

No. 16 of 2003

RODRIGUES

FIRST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 16 of 2003

Sitting of Tuesday 11 November 2003

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Port Mathurin at 10.30.
a.m.

(Mr Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

Debate No. 16 of 11 November, 2003

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

“ROUTE DE L’AUTONOMIE” - ACCIDENT

(No. B/357) Miss M. L. Castel (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he could inform the House whether there had been any road accident on the “*Route de L’Autonomie*” at the curve known as “*Contour Ti Pio*” and, if yes -

- (a) could he state when it happened;
- (b) what was the cause of the accident; and
- (c) who would bear the cost of the repairs to the damaged vehicle and the guard rail bordering that curve.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed by Police that one accident occurred on “*La Route de L’autonomie*” at the curve known as “*Contour Ti Pio*” on 20 October 2003 at 07.20 in the morning.

According to a statement made by the driver of the vehicle to Police, he felt dizzy and lost the control of his vehicle, which then knocked against the guardrail. Police is still inquiring to determine the exact cause of the accident.

Since it is a private vehicle, the cost of repairs of the vehicle is on the account of the driver and his insurance company.

As regards the damaged road signs and guardrails, the contractor will have to replace the damaged road signs and guardrails at their own cost, as the handing over of the road has not yet been carried out. It is to be noted that payment for repairs is an insurance matter that has to be dealt with by the driver’s and Contractor’s respective insurances.

PISTACHES ROAD – INCIDENT 17/18 OCTOBER

(No. B/358) Mr L. P. François (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, following the incident which happened on the road at Pistaches on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 October 2003, he could inform the House -

- (a) whether there had been any arrest by the Police; and
- (b) what measures he was taking/he intended to take to prevent a recurrence of such a situation.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed by Police that no arrest was made following the incident, which occurred during the night of 17 and 18 October 2003 along the road at Pistaches.

I am further informed by Police that regular patrol is being maintained day and night to prevent recurrence of such a situation.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner to inform the House about the nature of the incident he is talking about.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, from the information received from the Police, there has been a manifestation on the road. There has been damage to public property, but the Police is still inquiring into the matter.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can we know what damage has been caused to public property, and by whom?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have already replied to the question. This is the only information obtained from the Police.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House how the situation now stands concerning the state of the road which has caused such manifestation?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, reparation of the road has begun by the Public Infrastructure Commission and we hope that the repairs will be finalised by the end of November.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we all know that the incident has been caused due to the bad state of the road. We can see that the road is being repaired now, which means that the Commission has a responsibility in the matter. For the incident to occur, the Commission has not done its work correctly. I would like to ask the Commissioner whether he has some responsibility in the matter or not.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the question has already been replied. The construction is ongoing and will be finalised by the end of November. The Commission has no role to play in the bad state of the road. Normally when a road is in bad state, it is our own responsibility to have it repaired.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House whether he has got any correspondence in writing from the inhabitants of the villages through which the road crosses and whether there has been any meeting, and if so, what has been the outcome thereof?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I replied to that question at the last sitting

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we would like to have an answer.

Mr Chairperson: The Deputy Chief Commissioner has answered the question.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have a new sitting with a new question. If we are examining a question now, it is up to the Deputy Chief Commissioner to answer even though he had given some information at a previous sitting. The Deputy Chief Commissioner is paid to give information; so we expect him to do so instead of referring to what has been said in the past or what is going to be said in the future. We are at question time and we expect answers now. He should not refer to past answers.

(Interruptions)

As I stated at adjournment time last time, members of the public blocked the road, necessitating the intervention of the Police. Following that action, the Deputy Chief Commissioner did the necessary for the repair of the road, which was really in a very bad state. I would congratulate those persons ...

Mr Chairperson: The Minority Leader should bear in mind that it is question time.

Mr J. Roussety: Of course, Sir. I would like to congratulate these persons. I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he will wait for taxpayers, electors of Local Region No. 1 - we know that some people have some very bad experience there - to come down and block the streets for the Commission to react or whether he would implement proper maintenance schemes for the reparation of roads in Rodrigues in general.

Mr Chairperson: The first limb of your question is a question of hypothetical nature and is not permissible. The second limb of the question is allowed.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as I have said, the answer has already been given and there is no other alternative than to have the road repaired.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, during the course of the reparation of the road - I have witnessed it everyday - while part of the road is being repaired, the other part is being used by vehicles and buses. This part of the road, which is being used everyday, needs constant monitoring so as to allow a better flow of the traffic. The fact that there is a waterfall nearby, this can cause serious inconvenience. Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner look into it so that this part of the road is monitored daily by both the Police and the engineers of his Commission?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, road construction and road repairs are undertaken everywhere in Rodrigues. As the respected Member has said, I will look into the matter.

POST KALUNDE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME – BUILDING MATERIALS - DELIVERY

(No. B/359) Mr L. P. François (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, as regards some houses partly damaged by cyclone Kalundé, he could state when building materials will be delivered to those concerned.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that all materials purchased for the reconstruction of partly damaged houses in connection with Post Kalunde Rehabilitation Programme have arrived in Rodrigues. The materials are presently being verified and taken on charge by officers of my Commission.

As soon as the inventory exercise will be completed, the materials will be delivered to all those beneficiaries that have been identified following the survey carried out by officers of my Commission.

Mr François: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he can see to it that the matter is considered as urgent. As we are in the cyclonic period, the threat of another Kalundé is in the mind of the population, especially those who deserve these materials for repairs.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we are doing our best so that the beneficiaries may obtain these materials as soon as possible.

Mr J. Roussety: Can we know, Mr Chairperson, Sir, what type of materials have been received?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: This includes iron sheets, timber and nails.

Mr J. Roussety: Can I ask him whether the materials will be donated and the construction will be in the charge of the beneficiaries or will they obtain some assistance for construction of the houses? Secondly, Mr Chairperson, is it right to offer iron sheets and timber – I don't know

whether this timber has been imported – to people who afterwards will suffer from cyclonic damage again?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, funds were made available under the Chief Commissioner's Relief Fund and only materials will be given to beneficiaries. They will have to look for their own labour to have their houses repaired.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner how the delivery will be carried out. Will it be done by Government lorries or by private ones?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, at the Commission's level, we are studying the mode of delivery, we hope to do it on a regional basis.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, in a previous answer given on victims of cyclone Kalundé, the Deputy Chief Commissioner did say that the victims would be looked after by the Trust Fund for Vulnerable Groups. But now he says that his Commission carried the survey and is going to cater for the costs of all these. I wonder which is which! Could the Deputy Chief Commissioner give a clear information concerning that state of things?

Mr Chairperson: Well, this question is not strictly connected to the main one unless the Deputy Chief Commissioner would wish to answer the question.

Mr J. Roussety: Being given, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the high sensibility of the distribution of materials - we all have in mind the experience of Trust Fund, etc, whereby sometimes materials have been delivered on political ground

Mr Chairperson: No controversial matters, please. Put your question.

Mr J. Roussety: Can I ask the respectful Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he would consider the possibility of setting up a Joint Parliamentary Committee of the Regional Assembly to see to it that such donations are carried in transparency for the greatest benefit of all Kalunde victims? *Est-ce qu'il va considérer la possibilité de mettre en place* - this is a proposal; the

modalities can be discussed afterwards – *un comité joint des deux côtés de la chambre pour vérifier, pour superviser, pas pour vérifier en détail, pour aider, pour guider? La souffrance concerne tout le monde et il ne faudrait pas qu'il y ait du parti pris.*

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, we already have an official list of beneficiaries. We have no lesson to receive from the other side regarding the distribution of materials to beneficiaries.

(Interruptions)

We are the Government here. We don't want to work together with the Opposition concerning distribution of materials because many times they have been invited to attend meetings and they did not turn up. When distribution of materials is to be done, they want a Joint Committee of the House. No Joint Committee will be set and only the Public Infrastructure Commission with the Executive Council will be responsible for the distribution of materials made available under the Chief Commissioner's Relief fund to all beneficiaries. It is a decision of the Executive Council and we want to help these beneficiaries.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Order, please!

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner has been talking about a list of beneficiaries. Can I ask him to table the list of all the beneficiaries?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I will look into the matter.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Order, please! Next question.

CITRON DONIS FOOTBALL PITCH - UPGRADING

(No. B/360): Mr J. Pierre Louis (The Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, as regards Citron

Donis Football pitch which was being used by all the football teams of the surrounding villages including Citron Donis College and Don Bosco R.C.A., he would state -

- (a) whether he intended to upgrade same, and
- (b) whether another football pitch could be made available in that region, to give a boost to sports there.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson Sir, with your permission, I would like to answer this question -

- (a) my Commission is presently liaising with the Commission for Public Infrastructure for the design and cost estimates for the upgrading of the football ground. This includes levelling of ground and placing of fencing. Once the design and final cost estimates would have been worked out, a decision will be taken, and
- (b) presently, a training football ground is being rehabilitated next to the Citron Donis Community Centre.

