



TODAY

— in Seychelles —



Monday 4 May 2015

www.today.sc

SR 10/-

Newsline

News Sports Business Life

Abandoned puppies: Help save these puppies (page 2)



Football: Dynamo and Foresters share the spoils (page 4)



Interview with Umarfarooq Omarjee (page 7)



Conservation: Renovating in Paradise (page 13)



The Big Interview with Michael Benstrong

“Discipline is lacking in Seychellois entrepreneurs”

Government believes that Small and Medium Enterprises should play a greater role in wealth and job creation, which is one the reasons why the President established an Investment, Entrepreneurship Development and Business Innovation ministerial portfolio during the last Cabinet reshuffle. We sat down with the Minister tasked with helping small businesses realize their potential.

Read more on page 3



Tragedy

Tourist suffers life threatening injury



Idyllic? This is what the Italian tourist thought before angry waves injured him.

WHAT'S ON@STC

Available @ Homewares and Building materials

ORANGE ELECTRIC
FROM SRI LANKA

13A Trailing socket, 13A Twin switched, Fused plug, Cooker controller...

1 Gang 2 way switch, 5 Gang 1 way switch, 4 Gang 1 way switch, 2 Gang 2 way switch...

400w fan speed controller with switch, 400w light dimmer, special d/p & indicator, special d/p switch & neon...

Lamp holder, x5 13a plug top...

For all your enquiries, complaints and other suggestions, contact our customer care number: 4 28 51 00.
Telephone: 4285000 Web: www.std.sc Email: mail@std.sc

STC
Unibus your friend

A 60 year-old Italian tourist was evacuated by helicopter from La Digue on Thursday after violent waves threw him against the rocks at Grand Anse. Reliable sources say the man was paralyzed from the neck down due to a fracture to his cervical backbone. He is currently at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Seychelles Hospital and his condition has been described as critical but stable. The police have refused to comment.

MASON'S XCHANGE
INSTANT CASH
GLOBAL MONEY TRANSFER

MoneyGram
Benezet Street - 4288 800 / 4288 801
money@masonsxchange.com

	Today's Indicative Rates		Notes		TT/Draft	
	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling
US \$	13.00	13.85	13.10	13.75		
EURO €	14.30	15.30	14.40	15.30		
UK £	20.20	21.25	20.20	21.25		

Nichole's take on ...

Letting journalism thrive

By N.Tirant

During my work-related travels through the Eastern and Southern region of Africa some years back I came across a book by Geoff Hill, entitled "What Happens After Mugabe? – Can Zimbabwe rise from the ashes?" It was February 2006 and I was on my way to Zimbabwe where our hosts took great pains to welcome us to their "heavily demonised" country, stressing that we would have seen "no prisoners at the airport" upon our arrival because, we were reassured, the government was too busy "empowering its people".

The Washington Times' then bureau chief for East and Southern Africa, Geoff Hill, had dedicated his book, first published in 2005, "to all who struggle to be free". In its preface, he covered the campaign of violence that preceded the March 2005 elections which kept Robert Mugabe and his Zanu-PF party in power. The elections had ended five years of unashamed violence and intimidation of political opponents by Zimbabwe's police, army and youth militia. With so many Zimbabweans left dependent on handouts, many were denied help because they "did not vote wisely". The polls were also tarnished by an outdated voters' register and a state-controlled media that not only openly favoured the Mugabe government but also pumped out hate speech against the main opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

Mugabe's campaign, the whole world knew, was based on political nonsense – the so-called threat from British Prime Minister Tony Blair and US President George Bush "to make Zimbabwe their own". The state-controlled media made heavy weather of this. But that same media hardly touched the more visible aspects of Mugabe's bad policies which had seen Zimbabwe spiral into abject poverty from being the regional breadbasket to a real 'basket' case with record-breaking inflation, a chronic foreign exchange shortage and 90% of its people unemployed. That millions of Zimbabweans faced famine or had to flee into exile for fear of being murdered was not part of Mugabe's press alerts.

Over a decade since that book was written and two elections later, we still don't know what will happen to Zimbabwe after Mugabe – he is still around, and not much has changed on the ground. If indeed as the South African satirist Pieter-Dirk Uys put it "democracy is an orgy of opinions", that orgy can only be experienced where the media can thrive and express itself freely within the myriad forms and publications that a free press environment can guarantee.

But in Zimbabwe repressive media laws continue to suppress freedom of expression preventing that orgy of opinions from flourishing to this day.

Eyes will once more be on Zimbabwe on this World Press Freedom Day where a new constitution has paid only lip service to freedom of expression, and the negative effect of the draconian laws still in place are taking their toll. Lessons can be drawn.

Reporters Without Borders warned in 2013 that although the new constitution was "a step forward", no satisfactory, transparent election is possible if journalists are prevented from working properly.

"In both Harare and in the provinces, Zimbabwean journalists, especially those who work for the privately-owned media, are the victims of harassment campaigns while journalists with the state-owned media are controlled by the government," the international NGO said in May 2013.

The organisation accused Mugabe of suppressing freedom of expression, exercising strict control over the state media, constantly harassing the print media and being the architect of extremely repressive media laws.

Every citizen's freedom to seek, receive and share knowledge and information through the media is a guaranteed human right. And it is through journalism that the citizen is enabled to make informed decisions about society's development. The media helps expose injustice, corruption, and the abuse of power. That is why in any country where independent media reporters are often threatened, sometimes interrogated and even prosecuted for publishing what the state says are "lies", where a jail sentence follows an article criticizing a police chief or other government official, or where privately-owned newspapers can be the target of official harassment, journalism cannot thrive.

Like Seychelles, Zimbabwe has kept criminal defamation laws on its books. In Zimbabwe individuals often use this law to file complaints against journalists before the media-monitoring Zimbabwe Media Commission. Unlike Seychelles, Zimbabwe already has its Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act since 2002. Its media commission has the power to close down any media that acts "imprudently", a provision often used when journalists cover alleged corruption cases. Seychelles has its own controversial Public Order Act and Penal Code amendments that create new crimes since 2012.

And if anyone still doubts the ZANU-PF's mindset on media freedom and the protection of journalists after 35 years in power, Zimbabwe's Information minister made it clear at a news conference at party headquarters on 10 May 2013: "I want to repeat that this country came about through the barrel of a gun. It cannot be taken by a pen, never."

Road fatality

Dead man identified

The man in his fifties who tragically lost his life late last Wednesday night was identified as Alfred Mirabeau of the Old's people Home of Union Vale. He was identified by his son on Saturday. Mr Mirabeau passed away after he was hit by a car in the vicinity of Roche Caiman on 29 April. The police have opened an investigation into the accident. The driver who hit Alfred Mirabeau was arrested.

Abandoned puppies

Help save these puppies

Five adorable puppies are looking for a loving and caring home. Can you adopt one?

Five puppies were rescued by Niki and Marilise last week from the rubbish bins in Beoliere, Mahé where they were dumped. The puppies were found by Niki's father, who immediately started feeding them until a solution could be found.

"They were a little scared at first, but as soon as we laid out the food we had brought with us they came running. I have never seen anything eat as fast as they did – they were starving," explains Niki.

The couple then took the puppies home with them to Glacis, where they were bathed, fed and given a new temporary home.

"We have de-fleaed and de-wormed the puppies, and given them regular meals and overnight



The puppies were dumped in bins.

they became completely different dogs. They are full of life, very friendly and just love human company and attention. They really are such sweet little creatures, and would make lovely pets," says Niki.

Unfortunately, Niki and Marilise live in an apartment and are not allowed any pets. Having promised their landlord they would find homes for the puppies as soon as possible, they are desperately seek-

ing for some kind hearted people to adopt one or more of these adorable puppies.

"These five are all females, and I know a lot of people are afraid to take females as it means they could have their own puppies to deal within the future. That is why we are willing to have the animals sterilised at our expense once they are old enough, and will even pick them up from your home for this," assures Niki. "But they are such cute, fun and loving natured little dogs that all the really need – and deserve – is a chance in life to be loved and taken care of."

If you would like to adopt one or more of these adorable puppies, or know someone who might, please contact Niki on 258 9732.

World Press Freedom Day

Everyone must be free to seek, receive and impart information

"Let Journalism Thrive!" is the theme of this year's World Press Freedom Day.

By N. Tirant

To mark the importance of the World Press Freedom Day celebrated yesterday, the heads of three global institutions have joined forces to issue their message. Freedom of expression and press freedom are essential to success at every level, the more so in this year that draws to an end the Millennium Development Goals, they said.

"For peace to be lasting and development to be sustainable, human rights must be respected. Everyone must be free to seek, receive and impart knowledge and information

on all media, online and offline," the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said in a joint message for the occasion of World Press Freedom Day celebrated every year on 3 May.

"Freedom of expression and press freedom are not luxury attributes that can wait until sustainable development has been achieved – it is an enabler for the enjoyment of all human rights and, therefore, vital to good governance and the rule of law," they said.

Quality journalism, one of this year's sub-themes, works to expose injustice, corruption, and the abuse of power. It enables citizens to make informed decisions about their society's development. That is why, the UN chiefs argue, journalism can thrive only when it is given "an enabling environment" where journalists can work independently and without undue interference and in conditions of safety.

The three heads noted the continued attacks against journalists which leave at least one journalist dead each week, in both conflict and non-conflict zones.

"We must redouble efforts to enhance the safety of journalists and put an end to impunity, and this is the goal of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, spearheaded by UNESCO and supported by other UN entities," the message adds.

It calls for "every voice to speak out and be heard". It calls especially for the women who twenty years after the Beijing Declaration, remain underrepresented throughout the media. "We cannot let this stand. Men and women must participate equally in making and sharing the news," the message stresses.

Letter to the Editor

Disclaimer

The views and comments expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily those of this newspaper

"No right to cast aspersions on Michel's visit"

Dear Editor,

I refer to the letter "Another Futile Visit to the Vatican?" in your edition of 30th April. One would have thought that a person with such strong convictions regarding the "futility" of James Michel's visit to the Vatican would have had the temerity to sign his/her name to the said letter. But that is beside the point.

Not only would the author of the letter be the spiritual mentor of Michel – the former being a "devout and humble Catholic" – they would also lecture Michel on the

Ten Commandments, of which they have but a vague notion apart from their indisputable ability to copy and paste them from the Internet.

They ought to know that many world leaders – while openly proclaiming secularism – look to the heads of the world's major religions for advice, guidance, inspiration... call it what one may. The latter, owing to their humility, their influence, strength of character and abnegation command overwhelming respect and devotion throughout the world. Pope Francis, the Dalai Lama, the Archbishop of Canterbury, as well many Muslim, Hindu,

Protestant, Eastern Orthodox etc. spiritual leaders, belong to that category. It is therefore normal for the leader of a nation – any nation, great and small – to look to them for "inspiration and wisdom".

It is also normal – and expected – for James Michel, the leader of a nation, the majority of whose people belong to the Roman Catholic faith, to be received in audience by the Pope. Such audiences – it must be said – are not improvised, but planned months in advance by common agreement. Whilst they do not bring dollars and Euros to Seychelles – as the author of the let-

ter would have presumably wished – they do bring something of even greater worth: a capital of goodwill and a reaffirmation of the moral and spiritual values of the Seychellois.

The author of the letter has no right to cast aspersions on Michel's visit to the Vatican. Versed as he is in the Scriptures he would do well to re-visit Matthew 7:5: "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

Yours faithfully,
André J Mondon

New princess for England

SPECIAL EDITION WITH SOUVENIR PULL-OUT
The Sunday Telegraph



The Duchess of Cambridge gave birth to a baby girl on Saturday. The new princess hasn't been named yet but reports say she could be called either Charlotte or Alice.

Seychelles Licensing Authority

Good but can do better

The Seychelles Licensing Authority (SLA) celebrated its 30th anniversary on Saturday. Finance Minister Jean Paul Adam said the SLA has over the years, been a platform for economic stability, saying that "the SLA has been growing alongside the economy and it is an organisation that has always sought to reach out to the people it serves".

