

Debate No. 11 of 10.08.2004**TABLE OF CONTENTS****ADJOURNMENT****ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a) Educational Reforms – Select Committee – appointment of members

(b) Educational Reforms - Select Committee

MOTION

Commissioner for Youth & Sports – motion of no-confidence

PAPERS**QUESTIONS (*Oral*)**

(No. B/569) – Lessees – pledge of right

(No. B/570) - Port Mathurin/Pointe Monier – abandoned boats

(No. B/571) - Trust Fund Houses – beneficiaries – electricity and water supply

(No. B/572) - Tourists – number, arrivals, etc.

(No. B/573) – Rodriguan child – steering committee

(No. B/574) - IFAD Programme – training

(No. B/575) - Public Library – internet access project

(No. B/576) - Salomon, Mr L. Y. – State land lease

(No. B/577) - La Ferme Area Health Centre – incident

- (No. B/578) - Camp du Roi/Le Chou – road maintenance, bus stops, etc.
- (No. B/579) - Anse Raffin – water treatment plant
- (No. B/580) - Integrated Coastal Zone Management Committee – Rodriguan Representative
- (No. B/581) - Second Division Football Tournament – matches
- (No. B/582) - Farmers - animals, stray dogs, etc.
- (No. B/583) - Independence/Republic Day Celebrations – expenditure incurred
- (No. B/584) - Toilets – cleaning – programme of work
- (No. B/585) - “*Route De L’Autonomie*” – mowing and cutting of grass
- (No. B/586) - Vehicles – import permits
- (No. B/587) – Queen Elizabeth Hospital & Area Health Centres – insects invasion
- (No. B/588) - Hydroponics Project
- (No. B/589) – Fishermen – weather forecasts
- (No. B/590) – Petroleum Gas – no. of suppliers, etc.
- (No. B/591) - Grenade Dam – construction
- (No. B/592) - Mont Lubin Area Health Centre – pillows, beds, mattresses, etc.
- (No. B/593) – Pointe La Gueule – net fishermen co-operative society – bad weather allowance

- (No. B/594) – Pointe L’Herbe Corail – sand landing stage
- (No. B/595) - Mangues Sports Complex - maintenance
- (No. B/596) - Camp Pintade, Cité Patate and Baie du Nord – water problem
- (No. B/597) - Chief Commissioner/Deputy Chief Commissioners/Commissioners – drivers’ travelling allowance
- (No. B/598) - “*Grossesse Précoce*” cases – breakdown
- (No. B/599) - Mothers (single) - social aid allocation
- (No. B/600) – Family Counselling Service – activities
- (No. B/601) - Asthma/Respiratory Diseases – death
- (No. B/602) – Child Development Unit – general policy
- (No. B/603) - Music Day – celebration – June 2004
- (No. B/604) – Mont Venus Hotel Project – desalination unit

QUESTIONS (*Written*)

- (No. B/605) – Fisheries Protection Services
- (No. B/606) - Public Services - night shift allowance
- (No. B/607) - Queen Elizabeth Hospital – maternity ward

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER

Nurseries - activities

Debate No. 11 of 10.08.2004

ANNOUNCEMENT

**EDUCATIONAL REFORMS - SELECT COMMITTEE -
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

Mr Chairperson: Respected members, I wish to inform the House that pursuant to the resolution adopted by this House on Tuesday 20th of July 2004, relating to the appointment of the Select Committee of the House, with regard to the implementation in Rodrigues of the Educational Reforms, that is, regionalisation of admission in Form I, I have appointed the following members to serve on the above Committee -

- (1) Mr Nicholson Lisette
- (2) Mr Robertson Mercure
- (3) Mr Jacques Pierre Louis
- (4) Mr Johnson Roussety
- (5) Mrs Marie Thérèse Meunier

I further do appoint Wednesday 18th of August 2004, at 2.00 p.m, in the Assembly Building for the first meeting of the Committee.