CYCLONE CELINE II HOUSES – STATE

(No. B/361): Mr J. C. Agathe (The Second Local Region Member for Marechal) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether with regard to the state of the houses built in the wake of cyclone Celine II, he could state -

- (a) whether a Committee had been set up to look into the matter with a view to remedial action,
- (b) how many times it had met, and
- (c) the decisions if any, taken by the Committee in respect of visible cracks in the walls, disposal of human waste and possible relocation of occupants.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the state of the houses built in the wake of cyclone Céline II, I have to inform the House that a survey has been carried out by the Technical Committee of my Commission and a list of houses with visible cracks have been identified. Those houses were constructed more than 25 years ago. Moreover, my Commission is looking at the possibility of giving priority to those persons for the acquisition of low cost houses that are presently being built at several places in Rodrigues. Thereafter, upon vacation of the existing houses, new low cost houses will be built to replace all houses with visible cracks. A proper land planning of those areas will be carried out and will include the planning of all infrastructure such as sewage disposal, electricity, drainage and so on.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I refer to part (a). I have not had an answer thereto.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: As I have said, Mr Chairperson, Sir, there has been a technical Committee whose mandate has been to visit these houses.

Mr Agathe: I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner how many times the Committee has met?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, there has not been a Committee to discuss about the nature of the houses, but there has been a Technical Committee set up to visit the houses and to give a report on their nature. The number of times that they have met is the number of times they visited these houses.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards the very low cost houses which are being built, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner say whether priority will be given to those people concerned whose houses have cracks? Secondly, he said that next time other houses will be built to replace those which have cracks. For how long will this decision be implemented?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this decision will be implemented as soon as all the low cost houses have been constructed.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner said that there was a Technical Committee, can we know who are the members of the Technical Committee?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Technical Committee of the Commission comprises officers of the Commission such as Technical Officers, Technical Assistant and masons from my Commission who visited these houses.

Mr Agathe: Can we know their names?

Mr Chairperson: This question has been answered. You want it to be repeated?

Mr Agathe: I want to have the names of the officers working on the Technical Committee.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, about the survey that we have on these houses, the Technical Committee was set up before the setting up of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and it is unparliamentary to give the names of the members of the Technical Committee.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I refer to the question I asked- Question No. B/281. He said that there will be a Committee and now he says that there was a committee before. Therefore, he is misleading the House.

Mr Chairperson: Your question, please.

Mr Emilien: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner has talked about a survey which was carried out and he mentioned that cracks have been identified in these houses. Would the Deputy Chief Commissioner say when this survey was carried out and as from when these cracks were discovered?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The survey was done in the period of 12 to 23 November 2001.

Mr Emilien: I wish to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner if this is what he calls very soon. Such a long time....

Mr Chairperson: No comment, please.

Mr Emilien: Is it normal for his Commission to take so long to repair these houses after cracks have been discovered?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as I have said a survey was made from 12 to 23 November 2001 and my Commission was set up on 12 October 2002. As regards the other question, that is, B/281, it was on the regularisation of the leases of these occupants. They are two different questions. This one deals with a technical matter concerning the state of the houses. The other question was on land issue.

HOUSING PROJECTS – APPLICATIONS – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

(No. B/362): Mr J. C. Agathe (The Second Local Region Member for Marechal) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he could,

- (a) table a list of applications which have been received under the Housing Project by his Commission to date for financial assistance,
 - (i) for the casting of roof slabs,
 - (ii) for the replacement of defective concrete slabs,
 - (iii) for the laying of the first three rows of bricks,
- (b) state how many of these applications had been formally considered and payments effected,
- (c) how many had been turned down and why, and
- (d) what measures his Commission was taking to prevent long delays.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, presently there are two schemes under the housing project namely the grant for -

- Casting of roof slab, and
- Purchase of building materials.

According to records available at my commission, 1314 applications for the casting of slab scheme and 217 applications for the purchase of materials have been received as at 31 October 2003.

As regards the casting of slab scheme, 1034 applications have been considered and 792 applicants have received their payments. 127 cases have been sent to Mauritius for payment and 115 cases are being technically evaluated. 251 cases have been kept aside as the applicants have not yet submitted their lease and/or building permits. 29 cases have been rejected, as the applicant does not fulfill the eligibility criteria.

As regards the scheme for purchase of materials, 94 cases have been approved to date. Out of the 94 approved cases, 63 applicants have been paid to date; 11 cases have been sent to Mauritius for processing of payment; 3 applications are being technically evaluated and 17 cases have been approved and are awaiting the applicants to complete block laying up to 1.0 m above plinth level before disbursement of payment. 123 cases have been set aside due to non-submission of either building permit or land lease.

I am pleased to inform the House that the procedures for site visit and measurement has been accelerated. Moreover, the State Land Committee has been requested to consider as a priority all cases of applicants requesting for a land lease and who have also applied for financial assistance under the housing project.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, there are some applications which have not been approved because of a problem of lease approval. Can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner what his Commission is doing to expedite matters?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The cases of these applicants are being processed and will be sent to the State Land Committee as a priority as I mentioned in the answer.

LA FERME HEALTH CENTRE - MAJOR WORKS

(No.B/363): Mr J. C. Agathe (The Second Local Region Member for Marechal) asked the Commissioner for Health whether, with regard to La Ferme Health Centre, he would state -

- what major works had been carried out in the flooring, and
- whether he was satisfied with the sanitary conditions prevailing at the Health Centre including the flooring in some wards; and, if not, what remedial measures he contemplated.

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson Sir, with respect to part (a) of the question, the major works carried out in the flooring include replacement of all the vinyl tiles and fixation of ceramic tiles in all the rooms including the kitchen and the toilets.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b) of the question, there is no reason why I should not be satisfied with the sanitary conditions prevailing at the Health Centre.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Do you want an answer (addressing Mr. C. Agathe)? If you do, you have to remain silent.

Mr Sooprayen: All the rooms, water tanks, toilets and the yards are regularly cleaned. The hospital servants are responsible for the cleanliness of the wards while the gang men and the general workers clean the premises of the Centre. I am, however, quite well aware that the Area Health Centre was constructed long back and the drainage and piping systems are old and the toilets are sometimes blocked. The blocking of the toilet is mainly attributed to disposal of objects such as cigarettes, papers and plastics by in-patients. We deal with such situation by -

- (a) regularly removing such objects from the sink, the water tank and the WC pan ;
- (b) pumping of sewage waste from the septic tank, and
- (c) removal of objects by pressure machine.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I refer to part (a) the flooring - has there been a request for quotation, therefor?

Mr Sooprayen: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, quotations have been launched.

Mr Agathe: Would the Commissioner say who obtained the contract for the flooring?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I think this is another question.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I want to ask the Commissioner whether it is fair to leave the sick people in a stinking place.

Mr Chairperson: This question is not allowed.

Mr Agathe: It refers to sanitary conditions.

Mr Chairperson: You may re-phrase if you wish.

Mr J. Roussety: Can we know what is a stink place? Can we know what you understand?

Mr Chairperson: You are questioning my ruling now.

Mr J. Roussety: It is not a ruling, Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is an interpretation.

Mr Chairperson: I am informing you this is my ruling, the question is not allowed. Are you arguing with me?

Mr J. Roussety: Yes, of course, because you are interpreting the question as you wish.

Mr Chairperson: You can't do so. Take you seat.

Mr J. Roussety: You understand something that the member does not mean.

Mr Chairperson: Take your seat, please!

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS – 1ST DIVISION LEAGUE - PRIZE AWARDED

(No. B/364) Mr J. C. Agathe (Second Local Region Member for Marechal) asked the Commissioner for Sports whether, with regard to the football tournaments held in Rodrigues, he would state the prize to be awarded to the winner of the 1st Division league.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Rodrigues Regional Football Committee has requested the following prizes from the Commission to the winner of the 1st Division League -

- (a) 1 cup;
- (b) 2 foot balls;
- (c) 1 set of shorts and T-shirts, and
- (d) 1 set of tracksuit.

The winner will also have the possibility to participate in the MFA Cup to be held next year in Mauritius with all expenses paid.

Mr Agathe: Will the winner fly overseas?

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, that was only a conditional decision taken by the Rodrigues Regional Football Committee together with all the representatives of the different clubs.

Mr Agathe: Is it possible that the team to proceed overseas?