The balance between regulation and facilitation, Minister Adam added, is a delicate one and achieving this balance in such a small country is arguably harder. The strength of the SLA, Jean Paul Adam added, was that it has always recognised that quality is more important than quantity. "On this anniversary, we also resolve to ensure that we continue to improve. Let us also use this anniversary to invite constructive criticism. Let us have an open conversation on those areas where there is still scope for improvement", he said adding that

while the country must realise that in many areas, the SLA has set the bar in terms of timely processing of various applications, "there are still some areas where there are unnecessary delays".

These issues, Jean Paul Adam said, "arise because the overall processes are not sufficiently streamlined, or there are inadequate resources". They must however be addressed to improve the ease of doing business in Seychelles, Mr Adam said, adding that his ministry together with the ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship Development and Business Innovation are working together to this end.

The SLA, a press release says, has recently embarked on innovations such as the new internal business licensing services and the introduction of the external e-gateway access as a means to facilitate individuals and companies that needs to apply or renew their business licenses online.

The Big Interview with Michael Benstrong

“Discipline is lacking in Seychellois entrepreneurs”

By NR

Why do you think that President Michel felt the need to create an Investment, Entrepreneurship Development and Business Innovation portfolio?

The Entrepreneurship Development and Business Innovation department already existed as part of the President's Office, while the Investment portfolio fell under the ministry of Finance. What the President did in February's government restructuring was to bring Entrepreneurship Development and Business Innovation and Investment together under one ministry. I believe he wanted to have a ministry that focuses on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). President Michel wants SMEs to fully play their role of wealth creators and for Seychellois to be more involved in the process. We all know that SMEs have faced challenges in terms of ease of doing business and access to finance and he wanted a ministry to focus on these issues. As for investment, the Seychelles Investment Board (SIB) does a lot of work to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), but we want to initiate local investment as well. In a nutshell, President Michel wanted more energy to be devoted to SMEs and in improving the promotion of local investment.

You've been in post for three months now. How do you plan to go about stimulating the SME sector and local investment?

I started by taking stock and making a few things happen. For example, we know that there are some issues with the Licensing Authority, Planning Authority and the Registrar of Companies, particularly in terms of delays. Therefore, I have set up a working group to examine a number of processes at these authorities and to propose solutions to improve the short comings.

The business community has noticed an improvement in the functioning of the Licensing Authority. Is that something you want to extend to other agencies as well?

Yes, it is getting better and I believe we should all be onboard to achieve the same objectives. For instance, if one submits a plan to the Planning Authority that complies with all the requirements, things will go faster. But if there are documents missing, it's inevitable that the process will be slow, resulting in a back-and-forth situation.

That's one thing that the business community is asking for: standardised response times not only for all these agencies but the banks too. Sometimes applicants have to wait three months for an answer from the banks. This is understandably frustrating considering that the whole venture usually hinges on what the banks decide.

Why do some banks take so long? It's because their decision making isn't done locally for some banks and requests have to go to their respective head offices. That's where complications sometimes arise. Small loans tend to move much faster, but medium and large loans take longer, sometimes three or even six months. The application has to be sent to the head office, it comes back asking for additional information before being sent back again.

Do you think that your background in banking will prove useful when it comes to resolving some of these issues?

Definitely and I've already started working with the banks to address the issue. One proposal is to increase the threshold of the loans that country managers are allowed to approve. Some of these thresholds have been in place for the past five to ten years and need to be revisited to reflect the changing economic landscape of Seychelles. Nowadays, for example, a threshold of SCR100 000 isn't as much of an investment as it was ten years ago. Several banks are discussing this issue with their head offices and hopefully we'll see some changes in the months to come. I can't commit to it though because it remains an internal procedure for the banks.

Following your appointment you embarked on a series of visits of Seychellois businesses. What marked you the most in terms of their strengths and weaknesses?

The landscape is very challenging. What I discovered though is that there's a hunger, a motivation on the part of Seychellois; they want to become entrepreneurs. But a lot remains to be done. Traditionally, Seychellois have been taught to market themselves as employees but I've noticed that there's been a change in this mindset. The motivation is there but we have to remove the barriers which I have mentioned before. They have to understand one thing: it's important to put together a business plan first. We have a department within my



ministry to help individuals develop their business plans but we need to improve our capacity. The Small Enterprise Promotion Agency (SEnPA) will be looking at micro and cottage businesses while the SIB will look after medium and large projects. Previously SEnPA was more involved in marketing but we're enlarging its scope.

Before moving forward, the business plan has to be in order; from ground zero. When you go to the bank, for example, you have to have a well defined business plan so that you can start a conversation with the bank manager. A bank's will not be interested in someone coming in to discuss their idea at bank level. It will quickly shut its door and say, "you don't meet our criteria". That's a very strong statement. That person will then go home, feeling discouraged and, because they have to blame somebody, they'll blame the bank. If you have a solid business plan, on the other hand, you'll feel more comfortable dealing with the bank, the Licensing Authority, Planning Authority, etc.

When I worked in the banking sector, someone would come with the intention of setting up, let's say, a takeaway. But when you ask them what their market will be, they tell you that they don't know. It's important to know these things. The same applies to setting up a car

there's still room for new entrants. To set up a business, you need to have some knowhow. If you don't know how the car hire business works, you're going to have huge difficulties making it in such a competitive sector. If you don't do your research, you're going to struggle and I think that's why the banks made that statement. And, of course, there's quite a high level of copycatting; people thinking that if their neighbour has been successful, they can too.

Another big constraint that no one can really do anything about is the size of the market. How do you see this issue?

My ministry is doing some research on areas which have potential to guide would-be entrepreneurs. We believe in added value. For example, traditionally we take the coconut, dry it and export it. The same with cinnamon. Why don't we add value to these products by making coconut oil and cinnamon essence? These are areas where I believe we can showcase the benefits of added value.

Continued on page 9

hire. Will you be marketing your business to Seychellois or tourists? Will you be dealing in high end or low end vehicles? If they don't know these things it will be difficult for them to position themselves in the market. And this is why some people fail. They test their business idea when they're actually launching it.

Speaking of which, last year at the National Investment Forum the banks defended themselves against accusations of not granting enough credit by saying that an inordinate amount of applications they receive are for takeaways and car hires and there's only so much room for these kinds of businesses. Don't they have a point?

There's a concern right now about whether the car hire business is saturated or whether



Denis Island
is looking for pleasant, courteous, and self-motivated individuals to be part of the exciting developments happening on the island. If you have the relevant qualifications and experience, the following opportunities are on offer.

Head Housekeeper
Bar Supervisor
Restaurant Supervisor
Waiter/ Waitress
Pastry Chef
Artisan Baker
Assistant Baker
Butcher
Hydroponics Supervisor
Welder

Remuneration negotiable, based on qualifications and experience.

If you have a passion for the hotel and hospitality industry please collect and return completed application forms with relevant certificates and references to:
The Human Resource Manager
Denis Island Office,
Vines Building, Bel Air Road,
Victoria, Mahé,
Seychelles

Closing date for applications is 15th May 2015



LYRA A & PMA Company Schneider Write it

SureMark **GIOTTO**

WIN PAQ DELIVERS YOUR IMAGE **Bantex**

SHOP NO.4 GROUND FLOOR • BLOCK A, UNITY HOUSE, PALM STREET • MAHÉ, SEYCHELLES • TEL: +248 432 3435 • E-mail: officedirect@email.sc



Swimming

Coaches receive certificates

The group of trainers had taken part in a ten-day swimming course.

By RR

The course was conducted by an instructor from the International Swimming Federation, German national Gerd Nottelmann, who

was on his second visit here after he oversaw a similar coaching course last year for level One coaches.

During the closing ceremony,

Alain Alcindor, the SOCGA Secretary General who was standing in once again for the Seychelles Swimming Association's chairman, David Vidot, told the

coaches that they are much needed here to help develop swimming.

"On behalf of the swimming association, I would like to thank coach Gerd for coming here to share his knowledge with our future coaches. I hope you have managed to achieve the required level to partake this knowledge with our kids and the swimming association needs you to help the sport. We hope that this course, which was sponsored by FINA and the local association, is not the end of your involvement with the sport but rather the beginning of your career to assist young swimmers. The opportunity is available for those of you who want to develop into elite coaches and there is a lot of possibility for aspiring coaches to move further. To end, I would like to thank you for being here and hope you can now start assisting the association," Mr Alcindor told the participants.

For his part, Mr Nottelmann, dispensed words of encouragement to the participants.

"Firstly I would like to thank Prisheila Kinlock for making me feel at home as well as Paul Fanchette for all their help. I also would like to thank all the participants who were ready to work with me throughout this ten day



Vanessa Narty receiving her certificate from the instructor, Mr Nottelmann.



The swimming course participants pose for a souvenir photo with Mr Alcindor and Mr Gerd.

course after a slight misunderstanding which we managed to sort out. It was a pleasure to work with you and I hope the federation will invite me again in the near future and I hope you can put into practice what you have learnt. I would like to wish you success in your career

as coaches," the FINA Instructor told the audience.

The certificates were then presented to the participants, including Farah Aziz who was the best performer, in the exams by Maureen Payet, a member of the Seychelles Swimming Association.

Football

Dynamo and Foresters share the spoils

By RR

This result helps neither team as a win would have propelled them to the top of their group, ahead of St Michel.

However, they still have a chance to make it to the next stage after a game which hinged on a controversial decision by assistant referee Hansley Petrouse midway through the first half which swung the tide in Dyna-

A controversial decision by the assistant referee had a major influence on the outcome of this Airtel Cup Pool B game.

mo's favour. It all started from a routine save by the Foresters goalkeeper, Cameroonian Frank Moutoni, who then rolled the ball out to clear with his feet.

But assistant referee Petrouse raised his flag for an infringement and referee Yocette awarded a free kick.

The Foresters' players were bemused by this strange decision

and, to add insult to injury, Gambian Modou Jallou curled a free kick into the top corner to make it 1-0. The goal further infuriated Foresters as it should have been an indirect free kick.

Coach Rodney Choisy tried to seek an explanation from the assistant referee but was not convinced by his explanation as his team had to raise their level.

The Foresters' cause was

helped though by a lack lustre Dynamo performance which really angered their coach Cliff Nolin who told TODAY Sports that his players ran out of steam as they had not rested during Labour Day and therefore could not perform in the latter stages of this match.

In fact, the Foresters were rewarded for their endeavours by captain Godfrey Denis' freekick

which Malagasy Jules Rapiera, standing in for the injured Ugandan Tony Kizito, headed past goalie Jules Monnaie to level the score.

Foresters had chances to win this match but did not make the most of them as they had to settle for a point.

Coach Choisy was very disappointed with the level of officiating.

"We started slowly but then went on to dominate the match though I'm very disappointed with the level of officiating and a bizarre decision which cost us a goal," coach Choisy told TODAY Sports.

As for coach Nolin, he was furious with his players for their lack of discipline.

"We ran out of energy after a good start due to the players failing to make sacrifices before the match. They chose to enjoy their Friday and then today, they could not perform," coach Nolin revealed to TODAY Sports.

Foresters remain in second position with Dynamo in third position.

On Praslin, Lightstars came from behind to defeat Anse Reunion 2-1. Elton Monnaie gave the La Digue team a 1-0 lead in the fifth minute only for Malagasy Haja to level the score at 1-1 in the 13th minute.

Bertrand Lablache scored the winner for Lightstars in the 38th minute to make it 2-1 as they kept their hopes of qualifying for the semi final alive.



Gambian Jallow Modou (on the ball) open the scoring for Dynamo as they drew with Foresters.

Sponsored by:

SEYCHELLES WEATHER FORECAST

Temperature

33°- 34°

Wind

ESE 10 mph

Sunrise

6:17 am

Sunset

6:14 pm

Moon Phase:

Waxing Gibbous

UV-Index:

11

Humidity

72%

Tides:

Time	Metre
HIGH 4:30h	1.7m
LOW 10:40h	0.2m
HIGH 16:40h	2.0m
LOW 23:10h	0.0m

SOLUNAR ACTIVITY

Activity of the day: **VERY HIGH**

Sponsored by:

Boxing

Floyd Mayweather beats Manny Pacquiao on points to remain unbeaten

The American is now unbeaten in 48 fights as a professional after beating his rival in the Fight of the Century

Floyd Mayweather Jr took at least eight rounds from all three judges in a 12-round decision over Manny Pacquiao in their long-awaited bout Saturday night in Las Vegas.