Thank you.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LESSEES - PLEDGE OF RIGHT

(No. B/569) Mr L. P. Francois (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Chief Commissioner, as regards the issue of a pledge of right to enable the construction of a new building on top of an existing one for residential purpose, could the Commissioner inform the House of the conditions attached thereto.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the condition for the granting of permission to lessees to pledge their leasehold rights to obtain housing loans for the construction of a storey on an existing residential building, is the same as the conditions with respect to the construction of a new building, except that in former case, the staircase should be inside the building according to a residential lease. A lessee is authorised to build a residential building of one unit only on the land leased.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner explain why, when his Office is granting a pledge of right for a new building on top of an existing building, it is necessary for the staircase to be inside? Is there statutory provision for that? When people apply for this pledge of right, it is because they want to have their house on top and they don't want to disturb the person living on the ground floor. This is a bit paradoxical - there are two houses, but the staircase must be inside. How can the person explain the need for the staircase to be inside?

The Chief Commissioner: It is not a question of two houses. If there are two houses, two units on the same lease, there must be a "*droit d'élévation*" and the staircase can be outside.

Now, it's the same unit with the same lessee; it is the same owner of the house; it is not a second owner asking for a "*droit d'élévation*". This is a different thing.

Mr J. Roussety: So, the Chief Commissioner will confirm that for a "*droit d'élévation*", the staircase can be outside the house?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, of course.

PORT MATHURIN/POINTE MONIER - ABANDONED BOATS

(No. B/570) Mr L. P. François (The First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards the old abandoned boats found in the vicinity of Port Mathurin and Pointe Monier, the Commissioner could inform the House about the measures he is envisaging to take for the disposal of same.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson Sir, contacts have been established with a company which is involved in the recycling of scrapped metal in Mauritius with a view to disposing of five (5) unserviceable boats which are lying behind the container park.

As regards the unserviceable wooden fishing boat belonging to the Government, which is lying at Pointe Monier, authority has been obtained for its write-off and it will be disposed of soon. Another unserviceable wooden boat lying at Pointe Monier was sold in 1997 and would be transferred to another site where it will not be an eyesore. The purchaser will be given a deadline to remove the boat, failing which the boat will also be disposed of.

TRUST FUND HOUSES – BENEFICIARIES – ELECTRICITY AND WATER SUPPLY

(No. B/571) Mr J. Pierre Louis (The Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner, whether he could inform the House of the measures he is contemplating or has already taken to connect the beneficiaries of Trust Fund houses who are not in possession of land leases to the electricity and water networks.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that as an exceptional measure, all beneficiaries of Trust Fund houses, who are not in possession of a land lease, will be allowed to be connected to electricity and water network. However, they will have to follow the same procedure for application.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief commissioner whether the measures taken by his Commission will have immediate effect or will take some time?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, these houses are constructed on a self-help basis. The locations are identified by the planner of the Cadastral Unit prior construction. On a humanitarian ground, our policy is to house homeless people. There is no need for a lease agreement for erection of such houses. The beneficiaries are allowed to be connected to electricity and water network on request. But, as I have said earlier, they will have to follow the normal application procedures.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House whether the same measures applicable to social vulnerable groups for the award of a house, can be extended to those who are in the same socio-economic conditions in Rodrigues so as to help them in their quest to be connected to electricity?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Executive Council of the Rodrigues Regional Government has taken the decision to carry out a survey of those houses which have been constructed before the cut-off date not to give electricity and water to people who have constructed their houses without a lease, and the same is being done to people like, for example, in the village of Anse Fémi which has already been connected to water network. We are considering their case so that they can have water and electricity at their place. They also form part of the vulnerable groups and they have been granted a Trust Fund house or houses like Bella.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner has mentioned only one village, namely Anse Fémi. Does he have an official list of all beneficiaries all around the island and will he be prepared to table same at the next sitting?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Insofar as the demand for electricity is concerned, we have the list from the CEB. But, concerning houses to be connected to water network, a survey is being carried out and as soon as the list is compiled we will consider their case so that they can be connected to the water network.

