

PHOENIX SUN, NOVEMBER 18, 2010



A 150 years ago, on November 16, 1860, the SS Truro arrived on the shores of Natal with the first batch of Indian indentured labourers. In honour of their arrival on the anniversary of this day, the 1860 Legacy Foundation together with government officials, associated organisations and media, took part in a universal religious ceremony out on the rough waters of the Indian ocean aboard the Sari Marais, on Tuesday.

Celebrating 150 YEARS

... with Rebecca Govender



Phoenix residents, Victor Pillay and Luke Sundar stand next to a ship that represents the SS Truro.



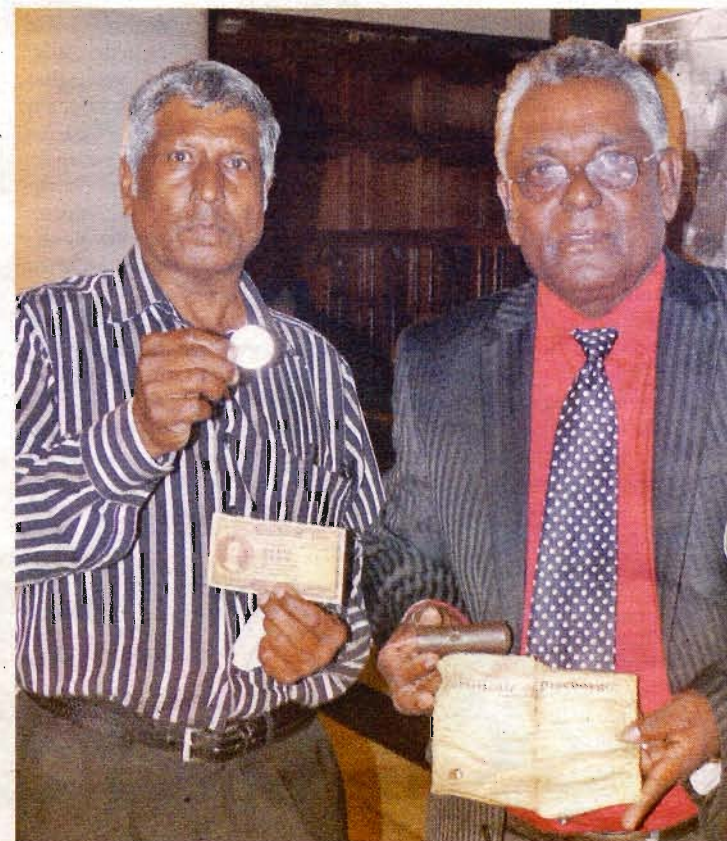
A youth performing a Bharata Natayam dance that acknowledges Lord Ganesha.



Pastor Joseph Obed with a Mahatma Gandhi impersonator standing next to the farming equipments such as a cane knife, sickle, hoe, harrow, hillside plough, scarifi, swivel plough, ridging plough and arnas that were used by the indentured labourers.

1860 interfaith celebrations held

'Remembering the past, celebrating the present and uniting for a brighter future' was the theme of the Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration marking the 150th anniversary of Indians in South Africa, hosted by 1860 Unity Forum. The celebrations that took place at the Durban City Hall on November 16 and was free to the public culminated with items performed by different religious groups, a display of memorabilia and artifacts and a powerpoint presentation 'Emerging through the canefields.'



Pastor Joseph Obed holds a discharge certificate that was issued to Veerama Naidoo in 1896 and Dan 'KP' Pillay holds a five shilling coin made in 1652.

Great 1860 carnival

The grand finale of the 1860 celebration will take place at the Chatsworth Stadium on Sunday, December 12, 2010 from 1pm. The event is billed to be the biggest event to take place in Chatsworth. The event will be organised by the MF and is regarded as a people's event. Leader of the Minority Front, Mr. A Rajbansi, said that the event would take the form of the former Milk Carnival. All political parties, sports bodies, cultural and religious organisations and entertainment groups are invited to participate and they can contact, Ismail Cassimjee at the Minority Front Office on 031 403-3360/70. The dress code for the event is the '1860' theme.



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4 DIRECTIONS

Phoenix Foundation Trust commemorates 1860 celebrations

Adding to the many achievements accomplished by the Indian community over the past 150 years in South Africa, the Phoenix Foundation Trust, a non profit organisation, made its contribution by commemorating the arrival of Indian indentured labourers to South Africa. Some of the events for 2010 included:

An orchestra comprising of about 50 multi-cultural artists launched the KZN Indian Orchestra on April 23, 2010 in Tongaat Town Hall. The concert was officially opened by Councillor Abrahams and Councillor Ronnie Veeran. Artists included Charmaine Deol, Sagren Naidoo, Jaya Govender and was conducted by two experienced musicians, Lyk Temmingh and Segai Kiston. The compere was Jared Dookie of Lotus FM. The KZN Indian Orchestra commenced with the National Anthem in



Pastor R Joseph, Mrs Muthan, Rev Dr Deena Muthan, Mr Segai Kiston, Mrs Rani Kiston, Kantha Govender, Guru Madhivanan Veerappen and Pastor Dennis Annepen.

both the South African and Indian language followed by songs in Hindi and Tamil.

The Phoenix Foundation Trust launched a successful programme to enhance the Tamil language in

South Africa on October 17, 2010 with Rev Dr Deena Muthan and Guru Madhivanan Veerappen. The death anniversary of India's poet Laureate - Kaviarasu Kannadhasan was also commemorated. Artists such as Lenny

Gengan, Kantha Govender and Kalay Naicker and Krish Pillay performed songs by the legendary composer. Dances were performed by the talented Kumari Yaresha Reddy. Audiences had the opportunity of receiv-

ing free CDs and Tamil literature. The presentation of the Tamil programme called 'Tamil - Music Driven' is available by calling 031 500-2391. Information can also be attained on the website, phoenixfoundationtrust.org.za



Minority Front leader, Mr A Rajbansi, Mrs ST Rajbansi (MPP), the MF team and friends were at the Addington Beach to perform a Ganga Pooja (Beach Prayer) in commemoration of their forefathers who left their families and came to South Africa for greener pastures 150 years ago. The Minority Front performed inter-faith prayers at the beach, the Hindu Prayer by Cllr Anandan Naidoo, the Christian Prayer by Dr David Reddy and the Muslim Prayer by Moulana Ismail Cassimjee. Mr Rajbansi said, "Indians must stand united and demand to be treated as equal citizens because our forefathers toiled the soil for us."

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