

PRESS RELEASE

23rd of August 2021



A date, a symbol, a vision and a monument

“On August 23rd, we honour the memory of the men and women who, in Saint- Domingue in 1791, revolted and paved the way for the end of slavery and dehumanization. We honour their memory and that of all the other victims of the slave trade and slavery, for whom they stand. Once and for all, it is time to abolish human exploitation and to recognize the equal and unconditional dignity of each and every individual on Earth. Today, let us remember the victims and freedom fighters of the past so that they may inspire future generations to build just societies.”

Audrey Azoulay

UNESCO Director General

A date

In 1997 UNESCO established the 23rd of August as the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition.

This International Day is intended to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples and should offer an opportunity for collective consideration of the historic causes, the methods and the consequences of this tragedy, as much as for an analysis of the interactions to which it has given rise between Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean; confronting realistically the innate social dynamics and discrepancies.



Photo courtesy of Unesco

A symbol

Le Morne Cultural Landscape, a rugged mountain that juts into the Indian Ocean in the southwest of Mauritius was used as a shelter by runaway slaves, maroons, through the 18th and early years of the 19th centuries. Protected by the mountain's isolated, wooded and almost inaccessible cliffs, the escaped slaves formed small settlements in the caves and on the summit of Le Morne. The oral traditions associated with the maroons have made Le Morne a symbol of the slaves' fight for freedom, their suffering, and their

sacrifice, all of which have relevance to the countries from which the slaves came - the African mainland, Madagascar, India, and South-east Asia. Indeed, Mauritius, an important stopover in the eastern slave trade, also came to be known as the "Maroon republic" because of the large number of escaped slaves who lived on Le Morne Mountain. Le Morne Cultural Landscape was registered as a World Heritage by UNESCO in 2008.



A vision

Through diverse forms over the years, in line with a strong drive to involve local communities, nurture a human as social collaborative process and drive progressive sustainable economic development, ADM Action Développement Le Morne has honored the date of the 23rd of August; Outdoor Sports, Performing Arts, Culinary Folklore, Craft and Human Culture have been celebrated with togetherness at heart as partners, stakeholders and networks supported operationally.

This year, as we transition to a new era, the world feels somewhat different. To take the time to observe, research, develop with careful intent, in harmony with humans and nature, now prevail more than ever.

There is a shared vision for Mauritius among idealists and ADM Action Développement Le Morne will participate in the growth of real dreams. This year is a fresh and fertile ground to seed.



A monument

Le Morne

Leritaz nou anset Nou oule, nou pa oule Touletan pou ena valer sa	Our ancestral heritage May we wish so or not Will always be valuable
Pran nou ravann Si sega zoli zordi Se parski nou pann les li tonbe	Grab our Ravann If Segá is such a beauty today It is for we never let it down
Parey kouma Le Morne Zordi tann dir li menase Somey gran dimoun Ki ti ape repoze laba	Just like Le Morne We hear about it being subject to threats Which can affect the slumber of our elders Whose souls rest there
Larivier disan pe fer tourbiyon Dan mo lespri Pe fer mwa rapel	A river of blood whirls Within my spirit Reminds me
Komie ena ti monte Lao Le Morne laba Prefere zete Akoz kontan liberte Fode pa nou bliye Napa finn zete pou naryin Listwar ena valer Me li la pou fer reflesi	How many climbed The height of Le Morne Chose to jump off Because they love freedom We must never forget No loss was vain History has meaning And is there for us to reflect on
Twa desandan esklav To bizin napa onte To bizin afirm to lidantite	You, descendant of slave You must not be ashamed You must be proud of your identity
Pran kont to pase Napa les li pietine Koumsa mem to pou kone ki to ete	Be wary of your past Do not let it be slandered Then you will know who you are
Parey kouma Le Morne Sekinn ekrir pann efase Nou lapo ena soley	Just like Le Morne What was written cannot be forgotten Our skin has the sun
Ki ti ne dan Lafrik laba Nou ti sot lamer Ti ena tourbiyon Mo memwar vivan Pe fer mwa rapel	Born there in Africa We crossed the sea There were whirlpools My memory is alive Has me remember
Komie ena ti monte Lao Le Morne laba Prefere zete Akoz kontan liberte Fode pa nou bliye Napa finn zete pou naryin Listwar ena valer Me li la pou fer reflesi	How many climbed The height of Le Morne Chose to jump off Because they love freedom We must never forget No loss was vain History has meaning And is there for us to reflect on

2001

"A brief history of this text.