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this matter is under consideration at my Commission.

SHRIMP NET FISHING

(No. B/365) Mr F. A. Grandcourt (First Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Chief Commissioner whether he could –

- (a) make a brief statement on the situation of shrimp net fishing in Rodrigues;
- (b) state the number of fishermen possessing a shrimp net fishing permit, and

- (c) table the list of new applicants awaiting a permit including their dates of application.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (a) According to the Fisheries and Marine Reserve Act 1998, fifteen shrimps net permits can be granted for operation in the lagoon of Rodrigues. Holders of shrimp net licences are authorised to possess and use a shrimp net in the form of a bag not exceeding two square meters. Every Monday, the licencees have to call at the nearest fisheries post to insert an entry stating the exact place they will operate for the coming days. Shrimps net permits were granted upon the approval of the former Island Secretaries to professional fishermen who made an application and were recommended by the Senior Fisheries Protection Officer. I am informed that since January 2001, no new shrimp net licence has been granted. Since the coming into operation of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, we are aiming at a sustainable use of natural resources. In this context, a Coordinating Committee on Fisheries and Marine Resources has been set up to ensure constant consultation with all stakeholders. The aforesaid Committee has not yet examined the issue of new shrimp net licence.

With regard to part (b), there are eleven fishermen who hold shrimp net licences and are operating regularly.

As for part (c), Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling a list of fishermen who have applied for a shrimp net licence.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether there has been a survey on the production capacity of shrimps in Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: There has not been any survey on the shrimp net fishing in the lagoon.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, being given that our marine resources have to be fully exploited, would the Chief Commissioner not agree that it is high time - to give maximum employment to our people – that such a survey be carried out? Actually, we are importing shrimps from abroad; and we know the very low costs of these products on our local

market. If we can increase our production, this will reduce imports and create more employment to our people. Will he go in that direction?

The Chief Commissioner: I understand the question of the respected Member. I said that we have a Fisheries and Marine Resources Committee which is examining all problems concerning the lagoon and offshore fishing and so on. We have discussed many issues but not yet this one. When we will come to this issue, we will take a decision as to whether we are going to have a survey of the shrimps in the lagoon and to give more shrimp net licences. And this question is going to be taken in this co-ordinating committee on fisheries and marine resources.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether the permits possessed by the fishermen are individual or collective?

The Chief Commissioner: This is something I could not understand when I looked at the list of shrimp net permit holders. I have noticed that nine individuals and three net co-operative societies. I think this was done a long time ago; and according to the co-operative societies legislation they must have a minimum of seven members. We shall find out whether these have been registered at the Ministry of Co-operatives in Mauritius. It would be legal to take a decision in the light of our findings.

Mr Grandcourt: Can the Chief Commissioner consider the possibility of granting the permits to co-operative societies? Because there are many fishermen who rely on shrimp net fishing to earn their living.

The Chief Commissioner: This issue will be examined closely, because the problem is that sometimes you have ten permits and you will see at sea about twenty “*la lampe*” and we’ll ask ourselves whether really there is “*une lampe pour une société ou parfois on voit vingt lampes pour dix permis*”. This is a question we are looking into. Do they use twenty lamps for ten permits or only one lamp for each society?

Mr Emilien: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we know that shrimps from the Malagasy Republic are all over the place in Rodrigues; there the production cost is lower and they are sold at a lower price than ours. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether he is contemplating to take some measures to safeguard the revenue of our shrimp fishermen in Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, tout d'abord il faut que nous ayons une étude sur la capacité de production des crevettes de mer dans le lagon. Pouvons nous aller au-delà de ce que nous faisons maintenant et ensuite faire une étude comme il a été suggéré? L'étude que nous préconisons nous aidera à formuler une politique de production. Nous savons qu'à Madagascar il y a des crevettes un peu partout. Nous revoyons la pêche de crevettes de fond. Il y a une équipe des Seychelles qui est venue pour voir un peu les nouvelles techniques de pêche et aussi la pêche de crevettes de fond. Nous sommes en train de revoir cela aussi. Nous avons des propositions d'une compagnie mauricienne pour l'envoi d'un bateau pour la pêche de crevettes de fond. Il y a, évidemment, toute une étude à faire avant de délivrer des permis. Nous ne sommes pas arrivés au niveau de ce comité de la pêche. Il y a une étude à faire avant de délivrer des permis.

Mr Grandcourt: Est-ce que je peux demander au chef commissaire, M. le président, s'il y a eu contact avec le centre de recherche d'Albion? Parce que nous savons qu'il y a de gros travaux qui ont été fait là-bas concernant les crevettes.

The Chief Commissioner: Nous allons demander au centre de recherches et de formation d'ici de prendre contact avec Albion afin d'avoir plus d'information.

BAIE DU NORD - WATER SUPPLY

(No. B/366): Mr F. A. Grandcourt (The First Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to water supply to the inhabitants of Baie du Nord, the Commissioner could make a statement thereon and explain, in particular, why many of the houses in that area had not been provided with any water prise yet.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the village of Baie du Nord is provided with water from a small intake structure situated at Fond Baie du Nord. The yield of the intake structure is inadequate to satisfy the demand of all inhabitants of the village. The existing water distribution network do not cover the whole village as

some families are located uphill at a higher altitude than the aforesaid intake structure.

The Water Unit will be extending shortly the pipe network from Manique and Mt. Du sable reservoirs to that area shortly as all pipes and fittings have just been received. Meanwhile, they are being provided with water by lorry water tanker.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am referring to question B/112 asked in April, that is, six months ago.

Mr Chairperson: If you wish to refer to any question, you need to cite the substance of the question.

Mr Grandcourt: Yes, I am coming with the question. The Deputy Chief Commissioner said six months back that a tender had...

Mr Chairperson: Please say what was the substance of the question, not the answer.

Mr Grandcourt: The question was about distribution of water at Baie du Nord, the measures to improve water distribution at Anse Nicolas. He said that at the end of the week a tender would be launched for the supply of pipes and fittings. Up to now no work has been done. Can I ask him to explain what has happened?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order. Could the respected member withdraw the word "*menteur*"?

Mr Chairperson: I have not heard the member say so? Which member you mean?

The Chief Commissioner: The respected member, Mr Agathe. He said "*li toujours cause menteur*".

Mr Chairperson: The attention of the Second Local Region No. 2 is drawn. If you have said what the Chief Commissioner has objected to, then you will need to withdraw.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order ...

Mr Chairperson: Please wait, what I have said is addressed to Mr Agathe. If you said what the Chief Commissioner has heard, then you will have to withdraw.

Mr Chairperson: I suspend the Assembly for 15 minutes.

At 11.20 a.m. the sitting was suspended

On resuming at 11.55 a.m. with Mr Chairperson in the chair

Mr Chairperson: Respected Members, there is before this House a point of order on which I need to give me my ruling. I have met both the Chief Commissioner, the Minority Leader and the Second Local Region Member for Marechal in my Chamber. We have discussed the problem to identity the voice of any member on cassette as it appears that at the material time there were many members speaking from a sitting position. I understand that the Chief Commissioner has kindly agreed not to insist on the point of order he raised. However, I wish to remind the members that intervening from a sitting position both is unparliamentary. I will not tolerate such a position in the future. I repeat intervening from a sitting position is unparliamentary and in disregard of the Chair and the Assembly. We now proceed with questions.

Mr J. Roussety: I referred to Question B/112 asked in April. The

Mr Chairperson: Before proceeding may I interrupt you. This is question time, you need to put a question and not make a speech.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner what has happened regarding the issue of providing water prizes to inhabitants of Baie du Nord since he declared in the House on 15

April 2003, I quote with your permission: “the tender for the purchase of pipes and fittings has already been launched in newspapers and the contract will be awarded at the end of next week. Upon receipt of the pipes and fittings, the network will be laid as a matter of priority.” This was on the 15 April 2003 in his answer to question B/112. I would like to ask ...

Mr Chairperson: Please wait; can you take your seat, please? I refer to Standing Order 19 subsection 2(b): Content of Questions - No question shall refer to any debate that has occurred or to any answer that has been given within the last year.” So, I have relaxed this rule for some time but it is time now to request you to fully adhere to this provision.

Mr J. Roussety: Can I ask him whether the tender has been launched?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the tender has already been launched and we have already received the pipes in Rodrigues. But when a tender is launched, it does not mean that on the opening thereof, we may on the same day buy the pipes; there are some procedural steps that have to be respected, starting with the award through manufacture and ending with the delivery period. Now that the pipes are available in Rodrigues, the Water Steering Committee of my Commission has established a programme based on an order of priority for extension of the new network. The village of Baie du Nord is on this priority list.

