



"Dignity for All

***"Donn Nou enn deziem Sans"* The transformative power of art expressed through inmates' exhibition launched at Hennessy Park Hotel, Ebene on November 6 2025**

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) inaugurated an art exhibition around the theme "*Donn Nou Enn Deziem Sans*" (give us a second chance) on 6 November 2025 at Hennessy Park Hotel, in collaboration with Sofap, Gallery Imaaya and Kinouété. The exhibition aimed to raise awareness on the theme of rehabilitation, social reintegration and the importance of giving inmates a second chance through artistic expression. It provided a platform for artworks created by detainees of Melrose and Beau Bassin prisons highlighting the transformative power of art in fostering dignity, self-reflection and inclusion through creativity.

The event was attended *inter alia* by Mrs. Véronique Leu Govind, Junior Minister of Arts and Culture, and Mr Rajen Narshingen Junior minister from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade. Mr Kugan Parapen Junior minister for Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity.

The Chairperson of the NHRC, Satyajit Boolell S.C together with the Deputy Chairpersons and Members of the Commission, were also in attendance together with other stakeholders. Family members of detainees and representatives from partner organisations participated in this ground breaking event, demonstrating their continued support and dedication for rehabilitation initiatives. Some forty pieces and sculptures exploring themes illustrating hope, resilience, independence, identity, and personal growth were on display.

The Chairperson of the NHRC, Mr Satyajit Boolell emphasised the Commission's ongoing commitment to promoting human dignity and the right to rehabilitation, consistent with the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Mr Boolell remarked that the requirement for a *certificate of character* often serves as a barrier to the reintegration of former detainees, stressing that such administrative hurdles should be reconsidered or removed to allow them a genuine second chance. The NHRC also expressed its gratitude to all partners for their collaboration in making the event a success and reaffirmed its dedication to initiatives that uphold the values of compassion, respect and human rights for all

In her address, Mrs Pauline Bonieux commended the initiative, underlining that "*every piece of art is a window into the soul of each artist as they navigate the complexities of their experiences inside prison.*"

As for the inaugural speech of Veronique Leu Govind , she stated that it was time for society and the judicial system to review the certificate of character which impedes the rehabilitation process of ex detainees. Mrs Leu Govind also made an appeal to enterprises to give a second chance to former detainees by providing g them jobs so as to ensure their reintegration on

society. Finally, she exhorted ex detainees to develop entrepreneurial skills so as to ensure their professional autonomy.

Mrs Melany Nagen: ‘The exhibition on the 6th November, ‘Donn nou enn dezième sans’, is more than an artistic showcase — it is a testament to the human capacity for change, dignity, and hope. Through art, the walls of confinement give way to bridges of understanding. At the National Human Rights Commission, we firmly believe that every individual, no matter their past, deserves a chance to rebuild, to heal, and to contribute meaningfully to society. Rehabilitation is not merely a legal goal; it is a human right.’

Mr Michel Vieillesse: ‘A mother of a detainee attended the event and shared her heartfelt experience. Being supported by such an institution brings her great comfort and encouragement. It gives her the strength to continue caring for her son and to stay hopeful about his rehabilitation, as he has already taken meaningful steps toward positive change. She also emphasized how important it is for society to recognize her son’s efforts — this acknowledgment means a great deal to her and helps him move forward on his path to rehabilitation and reintegration into society.’ Mr Michel Vieillesse, a member of the National Preventive Mechanism Division (NPMD) of the National Human Rights Commission, was in contact with the parents and family members of the detainees for the exhibition. He played a key role in coordinating with them and ensuring their participation in the event.

Other speakers for the occasion included Mrs Pauline Bonieux, Chairperson of the Association Kinouété. She commended the National Human Rights Commission for organizing the exhibition and underscored the profound sense of humanity that permeates each artwork. She observed that the pieces reflect empathy, resilience, and the enduring human spirit of those behind bars. In her address, she emphasized the importance of maintaining platforms that allow detainees to express themselves through art.