Mr Emilien: I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner, whether these facilities could be extended to old aged persons who benefit houses from CARITAS and other NGOs?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, as I have said, all the cases concerning the vulnerable groups will be considered.

TOURISTS – NUMBER, ARRIVALS, ETC.

(No. B/572) Mr J. Pierre Louis (The Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards our tourism industry, the Commissioner could seek information about –

- (a) the number of tourists who visited our island in the financial year 2003-2004;
- (b) their countries of origin;
- (c) the income earned from them in the island, and
- (d) their impact on our environment, if any.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a), according to the report of the Central Statistical Office on Rodrigues for the year 2003, 50,143 tourists visited Rodrigues.

With regard to part (b), I am tabling a list of arrivals in Rodrigues by country of residence. The report for the year 2004 has not yet been published and the official figures are therefore not available.

With regard to part (c) of the question, there is no separate figure for Rodrigues and I am informed that the Bank of Mauritius, which is the source for collecting gross tourism earning, can only provide global figures for Mauritius, including Rodrigues. However, I have proposed to discuss the matter with the Managing Director of the Bank of Mauritius to approve the possibility of keeping separate figures for Rodrigues.

As regards part (d), Mr Chairperson, Sir, for every hotel, the promoter has to submit a report on the impact of the enterprise on the environment and to obtain an Environment Impact Assessment Licence from the Ministry of Environment. The Rodrigues Tourism Committee, which has been established under the Tourism Act 2002, gives due consideration to the potential impact the proposed tourist enterprise is likely to have on the environment while processing application for the setting up of such enterprises. It is obvious that an increase in the number of tourist visitors

will lead to an increase in the volume of waste produced while some activities link with tourism such as sea sports, visit to natural sites like Ilot Cocos can also have adverse impact on the environment if not properly monitored and controlled.

RODRIGUAN CHILD - STEERING COMMITTEE

(No. B/573) Miss M. L. Castel (The Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts & Culture, whether she will state what are the objectives of the Steering Committee of the Rodriguan Child recently set up by her Commission and its composition.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, in the course of our endeavour to provide better services to the Rodriguan child, my Commission has observed that efforts are being deployed by the different institutions in Rodrigues. The aim of setting up the Steering Committee on the Rodriguan child is to allow better coordination of all the Commissions and other Government agencies. This will prevent duplication of services and ensure a limited rate of approach of services towards the child. The Committee has held its first meeting in July 2004 and will meet once every month. The objectives of the steering committee are to monitor cases of child abuse, neglect or other form of ill-treatment, to ensure a holistic approach to the development of children, to act as a watchdog on education, health and other issues affecting children.

The members of this Committee are the Departmental Head of my Commission, the Chief Officer of Police and all the representatives of the Police Family Protection Unit, the Paediatrician of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Senior School Inspector, the Senior Probation Officer, the officer responsible for Child Development of my Commission and myself.

Mrs Meunier: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner when this Committee was set up and, secondly, what are the respective experience of the members in the matter of child development?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have already answered the first part of the question; the respected member did not listen. I said it was in July 2004 that the Committee held its first meeting and the second part is that they are experienced persons. I have already given the

composition of the Committee and I must say that all these persons are, in one way or another related to children.

Mrs Meunier: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner - when she talked about cases of child abuse, neglect, etc - whether these cases will be discussed at the level of the Committee or will they be referred to welfare officers? Because, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I think it is the role of welfare officers to look after these cases, which are supposed to be confidential.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I've said that the aim of this Steering Committee is to have a better coordination of all aspects of the Rodriguan child. This doesn't mean that all the cases that are being brought to my Commission will be disclosed in front of this Committee. The general aspects of these cases will be discussed and if ever it concerns education, it will be taken over by the Representative from Education; if it is at repressive level, it will be taken over by the Police, etc.