In 2001, the Le Morne Segha by Cassiya was released and voted song of the year on Mauritian radio.

The text was born at a time where there was a great public debate, mostly through the press, between two historians; one argued that no runaway slaves ever sought shelter and lived on Le Morne mountain, while the other stood for what was common knowledge and sensible logic.

Meanwhile, one day, Gérard Louis brought a melody to me, asking me to come up with lyrics for it. Naturally, the Le Morne text fitted the music."

Sedley Richard Assonne.

New Version of Le Morne, the song, released for Free to celebrate its 20th Anniversary



Le Morne resonates across time in a renewed form. The legendary song from our Mauritian folklore was revisited by a crew from a modern wave with the blessings of its original creators and is being released for free on Facebook, YouTube, SoundCloud and radio on this very 23rd of August 2021.

The release aims at highlighting a specific geography of the island, a world heritage of a landscape, a monument of a song, while participating in a progressive reconciliation process with the societal heritage the auspicious International Day for the the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition addresses.

Credits - Le Morne (2021)

First Lead Vocalist: Justice Lecoq*

Second Lead Vocalist, Backing Vocals & Percussions Ensemble: Ravann Koze**

Text: Sedley Assonne

Composition, original arrangement & edition: Gérard Louis

Music Direction: Jason Heerah

Production, Recording & Mastering: JH Records

*Justice Lecoq & Ravann Koze perform as a courtesy of JH Records

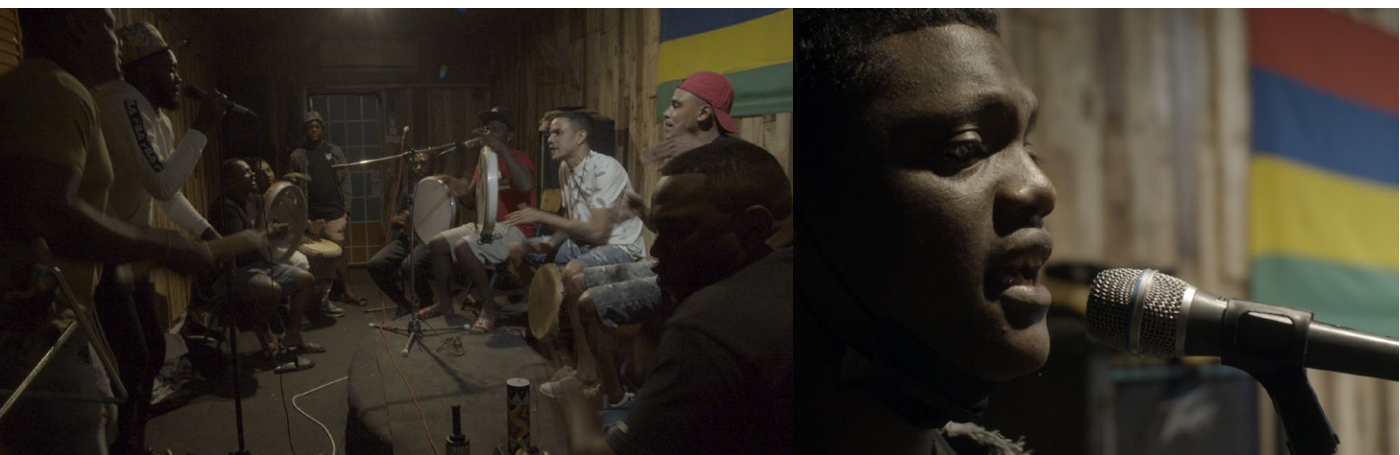
**Ravann Koze are Rolando Froid, Hugo Joly, Steve Lagaieté, Deurvine Peronet, Ansley Michel, Jason Joakim, Lendy Carver, Melvin Rambojun.

Cover Art & Design: Newraj G.

Le Morne photograph is a courtesy of Raoul Rampare

Head of Production: Gavin Poonoosamy

Project Director: Agathe Desvaux



23rd of August Project Partners



LE PETIT MORNE



Media Partners



Producer



An initiative of Action Développement Le Morne for Vision Le Morne

