



Mervyn Maciel cordially invites you to the launch of  
his new book

**From Mtoto to Mzee  
Story of my Life's Safari**

*Sunday, 27 July, 2014 at 1:30pm  
at the*

*Goan Festival, Cranford Community College*

*Book will be launched by*

*Ravi Vaz, President, Goan Association UK*

Maciel will be present and signing copies at stall no 44

Preview of book on following pages

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Older brother Joseph and Mervyn c. 1931

## Early Childhood

### *Extract from Chapter 1*

'I was born in Nairobi on 19 May 1929 when Kenya was a British colony. My parents, Mathias Assis Maciel and Josephine nee D'Sa, were no doubt delighted with the arrival of their second son, although I was to hear much later that my Mum wanted a girl.'



In Marsabit, c. 1950s.

## Move to Marsabit

### *Extract from Chapter 7*

In the absence of the D.C on safari, I had committed a known Somali crook to prison for stealing a bottle of gin from Victor Fernandes's house. The culprit was later charged and released on bail pending further investigations into his past. While temporarily free, he had planned to assassinate me and approached me while I was on my usual walk through the township one evening. He was fortunately restrained by the Somali Chief Yusuf Sugulle...



Extract of review by Selma Carvalho.

Mervyn Maciel and Mel D'Souza, London, 2014.

This summer, London will see the release of Mervyn Maciel's *From Mtoto to Mzee*, the Swahili loosely translated means from young boy to respected elder. Maciel is no stranger to the memoir genre, his earlier book, *Bwana Karani*, recalled his work experiences in East Africa as district clerk with the British Civil Service, and has over the years proved to be invaluable both to the general reader with an interest in the continent and to academic researchers. The new release is a collaborative effort between Maciel and the illustrator Mel d'Souza of Canada. Drawing on his own familiarity with the East African milieu, Mel who grew up in Tanzania, has edited and produced this slim volume of Maciel's writings. Although Maciel was born in Nairobi, Kenya in 1929, as a young lad, he schooled at the Jesuit-run St. Paul's High School in Belgaum, and would return to Kenya in his teens, following the untimely death of his father. There, he would spend many years until the Africanisation of his job, brought him to Britain.

Any writing on East Africa is of immense interest, for it is in East Africa, that the Goan first turned into an explorer and budding anthropologist with a curious interest in unfamiliar people. It comes as no surprise, that when that flamboyant British explorer Sir Richard Burton set out in 1857, with Captain Hanning Speke, to discover the source of the Nile in Africa, he had with him two Goan cooks, Valentino Rodrigues and Caetano Andrade, who proved to be extremely valuable and hardy. Not only did Valentino often assume a leadership role during the expedition having learnt in no time a smattering of Swahili, but he had also learnt to use the chronometer and thermometer.

*Full review will appear on Herald Review, 27 July, 2014.*



Mervyn Maciel's journey through life has been an extraordinary and chequered one starting with early childhood in Kenya and ending with his retirement, not in his native Goa as he had always hoped but, with that unpredictable stroke of destiny, in that green and pleasant land of England.

In this little book, he recounts in some detail the challenges he faced, the interesting people he met along the way, more particularly, those from the N.F.D. (Northern Frontier District) of Kenya who remain so close to his heart, and above all, his close-knit family who have always been there for him.

*Mzee* Mervyn is now in his 85th year, but he still has the spirit of a little *mtoto*.

From *Mtoto* to *Mzee*

by Mervyn Maciel



# From *Mtoto* to *Mzee*



Story of my Life's Safari

Mervyn Maciel