Mrs Prosper: Mr Chairperson, Sir, may we know whether there is a psychologist sitting on this committee?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: No, Mr Chairperson, Sir, we don't have any psychologist on this committee.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can we know the names of the persons who form part of this committee and the reasons for which they have been assigned the responsibility and membership on this committee?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to say that I prefer short questions rather than two or three questions because this confuses Commissioners when they answer. It is according to the Standing Order.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Order, please!

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Having said that, I would like to say that since it is a standing Steering Committee, whoever who acts under these appellations, it does not depend on names; it depends on the title of these persons. For example, the Departmental Head of my Commission actually is

Mr Rousseau. He may change after his contract, but the Departmental Head of the Commission responsible for children will have to be on this Steering Committee.

Secondly, the Chief Officer of Police, whomsoever - I'm repeating myself - the Paediatrician, whomsoever, of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Senior Primary School Inspector, whomsoever, who is at that post, the Senior Probation Officer, we have only one person, whomsoever, the officer responsible for Child Development of my Commission.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner why is it that there is no psychologist on the Committee?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to say that this is a Steering Committee. We are not giving clinical treatment to cases. We are discussing about policies, measures and decisions taken by all these services of Government. That is why these persons at these posts are on this Steering Committee. It has nothing to do with clinical aspects of things, treatment of cases. We are not going to discuss about how to treat the cases. This has to be dealt with by other services. It has to do with policy and measures and it has to do with discussions and decisions.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have been hearing two things. The Commissioner has been speaking of standing Steering Committee and Steering Committee. Can I ask her what is the difference between them?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: I mean the standing Steering Committee. And when subsequently I'm referring to that one, I'm still talking about the Committee.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, despite the fact that there is no need for a psychologist because the Commissioner says that there is no clinical advice, etc., is it not important for that Committee that they have set up to have the advice of a psychologist? Because the job of a psychologist is not only to listen to patients; psychologists are also concerned with policy-making, Mr Chairperson, Sir. So, I would like to know what is her stand on that matter.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: I'm sorry, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I did not hear what the Member said.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, earlier on she said that questions were too long, now she is not listening.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: No interruptions from sitting position, please!

Mr J. Roussety: The Commissioner has said that there is no need for a psychologist to sit on the Steering Committee because psychologists are concerned, according to her, with clinical treatments only. We would say no because psychologists are also concerned with policy and advice. So, I would like to know what is her stand on that, because doctors and psychologists are not only concerned with medical treatment. They are also concerned with administration, with policy-making in their respective fields. We know the number of child abuses here, the number of psychological problems that children face. Doesn't she think that there is need to have somebody - maybe a Rodriguan, they don't want to recognise it, but we do have - with a training background in psychology to support that administrative Committee?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, for a psychologist to be employed at Government level, he or she must have either a B.Sc. in Psychology plus a clinical experience of five years, which we do not have here in Rodrigues. So, for the time being, we won't be able to recruit. But in the budget, we have provided for that. There is a question concerning the services that are to be provided, which I will answer.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner is mixing up issues. I have not been speaking of the recruitment of psychologists. I have been speaking of membership, participation of a person with training background in Psychology, not necessarily a person who is a qualified psychologist, because we know that it is scarce here. The Commissioner is mixing up issues saying that we want to recruit. We don't want to recruit. We are asking her to consider the possibility of having a person with training background in Psychology - not even a psychologist if they don't have it - on that committee. So, she seems not to understand.

Mr Chairperson: Yes, there is a question before this House. Any answer, please?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: I have already answered this question, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Chairperson: Yes. Any other question?

Mr Emilien: The Commissioner doesn't want lengthy questions, I've got a very short one. I would like to know from the Commissioner of Arts & Culture whether there is any member of the Child Development Unit on this Steering Committee, and if not, why not?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I answered lengthily on the shortage of staff. Another question is coming. I answered lengthily, at least, some twenty subsequent questions on the functioning of the Child Development Unit some two or three meetings before. I've already given all the answers to that and there were even proposals from the Minority bench on this aspect. So, I think that we should not waste our time asking the same question with a different wording.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with all due respect...