Mr J. Roussety: Can I ask, Mr Chairperson, Sir, when will these pipes be installed and when water will be delivered through pipes to these inhabitants? When is he going to finalise his tender, move on with all his committees and see to it that people can get water? This has been going on for six months and this is not tolerable!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, all problems that concern the procurement of materials, commissioning of materials should be done with transparency and as the pipes are already available and as Baie du Nord is on the priority list for connecting to new networks of pipe. The people there will be connected in a very near future.

LIMON - WATER SUPPLY

(No. B/367) Mr G. Jabeemissar (The Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the **Deputy Chief Commissioner** whether with regard to domestic water supply in the village of limon, he could say –

- (a) how many families were not yet connected to the water network and the reasons therefor, and
- (b) what measures he intended to take to remedy same.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the village of Limon consists of about 16 families which are supplied with water from the following services –

- (1) Dam at Limon
- (2) Spring
- (3) Montagne du Sable reservoir.

Eight families have recently been connected to the water distribution network from Montagne du Sable Reservoir. Five families are being supplied with water from the network from the dam. The three families residing nearby the Spring have not been connected to the water network as they have not yet submitted any request.

Moreover, I have been given to understand that some 15 families living on the border of Grand La Fouche, Mangues/Limon are also without a water prise. A new network which is on the priority list is being designed for those families and they will be connected upon request after completion of the proposed network.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House of the time frame for the implementation of such decision?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have established a programme and before the end of the year, these two villages will be connected to the network.

LA FERME - INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX – ACTIVITIES

(No. B/368) Mr G. Jabeemissar (The Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner responsible, inter alia, for Industrial Development whether as regards the Industrial Estate at La Ferme he could –

- (a) give an account of the present status of the Industrial complex built by the Development Bank of Mauritius; and
- (b) inform the House of the types of activities it is intended for.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson Sir, the Industrial Complex of the DBM situated at La Ferme was completed on 03 July 2002. It comprises eight industrial units for SMEs and an administrative block provided with all basic infrastructure and services including security. As of today, six out of the eight units have been leased out.

The mini-industrial complex of La Ferme is intended for SMEs operating in Rodrigues.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner tell us what are the six which are being leased out intended for?

Mr Lisette: I am informed, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that the six units which have been leased out are being given for the following activities: mechanical workshop, agro-processing, packing of cosmetic products and carpentry.

Mr Emilien: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether any of these units is operational?

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, since this is the property of the Development Bank of Mauritius, I need notice of this question.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, would the Commissioner say what his Commission intends to do to boost up the maximum utilisation of this complex? Because it is a question of employment ...

Mr Chairperson: The Member should restrict himself to the question.

Mr Jabeemissar: If the Executive Council ...

Mr Chairperson: This is question time. The Members can make a statement later on.

Mr Jabeemissar: I shall reframe the question. How far is his Commission going to act as a facilitator so as to make the complex fully operational?

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the facilities are already there. If we have a look at the problem, I have said we have eight units, out of which six have been leased and two have not yet been leased. So, any person who wants to operate as a SME can apply to the DBM.

ANSE RAFFIN DAM - CONSTRUCTION

(No. B/369) The Miniority Leader (Mr J. Roussety) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards the contract for the construction of the Anse Raffin Dam, he would –

- (a) give a description of the initial cost estimates and the name of the person or consultancy firm who carried out the initial surveying study, their experience and for what amount;
- (b) state whether there had been an increase in the costs and, if yes, by what amount and by what percentage of the initial cost;
- (c) account for any increase in cost, and
- (d) inform the House about work progress and scheduled date of completion of the works.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with your permission, I shall answer the question. I am informed that with regard to the construction ...

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order, I don't know whether there has been a misprint on the Order Paper. On my Order paper, the question is addressed to the Chief Commissioner.

Mr Chairperson: What is the point of the Minority Leader?

Mr J. Roussety: My point is that it is not the Chief Commissioner who is answering.

Mr Chairperson: And so what? Is the Minority Leader insisting that the Chief Commissioner ...

Mr J. Roussety: I am not insisting, Mr Chairperson, Sir. I am saying that on my Order Paper which I received from the House ...

Mr Chairperson: On mine as well!

Mr J. Roussety: I don't know what is written on yours. But on mine and on my friends' Order Papers, the question is addressed to the Chief Commissioner. I don't know whether it is an error. Will you clarify it?

Mr Chairperson: Yes, it is a fact that the question is addressed to the Chief Commissioner. In one of my announcements, I remember that I said that the transfer of questions rests with Ministers in Mauritius and indeed the transfer of questions rests with Commissioners here. I may refer you to Standing Order 22(4) of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly. We don't have this provision in our Standing Orders which says that "decisions of the transfer of questions rest with Ministers". It is perfectly in order if, at the instance of the Commissioners, any Commissioner would like to answer the question.

Mr J. Roussety: At least, on the Order Paper, it could be written "question addressed to the Deputy Chief Commissioner" or we could have been informed of this matter.

Mr Chairperson: I agree with the Minority Leader that he may have a query.

(Interruptions)

But the Standing Orders say so. So, Members are all informed that they need to understand the Standing Orders. The Deputy Chief Commissioner may proceed.

(Interruptions)

I have given my ruling.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, are you saying that I do not understand the Standing Orders?

Mr Chairperson: This is not what I am saying.

Mr J. Roussety: This is what you are saying!

Mr Chairperson: Even if I said so, I maintain my ruling.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, you are saying that I don't understand my Standing Orders! You are showing disrespect to me.

Mr Chairperson: I was referring to all Members.

Mr J. Roussety: You said that I do not understanding the standing Orders.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson, Sir, a Member has said "*aller ta*". Can I ask him to withdraw these words?

Mr Chairperson: I have not heard it.

Mr J. Roussety: Of course, you will not hear!

Mr Chairperson: I was still looking at you.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: There is a point of order. I need to rule on that first. I said that the transfer of questions rests with Commissioners and whoever rises up in this House to object to that really means that he is

unaware of this provision. Does the Member want to make a point of order anew? The Deputy Chief Commissioner can proceed with his answer.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: With your permission Mr Chairperson, Sir, I shall answer question B/369.

I am informed that with regard to the construction of the new Anse Raffin Dam, the project was initiated by the Ministry of Local Government and Rodrigues prior to the establishment of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. The whole file was referred to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly on 05 November 2002 including the approval of the CTB for the award of the contract for the new Anse Raffin dam in Rodrigues. The initial estimated costs for the construction of the dam as worked out by the design consultant which was the Consulting Engineering Services of India Ltd, amount to Rs40 m. The award of the consultancy works for the design was entrusted to Consulting Engineering Services of India Ltd by the Water Resources Unit of the Ministry of Public Utilities for an amount of Rs158, 000. Consulting Engineering Services of India Ltd is an Indian-based engineering firm, which has been incorporated in 1969. On the handing over of the site, the supervising consultants Gibbs (Mtius) Ltd have noticed that there was a major deficiency in the topographical survey carried out by the Consultant which has resulted in an increase in quantities as follows -

- (i) increase in dam's length from 77 metres to 106 metres;
- (ii) excavation for approach channel to the spillway which was not accounted for in view of the erroneous topography;
- (iii) increase in quantities of items of works associated with increase in the length of the dam;
- (iv) inadequate provision for treatment plant and pipe works, and
- (v) associated increase in VAT.

The revised contract price amounting to Rs107,476,499 m. has been approved by the CTB compared to the initial contract price of Rs71,500,468. The progress so far is about 40%. The dam completion date scheduled initially at end of February 2004 has been revised to end of May 2004.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as a result of these high increases in cost, has there been any increase in the water intake capacity of the reservoir at its completion?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, there has been an increase in the water intake of the reservoir.

Mr J. Roussety: Can we know by how much?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I do not have the information. But I know there will be an increase in the capacity.

Mr J. Roussety: This is very subjective.

Mr Chairperson: You are not allowed to make any comments. Put your question, please.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Rs40 m. were paid to the initial Consultant who seemingly made an error in his estimates of costs. Then a new Consultant has to work on the project. Can we know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner what action he is going to take at the level of his Commission to see to it that the initial studies have been carried out correctly and, if not, whether the Consultants would pay back the monies which were paid to them?

Mr Chairperson: I am sorry I didn't get the Minority Leader. Is the question addressed to the Deputy Chief Commissioner?

Mr J. Roussety: It is the Deputy Chief Commissioner who was answering the question.

Mr Chairperson: I am asking you a question: to whom is the question being addressed?

Mr J. Roussety: The Deputy Chief Commissioner answered the question. I am addressing the question to him.

