

# 240<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Postal Services in Mauritius

*From history to modernity*

**1772 – 2012**



# History 1772 - 2012

- The provision of postal services dates back to the year 1772, during the colonisation by the French.
- “Imprimerie Royale” being the first building set up in Port Louis served various areas of the island under the directorship of Mr Pierre Nicolas Lambert who started with one clerk and eight messengers.
- The first postal service was introduced on 21 December 1772.
- From the ‘noir facteur’ to information technology driven communication platforms and going through barouche, train, ship and airplane, the postal service has always been present in the transformation and modernisation of the communication sector.

# Major Activities

- A series of activities is being organised in 2012 to mark the 240<sup>th</sup> anniversary, namely:
- Philatelic History
- Educational Projects
- Green Post
- Women in Post Office
- Open Day
- Infrastructure

# Philately

- Publishing of a book on areas not yet covered in our postal history
- Postage stamp exhibitions at the Postal Museum, post offices and schools
- Organisation of a great stamp exhibition in October during World Post Day
- Organisation of a 'Colloque' on philatelic topics
- International coverage with UPU, SAPOA and PAPU
- Promotion of tourist involvement

# Educational Projects

- Project among university students on “240 years of postal service – what we expect from the Post”
- Dissertation for secondary schools students on “The role of the Post in modern society and information era”.
- Painting competition for primary school students
- Sensitisation on correct addressing system and installation of Postal Box in every home
- Donation of educational materials to students of vulnerable groups

# Green Post

- Cleaning of post offices and embellishment with green plants
- Creation of green space at post offices
- Planting of trees
- Cleaning of public beaches



# Women in Post Office

- Acknowledge and promote the contribution of women in the Post
- Organise women's day at the Post, including:
  - Debate on the role of women at the Post;
  - Aerobic and self-defence sessions;
  - Health hazard awareness campaign, e.g. breast cancer.

# Mega Open Day

- To organise a mega open day with all our stakeholders in August
- Sensitise the public on all products and services being offered with the post becoming a 'Community Hub' in every locality



# Closing of Celebrations

- Issue of a First Day Cover on 12 December 2012
- Renaming of exhibition gallery at the Postal Museum as the 'Nicolas Lambert Gallery' on 21 December 2012

# Other major projects in 2012

- Implementation of postcoding and addressing system
- Automation of additional 20 post offices
- Reengineering of our EMS and Parcel Post Service
- Development of postal financial services, e.g. e-commerce, online payment solution, electronic money transfer, Post assurance and e-post/online services

## Other major projects in 2012(ctd)

- Sustained investment in modernisation of our infrastructure and reinforce security – e.g. new post office at Triolet and Montagne Blanche and renovation of post offices at Parcel Post, Rivière du Rempart, Sainte Croix, Terre Rouge and Black River.
- Complete Operations reengineering comprising review of delivery walk, centralisation of delivery, one long delivery and review of mail routes.

# Post Coding & Addressing System

- A 5 digit postcode consisting of
  - District Code
  - Village Area / Municipal Council Code
  - Sub Locality Code
- As from Jan 2012 effective as from completed in Bon Accueil, Brisée Verdière & Lallmatie.
- Will be extended to other regions

| Post Office Code (Unused) | District Code | Village Council Area Code | Sub Locality Code |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| BON ACCEUIL<br>BA         | 4             | 02                        | 01-99             |
| BRISÉE<br>VERDIÈRE<br>BV  | 4             | 26                        | 01- 99            |
| LALLMATIE                 | 4             | 24                        | 01-99             |

# Postcoding & Addressing System (Ctd))

## Post Code Information Card(PIC)

Dear Valued Customer

### Introduction of Postcode in Mauritius

Mauritius Post along its modernising strategy, is pleased to inform you of the launching of a **five numerical digits** postcode as from 01 January 2012 at Lalmatie, Bon Accueil and Brisée Verdière (on a pilot basis).