The Filipino Pacquiao was never able to mount the volume expected to be essential for him to successfully challenge Mayweather. In the end, they threw nearly the same number of punches, but Mayweather connected with significantly more accuracy.

Pacquiao may have landed the

better punches, but Mayweather worked a remarkably effect jab against his left-handed opponent while landing a plethora of expected right hands. It was enough for a unanimous decision for Mayweather, with scorecards of 118-110 and 116-112 twice.

Mayweather, 38, is now 48-0, while Pacquiao, 36, drops to 57-6-2.

The bout at 66.7 kilograms was expected to be the most lucrative in boxing history, with a purse approaching 300 million dollars split 60 per cent to Mayweather and 40 per cent for Pacquiao.

Teased since 2010, on-again, off-again negotiations for the match came to fruition when the fight was announced in February.

"When the history books is written, it was worth the wait," Mayweather said in the ring after his hand was raised.

He called Pacquiao "a helluva fighter."

"Now I see why he's one of the guys that was at the pinnacle of boxing," Mayweather said.

"He had moments in the fight ... He's a very, very awkward fighter. I had to take my time and watch him

extra close."

The first round set the tone, as Pacquiao landed just three of 29 punches. In the second and third rounds, he was sometimes able to corner the risk-averse Mayweather, who escaped unscathed by clinching.

In the fourth round, Pacquiao built his output and seemed to sting Mayweather with a big counter left. Mayweather shelled up as Pacquiao flurried, took a step back and flurried again.

Mayweather, though, should his head dismissively as the second salvo

ended. Pacquiao had won a clear-cut round, but only after losing two or three, setting a pattern that continued through the fight.

Pacquiao's was able to start barages in the sixth, ninth and 11th rounds but never staggered Mayweather, a master at in-fight adjustments who close the door in the second half of the bout.

"I thought I won the fight," Pacquiao said. "He didn't do nothing, always run ... I got him many times."

He voiced disdain for Mayweather's power. Pacquiao blamed his own lack of output on Mayweather's fail-

ure to engage: "He's moving around - it's not easy to throw a lot of punches if he's moving around."

The two embraced to start the 12th round.

In the last minute, Mayweather bounced around the ring, dropped his hands and threw potshots, toying with his opponent and using head movement to evade the onrushing Pacquiao. Mayweather raised his right hand in victory with 10 seconds left.

Mayweather vowed to fight again in September: "Then it's time for me to hang it up."



Floyd Mayweather's had too much for Manny Pacquiao (right) at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.



Mayweather poses with his welterweight belts - the one he was awarded for this latest victory is worth \$1m.

NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The Seychelles Postal Services in collaboration with the Central Bank of Seychelles will again be collecting coins of 1 cent, 5 cents, 10 cents, 25 cents, 1 rupee and 5 rupees as of Monday, April 20th, 2015 to Friday, May 8th, 2015 at post offices on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue, between **8.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.**, from Monday to Friday during the week.

The coin collection counters will be located at the following post offices; Victoria, Anse Royale, Grand Anse Praslin, Baie St Anne Praslin and La Digue.

The Central Bank of Seychelles will also continue to maintain its daily coin collection service between **8.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.**, from Monday to Friday during the week.

All members of the public are encouraged to take this opportunity to come and exchange their coins at the Central Bank or at their nearest post office.

Thank you.

NOTIS POU TOU MANM PIBLIK

Servis Lapos Sesel an kolaborasyon avek Labank Santral Sesel pou ankor enn fwa rekonmans kolekte bann kalen 1 sou, 5 sou, 10 sou, 25 sou 1 rroupi ek 5 rroupi, avek manm piblik apartir Lendi le 20 Avril, 2015 ziska Vandredi le 8 Me, 2015 kot bann lapos lo Mahé, Praslin ek La Digue, ant **8.00 bomaten ziska 2.30 apremidi**, depi Lendi ziska Vandredi pandan lasemenn.

Bann kontwar pou baze dan sa bann lapos swivan; Victoria, Anse Royale, Grand Anse Praslin, Baie St Anne Praslin e La Digue.

Labank Santral Sesel pe osi kontnyelman kolekte bann pti kalen depi **8.30 ziska 11.00 bomaten**, depi Lendi ziska Vandredi pandan lasemenn.

Manm piblik I ganny ankouraze pou pran sa loportinite e vinn esanz zot bann kalen kot Labank Santral oubyen kot zot lapos pli pre.

Mersi.



Football

West Brom beat Manchester United as Burnley, QPR near relegation

A 1-0 loss to West Bromwich Albion left United only four points ahead of Liverpool with three games to go.

Manchester United suffered their third straight Premier League loss on Saturday, as Burnley and Queens Park Rangers moved closer to relegation.

Jonas Olsson scored the only goal and Boaz Myhill saved Robin van Persie's penalty kick as West Bromwich Albion won for the second straight season at Old Trafford.

"We knew it was going to be difficult, but everyone of my team-mates today were fantastic," West Brom's Darren Fletcher told Sky Sports. "We worked on making it difficult."

"We tried to make sure we were playing in front of us and dealt with their crosses. We knew we'd have to ride our luck and we did that."

It's the first time United have lost three straight top-flight matches since 2001.

They're now just four points clear of Liverpool in the battle for fourth place and a spot in the Champions League.

"We knew in advance that they'd park the bus, we have to deal with that," United manager Louis van Gaal said. "In the second half we had enough chances - you have to finish."

"It's now the third match (lost in a row). We have to take care of that."

West Brom took the lead in the 63rd minute when Chris Brunt's free-kick deflected off Olsson into the net. Myhill then saved van Persie's penalty and also stopped late shots from the Dutchman and Angel di Maria.

Burnley and QPR look headed for the drop after losing as the three teams above them won.

Both teams finished with 10 men as Burnley lost 1-0 at West Ham and QPR were beaten 2-1 at Liverpool.

Burnley are bottom with 26



Chris Brunt's thunderous free kick deflected into the back of the net off of West Bromwich Albion defender Jonas Olsson (second left).

points, one more than QPR.

"We know we have a massive task now in the next three games," QPR manager Chris Ramsey said. "But I'm sure we'll be up for it."

Sunderland remain in the drop zone but are six points clear of the bottom two after a 2-1 win over 10-man Southampton.

Leicester stayed a point ahead of Sunderland by beating nine-man Newcastle 3-0, while Aston Villa is two points clear following a 3-2 defeat of Everton. Mark Noble scored from the penalty spot as West Ham beat Burnley, which had Michael Duff sent off for the foul which led to the kick.

Liverpool kept its Champions League hopes alive as Steven Ger-

rard atoned for an earlier penalty miss to score in the 87th minute to beat QPR. Philippe Coutinho gave Liverpool the lead before Leroy Fer drew QPR level.

Robert Green saved Gerrard's spot kick, but Nedum Onuoha was sent off for a second yellow shortly after. Gerrard then headed in the winner five minutes later.

Jordi Gomez converted two penalties as Sunderland kept their survival hopes alive. Southampton finished with 10 men as James Ward-Prowse was sent off.

Leonardo Ulloa scored a brace as Leicester made it five wins in six and handed Newcastle an eighth straight loss. Newcastle's Mike Williamson and Daryl Janmaat were both sent off in the second half after picking up their second yellow cards.

Newcastle manager John Carver accused Williamson of getting sent off on purpose by fouling Jamie Vardy while both were off the pitch.

"I thought he'd done that on purpose," an angry Carver said. "It looks like he did."

"The ball was off the pitch, he had no need to make the challenge. I thought he meant it."

Christian Benteke scored a brace as Aston Villa beat Everton, while goals from Jefferson Montero and Sung-Yeung Ki gave Swansea a 2-0 win over Stoke, who had Marc Wilson sent off.

On Sunday, Chelsea can clinch the title with victory over Crystal Palace,

and Tottenham play holders Manchester City. Hull host Arsenal on Monday.

Barclays Premier League 2014/15										
#	Team	Pt	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last 6
1	Chelsea	34	24	8	2	68	27	41	80	■■■■■
2	Manchester City	34	20	7	7	70	36	34	67	■■■■■
3	Arsenal	33	20	7	6	63	32	31	67	■■■■■
4	Manchester United	35	19	8	8	59	35	24	65	■■■■■
5	Liverpool	35	18	7	10	49	38	11	61	■■■■■
6	Tottenham Hotspur	34	17	7	10	55	49	6	58	■■■■■
7	Southampton	35	17	6	12	48	28	20	57	■■■■■
8	Swansea City	35	15	8	12	43	44	-1	53	■■■■■
9	West Ham United	35	12	11	12	43	42	1	47	■■■■■
10	Stoke City	35	13	8	14	39	44	-5	47	■■■■■
11	Everton	35	11	11	13	46	46	0	44	■■■■■
12	Crystal Palace	34	11	9	14	42	47	-5	42	■■■■■
13	West Bromwich Albion	35	10	10	15	33	46	-13	40	■■■■■
14	Aston Villa	35	9	8	18	29	50	-21	35	■■■■■
15	Newcastle United	35	9	8	18	36	60	-24	35	■■■■■
16	Hull City	34	8	10	16	32	45	-13	34	■■■■■
17	Leicester City	35	9	7	19	39	54	-15	34	■■■■■
18	Sunderland	34	6	15	13	28	50	-22	33	■■■■■
19	Queens Park Rangers	35	7	6	22	39	61	-22	27	■■■■■
20	Burnley	35	5	11	19	26	53	-27	26	■■■■■



Benteke jumps for joy as his hot-streak under Tim Sherwood continued against the Merseysiders.



Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard (third right) heads in the winner two minutes from full time against Queens Park Rangers.

A personal loan may be all that stands between you and his dreams.

Access our unsecured loan now.
Call 4383939.

Bridge the gap. Prosper.

Unsecured Loans



Interview with Umarfarooq Omarjee - commercial and development director of the OMJ Company in Mauritius.

“We ensure hassle-free vacations with complete assistance”

Umarfarooq Omarjee is a successful Mauritian entrepreneur. TODAY met up with him last month for the launch of Omarjee Holiday's Family Fun Adventure in Seychelles. Mr. Omarjee tells us about the great deals and activities which are available from 7 May to 15 August 2015.

N. DENNIS



Mr. Omarjee, commercial and development director of The OMJ Companies Ltd.

Who is Omarjee Holidays targeting with its Family Fun Adventure?

The Family Fun Adventure with in Mauritius is open to both Seychelles and the international market as we are the representatives of the Seychelles Tourism Board in Mau-

The concept of was first launched in Mauritius on 23 April 2015 by the deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and External Affairs, Xavier Luc Duval, who was also the chief guest of the 2015 edition of the Carnaval International de Victoria.

From the feedback we've re-



Quad Biking for nature lovers, a perfect outdoor activity.

ritius. Since we were officially accredited as representatives by the Tourism and Culture Minister Alain St. Ange on 3 July 2013, we have reinforced our partnership with Seychelles. On this note, we wanted the Seychellois to be the first to benefit our special deals and enjoy Mauritius differently.

Have you introduced this package in Mauritius? Has it been successful?

ceived from the Mauritian tourism market and the general public, it seems that many people are interested in taking advantage of these special deals as they want to experience Mauritius in a different way.

In fact, it's the first time that the ministry of Tourism in Mauritius has launched an event like this to allow people to enjoy Mauritius differently.

What motivated you to

bring Omarjee Holidays to another destination like Seychelles?

Omarjee Holidays is a Destination Management Company (DMC) based in Mauritius and we have been appointed as the representative for Seychelles Tourism Board (STB). Since our appointment, we have closely worked with Minister St. Ange and the STB to make sure the number of Mauritians flying to Seychelles increases.

In 2013, there were only two weekly flights to Mauritius but now Air Seychelles has four flights per week and for us it is very exciting to undertake new challenges.

Aviation and tourism have always been part of the Omarjee group and it's always been our conviction that Mauritius and Seychelles have a lot to share. This is why we want Seychellois to enjoy Mauritius differently and experience Family Fun Adventures. Special discounts will also be on offer for set periods. As we always say, our dalons are always welcome in Mauritius.

Can you list the specific packages that are available for the Seychelles market?

