National Day Celebrations
2013

Enn Pei, Enn Nasion, Enn Destin

45th Anniversary of Independence
21st Anniversary of the Republic.

A publication of the Ministry of Arts & Culture
http://culture.gov.mu
The Coat of Arms

The Coat of Arms was designed in 1906 by Johann Van Der Puf, Mayor of Johannesburg. In the lower left quarter is a key and on the right-hand side is a white star. The Latin motto “Stella Clavisque Maris Indici” is translated as “The Star and the Key of the Indian Ocean”.

The Dodo

The Dodo was a huge bird that existed only on the island of Mauritius. Due to its short wings and bulky body, the Dodo could not fly or flee in the face of danger. Those birds had no experience of any types of predators before the arrival of settlers in the island. They were passive creatures even when approached by human visitors for the first time. So it was with lack of fears and child-like innocence that those birds greeted the first settlers, the Dutch, in 1598.

Trochetia Boutoniana (Boucle d’oreille)
Our National Flower

Trochetia Boutoniana (Boucle d’Oreille) was declared the National Flower on the 12th March 1992. Named after the famous French botanist, Louis Bouton, it is endemic to Mauritius and is found in only one locality in the wild. It is a magnificent shrub, with reddish-orange flowers. Adapted to dry conditions, it generally flowers from June to October.
History of Mauritius

Around 1500: Arab sailors visit the island and name it ‘Dina Arobin’.

1511: Domingos Fernandez Pereira, a Portuguese navigator is the first European to land in Mauritius. He names the island ‘Ilha do Cirne’.

1598: The Dutch Admiral Wybrandt Van Warwyck lands at Vieux Grand Port. He takes possession of the island which he renames ‘Mauritius’ after Prince Maurice Van Nassau of Holland.

1638: The Dutch establishes a small colony on the island which lasts until 1710. They exploit ebony trees and introduce deer and sugar cane.

1715: The French Comander Guillaume du Fresne d’Arsel takes possession of the island and renames it ‘Isle de France’.

1721: Onset of French settlement

1735: The island really starts developing with the arrival of the French Governor François Mahé de Labourdonnais. The French East India Company administers ‘Isle de France’.

1810: British troops invade ‘Isle de France’ and take control thereof following the capitulation of French soldiers. Sir Robert Farquhar becomes the first British Governor and renames the island ‘Mauritius’.

1825: A council of Government is set up.

1829: Indian Immigration starts in small groups.

1835: Abolition of slavery.

1886: The first General Elections are held.

1903: Seychelles is detached from Mauritian administration.

1948: The right to vote is extended to all those who are literate. The Labour Party wins landslide victory at the General Elections.

1959: Adult Universal Suffrage (one man - one vote) is granted. The Labour Party led by Dr. S. Ramgoolam wins the General Elections.

1965: Constitutional talks are held in London to decide on the future of Mauritius.


1992: Mauritius becomes a Republic within the Commonwealth.

2013: 45th Anniversary of Independence and 21st Anniversary of Republic.
Glory to thee
Motherland, O Motherland of mine
Sweet is thy beauty
Sweet is thy fragrance
Around thee we gather
As one people
As one nation
In peace, justice and liberty
Beloved country may God bless thee
For ever and ever

The Father of the Nation
Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam
GCMG, LRCP, MRCS [1900 -1985]

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (Kewal) was born on 18 September 1900 at Belle Rive, in the district of Flacq. His father, Moheeth Ramgoolam an Indian indentured labourer came to Mauritius in 1896 at the age of 18 on board the ship ‘Hindoustan’. Moheeth worked as indentured labourer and later became a Sirdar (Overseer) at La Queen Victoria Sugar Estate.

In 1940, SSR was nominated in the Legislative Council. Minister from 1961 to 1968, he was knighted by the Queen on 12 June 1965. Architect of our independence, he was Prime Minister from 1968 to 1982 and Governor General from 1982 to 1985, year in which he passed away. He is the "Father of the Nation". His son Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP is now the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius.

National Anthem
- Motherland -

Glory to thee
Motherland, O Motherland of mine
Sweet is thy beauty
Sweet is thy fragrance
Around thee we gather
As one people
As one nation
In peace, justice and liberty
Beloved country may God bless thee
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School Calendar 2013
Primary / Secondary

1st Term
Monday 14 January to Friday 05 April

2nd Term
Monday 22 April to Friday 19 July

3rd Term (Primary)
Monday 19 August to Friday 08 November

3rd Term (Secondary)
Monday 12 August to Thursday 31 October
National Day Celebrations 2013

Chief Guest: His Excellency Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India

Official Programme: Tuesday 12 March 2013 at 1700 hours at Anjalay Stadium.