Mr Chairperson: Yes, the Deputy Chief Commissioner.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is obvious that the Consultant (CES) has made an error, otherwise the CTB would not have accepted the increase in price from Rs77 m. to Rs106 m.

Mr J. Roussety: Then, Mr Chairperson, Sir, if the Deputy Chief Commissioner admits there has been an error, it is a very big one, because the cost has nearly doubled. So, I understand that Rs40 m. for the study have been paid to CES and that the outcome is wrong. The recommendations were wrong. Government funds have been paid for wrong studies. Can I ask what he is going to do at the level of his Commission to see to it that Government money is refunded being given that the studies were wrong? Their recommendations are misleading until today.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I think the Minority Leader has not understood my answer. I have said that the initial estimated costs for the construction of the dam as worked out by the Consultant was Rs40 m. I did not say that Rs40 m. have been paid to CES.

JOLICOEUR, MR ASNEL - AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASE

(No. B/370) The Minority Leader (Mr J. Roussety) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards letter ref CO/00/6/204 dated 01 October 2003 issued to Mr Asnel Jolicoeur, a planter, requesting him, to vacate the agricultural land leased by him at Saint François, he would -

- (a) state for which hotel project, as specified in the letter issued to Mr Jolicoeur, that site was being expropriated, giving the name of the applicant, the date the application was made and the date it was approved, and a description of his/her experience together with the type of hotel project proposed;
- (b) whether government officials had met Mr Jolicoeur to discuss the matter in an “*esprit de dialogue*” or to find a compromise;
- (c) ascertain the appropriateness of taking legal action against planter Jolicoeur should he refuse to vacate the land, as threatened in the letter, being given that he has been paying agricultural land rent to government during all the time he had

been cultivating that land and that proof thereof could be laid on the table of the Assembly or produced in any court.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the answer is as follows -

- (a) The land which Mr Asnel Jolicoeur is illegally occupying at St Francois in fact formed part of a larger plot leased to Le Solitaire Village Hotel Ltd for hotel development. The application for the hotel project was made on the 30 June 1999.

On the 04 September 2002, the Minister of Housing and Lands has approved the grant of an industrial lease to Le Solitaire Hotel Ltd over an extent of 49215 m² at St Francois for the construction of a Rodriguan Village Hotel for a period of nineteen and a fraction years as from September 2002 to expire on 30 June 2021.

The project comprises a Rodriguan Village Hotel of 30 rooms which will expose the tourist to the Rodriguan culture and lifestyle. The promoter will set up a small farm where the villagers may be given the possibility of planting and rearing animals for sale to the hotel. One of the shareholders has wide experience in the tourism industry in Rodrigues for having been the manager of three hotels in Rodrigues.

On account of the illegal occupation of part of the site by Mr Asnel Jolicoeur, the lessee Company has not yet been able to start its project, although it has been issued with a letter of intent on 19 September 2002 and has since then paid a rental of Rs145,000 per annum and a cash deposit of Rs583,000 for the site. Consequently, the project is accumulating delay. Hence, the letter issued to Mr Asnel Joicoeur to quit and vacate the site.

- (b) Mr Chairperson, Sir, officers of my Commission have met Mr Jolicoeur on various occasions to request him amicably to vacate the site and the latter did in fact promise to do so on the understanding that he may be compensated by the promoter for crops standing on the land and that an alternative site may be granted to him. However, the compensation requested by Mr

Jolicoeur proved to be exorbitant and exaggerated and could not be entertained by the promoter.

- (c) Mr Asnel Jolicoeur has no right whatsoever over the plot he is presently illegally occupying and Government has never given to him any lease over the said land. In fact in 1962, Government leased to Mr Asnel Jolicoeur another plot of land of an extent of 9201 m² at St François against an annual rent of Rs 46 and 60 cents which he has stopped paying in June 2001 and as such the lease has come to an end.

The said plot of 9201 m² is located outside the limits of the hotel site and on the other side of the public road, whereas the site, which he is illegally occupying, is of an area of 6331 m² located close to the beach. These are two different sites, one formerly leased to Mr Asnel Jolicoeur for agricultural purposes and the one, which he is presently illegally occupying, and which he has been summoned to vacate. A contravention was established by the Forestry Services against Mr A. Jolicoeur on 28 May 2002 for having illegally destroyed 39 filao trees on the site he is illegally occupying. Mr Jolicoeur is being prosecuted for the offence and the case has been fixed for trial on 12 February 2004.

The action taken by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is, therefore, in order. His case has been dealt with great sympathy as he has been given a period of three months to harvest his standing crops before vacating the site.

Mr François: I should like to know from the Chief Commissioner the exorbitant sum of money that Mr Jolicoeur wanted to get from the promoter.

The Chief Commissioner: We have been told by the promoter that Mr Jolicoeur was asking for Rs1 m.

Mr J. Roussety: As regards the applicant, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Solitaire Village Hotel, can we know who is the signatory director who made the application and who is their representative towards the Chief Commissioner?

The Chief Commissioner: The stakeholders are Messrs Sydney Carré, Jean Rex Roussety, Chu Tive Chin Chu, Atock Chin Chu.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am aware that Mr Jolicoeur paid a rent for the land they are asking him to vacate.

Mr Chairperson: In view of the answer given you need to show some proof.

Mr J. Roussety: We have here a receipt for rent paid to Government on 20 March 1984 from the Agricultural Services which I am tabling by Mr Asnel Jolicoeur for State land rent at St. François.

Mr Chairperson: Same portion of land, you mean?

Mr J. Roussety: For that same portion of land at St. François. If my interpretation is good, Mr Asnel Jolicoeur has been paying rent. I have also another receipt for a second plot of land (agricultural) by Mrs Ivonia Jolicoeur, his wife, dated 20 March 1984, which I am tabling. Being given these two receipts and the fact that this old person has been occupying that land for a long time - he has paid rent and they say they have not delivered a lease to him - I would like to ask him being given the recent decision of the Executive Council recently taken that illegal occupiers prior to 27 October would be ...

Mr Pierre Louis: I would like to refer to Standing Order 19(7) Contents of Questions –“ no question shall be made a pretext for debate.” This is Question Time. I would like the Minority Leader to ask direct questions and wait for answers.

Mr Chairperson: I have a problem here. He has not finished his question. Let's wait and I'll give a ruling.

Mr J. Roussety: Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir. Je voudrais demander au chef commissaire - étant donné les deux reçus que j'ai produits ici et la décision du conseil exécutif de régulariser tous les occupants illégaux de terres de l'état avant le 27 octobre, y compris Monsieur Law Yaw Kam à Allée Tamarin, et que Monsieur Jolicoeur a occupé ces terrains depuis plus de 20 ans contre paiements par lui-même et sa femme - je

voudrais demander au chef commissaire, s'il va prendre tout cela en ligne de compte?

Mr Chairperson: I have got a point of order first, may I know whether you insist on a ruling?

Mr Pierre Louis: Yes, I do Mr Chairperson. Question Time should be for questions and answers and not comments and debates.

Mr Chairperson: I have ruled accordingly many times. But it is understandable that some questions need to be accompanied by a short statement to make them intelligible. Chief Commissioner.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, l'annonce du 27 octobre (*the cut-off date*) concerne les constructions illégales. Dans les années soixante deux on donnait les terres sans arpentage. On disait tant d'arpent à St. François ou à Mont Lubin ou à Plaine Corail. Le reçu présenté par le *leader* de la minorité concerne le paiement de cette terre qui a été allouée à Monsieur Asnel Jolicoeur sur une superficie de 9200 m² non pas sur la terre qu'il occupe en ce moment-ci mais sur une autre terre de l'autre côté de la route et si on vient produire un reçu pour dire que c'est cette terre qu'occupe actuellement M. Jolicoeur, cette terre doit être arpentée et payée. D'après les recherches au bureau du cadastre, la terre qu'occupe actuellement M. Jolicoeur n'est pas celle qu'on lui a alloué il y a plusieurs années de cela depuis 1962. C'est une terre qui se trouve de l'autre côté de la route. La proposition a été faite à M. Jolicoeur de lui allouer une autre portion de terre s'il veut continuer son travail d'agriculteur. Malgré cela il a été voir les promoteurs faisant des propositions d'un million de roupies pour ce qui a sur la terre. M. le président, c'est vraiment exagéré. Alors nous allons rester sur nos positions. Si M. Jolicoeur accepte une autre portion de terre en contrepartie de ce qu'il a occupé illégalement, nous sommes disposés à le faire. Nous lui avons déjà fait cette proposition. Le reçu produit ici ne dit pas exactement ce qu'il en est. M. Jolicoeur devrait produire le bail ou le papier qui le concerne et à ce moment nous saurons si le bail est pour le terrain qu'il occupe actuellement ou si c'est pour un terrain qu'il a obtenu en 1962 de l'autre côté de la route et pour lequel il a cessé de payer depuis 2001.