Basically all packages are for the Seychelles market as all the activities listed are available for all the different markets. These activities and excursions include the seakart, scooter, submarine, Domaine La Grave, catamaran cruise, big game fishing, swimming with dolphins, kitesurfing, parasailing, windsurfing, seaplane, speedboat, bateau pirate, Ile Aux Cerfs, kayaking, quad biking, hiking, mountain biking, golf, Haras du Monde, Le Domaine des Aubineaux, La Route du Thé, Chamarel's Coloured Earths, the Blue Penny Museum, the National Botanical Garden and more.

How does one get started to take part in this family adventure?

Very simply by contacting us. We will organize their holidays from A to Z. Our contact details are www.omarjeeholidays.com, info@omarjeeholidays.com or +230 670 6666. For those who wish to plan everything from home, we provide extensive online support - a few clicks and the adventure can begin!

For a family of four, how much will it cost to take part in ten adventures?

The idea behind this is to make family enjoy their time in Mauritius differently by experiencing activities that they have never done before. It is not that expensive, you can trust me on that. We offer activities to fit the budget of each family, couple, groups or even individuals.

Do they have the freedom to choose of what they like to experience?

Family Fun Adventure with Omarjee Holidays is open to everyone and it provides the freedom to choose activities or outings that the guests themselves would like to experience. There are no restrictions in selecting the activities.

List the five unique selling points of the Family Fun Adventures.

Just imagine going on a catamaran trip to the islands, quad biking, a visit of Domaine La Grave, mountain biking, a table d'hote with typical Mauri-

We are inviting Seychellois to take advantage of this Family Fun Adventure package. It is the first time that the ministry of Tourism of Mauritius has launched such an event as a way of connecting both nations. We are sure it will give the Seychellois another way of experiencing Mauritius. There's a lot to discover and we want our Seychellois to be the first to benefit from it.

As it is also open to the world, many people are already interested, but for us the most important was to come to Seychelles to invite the Seychellois people and tell them to come take advantage of those activi-

the Omarjee Group of Companies decided to diversify into tourism in 2013. The Group draws upon more than forty years of experience to provide ultimate customer satisfaction in the new venture of taking up as Omarjee Holidays, a leading Destination Management Company (DMC).

Omarjee Holidays is based in Curepipe, Mauritius, which provides unique holiday experience for each and every one of its clients. Highly innovative and dynamic, it offers a wide array of top quality tourism services and it takes pride in exceeding the expectations of holiday-makers.

What makes it unique? This



The botanical garden is located in the proximity of Port-Louis in the district of Pamplemousses.

tian food, all during one stay.

Are the flights between Seychelles and Mauritius adapted to this package?

Air Seychelles has increased its frequencies to Mauritius. With four flights per week - Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday - Seychelles and Mauritius have never been so well connected. Now Seychellois can come for the weekend to Mauritius. We are also in negotiations with Air Seychelles to offer a special fare to Seychellois who would like to come to Mauritius for Family Fun Adventure during this period.

What's your most popular activity on this package and why?

Most of them are very popular. We have chosen the best and most interesting to build up our deal and brochure. The reason is very simple: most of these activities are open to everyone, so that a family can have fun together. At Omarjee Holidays, we are inspired by uniqueness, so we are always looking for the best for our partners and customers.

In a few words, describe why Seychellois should take part in your activities?

ties. We ensure hassle-free vacations through our destination representation, advice and support and complete assistance throughout. Most importantly, we have 30% discount on all activities mentioned in our brochure.

Omarjee Group: providing a gamut of services

The Omarjee group is a family owned business which was established in 1970. Renowned for its lasting success in wholesaling, retailing, import and export and real estate business,

DMC works with valued, service-committed travel partners worldwide to provide a gamut of services - ranging from the sale of air tickets, hotel reservations, transportation, custom-made activities, excursions, cruises and wedding to shopping extravaganza, medical tourism and business trips.

Since its inception in 2013, this Mauritian tour operator has focused its attention on the Eastern Europe, Middle Eastern and Asian markets and has pledged to go the extra mile in promoting Seychelles to this emerging market.



Experience the most exciting encounters with dolphins.

Letter to the editor

Celebrating Seychelles accession to the World Trade Organization

On Tuesday 28 April 2015, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) organised a number of events to mark the 20th anniversary of the Marrakesh Agreements establishing the WTO in 1995. At the high level event organised on this occasion, I was honoured as the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and a Seychellois to be invited by the Director General of the WTO, Roberto Azevedo, to speak on the global environment and trade.

In my opening remarks, I said I was proud to be a Seychellois and proud that my country is now joining the WTO as the 161st member of the WTO. I took the opportunity to speak about the strong political commitment Seychelles also pledges to the environment and that the main assets the Seychelles brings to trade are actually unique to Seychelles, being affected by globalisation-related phenomena such as climate change and invasive species. I further explained how important it is for Seychelles to be part of the WTO and to deliver the message that we need to place sustainable development at the forefront on any discussions on trade.

We need to celebrate this accession to the WTO, as it is a significant achievement for the govern-

ment and people of Seychelles. Mostly, it gives Seychelles the right to the most-favoured-nation treatment: In simple terms, this means treating other people equally, i.e. under the WTO agreements, countries cannot normally discriminate between their trading partners so, if one grants another a special favour, for example a lower customs duty rate for one of their products, it has to do the same for all other WTO members. Thus, smaller countries would then equally benefit from advantages that larger countries grant to each other, leading to a better bargaining power for Seychelles when negotiating for example, food supplies and infrastructure loans. It also provides Seychelles with access to the WTO dispute settlement mechanism and enhances the credibility of internal domestic policy and legal reforms. With better access to foreign markets, Seychelles could negotiate cheaper and better prices for local products as well.

Despite the many challenges and vulnerability faced by small island states, being part of this important global trade process is based upon a long-term vision, which will further strengthen Seychelles' economic development and trade relations especially with regard to tourism, fisheries and the financial mar-

kets - its main pillars. To maximise its participation and benefits from the WTO membership Seychelles will need to strengthen its institutional capacity as well as continue to pursue the reforms it has embarked on since 2008. Seychelles needs sustained economic growth and stability to enjoy the fruits of WTO membership.

In my intervention at the high level panel as the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, I explained that trade and environment are twins whose goals have intertwined but also in need of a common focus, i.e. sustainability. There is an urgent need to ensure that our planet is not engulfed by purely economic gains and to that end, it is important to reach consensus among nations on appropriate mechanisms that preserve and restore the balance of nature, whilst ensuring fair and equitable access to resources and addressing poverty. On the issue of chemicals, we need to change the perception that all chemicals are the privy of laboratories, as many chemicals underpin development and livelihood whether in agriculture, food production, medicine, our homes and other areas. I warned that the continued use of hazardous chemicals

and wastes poses long-term and serious threats to human health and the planet as a whole. We need to agree on those chemicals and wastes that are so dangerous that they need to be regulated, so that they may be either eliminated, restricted or phased-out and not moved across borders, especially towards most vulnerable countries, without proper information or without being properly handled. The challenge of waste management often goes unnoticed, although careful consideration of waste should form part of the trade discussions, as these may slowly or drastically contaminate our water and soils, our oceans and eventually our food. Accumulation of hazardous chemicals in mothers' milk and in our bodies are an eminent danger and we should all be concerned about its potential long-term effects on our communities and populations, whether in urban or isolated parts of the planet.

Rolph Payet
Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Disclaimer: The opinions and views expressed in this article are those of the writer and not necessarily those of this newspaper.



Rolph Payet poses proudly.

Anti-phishing

Google patches Password Alert after flaw exposed

Just seven lines of code were used to dupe the anti-phishing tool. Google fixed the problem, but a new flaw has apparently been revealed.

SOURCE: CNET.COM

It took just a day for Google's anti-phishing Chrome extension to fall victim to the very threat it's trying to avoid.

Paul Moore, an information security consultant, uploaded a video to YouTube last Thursday showing how Google's new Password Alert system can be duped by adding just seven lines of code to a website. Password Alert, a free extension for Google's Chrome Web browser, was unveiled Wednesday. The tool is designed to alert users if they've landed on a malicious site that's pretending to be Google in order to steal private information, a practice also known as phishing.

"In short, anyone looking to

launch a phishing attack against a Google account simply needs to add those seven lines to render the Password Alert protection useless," Moore told Forbes in an interview on Friday. "It's an embarrassment really."

Soon after Moore exploited the extension, Google's Drew Hintz reported on his Twitter that the flaw was "fixed" and that users could update the extension to safeguard themselves from the issue.

Password Alert attempts keep passwords safe by preventing users from inputting their Google password on other sites and stopping them from reusing Google passwords on non-Google sites.



A look at the Google Password Alert message to keep you safe. James Martin/CNET.

Whenever a Google password is input into a website, Password Alert shows a message saying "Your Gmail password was just exposed to a non-Gmail login page. You should immediately reset your password to keep your Gmail account secure. Also, please make sure your password is not reused on other services. [Learn more](#)"

The idea behind Password Alert is to prevent phishing attacks. Phishing is a technique employed by a malicious hacker that poses as a legitimate company or organization to steal sensitive information, such as passwords, social security numbers or credit card numbers. In many cases, those phishing attacks replicate the designs of a company's website or email template.

As seen in his video, Moore cre-

ated a fake Google login page that, at first blush, looked identical to the search company's real page. However, the page had JavaScript code built-in that changed how Password Alert operated. The code reduced the warning message's display to five milliseconds, making it practically impossible to see and ultimately letting users fall victim to phishing attacks.

Moore has punted the ball back to Google. In an update to his Twitter account on Friday, he revealed another JavaScript flaw that exploited the latest, patched update. Google has yet to respond to that flaw.

Google did not respond to a request for comment.

CHINESE BUSINESS LUNCH MENU

MONDAYS

Lunch: Spicy Chicken
Dinner: Cooked Potato

TUESDAYS

Lunch: Beef in Black Pepper Sauce
Dinner: Sweet & Sour Spare

WEDNESDAYS

Lunch: Tomato & Eggs
Dinner: Kung Pow Chicken

THURSDAYS

Lunch: Sautéed eggplant with Sweet steamed fish
Dinner: Fried Shrimps with Cashew Nuts

FRIDAYS

Lunch: Salt & Pepper Prawns

SATURDAYS

Lunch: Braised Pork
Dinner: Garlic Lobster



La Louise, Mahé, Seychelles | For more information, please call 259 7118



The Big Interview *with Michael Benstrong*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

What is the state of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Seychelles?

In terms of FDI, tourism remains the number one industry while the fisheries sector is up and coming. We have a number of foreign interests involved in fisheries. Seychelles has positioned itself as the main hub for the transshipment of fish in the region. What this means that the fish is caught in the region and exported as is. What about setting up local companies to add value to that fish? There have been some activities in that area. The Blue Economy concept will help showcase the innovative ideas of what we can do with marine resources. Those are two main pillars in which there's quite a lot of interest in terms of investment.

The production of green-energy such as solar, biogas, etc. - is another sector where there's interest.

With regards to financial services, the offshore industry did well for a number of years but I believe that Seychelles is repositioning itself. The whole world has revisited what offshore means and it's no longer possible for someone doing business in the US to hide their money overseas. Those days are over. Remember the Swiss banks? They were a very hard nut to crack but they are complying with the international requirements. They've opened up the books and this is where the world is moving. Seychelles also has to be transparent. The financial sec-

tor has to adapt to this. A lot of work is being done to update the legislation to make sure that Seychelles is not listed as being non-compliant. We do not want Seychelles to be black listed.

Are there any other sector government is looking at developing? Real estate for example?

Land scarcity means that we can only do so much. But the demand is there. Seychelles is still seen as a safe, politically stable country where the people have a tradition of offering good hospitality. During the carnival weekend, I was interacting with some foreigners and they told me how impressed they had been with the warm welcome they'd received.

We should not forget that Seychelles has launched its Blue economy concept and I believe that this is a sector on which government is focusing.

The Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry has recommended the creation of a minimum threshold in terms of investment for foreigners wanting to do business in Seychelles. What do you think of this proposal?

There has been always a threshold in and they are defined in the Investment Act. For example if we take the tourism sector, small Hotel or Guest House are reserved for Seychellois because we want to preserve the Creole culture in the hospitality sector. More generally, it's up to the SIB to do

the needs test which consists of checking whether a given sector is reserved for Seychellois. If not, it will consult with all the relevant agencies to see if there's a need for such business activities to be operated by a non-Seychellois.