The programme for Tuesday 12th March 2013 starting at 1700 hours will comprise the official protocol ceremony followed by a spectacular 60-minute cultural show using state-of-the-art sound, light, video projections, laser, pyrotechnics and performances by local artists which will be a “première’ and “du jamais-vu” in Mauritius. The protocol programme will amongst others comprise the following:-

(i) Flypast by Dornier and Police Helicopter;
(ii) marchpast, défilé of police vehicles;
(iii) parajump by French Parachutists; and
(iv) the Flag Raising Ceremony.

All night popular Show: Saturday 16 March 2013 at Anjalay Stadium

Featuring: Vishal - Shekhar from India
            Simangarole Malloya Manier Fam (Réunion)
            Other international Artists from Zimbabwe, Malagasy Republic, Dubai, ZunZun Egui-UK
            Popular local artists
# CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES
National Day Celebrations 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Organised by</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 01 March</td>
<td>Gala Show by ‘Tréaux de France’ Theatre group from France</td>
<td>Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre, Belle Village</td>
<td>Culture et Avenir Unit/ Ministry of Arts and Culture</td>
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<td>Monday 04 March</td>
<td>Exhibition of 15 giant panels- scenes depicting the celebration of our independence in 1968</td>
<td>Mauritius Museums Council</td>
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<td>Tuesday 05 March</td>
<td>(i) Inter-College Elocution contest</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>Municipality of Curepipe</td>
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<td>(ii) Two full play performance for schools and public</td>
<td>Mahatma Gandhi Institute</td>
<td>Culture et Avenir Unit/ Ministry of Arts and Culture</td>
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<td>(iii) Open day at SSR Recreation Centre for the Elderly</td>
<td>Belle Mare</td>
<td>Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions</td>
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<td>(iv) Launching of National School of Performing Arts for persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>Belle Mare</td>
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<td>Thursday 07 to Sunday 10 March</td>
<td>Salon du Livre</td>
<td>Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre, Pailles</td>
<td>Culture et Avenir Unit, Prime Minister’s Office</td>
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<td>Thursday 07 to Saturday 30 March</td>
<td>Cultural Activities</td>
<td>Centre de Lecture et d'Animation Culturelle</td>
<td>Centre de Lecture Publique et d'Animation Culturelle</td>
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<td>Thursday 07 March</td>
<td>Inter-college quiz competition</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>Municipal Council of Curepipe</td>
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<td>Saturday 09 March</td>
<td>Open Air Concert</td>
<td>Municipal Yard</td>
<td>Municipal Council of Curepipe</td>
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<td>Monday 11 March</td>
<td>Free entrance at Postal Museum</td>
<td>Port Louis</td>
<td>Mauritius Post Ltd</td>
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<td>Friday 15 March</td>
<td>Hindi Book Fair</td>
<td>Rabindranath Tagore Institute</td>
<td>Hindi Speaking Union</td>
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<td>Visit of famous artist- Elizabeth Vidal accompanied by pianist Sophie Brissot for an opera performance</td>
<td>Serge Constantin Theatre</td>
<td>Institut Français de Maurice under the aegis of French Embassy in Mauritius/ Culture et Avenir Unit, Prime Minister’s Office</td>
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<td>Saturday 16 March</td>
<td>Kavi Sammelan (Poets Gathering)</td>
<td>Rameswarnath Mandir Riv. Du Rempart</td>
<td>Hindi Speaking Union</td>
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<td>Monday 18 March</td>
<td>Forum/ Debate: Contribution of Women in the Social/Economic/Political Development- Pre-independence, independence and post independence</td>
<td>Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Moka</td>
<td>National Women’s Council</td>
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<td>Thursday 21 March</td>
<td>Staging of Play by Trup Sapsiwaye</td>
<td>Serge Constantin Theatre</td>
<td>Ministry of Arts and Culture</td>
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<td>Wednesday 27 March</td>
<td>Presentation: an overview of the History of Mauritius</td>
<td>Municipality of Vacoas/ Phoenix</td>
<td>National Women’s Council</td>
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