

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BAR COUNCIL

I am sending this message from Paris which explains why I cannot be physically present among you.

I feel extremely proud to salute the opening of a sub office of the Director of Public Prosecutions at Rodrigues. It is a bold initiative and in line with the evolution of Rodrigues. It is in striking contrast to the Rodrigues I knew in the seventies.

For the record in the historical context, I happened to appear for the defence in the first road accident case in Rodrigues. There were then only 2 private vehicles in Rodrigues and they happened to meet front to front on the main road. The sad thing is that Bonhomme Chuko got caught in between the two and lost both his lower limbs. Our friend Marc David appeared for the prosecution and Jocelyn Forget was the Magistrate. The defence was upheld by the Magistrate. I am happy to state that nonetheless, in recognition of the courage and fortitude of Bonhomme Chuko, Swan Insurance made a very generous ex gratia payment to him.

It was the first case in which 2 barristers appeared on opposite sides in Rodrigues. We even then realised what advantage it was to bring Justice to Rodrigues instead of the suitors having to come to Mauritius.

This movement has intensified and the present opening of this sub office is a yet another fitting step in the same direction.

On behalf of the Bar Council, I convey my heartfelt congratulations to the Director of Public Prosecutions for this fitting initiative and assure him and his office that they can rely upon the Bar to make this undertaking a success.

Hamid Moollan

Chairman