Doesn't your ministry make the SIB somewhat redundant?

Not at all. My ministry is very lean. We focus on policy and strategy and coordinating with the different agencies like SENPA and SIB. The latter will continue to report to its board but we'll monitor things at the policy and strategy level. In terms of marketing and attracting investors, the SIB will continue to play its role.

Another constraint facing both big and small businesses is the lack of the human resources locally. Yet the process of obtaining work permits is cumbersome and expensive for companies. Is this something that you're looking at?

This will be part of our drive to improve the ease of doing business. We will be looking at a number of parameters with a view of reducing the time it takes to process them. The ease of doing business strategy that we are working on with other ministries, including the ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development, is to see how we shorten the time it takes to make those things happen. President Michel has set a target for Seychelles in terms of its ranking in the ease of

doing business index within the next two or three years.

One of government's objectives is to promote large scale basic agro and food processing industries. Yet everyone knows that the agricultural sector is in disarray. What is being done to turn the situation around?

I have touched base with the ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. The agricultural sector has stagnated in its way of doing things. And because we don't have the volume, reducing overheads is key. I've been interacting with a few consultants and they were a bit taken aback by how, contrarily to other sectors, the agriculture sector has not adopted new technologies. Some activities are still being done in the old way and one of the challenges for ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture will be to modernize the industry.

Take the production of pork as an example. You can visit one farm that has applied new technology and reduced human input and then go to another one and it's like going back to the old days. Production has also been affected by the lack of supply of animal feed.

Some people ask, why did Seychelles open its market to imports? They say that importers have killed the sector. Yes, it had an impact but, on the other hand, everybody recognises that local produce is tastier and healthier. So why can't it succeed? Maybe it has something to do with market-

ing. There's a lot room for them to market their products better and I'm sure that if they learn to reposition themselves they will have an impact on the market.

Investment is as much about quality as it is about quantity. It's a well known fact that many large hotel groups don't actually reinvest any of their profits here, preferring instead to send them abroad. What can be done to ensure that more of the money generated in Seychelles stays in Seychelles?

Maybe that question should be addressed to the ministries of Finance and Tourism, they are the key two ministries in this regard. We come in when a company wants to invest in Seychelles and we accompany it through the procedure. But once a hotel begins operating, our involvement is minimal. If I may comment on the issue though, it's something that I've been hearing for many years. If you look at the way the country has moved forward, you'll see that government is moving away from strictly regulating the economy. It won't work to try to impose things. But I believe that the situation can be improved by working with these groups and encouraging them to keep their money in Seychelles. Some of these companies also complain that given the level of service they receive from banks here it's better for them to keep their money overseas.

What's your message for Seychellois entrepreneurs, both existing and aspiring?

My message to existing entrepreneurs is that they're doing an excellent job. I know there are some barriers, especially when it comes to finding a location, ease of doing business and access to finance, but we're working to improve the situation and create a better environment for them. Finding a suitable location for businesses that have completed their incubation period is very challenging. It takes time to find new location but we are doing our level best to address the issue.

My message to aspiring entrepreneurs is that my ministry will be spending a lot of time trying to change the mindset of Seychellois, to push Seychellois to take SMEs into the own hands. There's a lot potential out there. But they have to be patient, innovative and disciplined. Discipline is something that is lacking in Seychellois entrepreneurs. Some of them start out very well but then they take a dive soon after. When you look at these cases, they all boil down to discipline. It's important to differentiate between me and my business. It is very important to keep the two separated because if you mix them the risk of failure increases. We want them to be successful because this is how Seychelles will prosper.

SMOOTH HAS NEVER FELT THIS GOOD

FLICK YOUR BIC®

Now available in Seychelles

CLOSER & SOFTER

GIVES YOU UP TO 3 000 LIGHTS

Trade & Wholesale Enquiries
 RdS Trading
 Mt Simpson Estate, Bel Ombre, Mahe
 Phone: +248 - 250 2208/
 424 7863/ 260 7819
 Email: rds.seychelles@gmail.com

UK elections 2015

Who will win?

Polling day is drawing near - and with Ukip, the SNP and the Greens likely to take seats, anything could happen.

SOURCE: THE WEEK



The UK electorate isn't exactly spoilt for choice.

With all the party manifestos published and the last of the TV showdowns now out of the way, opinion polls suggest that the UK general election remains too close to call. A snap poll suggested that David Cameron came out of the BBC's Question Time special with a 44 to 38 per cent lead over Ed Miliband, but two new opinion polls published this morning put Labour in front.

In the past week the Conservatives appeared to have been carving out a narrow lead, but outcome of most of those polls remained within the margin of error, as likely to be caused by statistical vagaries as they are by real voting trends. Given that constituency boundaries give Labour an advantage, the Tories still need to win over more voters if they are to remain in power – and bookies think Ed Miliband will be the next PM, if only by a whisker.

When is the 2015 general election?

It will take place on Thursday 7 May, as decreed by the Fixed Term Parliament Act, introduced by the coalition early in this parliament.

Who's going to win?

The most likely answer is that no-one will win, at least not with a majority. It looks like being the tightest general election for decades, and some polls are even suggesting that there could be a dead heat, with Labour and the Conservatives ending up with the same number of seats.

Under the first-past-the-post system, national polling only tells part of the picture. A party whose support is concentrated in certain areas will pick up far more seats than a party with the same number of votes spread evenly around the country. Several polling companies attempt to translate polling data into seats, with significantly different results:

What happens if there's another hung parliament?

If no single party commands a majority, David Cameron will remain in office while negotiations take place between the parties, and as the incumbent he will be first in line to form a government, either through for-

mal coalition or a looser alliance of parties. If he cannot, the party with the next largest number of seats will make the first attempt to form a stable government.

Is it curtains for the current coalition?

Probably, but not certainly. Most projections put the Conservatives well short of the 326 seats they would need to form a majority government, and the Lib Dems are unlikely to be left with enough MPs to make up the shortfall. Peter Kellner, the chairman of YouGov, had predicted that both the Tories and Lib Dems would do better than expected, and could end up with a narrow working majority between them. But, he says, "the facts have changed, so I have changed my mind". Kellner still predicts that voters will swing towards the Conservatives in the final days of the campaign, but not in sufficient numbers to keep Cameron in office. "My estimate puts the Tories just seven seats ahead of Labour," he writes. "This is well within the margin of error." Crucially, it would mean that even with the backing of the Lib Dems and DUP, the Conservatives would be outnumbered by Labour and the SNP.

Would the Lib Dems want to keep the existing coalition alive, even if they could?

The Lib Dem leadership has been careful to avoid ruling deals with either of the main parties in or out, and their manifesto was careful to leave room for negotiation with both the Conservatives and Labour. Many in the party would feel happier leaning leftwards towards Labour, and if Clegg loses his seat, which recent polling conducted by Lord Ashcroft suggests is possible, many analysts believe that his replacement as party leader would be much less enthusiastic about a second term in office as the Tories' junior partners. In recent days, the Lib Dems seem to have been attempting to put yet more distance between themselves and their coalition partners.

What are the chances of Ukip gaining a lot of seats?

Relatively slim. Recent polls have showed them slipping from a high-water mark of 23 per cent to somewhere in the low teens

– but even that would be a stunning increase from the 3 per cent share of the national vote they got at the 2010 general election. However, Britain's first-past-the-post system does not favour minority parties, especially when their support is spread evenly around the country. Indeed, Electoral Calculus suggests that Ukip will win just one seat if its share of the vote remains around 13 per cent, and few commentators expect them to end up with more than four.

Could Ukip affect who wins the 2015 general election?

What really counts on 7 May is not how many seats Ukip wins, but how many votes they take from the Conservatives and Labour in marginal seats. Among switchers to Ukip, says Peter Kellner of YouGov, ex-Tory voters outnumber ex-Labour ones by a margin of three to one. In short, David Cameron could be denied his return to Downing Street by these Tory switchers.

Ukip insist they are a threat to Labour too, and trumpet the fact that they came within 617 votes of taking the Heywood and Middleton by-election. Polling by Lord Ashcroft early in the campaign also found that "rising support for Ukip has eroded the swing to Labour" in Tory-Labour marginals. But while Ukip's line on EU immigration and the Westminster "disconnect" is clearly popular with some traditional Labour supporters, opinion polling points to Farage's troops being a far greater danger to the Tories than to Labour in terms of seats. It follows that any decline in Ukip's support is likely to benefit the Tories disproportionately.

Can the Tories win an overall majority?

That seems unlikely. Amid all the uncertainties surrounding this election, there is one safe bet – that no party will gain a majority, for which they would need 326 seats (or 323, assuming that Sinn Fein win five seats and leave them vacant). They didn't manage it last time and that was before the rise of Ukip. Recent opinion polls suggest that the Tories will win somewhere in the region of 280 to 290 seats.

What about a Tory coalition

with Ukip?

Many right-wing eurosceptic Tories would love to go into coalition with Ukip, but David Cameron has ruled this out. Nigel Farage is also thought to be against the idea: the Ukip leader has made it clear that he sees Cameron as a metropolitan modernist who is personally responsible for driving away traditional Tory voters (into the arms of Ukip) and insulting them as they go. There is a widely held theory that Farage wants to see the Tories lose office and a weak Miliband government rule for one term while the Right fractures and regroups under a new leadership.

However, there is one possible scenario that could see the Tories and Ukip govern together: if the Tories can come out of the election as the largest party, might Cameron step aside for a new leader – possibly Theresa May, possibly Boris Johnson, who has been making Ukip-friendly noises in recent months – who would do a deal with Farage to govern in coalition? At this point, it still seems like a long shot.

Can Labour form the next government?

Despite Ed Miliband's poor personal rating, Labour seemed – until recently – to have a reasonable chance of winning power and ruling on their own. Over the past six months, however, the Labour poll average slipped from 37 per cent to about 33 or 34 per cent, even as Miliband's personal rating increased.

Even so, Labour might have hoped to squeak a majority if it wasn't for Scotland. Polls pointing to a SNP landslide and the destruction of Labour's long-time dominance north of the border have become routine. This week it was even suggested that the SNP might win every seat in Scotland. Unless Labour can roll back that surge between now and the election (and that seems impossible), Miliband's best hope seems to be to come out of the general election leading the biggest party.

Could Miliband do a deal with the Liberal Democrats?

Assuming the Lib Dems were prepared to enter an agreement with Labour – perhaps with the more Labour-friendly Vince Cable replacing Nick Clegg as party leader – the Lib Dems would need to do a lot better than their projected 25 seats or so to make up the numbers.

If Labour do better against the SNP than expected and come out with 295 seats, the Lib Dems would also need to hang onto 31 of their current 56 to allow the two parties together to hit the 326 mark. Some analysts believe the Lib Dems can achieve that, but it would be a stretch for both parties.

What about a Labour-SNP deal?

Although Labour has repeatedly ruled it out, a coalition between Labour and the SNP could well produce a Commons majority – adding together Labour's 275 or so seats and 50+



from the SNP. Both Salmond and his successor as leader of the SNP, Nicola Sturgeon, have said that they would be prepared to work with Labour in government (and vowed not to support a Conservative-led government), and in the Challengers Debate, Sturgeon repeatedly said that she would support a Labour government, as long as it was sufficiently different from the Tories. Miliband, however, has rejected the idea of a Labour-SNP coalition out of hand, and during the Question Time election special, Still, many believe that some kind of an arrangement could be reached. It would be politically impossible for the SNP to put the Tories into power, so they would almost certainly abstain or back a Labour government in a confidence vote, and would be prepared to support Miliband on most of his policies. Where Labour and the SNP differ – on Trident and deficit-reduction – the Conservatives are in agreement with Labour.

What about a Labour deal with all the left-leaning parties except the SNP?

If Ed Miliband is serious about snubbing the SNP, and he's given himself very little wiggle-room, he may try to put together a government that involves the Lib Dems and a range of small parties. The Greens (likely to have one seat) and Plaid Cymru (three seats) have both said that they would be prepared to vote with Labour on a case-by-case basis, and in Northern Ireland the SDLP (three seats) would be natural allies. The DUP (nine seats), which would usually lean to the right, has also kept open the option of doing a deal with Labour. Elections Etc says that only if this grouping failed to provide a majority would Labour "look to the SNP to sustain them in government". If the Lib Dems could get 25 seats and the smaller parties achieve their expected 16, Labour would need 285 seats (or 282 Sinn Fein leave their five seats vacant). On present projections Labour would fall short, but not by much – and since the SNP has vowed not to put the Conservatives in power, a rainbow coalition of the left would have some room for manoeuvre.