Such initiatives, she noted, foster rehabilitation and promote social reintegration. She therefore appealed for the continuation and expansion of similar programmes, highlighting the transformative power of creative expression.

Adding their speech to this impactful event were, Mr Rajen Narsinghen, Junior minister from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade and Jean Francois Richard, General manager of the Hennessy Park Hotel who shared a powerful message from an inmate who -participated in the exhibition.

The exhibition is open to the public until the 6th of December 2025. Artworks are also on sale. Please contact if interested:

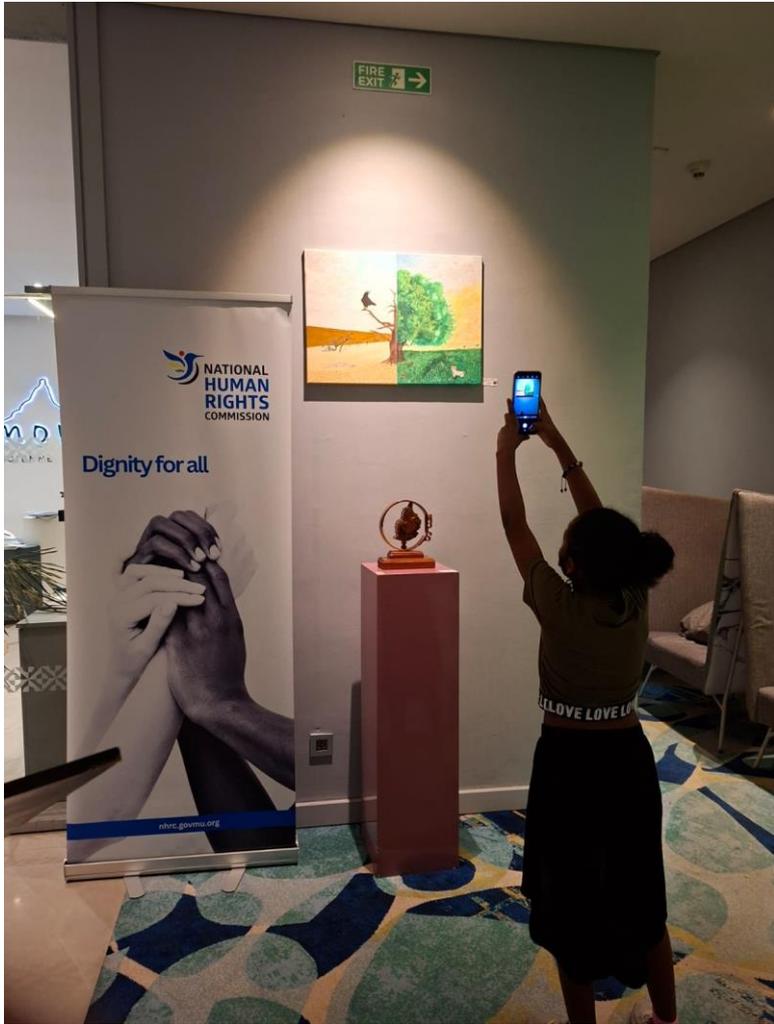
Dishali & Joshua 58039929/59873781



From left to right are: Mr V.Ramanjooloo (Member of NPMD), Mrs M.Nagen (Deputy chairperson of HRD), Mr Jean- Marie Richard (Member of HRD), Mrs N. Abdullah Ahmed (Deputy chairperson NPMD), Mr R. Narsinghen (Junior minister of foreign affairs, regional integration and international trade), Mr S. Boolell (Chairman of national human rights commission), and Mr M. Vieillesse (Member of NPMD)



From left to right are Mr J.Ramjee (Intern at National Human Rights Commission), D.Ramdene (Intern at National human rights commission), L. Madelaine (From Gallery Imaaya), Mrs T. Prayag (Member of HRD), G.Mootosamy (Event Coordinator Hennessy Park hotel),



Daughter of a detainee



Mother of a detainee observing artworks (Mme Jeanine Paul)



Mme Jeanine Paul (Mother of a detainee and Mr Vieillesse)