Mr Chairperson: Take your seat, please! Yes, I can hear from it that it is a sort of ruling. Well, this is not granted.

Mr J. Roussety: We have no lessons to receive on time management from the Commissioner. I would like to repeat the question because we are here to ask questions. It is our job, we are paid for that, we have been elected for that. And we will ask as many questions as we wish on Child Development Unit. *N'en déplaise à Madame la Commissaire.*

Je voudrais lui demander s'il y a un représentant du *Child Development Unit* sur ce comité, et si non, pourquoi? On voudrait avoir une réponse. Est-ce qu'il y a un représentant, oui ou non?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have said that there is an officer responsible for children on this Steering Committee. For the moment, just like I explained last time, we don't have any Welfare Officer as such for this unit. But we have people with equivalent experience who

are working in my Commission, because people who were working at the Child Development Unit, did not have any diplomas, certificates or whatever in the services they were giving. They were employed just like that and it's the same thing here. The officer responsible for Child Development of my Commission is an officer who has long experience; she has worked with UNICEF for more than ten years in Rodrigues and she is now doing the job of the Welfare Officer pending the recruitment of same. With the formalisation of the post, she may get the job, we don't know.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can she reveal the identity, the qualifications and experience in Child Development, not at the UNICEF, of the person concerned?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Well, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I cannot disclose the name and qualifications of that officer here. If that person has been found suitable and experienced enough to work for an international organisation like UNICEF in Rodrigues, this means that the person has the capacity to deal with children's issues in general.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, is this issue a secret one for the State? What are the reasons why she doesn't want to reveal? Is it a judicial matter? Why doesn't she want to reveal the identity of the person that she is proposing to send on that Committee?

Mr Chairperson: I don't want to be unpleasant to anybody, but we have thirty-nine questions on the Order Paper today. I am not going to limit the number of supplementary questions at this stage, but I will appeal to the Members that this is the situation now. So, there is a question on the Floor, please, Commissioner for Arts & Culture.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Yes, names of persons cannot be divulged in the House, Mr Chairperson, Sir. We can give the title of the post. I'm sure that the Minority Leader knows who that person is.

(Interruptions)

So, we will stop here. If ever the Minority Leader wants to have more information about that, he should come forward with a substantive question.

Mr Chairperson: Next question, please! The Fifth Island Region Member!

IFAD PROGRAMME - TRAINING COMPONENT

(No. B/574) Miss M. L. Castel (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts & Culture whether she would explain to the House the scope of the Training Component of the IFAD Programme regarding women this financial year.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, discussions were held in Mauritius during the mid-term review of the IFAD project between the financing agency, the officials of the Ministry of Finance and my Commission responsible for IFAD in Rodrigues. Our negotiation with the delegation of the funding agency from abroad, was to extend the training component of the project initially reserved for agriculture only, for training of women entrepreneur in other economic fields also. This, in fact, Mr Chairperson, Sir, is a major development of the programme for the two years to come.

The IFAD budget for 2004/2005, therefore, makes provision for broader scope for the training of women in all economic fields, management and capacity building. Provision has been made for Rs975,000 in total and the breakdown is as follows -

- (i) Rs500,000 for training in food processing;
- (ii) Rs200,000 for agricultural training;
- (iii) Rs125,000 for study tools for women in small and medium industries in Mauritius or for experts coming in Rodrigues for the training of same;
- (iv) Rs100,000 for training in project management, and
- (v) Rs50,000 for capacity building.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards the Rs125,000 for study tools and visit of experts for training, can we know from the Commissioner how she is going to identify the women concerned for these study tools?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the agricultural component is found in the initial paper that has been signed between the Mauritian Government and the IFAD people.

As small and medium enterprises, project management and capacity building, these concern women. Therefore, it's like any other project for IFAD. We have a Steering Committee. At the same time, people must submit before the IFAD Project Manager and the Unit, which is annexed to my office, their project costs and state the reason why they want to benefit from these projects. But I would like to say that our policy in the Steering Committee is to give training facilities to a maximum of women, except in cases where there are projects for Rodriguan women to go to Mauritius. Otherwise, a maximum of them will be trained in Rodrigues and in the years to come, these experts will come and will choose from amongst them those who have the merits to go abroad for *une formation plus pointue*.

