

Seychelles

# NATION

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Exclusive interview with one of Canada's top modern day adventurers Markus Pukonen

## Six years around the world without using motorised transport

One of Canada's top modern day adventurers, Markus Pukonen has now walked, pogo-sticked, canoed, trimaranned, hand cycled, tricycled, kayaked, fat biked, rafted, skied, biked, rowed, sailed and danced his way 45,000 kilometres across the planet from Toronto, Canada to Seychelles.

Markus is targeting to travel over 80,000 kilometres in seven years in order to complete the circumnavigation where he started in Toronto.

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Markus skiing across British Columbia (Photo: Markus Pukonen)

July 23, 1961 Seychellois recruits leave for the British Army ...

## Gilbert Eliza remembers

On Friday July 23, last week, 78-year-old Gilbert Eliza was in the vicinity of the Mahe quay on his way to do some personal transactions at the Independence House and he remembered that 60 years ago to the day, he took the same road to board a vessel on his way to join the British Army.

Overtaken by memories of this memorable and exciting day, Mr Eliza did not hesitate to pop in at the Seychelles NATION office situated on Laurier Road to share his memories with us and the rest of Seychelles and possibly the world.

"I was so young, aged only 18 years old at that time and full of excitement and mixed feelings. I still recall my mother carrying my small suit case. This made me somewhat sad especially after boarding when I saw her standing on the quay together with relatives and family members of the other recruits waving me goodbye with her small scarf. This was the last time I was going to see her because she died two years later at the mere age of 43 years old," Mr Eliza recounted to Seychelles NATION.

Mr Eliza was among a group of 99 young men who boarded the R.M.S Kampala for Mombasa, Kenya that day and they would later take a train to Nairobi and subsequently a plane to London to join the British Army.

"A memorable and exciting part of my life. I can still recall it," added Mr Eliza.

He still vividly remembers the recruitment process which took place a month before in June at National House.

"It was really a moment of great excitement and high expectations for the group of 200 young Seychellois and for

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## Decommissioned PS Andromache sold for R320,000 at auction



Equipped with the latest navigational and mechanical technologies and machinery, PS Andromache was a state-of-the-art military vessel when it was acquired in 1982

After 37 years of service in the fleet of the Seychelles Coast Guard, patrol vessel Andromache was on Tuesday sold at an auction for a total sum of R320,000.

It was businessman Roy Dinan who made the highest bid, surpassing the only other bidder at the auction which took place at the Coast Guard base at Perséverance.

Mr Dinan, who is still not sure what to do with the 42m long and 7.7m wide aluminium and steel decommissioned vessel, said he is very satisfied with the price he paid and does not regret his decision to make the purchase.

According to local sworn auctioneer and appraiser Willis Prosper, he feels there were not enough bidders who could have stepped up the final bidding price of the vessel.

He, however, added that they had to go along with what was available.

It was in 1983 that the Republic of Seychelles took a major step forward in assuring its citizens' greater maritime security and protection of

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**TODAY'S INDICATIVE CURRENCY RATES**

	Notes		TT / Drafts	
	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	15.30	16.50	15.30	16.40
Euro	18.00	19.45	18.00	19.35
Pound Sterling	21.10	22.80	21.10	22.70

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