

MAURITIUS' FIRST-EVER YOUTH NEWSPAPER, BY AND ABOUT THE YOUTH

INSIGHT

21 March 2021

To, Whom It May Concern

Recommendation Letter for Mr Jawahar Lall Athal

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been informed about the application of Mr Jawahar Lall Athal for the *Research Scholarship*. I feel really proud to write this recommendation letter for him since I've known him since the last 12+ years. I have known him both as a friend and as well as my Director of Publications at INSIGHT.

We were a group of Royal College Port Louis students in 2007, and under the leadership of Mr Jawahar Lall Athal, we founded INSIGHT. It was actually his vision. He strongly felt that a medium of expression for young people had, for long, been lacking in Mauritius. The Paradise Island of the Indian Ocean should have, he believed, a vessel through which its youth community could exercise their Freedom of Speech. One cannot deny the freedom of expression, which is enshrined in our Constitution, the latter being the supreme law of the land. When the Universal Declarations of Human Rights provides for such rights, why not then provide a platform to the Mauritian youngsters to benefit from such rights?

Mr Athal strongly believed that young people should be aware of the right to freedom of expression. When he embarked on this journey called 'INSIGHT', he had in mind a platform where the Mauritian youth could all come and share their opinions and views in a peaceful and civilised approach, as a result to have an outstanding and admirable sharing of beliefs and dogmas. His mission was, by no means, been an easy one. Probably, besides directorial tribulations, one of the hardest tasks for him was to build up a talented pool of incoming young individuals, and turn them into a solid team. However, it was a huge success. He led from the front and inspired each and every team member to realise the vision.

INSIGHT is a cradle and an incubator. Its ambition is to assist in the creation and sustenance of a solid and cogent open voice. The open voice is now more important than it has ever been in this cyber island. Mr Athal, as the founder of such a laudable initiative, is a highly respected member of the society since he is bringing his brick to building this tower for the future of all of our countrymen. Beyond open

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INSIGHT is available, for free, in all tertiary institutions, 126 secondary schools and all youth centres in Mauritius.

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voice, INSIGHT also insists on the other criterion, that is solution which is often a product of conviction, consistency and of course a quest for excellence, bench marked by the Mauritian population. The publications of INSIGHT contain the fruits of the efforts of not only seasoned collaborators, but, perhaps more crucially, those of youth novices, hesitantly submitting a first poem or other piece of work. As such, the sponsoring partners in the second category are undoubtedly pleased to see their involvement being duly established; this persuade them to persevere in boosting up INSIGHT.

Today, INSIGHT's team consists of 18 young journalists. INSIGHT has indeed gained much momentum being the first youth newspaper to move from the cocoon of Mauritius to that of the international arena after getting recognised by various international organisations. It has won the Youth Excellence Award 2009 under the category of Youth Leadership and Community Work. Since this project is a premier in Mauritius, we have gained lots of recognition from eminent personalities of Mauritius and also from other great people around the world. It has made its entry in the National Youth Policy 2010-2014 too.

Benjamin Franklin, in one of his creative moments, wrote "*...either write something worth reading or do something worth writing about.*" By producing something worth reading through INSIGHT, Mr Athal is doing something worth writing about. It is an undeniable fact that he is bringing to fruition great national projects – cultural, literary, religious, sports. By being successful in so many undertakings, he is contributing to the enhancement of Mauritius. In our continent, we need leaders like Mr Athal to open all clogged doors for more exchanges, and also to the culture of widening the outlook of our young people; thus, contributing to African dreams.

Yours,



Pascal Alphonse
Chief Editor

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