What about minority government – could it happen and how does it work?

In 2010 David Cameron opted to negotiate a full-blown coalition with the Lib Dems rather than a less formal "confidence and supply" (C&S) arrangement. As The Guardian explained at the time, under a C&S deal the smaller party – or parties – agrees to support the larger party on its Budget and in any vote of no confidence, should one be tabled. Otherwise, every government policy would have to be assessed to check that it would be supported by the smaller party or parties.

Both Cameron and Miliband

could consider this option if they find themselves leading the largest party but are unable to pass the 326-seat mark. Cameron could suggest a C&S deal to the Lib Dems in place of a second formal coalition or to Ukip if they win enough seats. (The personal animosity between Cameron and Farage might make coalition impossible – see above – but need not rule out a C&S deal.) Miliband could make a similar approach to the Lib Dems or the SNP.

The last time we saw this scenario was when the February 1974 general election produced a hung parliament. The defeated Tory Prime Minister Edward Heath got the first chance to form a government but his negotiations with the Liberals failed. Labour leader Harold Wilson decided to rule as a minority government. Wilson's plan was to gain a quick poll boost by introducing popular policies and then seek an overall majority at a second general election, which he duly called in October, winning a small majority.

There's just one problem. The Fixed Term Parliament Act of 2011 would deny either Cameron or Miliband the right to call the second election. Five full years of minority government could prove intolerable for the parties concerned, not to mention the electorate.

What's the impact of the Fixed Term Parliament Act?

Fixed, five-year terms mean that a prime minister can't simply call an election, and nor does losing a vote of confidence immediately trigger one. Instead, Parliament's website explains, an early election can only be held "if a motion of no confidence is passed and no alternative government is confirmed by the Commons within 14 days", or "if a motion for an early general election is agreed either by at least two-thirds of the whole House". So if, for example, a minority Conservative government failed to pass its Queen's Speech and then lost a confidence vote, Labour would have two weeks in which to put together a coalition or pact, and could form a new government without going to the polls again.

So, what's the most likely outcome?

As things stand, a hung parliament is by far the likeliest outcome. The Conservatives are more likely to end up with more votes and more seats, but Labour is more likely to have the support in the Commons to put together a government. The Tories would need to enjoy a massive surge in support between now and the election to win a majority, but a relatively small swing would put them into government. The polls suggest that this has not yet happened, but many analysts still believe it will – and some are seeing a glimmer of hope for Cameron in the latest data.



Destination Travel Vatican City



Did you know that there are two other independent mini-nations within the Italian peninsula: San Marino and the Vatican? Situated in the heart of Rome, the Vatican City is the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church and home to the Pope. It also boasts two of Rome's top attractions – St Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums (where you'll find the Sistine Chapel) – as well as hundreds of restaurants and souvenir shops. Nearby, the upmarket residential district of Prati offers excellent accommodation, eating and shopping.



Inside St Peter's Basilica.

fee facilities. Double bedrooms €85. Oasi Verde a San Pietro offers rooms in Rome, a 15-minute walk from Saint Peter's Square. It features a garden and free Wi-Fi throughout. Double bedrooms min 50€ max 110€. Franklin Feel The Sound Hotel is a hotel with a unique music theme. The decor is very modern and stylish. Staff was helpful friendly and polite, continental breakfast is varied and plentiful. The rooms are clean, funky and very comfortable. €119-189. Grand Hotel Gianicolo offers four-star accommodation with a swimming pool, a private garden and a fantastic panoramic view of Rome.

Places and things to see

St Peter's Basilica

In this city of outstanding churches, none can hold a candle to the Basilica di San Pietro, Italy's most spectacular cathedral. Built atop an earlier 4th-century church, it was completed in 1626 after 150 years of construction. It contains many spectacular works of art, including three of Italy's most celebrated masterpieces: Michelangelo's Pietà, his soaring dome, and Bernini's 29m-high baldachin over the papal altar. Note that the basilica attracts up to 20,000 people on a busy day, so expect queues in peak periods.

St Peter's Square

Overlooked by St Peter's Basilica, the Vatican's central square was laid out between 1656 and 1667 to a design by baroque artist Gian Lorenzo Bernini. Seen from above, it resembles a giant keyhole with two semicircular colonnades, each consisting of four rows of Doric columns, encircling a giant ellipse that straightens out to funnel believers into the basilica. The scale of the piazza is dazzling: at its largest it measures 340m by 240m. There are 284 columns and, on top of the colonnades, 140 saints. In the midst of all this, the pope seems very small as he delivers his weekly address at noon on Sunday. The 25 metre obelisk in the centre was brought to Rome by Caligula from Heliopolis in Egypt and later used by Nero as a turning post for the chariot races in his circus.

Vatican Museums

Founded by Pope Julius II in the early 16th century and enlarged by successive pontiffs, the Vatican Museums boast one of the world's greatest art collections. Exhibits, which are displayed along about 7km of halls and corridors, range from Egyptian mummies and Etruscan bronzes to ancient busts, old masters and modern paintings. Highlights include the spectacular collection of classical statuary in the Museo Pio-Clementino, a suite of frescoed rooms by Raphael, and the Michelangelo-painted Sistine Chapel. Housing the museums are the lavishly decorated rooms and galleries of the Palazzo Apostolico Vaticano. This vast 5.5-hectare complex consists of two palaces – the Vatican palace (nearer to St Peter's) and Belvedere Palace – joined by two long galleries. On the inside are three courtyards: the Cortile della Pigna, the Cortile della Biblioteca and, to the south, the Cortile del Belvedere. You'll never cover it all in one day, so it pays to be selective. On the whole, exhibits are not well labelled, so consider hiring an audio guide (€7) or buying the Guide to the Vatican Museums and City (€14).

Castel Sant Angelo

With its chunky round keep, this castle is an instantly recognisable landmark. Built as a mausoleum for the emperor Hadrian, it was converted into a papal fortress in the 6th century and named after an angelic vision that Pope Gregory the Great had in 590. Nowadays, it houses an eclectic collection of paintings, sculpture, military memorabilia and medieval firearms. Many of these weapons were used by soldiers fighting to protect the castle, which, thanks to a secret 13th-century passageway to the Vatican (the Passetto di Borgo), provided sanctuary to many popes in times of danger. Most fa-

popular belief, Michelangelo did not design the Guards' uniforms – rather, they were created by one of the Guard's commanders, Jules Repond, in the 19th century. The Pontifical Swiss Guard is also the smallest and oldest standing army in the world, founded in 1506 by the "warrior Pope" Julius II (the same Pope who kick-started the construction of this 'new' basilica and making Michelangelo paint the Sistine Chapel).

Traditional cuisine and beverages

The Vatican Museums have a reasonable cafeteria-style restaurant, a bar and a pizzeria – all of which are open during mu-

With a population of 842 citizens and an area of approximately 44 hectares (110 acres), the Vatican City is without doubt the smallest internationally recognized independent state in the world by both area and population. It also enjoys extraterritorial rights outside its walled enclave city with thirteen buildings in Rome and one at Castel Gandolfo (the Pope's summer residence).

On March 13, 2013, the Argentinian Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected Pontiff thus becoming the ruler of the Vatican under the name of Pope Francis.

permission, which is normally granted only to those who have business with some office in the Vatican.

Where to stay

Unless you count the Pope as a good friend (and he concurs), there are no lodging opportunities in the Vatican City itself. However, there are many hotels in the surrounding neighbourhoods of Rome. Maison Vaticana, is a comfortable bed and breakfast with single, double, triple and quadruple guestrooms with private bathroom, wi-fi connection, satellite TV and tea and cof-

Getting there

It's really simple: catch any of the daily flights leaving Seychelles in the morning and arrive in Rome (either via Dubai or Abu Dhabi) in time for dinner for around SCR11 500.

Getting around

It's easy to get to the Vatican by taxi, bus, metro (the adjacent Prati district is served by line A), tram or by foot from Rome (the closest neighbourhood on the other side of the Tiber being the area around piazza Navona). From central Rome, the #64 bus goes right to the southern end of the Vatican. Visitors and tourists are not permitted to drive inside the Vatican without specific



The bridge to Castel Sant Angelo



St Peter's Square.

mously, Pope Clemente VI holed up here during the 1527 sack of Rome. The castle's upper floors are filled with lavishly decorated Renaissance interiors, including, on the 4th floor, the beautifully frescoed Sala Paolina. Two storeys further up, the terrace, immortalised by Puccini in his opera Tosca, offers great views over Rome.

The Swiss Guard

The Swiss Guards are an attraction of their own thanks to their very colourful clothing, similar to the uniforms worn by Renaissance-era soldiers. These guards are tasked with protecting the Pontiff himself. Contrary to

seum opening hours and until about one hour after closing. Furthermore, the Vatican Apostolic Library and Vatican Secret Archives, which are only open to admitted researchers and Vatican staff, share a courtyard that has access to an Italian-style bar with cafe fare and a limited selection of alcoholic beverages. Coffee (caffè) in the morning, mineral water for lunch – either gassata/frizzante (sparkling) or liscia (plain mineral water) – and try to find rosé wine in the evening: it goes very well with all Italian dishes, and keeps one and one's company fresh and summery.

SeaShell
TRAVEL

Maison de Mahé, Victoria, Mahé
Tel: + 248 4 321 080
Fax: + 248 4 324 274
Email: ssticket@seychelles.net



Lifeline

Ben E King: R&B legend dies at 76



R&B and soul singer Ben E King, best known for the classic song Stand By Me, has died at the age of 76.

King started his career in the late 1950s with The Drifters, singing hits including There Goes My Baby and Save The Last Dance For Me.

After going solo, he hit the US top five with Stand By Me in 1961.

It returned to the charts in the 1980s, including a three-week spell at number one in the UK following its use in the film of the same name and a TV advert.

Bruce Jenner sued over crash death



Bruce Jenner is being sued by the stepchildren of a woman killed in a car crash he was involved in.

Authorities say the reality TV star's Cadillac collided with Kim Howe's Lexus in February, pushing it into oncoming traffic.

The six-page lawsuit doesn't give any new details, but seeks damages for "wrongful death".

No charges have been brought against the 65-year-old and he hasn't commented. Dana Redmond and William Howe argue Bruce Jenner was "negligent" or "otherwise responsible" for the collision and claim the family has suffered enormous damages.

Russia ballet legend Maya Plisetskaya dies aged 89



Russian ballet legend Maya Plisetskaya has died in Germany aged 89, the director of the Bolshoi Theatre says.

Vladimir Urin says she died of a heart attack. "The doctors tried everything, but there was nothing they could do," he is quoted as saying by Tass agency.

Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed his "deep condolences" to Plisetskaya's family and relatives.

Plisetskaya joined the Bolshoi in 1943, captivating audiences around the world with the purity of her performances. In 1960, she became the Bolshoi's prima ballerina. Among her acclaimed roles were Odette-Odile in Swan Lake, Aurora in The Sleeping Beauty and Carmen in Carmen Suite.

Celebrity Profile:

Ben E. King (1938-2015)

Ben E. King was a premier soul and pop singer/songwriter known for hits like "Spanish Harlem," "Supernatural Thing" and the iconic "Stand By Me."

SOURCE: BIO.COM

Background

The singer/songwriter who would become known to the world as Ben E. King was born Benjamin Earl Nelson on September 23, 1938 in Henderson, North Carolina. He and his family eventually moved to Harlem, New York when King was a child, and he later performed as a teen and young adult with groups the Four B's, the Moonglows and the Five Crowns.

Hits With the Drifters

In 1958, the Crowns were hired to become a new reincarnation of another vocal act, the Drifters. The group eventually found major success with the song "There Goes My Baby," featuring King on lead vocals and as co-writer. With orchestral strings prominently featured, a trailblazing move for a soul/pop song at the time, the track was a No. 2 pop and No. 1 R&B smash. Other hits with King as lead vocalist followed, including "Dance With Me," "This Magic Moment" and "Save the Last Dance for Me," the only Drifters song to reach No. 1 on both the R&B and pop charts.



