

“Turning Possibilities into Realities”

Building a Global Movement for Change [UNSG]: The Promise (part 23)



"Working Hard at Working Smart" (part XXXIV)

Our History: Understanding Legacy



Denise Antat
15 May 1931 - 19 September 2013

“Our days are numbered. One of the primary goals in our lives should be to prepare for our last day. The legacy we leave is not just in our possessions, but in the quality of our lives. What preparations should we be making now? The greatest waste in all of our earth, which cannot be recycled or reclaimed, is our waste of the time that God has given us each day.”

Billy Graham - American Christian Evangelist

The future we want: The Promise: The Force Beyond**Eulogy for Mrs. Denise Antat**

By Marc MRM Marengo

Delivered 21st September 2013, St Joseph Church, Anse Royale.

Dear All

We are gathered here today to pay final tribute the life and journey of one of our elders who has contributed a lot towards the betterment of the Seychellois society, as we know it today.

Denise Antat nee Denis, Madame Antat, better known as Tant Riri, one of a kind, was born on 15th of May 1931. Her mother and father Mr. and Mrs. Edward Denis, had seven children, all of whom have sadly already departed.

At the early age of three, Tant Riri lost her mother and was subsequently brought up by her grandmother Mrs. Eliza.

At the early age of 14 she started work as a house keeper for the late Mr. and Mrs. Henri Gonthier at their residence in Enfoncement, Anse Royale, known today as Jardin du Roi.

In view of her strong character and hard working abilities, she subsequently managed to secure a job as caretaker/housekeeper *for five British Governors at their beach front retreat at Grand Anse, Mahe*, a job which she diligently undertook until our Independence from Great Britain on 29th June 1976.

Indeed from 1958 to 1976, 18 years in total she served under:

Sir John Kingsmill Thorp, who sadly drowned at Grand Anse on 3rd August 1961, along with his newly appointed financial secretary, Mr. Maurice Boullé.

Julian Edward George Asquith, 2nd Earl Of Oxford And Asquith

Sir Hugh Norman – Walker

Sir Bruce Great Batch

Sir Colin Hamilton Allan

And there is no doubt that without her loyalty and dedication, such a feat of endurance would have been just impossible, and for that I consider her a true Seychellois diplomat.

After our Independence on 29th June 1976, amongst other duties she worked for Mr. Marcel Moulinie of the then Vines located at the Bel Air, Beau Vallon junction and her last job was back at Grand Anse working for Mr. Flavien Payette, as housekeeper at the then La Marie-Galante Restaurant located next to her residence.

Tant Riri who was married to the late Adolf Antat better known as Ti-boy is survived by their only daughter Alma, who now needs our full support was a sincere family friend. She was a very close friend of Man-ya, my late mother who also worked for Mr. Gonthier and through their close relationship, my brothers and sisters, the Marengo family and of course myself have a great affection and admiration for her endurance, tact, joie de vivre, est un bon vivant.

And all of us who have had the pleasure of knowing and interacting with her, know that she was just one of a kind, always jovial, always ready to help others, always on the go, and never short of a joke that would raise much laughter, no matter the company.

Above all, she had such a sound and sharp memory that was highly admired by all, an attribute that many of us today, including myself are envious of. And that highly respected inner strength clearly manifested itself strongly, after her cancer diagnosis in October 2012, until her final breath on Thursday 19th September, 2013.

Indeed during that period, regardless of her enduring pain, she kept her **spirits high, and through that bond of friendship existed between us**, I feel very much honoured to adhere to her request and to deliver this eulogy from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of her family, friends and acquaintances.

On this note, we would like to once again thank you Tant Riri from the bottom of our hearts, for your priceless contribution, towards the betterment of the Seychellois society during your 82 years of existence, for your hard work ethics, your good deeds and for that giving heart of yours, which is more and more difficult to come by these days and which has taught us the Art of Forgiveness. We love you Tant Riri, we will miss you and we will surely love you always.

May your soul rest in peace.

And we now thank you all for your support and flowers during this time of need.



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The journey continues...