Mr J. Roussety: M. le président,

Mr Chairperson: Be very straightforward with your question.

Mr J. Roussety: I will try.

Mr Chairperson: Of course you will succeed.

Mr J. Roussety : Il y a la question du reçu dans l'esprit de ce monsieur. *They are ordinary people* et cette personne a payé pour cette terre...

Mr Chairperson: But Minority Leader, I am sorry to interrupt you. I understand there is a receipt for which there are two versions from each side. As the Deputy Chairperson just pointed out, no question shall be made a pretext for debate. So, bear this in mind, please.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, Mr Jolicoeur has paid the rent, but it is not mentioned in the receipt for which plot of land he has paid. Mr Jolicoeur also states that it is for the land he is presently occupying. Therefore, I would like to know whether it is appropriate to take legal action to ask Mr Jolicoeur to vacate the land. I think it is not correct to ask somebody to suddenly vacate a piece of land which he has been occupying for decades, although they are saying that it is illegal for him to have done so.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the land which is leased to Mr Jolicoeur at St. François is 9,201 sq. mts., whereas the land which he is illegally occupying near the beach is of an area of 6,331 sq. mts.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, from a previous answer it is said that around 1962, the Agricultural Services stated that somebody was granted a portion of land, for example, at Corail, St. François. How can the Chief Commissioner be sure that the land, which was leased - even though there is no formal document - is not the land that he is presently occupying? Before we ask somebody to vacate a portion of land, we must be sure about it.

(Interruptions)

How can he be sure that somebody at the Agricultural Services didn't say, ok, this is your land, grow crops on it?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it was like that in the past, that is, in the period of Mr Chin. They called it Unit Farm. It was only for one or two acres of land, but it was not defined.

(Interruptions)

I know that searches have been made. If Mr A. Jolicoeur really wishes to speak the truth, he will say that this is not the land that was leased to him. The land leased to him was far from the beach, that is, on the other side of the road. There is evidence produced by the Cadastral Services.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, if there is expropriating of the land of Mr Jolicoeur, will he consider the long period of time that Mr Jolicoeur has been occupying and cultivating that land year in year out and the fact that the land is just adjacent to his house? We know that in Rodrigues people cultivate lands adjacent to their houses. Mr Emilien just started a small garden adjacent to his house.

Mr Chairperson: This is a commendable effort. Please, proceed.

Mr J. Roussety: Therefore, on a humanitarian ground, will he consider the fact that Mr Jolicoeur has been cultivating the land adjacent to his house for years now, nourishing his family and even exporting vegetables? Now, in his old days, they ask him to vacate the land.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, il a cultivé la terre et en a obtenu les fruits. On lui a donné trois mois pour récolter ce qu'il a planté. On lui a fait des propositions. On a même proposé de lui donner une autre terre. Que peut-on faire de plus? Si vous allez au fond des choses, vous allez voir ce que les lois disent concernant ceux qui occupent les terres de l'Etat illégalement. On a proposé de lui donner une autre terre agricole. La proposition tient toujours. Mais, il doit en discuter avec le promoteur. S'il a planté un ou deux cocotiers, il faut voir leur valeur. On lui a donné du temps pour faire sa récolte de maïs ou autres. On lui a donné trois mois. Le projet du promoteur a même été retardé. Nous souhaitons que M. Jolicoeur

accepte la proposition même s'il occupe cette terre illégalement et qu'il a été poursuivi par le service des forêts pour avoir abattu des arbres. C'est pourquoi, M. le président, moi, personnellement, je vais clore cette discussion ici. S'il y a d'autres informations à venir, ou si M. Jolicoeur peut produire son bail de cette époque, ce sera remis entre les mains du Cadastre et ce dernier verra quelle est la position. L'autre évidence est un document que M. Jolicoeur a reçu pour lui dire que ce terrain là se situe à tel endroit. Au bureau du Cadastre, il doit y avoir un plan qui montre où les terres sont situées.

Mr J. Roussety: M. le président, je ne sais pas depuis quand existe le Cadastre. On parle d'argent et même d'un million de roupies. *Can I ask the Chief Commissioner what is the project cost of* Le Solitaire Village Hotel?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am sorry, I don't have the information.

Mr Emilien: M. le président, vu qu'on veut reprendre la terre que M. Jolicoeur a occupé depuis un bon bout de temps, illégalement ou pas, est-ce que le Chef Commissaire sera disposé à faire préparer le terrain qu'on lui donne en contrepartie dans l'éventualité qu'il accepte l'offre ?

The Chief Commissioner: Je pense que la question est bien posée. On a promis à M. Jolicoeur un autre terrain agricole, c'est-à-dire, la terre en question pourrait être labourée pour lui. Maintenant je voudrais ajouter quelque chose, M. le président, les terres de l'Etat sont susceptibles, comme à Maurice, d'être réquisitionnées par le gouvernement si on a besoin pour un développement quelconque. L'Etat a tous les droits. C'est pourquoi on a proposé à M. jolicoeur une terre alternative. Je ne vois pas où est le problème.

Mr J. Roussety: M. le président, est-ce que le Chef Commissaire considère la procédure comme une réquisition de la terre de M. Jolicoeur?

The Chief Commissioner: Si. On reprend la terre de l'Etat. Et même l'Etat réquisitionne les terres privées si l'Etat veut faire une route par

exemple. On appelle cela un *compulsory acquisition* - il y a compensation bien sûr - comme cela a été fait à Bigarade. L'Etat achète les terres privées pour améliorer les routes; l'Etat a tous les droits de prendre une terre qui plus est quand c'est occupée illégalement. La terre de M. Jolicoeur n'est pas là où il prétend, mais de l'autre côté. Nous n'allons pas revenir dessus, M. le président.

Mr J. Roussety: M. le président, s'il y a réquisition, on reconnaît les droits de l'occupant, en l'occurrence ceux de M. Jolicoeur. Sous les termes du *Compulsory Acquisition Act*, il y a des procédures à suivre, il y a l'aspect compensation aussi à prendre en compte. Est-ce que toutes ces procédures vont être suivies?

The Chief Commissioner: M. Jolicoeur est en train d'occuper ce terrain illégalement, sans un bail! Il faut qu'il comprenne, M. le président.

Mr Agathe: M. le président, mise à part la compensation, est-ce que les promoteurs ont discuté avec M. Jolicoeur pour une éventuelle action dans l'entreprise?

The Chairperson: This is not relevant to the main question. Next question, please!

OFF-LAGOON FISHING BOATS

(No. B/371) The Minority Leader (Mr J. Roussety) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards off-lagoon fishing boats, other types of boats owned by Government or which are under Government's supervision in Rodrigues, he will give a description of the total number of boats owned per type, the number which are operational, the number which are not operational, and, if any, the reasons therefor for each boat as well as measures envisaged, where appropriate, to put them at the disposal of professional fishermen after any necessary repairs.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson Sir, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has one research and training vessel and four off-lagoon fishing boats, which are under the control of the Fisheries Research and Training Unit. Only the research and training vessel, Diego Rodriguez, is operational and is being used for research and development works as well as

for the training of fishermen in off-lagoon fishing. Fishing vessel, Francois Leguat, will be repaired to assist Diego Rodriguez in off-lagoon fishing development and training of fishermen.

In 1998, the fibreglass fishing boats, Maragon and Dame Berri, which are not operational, have been boarded for sale to the public. Recently, some fishermen, who regularly go to Mauritius to take employment as bank fishermen, informed me of their intention to launch an off-lagoon fishing project in Rodrigues. However, they explained that they are facing serious difficulties to meet the contributions required by the Development Bank of Mauritius for the purchase of a new boat. Consequently, last month my office has sought the approval of the Ministry of Finance for a special derogation to restrict the sale of the two fibre glass boats to fishermen instead of a sale through public auction as recommended by the Board of Survey. The fourth wooden fishing boat is unserviceable.

The Fisheries Protection Services also have 17 boats, which are used for patrol purposes.

RODRIGUES - AGRICULTURAL LAND

(No. B/372) The Minority Leader (Mr J. Roussety) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards agriculture on the island, he would inform the House of -

- (a) the total surface area actually under cultivation per crop and give the figures relating to each year as from 1995, and
- (b) the facilities, which were available to planters in terms of irrigation and mechanical equipment for land preparation and other related works.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with your permission, I shall reply to PQ No. B/372. I am tabling the figures for the total surface area under cultivation per crop for the year 1995 to 2002. The figures for 2003 have not yet been compiled.