Solo Career: 'Spanish Harlem' and 'Stand By Me'
After a contract and royalties

dispute with the Drifters' manager, the singer struck off on his own to become a solo art-

ist, and by this time was using the performance name Ben E. King. He scored a Top 10 pop hit in 1961 with the enchanting "Spanish Harlem," co-written by Phil Spector, and then released a song later in the year that would become an enduring classic—"Stand By Me." The No. 1 R&B track, again co-written by King, relied on a pointed bass line and ethereal, tender vocals, reaching the Top 5 on the pop charts as well. Over the decades, "Stand By Me" has gone on to be covered countless times by everyone from Otis Redding, John Lennon and Seal to Tracey Ullman for her TV sketch series and bachata singer Prince Royce, who rendered a bilingual version. (Licensing group BMI listed the track as the fourth most recorded song of the 20th century.) King saw his original version reach the pop Top 10 again during the 1986 Rob Reiner coming-of-age film.

'Supernatural' Comeback

King continued to have hits throughout the early '60s, including "Amor" and the

heartbreaking "I (Who Have Nothing)," before the British Invasion changed the U.S. musical landscape. Nonetheless, King continued to record, releasing a 1970s album Rough Edges and touring. He'd left his original label Atlantic Records only to be signed again under Ahmet Ertegun mid-decade. With release of the 1975 album Supernatural, King scored a big hit once more with the get-down track "Supernatural Thing, Part 1," which topped the R&B charts and reached No. 5, pop.

King would ultimately record 21 songs that entered the Top 100 of Billboard's pop charts. His later albums included What's Important to Me (1992), Shades of Blue (1999) and I've Been Around (2006.) King was also inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as a member of the Drifters.

Succumbing to an unidentified illness, Ben E. King died at the age of 76 on April 30, 2015 in Hackensack, New Jersey. He is survived by his wife, Betty, three children and several grandchildren.

TODAY in History

May 4th is the 123rd day of the year

1979: Margaret Thatcher sworn in



Margaret Thatcher, leader of the Conservative Party, is sworn in as Britain's first female prime minister. The Oxford-educated chemist and lawyer was sworn in the day after the Conservatives won a 44-seat majority in general parliamentary elections. Margaret Hilda Roberts was born in Grantham, England, in 1925. She was the first woman president of the Oxford University Conservative Association and in 1950 ran for Parliament in Dartford. She was defeated but garnered an impressive number of votes in the generally liberal district. In 1959, after marrying businessman Denis Thatcher and giving birth to twins, she was elected to Parliament as a Conservative for Finchley, a north London district. During the 1960s, she rose rapidly in the ranks of the Conservative Party and in 1967 joined the shadow cabinet sitting in opposition to Harold Wilson's ruling Labour cabinet. With the victory of the Conservative Party under Edward Heath in 1970, Thatcher became secretary of state for education and science. In later years, Thatcher worked as a consultant, served as the chancellor of the College of William and Mary and wrote her memoirs, as well as other books on politics. She continued to work with the Thatcher Foundation, which she created to foster the ideals of democracy, free trade and cooperation among nations. Though she stopped appearing in public af-

ter suffering a series of small strokes in the early 2000s, her influence remained strong. In 2011, the former prime minister was the subject of an award-winning (and controversial) biographical film, "The Iron Lady," which depicted her political rise and fall. Margaret Thatcher died on April 8, 2013, at the age of 87.

1984: Bruce Springsteen releases 'Pink Cadillac'



On this day in 1984, New Jersey rocker Bruce Springsteen releases "Pink Cadillac" as a B-side to "Dancing in the Dark," which will become the first and biggest hit single off "Born in the U.S.A.," the best-selling album of his career. Though Springsteen played "Pink Cadillac" live over the years, it was not included on

an album until 1998, when it appeared in the box set "Tracks," a collection of outtakes from the rocker's long career. In 1988, the R&B singer Natalie Cole scored a hit with her up-tempo version of "Pink Cadillac," which rose to No. 5 on the Billboard pop music chart and to the top of the dance charts.

Fregate Island Private invites talented & experience professionals in search of a new challenge at the Top-End of the Hospitality Industry to apply for the following positions;

<p>Cost Controller Bar Attendant Chef de Partie Demi Chef De Partie Senior Chef De Partie Kitchen Steward Commis Cook F&B Manager Sommelier Heavy Equipment Mechanic Horticulture Assistant Indian Cook IT Coordinator Landscaping Assistant Senior Landscaping Specialist Senior Landscaper Specialist Landscaper Agriculture Manager Agriculture Assistant / Farm Hand Tailor Tailor/Laundry Attendant Laundry Attendant Laundry Assistant Conservationist Plumber Mechanik</p>	<p>HR Director HR & Training Manager HR Coordinator Skipper 60NM License Dive Instructor/Skipper 60NM License Skipper / Deckhand 10nm License Skipper / Cargo Vessel Class "S" License Front office Manager Assistant Front Office Manager Private Assistant / Butler Senior Private Assistant Guest relation officer / Telephone operator Room Attendant Room Attendant/Public Area Attendant Room/Minibar Attendant Security Officer Security Supervisor Senior Spa Therapist Spa Cleaner Spa Therapist Spa Manager Assistant Chief Engineer Carpenter Electrician Mason Painter</p>
---	--

Candidates:

- Must have previous relevant Resort experience in a similar position,
- Have a pleasant & outgoing personality, displaying a positive attitude,
- Willing to develop and learn new skills,
- Must be fluent in English; other languages will be an asset.

Salaries are offered based on qualifications & experiences. We offer free internet, all meals & boarding facilities, transport to and from Frégate Island and Performance Bonus Scheme. We also organise regular fun and social & cultural activities on a monthly basis.

Interested candidates should contact us on 4670 100 & send their CV, including references; copies of all Educational & Professional Certificates; current Police Certificate as well as a Passport Photograph, to PO BOX 330 or E-mail: hra@fregate.com or hrd@fregate.com
Please note that only short listed candidates will be contacted for an interview.
Closing Date: Monday 12th May, 2015

Conservation Renovating in Paradise

The Island Conservation Society recently went to great lengths to upgrade its infrastructure on Aride without jeopardising the island's ecosystem.

By MELINDA CURRAN



The brave helpers.

Aride Island is a Nature Reserve of significant importance as it houses most of Seychelles' native flora and fauna, which is why the Island Conservation Society goes to great lengths to preserve it. This April saw the beginning of a construction project initiated on Aride with the objective of renovating its existing infrastructure and starting the construction of a new visitors centre. As Aride is a protected nature reserve, there

is a great risk when undertaking such a project from invasion of alien species. Both animal and plant invaders can jeopardise the fragile native ecosystem. If the construction materials are brought onto the island without the necessary precautions it could have catastrophic effects. Unwelcome insects, lizards, ants, plant seeds and especially rats hitchhiking on the boat or hiding in the materials could be disastrous.

To counteract the risk, a large bio-security operation was organised. It began on Mahé with fumigating and rat trapping around the building materials, and on the Islands Development Company (IDC) boat, Enterprise 2, and even the surrounding cargo area. On Aride, fences were built to designate an area where the cargo would be disembarked as well as contain areas of the beach as an extra bio-security measure. But the really excit-

ing part started when the IDC boat arrived on the island. To prevent further risks to Aride's fragile ecosystem, a Zilair helicopter was used to airlift the cargo from the boat onto to the island. It took 500 trips, spread out over two days, to completely off-load the 125 tonnes of supplies from the boat.

The project was a huge undertaking and hectic at times but all the effort seems to have paid off as no alien species have been

spotted on Aride. By the end of the year there should be some very nice new facilities for staff, volunteers and visitors. The Island Conservation Society would like to say a big thanks to its Aride team for their hard work. Special thanks also to IDC and Zilair for making the logistics possible. We are grateful to the 25 strong local men that helped with the heavy labour.

The Aride Island Nature Re-

serve is still open to the public. If you wish to visit please call +2482719778 for details. Seychellois residents come for free and for tourists the fee is €45 per person (SR650 / \$50). If you are visiting please be aware of what you are bringing. Please check your bags especially snacks and fruit for any potential invaders. If you wish to plan a barbecue please check with the Aride team as some items are banned on the island.



Zilair helped make the logistics possible.



The fragile ecosystem of Aride had to be protected.



25 strong local men helped.



Their will be some very nice facilities for staff, volunteers and visitors.



The helicopter had to airlift the cargo from the boat onto the island.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

Pick-Up Truck Kia K2700 2014. High manual 2700cc, 6928km. Registration date: Nov 2014. SCR270,000. Tel: 4325542 (Mon-Fri)

Toyota Hilux Vigo 2500CC. Year 2010 but only 35,000KM, as new. Tel or SMS 2513375. Offers above SCR345,000 will be considered.

IX35 Hyundai 2013 Model automatic, 65000 Km. Call 2523302 for negotiating price only in person. Also Jeep Suzuki Samurai 1996 for sale. In great condition.

Peugeot 206 from 2004, not used since few months, available for sale at SCR13000. Call: 2 825520.

Ford Ranger 4x4, Super Cabin, 15,000km only, Silver colour, diesel, 3000cc 4 1/2 years only. Look new, Price asking SR425,000. Serious buyer call: 2795315.

- H1. Accident free. One driver only. 3 years old.

- Daihatsu Serion. Year 2002. Completely overhauled. Tel: 2578105

FOR RENT

To rent for long term: 2 bedroom house in quiet area at Upper Capusen, Anse Aux Pins. Only 5 mins walk to main bus station, and sea-side. Monthly rent: SCR 10,000 negotiable. For further info pls email: muelle40@hotmail.com or viber 0044 747 635 86 66

Two bedroom apartment for rent at Petit Paris @ 13000 Fully Furnished, air-conditioned, Private Parking, internet and cable TV connection. Call: 281441

Fully furnished two bedroom house. Quiet location. Two minutes drive to the main road and the beach. Call: 2743014 anytime.

One 150 SQM high-roof warehouse at Providence Zone 20. Phone: 2711100 for details.

PRODUCTS FROM AMERICA

DETAIL: We are a US based company and we can supply any products you desire from America. Also, we assist in purchasing online and getting it delivered to you in a timely manner.

Contact: info@qpsusa.net
Website: www.qpsusa.net

VACANCIES

Vacancy for three farm workers. Tel: 2714271 / 2714278

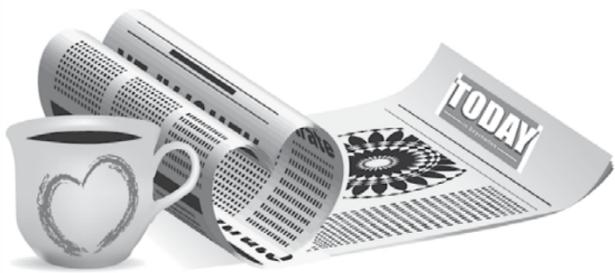
Maid required to work at a Fairview La Misere home, Monday through Friday 8am to 4pm and Saturday 8am to Noon. Salary SR 5,000 per month. Contact: 2520252.

MISCELLANEOUS

Household Items For Sale

Expat leaving and has furniture, appliances and various household items for sale. All in good condition and originally from SA. Viewing on Friday 01 May 2015 from 11.00 to 18.00 at Kennedy Road, La Misere. Tel: 2585294 for more information.

The hottest rate for your classified advert here, book your space now on **4290999** or email **sales@today.sc**



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Temporary Closure of Anse Royale Service Station Monday 4th May 2015

Seychelles Petroleum Company Ltd (SEYPEC) would like to advise members of the public that the Anse Royale Service Station will be closed on **Monday 4th May 2015**. Normal services will resume on **Tuesday 5th May 2015**. SEYPEC regrets any inconvenience that this may cause.

LANONS PIBLIK

Stasyon Petrol Anse Royale pou Tanporerman Fermen Lendi le 4 Me 2015

Lakonpanyen Petrolye (SEYPEC) i oule enform tou manm piblik ki Stasyon Petrol Anse Royale pou fermen **Lendi le 4 Me 2015**. Stasyon pou reouver **Mardi 5 Me 2015** pou son servis labitid. SEYPEC i regret okenn lenkonvenyans ki sa i kapab koze.