Your postcode is:



District Code ←      ↓      → Sub-Locality Code  
Village Council Area Code

*Please use this postcode for all your correspondences*

**A postcode is a very important component in our addressing system and it will both improve and speed up the delivery of your mails.**

You are therefore kindly requested to use the postcode when communicating your postal address to any institution (e.g Banks, Government departments, other companies, public and private recruitment agencies etc) and to relatives and correspondents abroad.

The Mauritius Post Ltd

see verso

# Postcoding & Addressing System (ctd)

## Post Code Information Card (PIC)

Please pay your MT, CWA, CEB bills and MVL (declaration) at your Post Offices. You can buy Post Assurance and a host of other Products & Services.

In view of modernising our Addressing System, please adopt the following best practice model when addressing your mail.

Example:

|                                   |   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Line 1: Full name and address     | → | Mr. and Mrs. John Ferguson |
| Line 2: Number and street name    | → | 21, Old Trafford Road      |
| Line 3: Sub locality              | → | Mission Cross              |
| Line 4: Main locality – Post Code | → | Lalmatie 42602             |

Thank you for your kind attention and co-operation.  
*The Mauritius Post Ltd.*

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**Mauritius Post will be celebrating with pride,  
the 240th anniversary of Postal Services in Mauritius in 2012  
(1772 – 2012)**

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Wishing you and your family a Merry Xmas 2011 and a Happy New Year 2012.



# Post Coding & Addressing System

## Benefits

- Accurately identifies any given postal delivery point or area
- Correct physical address compact description of an address
- Ease of delivery of mail & :avoids guessing for ambiguous addressing
- No misrouting or misdelivery i.e. excellent mail sorting
- Rapid sorting of mail when optical character reader (OCR) is applied
- Reduce the number of returned or undeliverable mails
- Economical (reduction in return of mail) for bulk mailers

## 21 December 1772: Introduction of postal services in Mauritius



*The evolution of the post office...*

1772

Under French colonisation, an inland postal service was initiated in 1772 by Nicolas Lambert to deliver the first newspaper to be published in 1773. There were hardly any roads and mail was delivered on foot by slave postmen named 'Noir facteurs'.





*The evolution of the post office...*

1834

In 1834, we inaugurated our **first coach service** for delivery of mail between Port Louis & Mahebourg.



*Sam le Facteur  
for the BD trip*

*The Penny Black*

*An original Penny Black - the  
first stamp issued in the world  
in 1840 - is on display at the  
Postal Museum*

*The evolution of the post office...*

2008

On the 23 July 2008, The Mauritius Post Ltd inaugurated the new **Postal Museum**, situated at the historic Post Office Building. The museum has been designed according to international norms and highlights major events that marked the postal history from its origin to date.



*The evolution of the post office...*

1847

On 20 September 1847, Mauritius became the fifth country in the world and the first British Colony to issue postage stamps. They were the famous Mauritius "Post Office" stamps, later known as the red and blue penny.



*The evolution of the post office...*

1864

The introduction of railway service in 1864, highly contributed to the development of the postal services as only eight post offices existed on the territory prior to 1864.



*The evolution of the post office...*

1933

On 14 November 1933, the **first airmail** left Mauritius for Reunion Island. On arrival, the mail was transported to Nairobi (Kenya), stopover of a regular airline linking London and Cape Town since 1932.



*The evolution of the post office...*

2004

Following its corporatisation in 2003, The Mauritius Post Ltd. kick-started the **modernisation process** with the automation of its counters in 2004. The purpose was to make a wider range of services available at all Post offices in Mauritius & Rodrigues while enhancing customer experience.

## 2012 : Opening of Cybercity Post Office- Ebene



*Celebrating 240 years of communications  
(1772 - 2012)*



CELEBRATING  
240 YEARS  
OF COMMUNICATIONS  
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*...From history to modernity...*