As regards the second part of the question, I would respectfully refer my colleagues on the other side of the House to part (b) of my reply to PQ.

No. B/333, wherein all the facilities that are being offered to planters are clearly specified.

“SOIRÉE DES RÉCOMPENSES” - EXPENSES

(No. B/373) Mr G. Jabeemissar (First Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts and Culture whether the Commissioner would give a full account of all costs related to the *“Soirée des Récompenses”* held recently at the Passenger Terminal, giving a description of items of expenditure and amount incurred per item together with an explanation of the budgetary source.

Mrs Perrine-Begué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the *“Soirée des Récompenses”* held on 12 October 2003 in the hall of the Passenger Terminal involved the following expenses -

	Rs
Prizes to designers of Coat of Arms	50,000
<i>“Coffrets”</i> and certificates to Honorary Freeman	37,520
Snacks and refreshment (soft drinks only)	179,159
Air tickets, board and lodging to the two Mauritian designers of the Coat of Arms from Mauritius	17,605
Participation of children from ACE for songs	8,525
Fresh flowers	7,100
Hostesses equipment	7,285

The above payments will be charged to item 04-101.291 for which provision of Rs1 m. is made in the 2003-2004 Estimates.

“FESTIVAL KREOLE” - COSTS & SOURCES OF INCOME

(No. B/374) Mrs J. Prosper (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts and Culture whether with regard to the last *“Festival Kreole”*, she could inform the House of all costs paid and sources of income.

Mrs Perrine Begué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am laying on the Table of the Assembly details of costs paid and sources of income relating to the "*Festival Kreole*" 2003.

Provision of Rs1 m. exists in the 2003-2004 Estimates to meet expenditure for the festival. However, in view of the fact that expenses were expected to exceed that amount, the Commission and the organising committee of the festival had appealed to sponsors.

Nine of these responded positively and contributed some Rs600,000. These sponsors were MASA, A. J. Maurel, Association Gites, Tables d'hotes, ARTO, Mauritours, Lions Club, Escale Vacances, Les Cocotiers, Air Mauritius and the Commission for Youth and Sports.

MONT LUBIN HEALTH CENTRE - AMBULANCE SERVICE

(No. B/375) Mrs J. Prosper (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Health whether he would, for the benefit of the House, state -

- (a) the number of ambulance drivers posted at Mont Lubin Health Centre, and
- (b) the number of villages around Mont Lubin Health Centre and the ambulances in good condition that serve them.

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (a), four ambulance drivers on roster are posted to Mont Lubin Area Health Centre.

With regard to part (b), the ambulance service serves 74 villages. I am tabling a list of villages grouped in zones defined by the Central Statistical Office. The ambulance GMR 606, presently in good running condition, is attached to the Centre.

Miss Castel: Mr Chairperson, Sir, could the Commissioner for Health inform the House what measures are being taken so as to improve the ambulance service being given that there is only one ambulance which stands by to serve 74 villages and the centre itself.

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, quotations have already been sought recently from suppliers for new ambulances.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I understand there is only one ambulance for 74 villages.

Mr Chairperson: I understand from the reply that there are four ambulances and there is one which stands by. I am sorry there may be some misunderstanding on this.

Mr Sooprayen: There are four ambulance drivers on roster and one ambulance is posted at the centre.

(Interruptions)

Mr J. Roussety: Being given that there is one ambulance for seventy-four (74) villages - I don't know how many persons are served - Does the Commissioner consider it sufficient to have one ambulance for seventy-four (74) villages? Whereas in contrast – it is my job, Mr Chairperson, Sir – we have one pajero for one Commissioner.

Mr Chairperson: This question, of course, is not allowed.

Mr J. Roussety: But, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would ask him whether it is sufficient to have one (1) ambulance actually. Does it meet the needs of all patients from seventy-four (74) villages?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have just replied to the question. Quotations have already been sought from suppliers for new ambulances. This means that there will be other ambulances at Mont Lubin. *Mais entretemps on fait toujours appel à l'hôpital de Crève Coeur quand on a besoin d'une autre ambulance.*

Mr J. Roussety: As regards the ambulances from Crève Coeur, can I ask him the time they take to reach Mont Lubin and second, where the ambulance is taken up, how much time it takes to fetch a sick person or persons in danger from a place attached to Mont Lubin hospital?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would wish the Minority Leader to table the question.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is a supplementary question. I don't know whether we have to table supplementary questions.

Mr Chairperson: Take your seat, please! Have you finished Minority Leader?

(Interruptions)

Order, please! Please wait! You have suggested something. Could the Commissioner explain what he means by "table"?

Mr Sooprayen: I wanted to say, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that in this question there are several parts. This is why I can't answer right now. I need notice.

Mrs Meunier: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner is saying that he is seeking quotations to buy ambulances. Can I know from him how many ambulances he intends to buy and how many will be posted to Mont Lubin Health Centre?

Mr Sooprayen: We intend to buy two new ambulances, one of which will be posted at Mont Lubin.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order. The pajero which the Commissioners have bought, is...

Mr Chairperson: Is this a point of order?

(Interruptions)

I am sorry, please wait! Order, please! Mr Deputy Chief Commissioner, I think without having heard you finish your argument, you may have some point that there has been undue reference to the pajero, but this is not strictly relevant. Can we proceed to the next question?

**PORT MATHURIN/ANSE AUX ANGLAIS/QUEEN ELIZABETH
HOSPITAL - STRETCH OF ROAD**

(No. B/376) Mrs M. T. Meunier (The Second Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he would inform the House about the state of the stretch of road from Port Mathurin to Anse aux Anglais through Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have been informed that the state of the stretch or road from Port Mathurin to Anse aux Anglais through Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which is 1.5 km, is in a very good state except for some damaged spots at Mont Venus.

The damages have been caused by the heavy-duty vehicles involved in the construction of the nearby hotel. The repair of the damaged spot is included in the maintenance programme of the Road Section of my Commission and will be completed shortly.

Mrs Meunier: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can I know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he intends to supply a stretch of road with street lighting provided they are serving Queen Elizabeth Hospital?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, street lights have already been commissioned and this stretch of road is in the list where street lights will be provided upon receipt thereof.

POLICE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT - FUNCTIONS

(No. B/377) Mrs M. T. Meunier (The Second Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the work performed by the "Police of the Environment", he would inform the House:

- (a) about of cases they dealt with; and
- (b) the number of cases where people had been found guilty of causing harm to the environment during the years 2002 and 2003.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, *la police de l'environnement* is entrusted with the following responsibilities -

- (a) enforcing environmental legislation including inter alia the Environment Protection Act 2002, Noise Prevention:-
- (b) Regulations, Local Government Dumping and Waste Carrier Regulations 2002, Road Traffic Act with respect to the emission of heavy black smoke, leaking of oil on public roads inefficient silencer, Forests and Reserves Act 1907;
- (c) sensitizing the members of the public on environment matters;
- (d) all duties conferred on the police under the Police Act;
- (e) giving assistance to other enforcement agencies as Health and Sanitary Division, Forest Division, Fisheries Division, Environment Division, Public Infrastructure Division.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, since its setting up in June 2002 to date, the Police de L'Environnement has established contraventions against 702 persons for breach of environmental laws and regulations and about 400 persons have already been found guilty and fined by the Court of Law. During the same period 1,265 complaints have been received and have been attended to.

STATEMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

NATIONAL YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Commissioner for Youth & Sports (Mr N. Lisette): Mr Chairperson Sir, with your permission, I would like to make the following statement with respect to National Youth Achievement Award in Rodrigues. It is to be noted that the award was launched in Rodrigues in 1989 and more than 1500 youths have participated in the award at the bronze, silver and gold levels.

For each award, young people have to complete the requirements of each of the four different sections. These include –

- (1) service - where participants choose one form of service and give practical service to others for example in the community;
- (2) expeditions which encourage the spirit of adventure and discovery;

- (3) skills which encourage the development of personal interests such as agriculture, arts and crafts, and
- (4) physical recreation - where the youths are encouraged to improve their performance in any sports activities

For these youths who are undertaking their gold award, they have to participate in a fifth activity which is the residential project where participants are required to undertake some shared activities with others, who are not their everyday companions over a period of five consecutive days.

Rodrigues has been highly privileged to welcome His Royal Highness, the Earl of Wessex, for the first presentation of the Gold Awards to seven Rodriguans last Saturday. His presence at the ceremony has given a boost to the award and in order to keep the momentum high, the Commission for Youth and Sports will be setting an Award Committee for Rodrigues in order to encourage the maximum number of youngsters whether in schools or not, unemployed or handicapped to join in on an entirely voluntary basis.