Seychelles Petroleum Company Limited New Port Tel: +248 4290600
P.O. Box 222 Victoria, Mahé
SEYCHELLES
www.seypec.com

TODAY Time out

Horoscope

21 Jan - 19 Feb
You are in no mood to play safe and that's good because cosmic activity in the early part of the week will shake things up and, in doing so, create new opportunities. Keep your ideas simple - you don't have to be a genius every day.

20 Feb - 20 March
Decide what needs to be done, then get on and do it. Some people may say you are moving too fast and taking too many risks, and maybe you are, but what fun would life be without stepping into the unknown occasionally?

21 March - 20 April
If you make an effort over the next seven days you will make a major breakthrough. Not everyone will agree with your aims and ambitions but then not everyone possesses your sense of adventure or self-belief. Go for it!

21 April - 21 May
Make your plans and make them big - but keep them secret too. If you are too eager to show the world how smart you are then you might let slip something that boosts your rivals' chances of success at the expense of your own.

22 May - 21 June
Your ideas may seem outrageous to those who do not share your vision but if they make sense to you then nothing else matters. No idea should be considered taboo over the coming week - the fact is you have the power to make it work.

22 June - 22 July
You will make a big impression over the next few days, but will it be a positive one? Don't feel guilty if you lose your temper with someone but if you do go over the top make sure you apologize the moment you calm down.

23 July - 22 Aug
Wherever you go and whatever you do over the coming week the results will not be what you expected. Which is not to say they won't be good but there will be times when you wonder how you got yourself into these sorts of scrapes.

23 Aug - 23 Sept
Your best course of action now is to ignore what your rivals and enemies are saying and do what you know deep down to be right. Actually that's the best course of action at any time but it is doubly important that you don't hesitate now.

24 Sept - 23 Oct
You will be incredibly decisive over the next few days but you need to be careful, too. The full moon demands that you act for a reason and not merely to impress other people. Save some energy for later in the week.

24 Oct - 22 Nov
There will be a lot of tension, both at home and at work, as the new week begins but you must ignore it and focus on your objectives. You cannot stop the changes that are about to take place but you can make changes of your own.

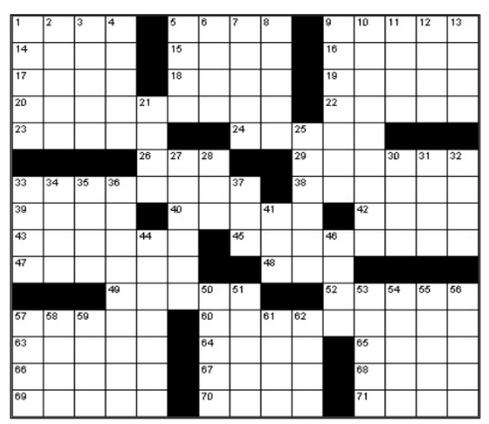
23 Nov - 21 Dec
Monday's full moon is likely to play havoc with your confidence but whatever it is that worries you is almost certainly of no real importance. Whatever your position in life, if you believe in yourself then anything, and everything, is possible.

22 Dec - 20 Jan
Some people bring out the best in you and others bring out the worst but ultimately only you can decide how to deal with them and what emotions you allow to develop. You are not and never will be a victim, so don't act like one.

Crossword

- Down**
- Lyrical writings
 - Farewell
 - Breed of dog
 - Care for
 - Neuter
 - Overthrow
 - Force forward
 - Lariat
 - The bark of a buckthorn
 - Increases
 - As Soon As Possible
 - A period of discounted prices
 - Visual organs
 - Superlative of "Good"
 - Middle (British spelling)
 - Groups of 8
 - Which person?
 - Left or right
 - Not odd
 - Western Samoan monetary unit
 - Bags
 - Harvest
 - Streamlet
 - Crocodile
 - Tibetan ox
 - Stitch
 - Fatuously
 - Greasy
 - Foot lever
 - Shoot from a concealed position
 - Fertile areas in deserts
 - Overweight
 - Flying vehicle
 - Spermal fluid
 - Tilled
 - Sea eagle
 - Made from the residue of grapes
 - Leg strap of a captive bird
 - Lyric poems

- Across**
- Treaty
 - Dirt
 - Stop
 - Smell
 - Cougar
 - Analyze chemical substances
 - Ireland
 - Vipers
 - Relative magnitude
 - In computer talk, MBs
 - Short cloaks
 - A series of connected rooms
 - Community
 - Female hog
 - Deletes
 - Abrasive
 - Aboriginal
 - Seed coat
 - Browned slices of bread
 - Biblical garden
 - A type of dog
 - A liquid fuel
 - Immobilizes a broken bone
 - A 3rd century Chinese dynasty
 - Sharp intakes of breath
 - Coils
 - Virile man
 - Pleasureable
 - Give a speech
 - Passed away
 - Line formed by joining 2 pieces
 - Enlist
 - A vaulted recess on a building
 - Anglo-Saxon slave
 - Express strong disapproval
 - Not more
 - Spotted



Yesterday's solution

B	E	E	F	G	A	B	L	E	M	O	T	E			
A	R	A	B	A	L	I	E	N	O	V	E	N			
I	N	S	I	N	U	A	T	E	S	E	N	D			
T	E	E	O	G	R	E	H	E	A	R	S	E			
				P	O	E	M	B	R	O	I	L	E	D	
M	O	R	A	S	S	B	R	O	N	C	O				
O	B	E	S	E	P	I	O	U	S	A	G	E			
L	O	S	S	A	L	A	D	A	D	A	M				
L	E	O	C	H	I	L	D	E	L	E	M	I			
				L	E	A	R	N	S	L	E	A	D	E	R
P	L	U	S	S	E	S	W	I	R	E					
R	U	T	T	E	S	M	A	G	I	I	B	O			
I	L	I	A			D	E	A	D	H	E	A	D	E	D
C	L	O	T			E	G	R	E	T		R	E	A	D
E	S	N	E			D	O	E	R	S		C	A	M	S

Quick Quiz

- What type of animal is a Samoyed?
- In which country did draughts (checkers) originate?
- What other name is used for the snow leopard?
- Which country was the first to introduce old age pensions?
- Who are the two most translated English writers?
- From what language does the word "alphabet" come?
- What was the Rolling Stones' first no 1 hit?
- In golf what do the Americans call an albatross?
- Which part of his body did Charlie Chaplin insure?
- The Greek for a circle of animals gives it name to what?

Sudoku

7	2					8	5
				2			6
				7	9	1	2
2	7	4		3	5		8
6		2		8	3		
		3					
	2	3					1
8							
5	6	1					

How To Play
The objective is to fill the blank squares with the correct numbers
•Every row of 9 must include all digits 1 to 9 in any order
•Every column of 9 must include all digits 1 to 9 in any order
•Every 3 x 3 sub-grid must include all digits 1 to 9 in any order
Fill the other empty cells with numbers between 1 and 9
A number should appear only once on each row, column and 3 x 3 grid

TODAY
in Seychelles

Published by TODAY Publishers (Seychelles) Limited, P.O. Box 999, Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles
Printed by "The Print House (Pty) Ltd.", Providence Industrial Estate, Mahé, Seychelles.
Tel: +248 4290 999/950/951
Fax: +248 4325999
info@today.sc

Grand Anse, Praslin
Tel: +248 4237 441
Fax: +248 4237 442

Editor - Deepa Bhokhun
deepa.bhokhun@today.sc

Business Development Manager - Veronica Maria
veronica.maria@today.sc

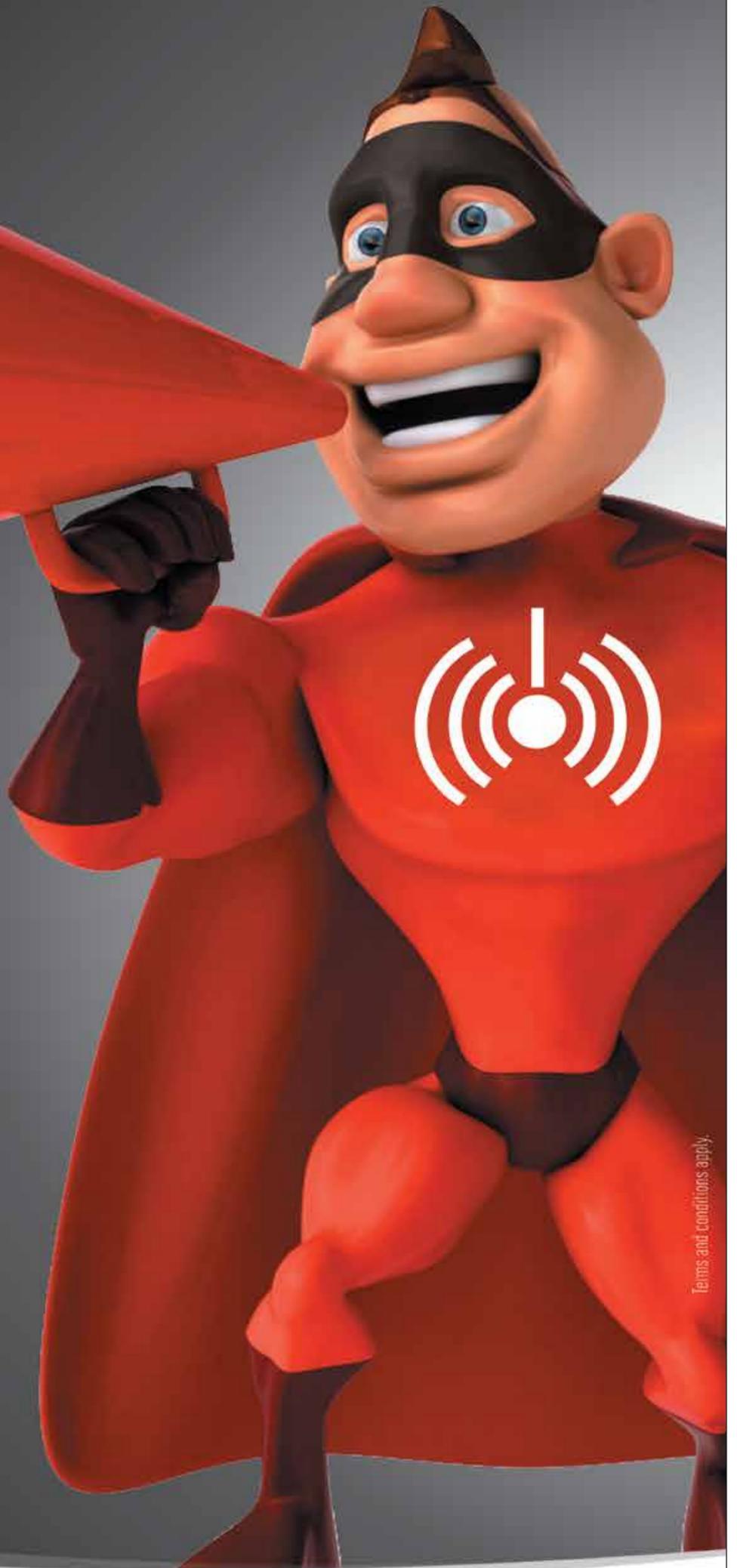
ISSN: 1659-7265

Attention
Extravagance Cable
TV Customers!

Subscribe to selected capped internet packages and get a Wi-Fi modem plus installation, absolutely

FREE!

Offer Valid from 2nd May until 30th May 2015.



Terms and conditions apply.



Call 4 41 42 43 for more information.



www.facebook.com/intelvision


THE WORLD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

UPGRADE

your Mobile Internet Experience

mycare.sc



Real-time usage monitoring & notifications

Purchase Data Boosters

Subscribe to additional Data bundles

Gift Boosters to friends & family

Control what you spend & avoid bill shock

Upgrade your control

Control your Mobile Internet Experience via the new MyCare Portal!

Get real-time usage notifications, monitor your usage, buy or gift boosters and even subscribe to additional data bundles, whenever and wherever!

To get started, simply log on to www.mycare.sc and register for FREE. Alternatively, customers may still dial #155# to access the same s features.

No one knows Seychelles better



@CWSeychelles



facebook.com/CableAndWirelessSeychelles



CABLE & WIRELESS

Cable & Wireless (Seychelles) Ltd. Francis Rachel Street, Victoria, Mahé.
Tel: (+248) 428 4000 Fax: (+248) 432 2777 www.cwseychelles.com