NEWSLINE

New minister urged to review issue of medical negligence

The Leader of Front Socialiste, Mr. Devarajen Kanaksabee, has urged the new Minister of Health and Quality of life to look again into the numerous alleged cases of medical negligence.

According to him, several patients and their families have been ruined financially in their search for justice.

In his analysis of the recent general elections, Mr. Kanaksabee said his party did not have the same means as the big ones “and yet we did not give up and we struggled until the last minute. We also have been boycotted by the private radios and some newspapers.”

The Front Socialiste will participate in the coming municipal elections in Beau Bassin, Rose Hill and Port Louis.

He said that people must be encouraged to vote for candidates other than those from the main political parties, adding that that it will be harmful for the country and democracy if this continues. “It is something serious. We must deal with this matter before it aggravates.”

He urged the government to raise the status of villages to that of the municipal councils. “There should be no division between villages and towns.”

Mr Kanaksabee also claimed that public funds are being misused and wasted. “The setting up of a new Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment itself proves that the prime minister has failed in alleviating poverty. The poor are becoming poorer and the rich richer.”

Archeologists here to uncover secrets of slave past

A group of archaeologists from the University of Cambridge is in Mauritius to locate places where archaeological excavations concerning slavery and indentured labour can be carried out.

Dr Krish Seetah, a renowned archaeologist, is leading the team at the initiative of the Truth and Justice and Commission.

Dr. Seetah was in Mauritius last December to make a preliminary survey. The present team is equipped with Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) which will allow its members to identify structures linked to the period of slavery and indentured labour.

With the help of the GPR it will be possible to probe a variety of fields in only a few days. Work is starting at the Slave Pond in Pamplemousses, where slaves were compelled to have a bath before going to their respective sugar camps.

Dr Vijaya Teeluck, Vice-President of the commission, said that there are plans to have the Slave Pond registered on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Other probes with the GPR will be carried out at the Aapravasi Ghat in Port Louis – the small port where indentured labourers from India disembarked as from 1834 – at Le Morne Mountain, where marooned slaves sought refuge after escaping from their masters, and a cemetery in Port Louis.

May 21 – World Day for Cultural Diversity and Dialogue

Today, May 21, is World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue with events being organised throughout the world to increase the understanding of issues around cultural diversity and development among governments, non-governmental organisations and the public.

It was the 249th resolution adopted at the 57th session of the United Nations General Conference. Although the declaration was the culmination of years of work, it was adopted in the wake of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

This reaffirmed, said UNESCO, the need for intercultural dialogue to prevent segregation and fundamentalism. The year 2002 was the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage.

At the end of that year, on December 20, 2002, the General Assembly of the United Nations declared May 21 to be the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

The General Assembly emphasised links between the protection of cultural diversity and the importance of dialogue between civilisations in the modern world. World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development was first observed in 2003.