complication about the ownership of the land; the SDC who were the previous owners from whom the Government had taken the land, filed a case before the court to challenge the legality of the transaction between the Seychelles Government and the Qatari company. The case was settled between the parties; GOS and SDC. It was then the turn of the Emiratis to be offered the land for a hotel development.

There are a few elements who are dying to push this deal through as fast as they possibly can; one of them is the Consultant for the project; Mr. Ian Charlette. This newspaper is keeping a close watch on developments. It is very important to bear in mind that this property belonged to the Seychelles Government before April 2019, and the deal was done under the watch of Minister Pamela Charlette. This is the same person, who have said many many times since she took over that portfolio; in interviews, during press conferences and in the National Assembly live on SBC televi-

sion, that there is a scarcity of buildable land in Seychelles for the Land Bank Scheme. There are thousands and thousands of Seychellois waiting for a small affordable piece of land to build a house for their family. The Government knows that situation well, and the LDS majority

in the National Assembly knows it as well.

This was the perfect opportunity for both the US Government and the LDS to work together to deliver on at least one of their many undelivered promises. They chose to bury

their heads in the sand like the Ostrich bird to pretend they had no knowledge of this scam. This is the biggest collusion since the regional council con between the kingdom of the chickens and the kingdom of the rats, fortunately the owl has removed himself from this mess.

## Uganda Launches National Airline With Flight to Kenya

Uganda Airlines is launching into increasingly crowded East African skies, where both Rwanda and Tanzania have in recent years revived their national airlines in a bid to capture a slice of the booming market.

They are taking on regional giants Kenya Airways -- which continues to expand despite struggling with years of losses and management woes -- and Ethiopian Airlines, which largely dominates the skies.

“Uganda Airlines is coming to compete in the market alongside other airlines”, said Transport Minister Monica Azuba.

Uganda Airlines was founded by former Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in 1976 but the carrier was liquidated in 2001 after a failed bid to privatise the floundering company, dogged by corruption

and mismanagement.

The country has acquired two new Bombardier CRJ 900 jets, and will take delivery of another two in September, while the addition of two Airbus A330-800 planes in 2020 will allow it to carry out long-haul flights.

“Uganda Airlines will have direct flights from Uganda to China plus other countries, and it will be very important in hitting the four million tourist goal the government has set,” said Tourism Minister Ephraim Kamuntu.

Uganda welcomed 1.8 million tourists in 2018, according to official statistics.

Meanwhile, neighbouring Tanzania has invested heavily in reviving its airline, with the purchase of six planes including Bombardiers, Airbus and one Boeing dreamliner since 2016.



Air Tanzania launched its first route outside of the continent to Mumbai, India, in July.

Rwanda has massively invested in its national airline Rwandair, with a fleet of 12 jets which now fly 29 routes around the world, with the most recent flight launched to Israel in June.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Rwanda breached its debt ceiling of \$500 million by \$87 million due to the lease of new aircrafts in 2018, and is seeking further loans to expand routes and make a profit.

Source; Capital Fm