Mr Chairperson Sir, the National Youth Achievement Award programme provides a rewarding agenda that fills the gap left by formal tuition. I believe that life skills cannot be learned from textbooks. Leadership, perseverance, independence, sense of responsibility and team spirit are all qualities that youngsters learn through experience and the National Youth Achievement Award provides opportunities to these youths for acquiring such qualities. In my Budget Speech October 2002 to June 2003, I stated the following –

“We are going to lead changes by helping young Rodriguans to learn the skills they need to lead in tomorrow’s Rodrigues. That means expanding leadership development programs or encouraging organizations like students against drinking and Driving. It means creating opportunities for young Rodriguans to provide input into the development of Government policy. It means a new and more open arts and culture policy that supports young people who want to express themselves creatively”.

The National Youth Achievement Award will meet some of these policies. As the programme relies much on volunteers to act as instructors and to set the goal to be pursued, I believe that the youth who have just received their Gold Awards would be a catalysing factor for the promotion of the programme.

With these words, Sir, I thank you.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I want to say something.

Mr Chairperson: This is Statement Time, can you wait afterwards?

Mr J. Roussety: When you call on me.

Mr Chairperson: Yes. Mr Chief Commissioner?

CONTRAVENTIONS - JANUARY 2003 TO DATE

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, further to the supplementary Question No. B/334 addressed to me by Mr Emilien, First Local Region Member for Maréchal, I am tabling the list of contraventions established from January 2003 to date for the information of the Assembly.

Thank you

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 02 December 2003 at 10.30 a.m.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Mr Chairperson: I understand that one Member from the Minority side wishes to make a statement. I understand that the Minority Leader wanted to say something.

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY - DOCUMENTS - TABLING

The Minority Leader (Mr J. Roussety): Yes, I believe it was before adjournment. During the last sitting, we asked questions to table specific matters regarding the list of those persons whose leases have been approved. We have been assured that, at the next sitting, that is, today, these were going to be tabled. I wrote to the Clerk to ask him to inform the Commissioners that we would wish these documents to be tabled because we want to do our work correctly. When Commissioners engage themselves to table something at the next sitting, I believe that an engagement from a Commissioner should be respected. I don't know whether you can see to it that when a Commissioner engages himself to table documents, that this engagement is being respected. Up to now, we have not got the documents and this could be considered as contempt of the Assembly. They did say that they would table it. We have already adjourned and we still don't have any of these documents that they promised to table at this sitting.

Mr Chairperson: If the Member feels unsatisfied with the reply, it is complete or if ever there is an undertaking to submit a list, then what the Member has to do is to ask the question anew if the question has not been answered. This is the practice obtains.

Mr Roussety: If I ask the question anew, it will not be allowed.

Mr Chairperson: If the question has not been answered, you can do so.

Mr J. Roussety: In the Standing Orders, it is said that questions which have been asked during the last sitting....

Mr Chairperson: I am telling you now.

Mr J. Roussety: You will amend the Standing Orders.

Mr Chairperson: No, it is Parliamentary practice.

Mr J. Roussety: We will have to wait for one year.

Mr Chairperson: No. We are not going to discuss it here. The Member can meet me in my Chamber so that everything can be sorted out. The Second Local Region Member for Maréchal has the floor.

ZEP PROJECTS

Mr J. C. Agathe (Second Local Region Member for Maréchal):
M. le président, merci de m'avoir donné l'occasion de vous faire part d'un certain mépris vis-à-vis de nos frères et soeurs rodriguais. J'invite les membres à visiter le site web du ministère de l'éducation se référant à la philosophie du projet ZEP (Zone d'Education Prioritaire).

Ce qui nous concerne c'est le traitement accordé à nos enfants, plus particulièrement les petits Rodriguais de l'école de Ste Thérèse de l'Enfant Jésus RCA de Rivière Cocos. D'après le rapport officiel du ministère de l'éducation, 28 écoles font partie du projet ZEP, c'est-à-dire, incluant l'école primaire de Rivière Cocos de Rodrigues, qui est considérée comme une école défavorisée. C'est pourquoi nous avons demandé à déclarer cette région zone de pauvreté prioritaire.

Qu'est-ce qui nous interpelle, M. le président? Le Central Tender Board, à travers le School Development Unit, a approuvé un budget de R 19 millions pour un an depuis le troisième trimestre comme aide alimentaire aux ZEP schools. Les enfants ont un pain, un morceau de fromage, un fruit ou un jus de fruit ou un yaourt. Les petits Rodriguais n'ont rien reçu et dites vous bien, M. le président, les classes tirent à leur fin ce vendredi. Qu'allons nous faire maintenant? Donner deux, trois ou quatre pains ou autres denrées à ces enfants, c'est passer à côté des objectifs du programme alimentaire. Quelle est la raison excluant les enfants de l'école Rivière Cocos? D'après mes renseignements, les 11,500 enfants de Maurice, excluant les élèves de l'école Rivière Cocos, reçoivent R 10 par jour. Y-a-t-il deux catégories de ZEP? Cette somme a été remise aux 27 maîtres d'écoles des 27 établissements de la ZEP au siège du ministère de l'éducation au IVTB House, Phoenix, le vendredi 10 octobre après que des élèves ont été supposément intoxiqués. A Rivière Cocos, quelques parents disaient -

*`ça banne Rodriguais là ki éna mauvais lé ker ça,
Maurice banne zenfants manzer ziska souler'*

Il me semble que le Commissaire responsable de l'éducation n'a pas pris ce problème au sérieux malgré les deux questions, référence B/282 et B/344 que mon collègue Emilien et moi avons posées précédemment. Notre objectif c'est d'aider nos enfants à avoir les mêmes facilités et à étudier dans les mêmes conditions que leurs frères et soeurs de Maurice.

Nous ne voulons pas de réponses telles que les parents de Rivière Cocos ne connaissent pas la valeur de l'éducation ou autre insanité.

J'ai été écoeuré en lisant le *statement made by the Commissioner of Education in connection with education sector reforms in which he stated, I quote -*

“Since I assumed office as Commissioner for Education and Training in October last year, my main objectives have been to foster the betterment of the Rodriguan students”.

He also added –

‘the ZEP project will be undertaken by the third term this year. We will also cater for food supplements’

One thing I have to tell the Commissioner is that this week is the end of the third term. Nothing has been done up to now even though there are many things regarding the official records like, for example –

- to promote the integration of early childhood development programmes from nursery to pre-school and primary schools;
- to introduce a health and nutrition programme within two inter-related programmes every child in a ZEP school will have a health card (*carnet de santé*) and,
- medical practitioners will be employed on a sessional basis to provide both preventive and curative health services. In parallel a supplementary meal will be given to all children attending ZEP schools;
- to provide also school kits, shoes, uniforms and transport facilities for children in need.

Concerning parent mediators, we see, for example -

- the mediators will be attached to each cluster of ZEP schools. They will apply the techniques of mediated parent learning and initiate parents to the techniques of mediation. Both formal and informal training sessions will be conducted. Informal training will be mostly home based with the consent of the parents.
- there is also the community-based organisation and non-governmental organisation.
- there is also in the project the cluster coordinator, school inspector, technical officer, special educational needs coordinator, school psychologists, social facilitator.

En 1982, M. le président, j'étais encore en forme II. Je me rappelle ce que frère Rémy Carosin nous disait -

'Rodrigues a besoin d'hommes et de femmes solides, qui sont capables de prendre en main leur avenir. Alors mes enfants, ne devenez pas des hommelettes, ni des femmelettes.'

Réveillez-vous de votre sommeil, M. le Commissaire, *for the betterment of our children*, alors pour démontrer que nous ne sommes pas là que pour critiquer. Je voudrais vous dire que la tête pensante est de ce côté. Nous, les membres de la minorité, et en particulier Allan Ladd Emilien et moi, sommes disposés à vous joindre aussi bien que les responsables de la RCEA, la PTA et les forces vives de l'endroit pour décanter la situation, afin que les élèves de Rivière Cocos classés Zone d'Education Prioritaire profitent des mêmes avantages que leurs compatriotes à l'île Maurice.

Merci, M. le président.

Mr Chairperson: Would the Commissioner for Education intervene now or at a later stage?

The Commissioner for Education (Mr L. Roussety): I have no intention to intervene in view of the fact that the implementation of education policies is a national matter. We have been pursuing the matter with the Ministry of Education and we have not been able to reach a satisfactory conclusion up to now. So, perhaps later I'll be in a position to inform the House what has been done, what my Commission has been able to achieve through negotiations with the Ministry of Education in Mauritius.

I shall then be in a position to give information to the House for the benefit of Members.

At 13.28 p.m. the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 02 December 2003 at 10.30 a.m.

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