Mr J. Roussety: Ma question n'a pas été répondue. J'ai demandé quels sont les critères de sélection des femmes impliquées au *Women's Affairs* à Rodrigues et comment le *Steering Committee* - dont elle a parlé - choisit les représentants pour ces voyages d'étude.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Oui, M. le Président, je disais que pour l'agriculture, ce sont des officiers agricoles qui choisissent. Mais pour les femmes, elles doivent soumettre d'abord leur projet ; ensuite selon leur professionnalisme, et naturellement en tenant compte des recommandations du *Steering Committee*, à ce moment-là le choix sera fait. Donc il y a déjà un premier choix qui est faite à travers une enquête par les officiers de l'IFAD, et puis ensuite, c'est amené pour être ratifié, comme demandé dans le document de l'IFAD par le *Steering Committee*.

Mr Chairperson: Next question, please.

PUBLIC LIBRARY - INTERNET ACCESS PROJECT

(No. B/575) Miss M. L. Castel (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts & Culture, whether she would inform the House when the free Internet Access project will be operational at the Public Library services.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Internet Access project in public libraries is almost ready for implementation. The public will be invited to subscribe to the service in due course by registering themselves at the various libraries. All the necessary computer equipment and furniture have been acquired; there will be three (3) units at the public library and two (2) units in each of the three CLACs. Mauritius Telecom is finalising the communication system and the service will be operational in a matter of weeks.

Mr Chairperson: Next question.

SALOMON, MR L. Y. - STATE LAND LEASE

(No. B/576) Mr A. L. Emilien (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether with regard to an application for State land for industrial purposes at Baie Lascars made by one, Louis Yvon Salomon, the Chief Commissioner could state -

- (a) the date of application;
- (b) the nature of the reply given to applicant, if any;
- (c) the nature of the trade to be performed by applicant; and
- (d) if this is within his knowledge, the reasons why applicant has not yet started his business.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, Mr Louis Yvon Salomon applied for a State land lease on 20 November 1990. A letter of intent was issued to Mr Salomon on 31 May 2001 granting an industrial lease on a site of an extent of 203 m² at Baie Lascars. Another letter of intent has been now granted to Mr Salomon on 30 July 2004 with respect to a site of an extent of 203 m² at Camp du Roi, in replacement of the site at Baie Lascars, which has been repossessed by the Government. The land is leased for industrial purpose for the construction of a tyre workshop.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that Mr Salomon is already operating his enterprise on rented premises. However, he will be able to construct his own workshop now that he has obtained a lease.

Mr Emilien: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can I know from the Chief Commissioner why a letter of intent has been sent to Mr Salomon? He has already paid Rs4,800 as fees since year 2001, and then in 2004, he has been asked to move to Camp du Roi. But he has never been allowed to occupy this portion of land at Baie Lascars. Can we know what are the reasons?

The Chief Commissioner: As probably the hon. Member knows, there is not only Mr Salomon; there are other people who have received leases and letters of intent. It was during the year 2002, under the ministerialship of Mr Lesjongard. The Government has decided to repossess those lands, except for some of those who have already obtained a lease. Under the recommendation of the Town and Country Planning office in Mauritius, it was decided that the others should be granted land lease outside the reclaimed land. A land survey has been carried out to identify where Mr

Salomon and others can have leases. I think Mr Salomon has obtained a new lease at Camp du Roi somewhere near Grewals.

Mr Emilien: The Chief Commissioner doesn't know.

Mr Chairperson: No interruption, please.

The Chief Commissioner: I don't know exactly what portion of land....

(Interruptions)

The lease has not been cancelled. They have not received a lease, but they have received a letter of intent.

(Interruptions)

It is somewhere in the vicinity of Grewals. I can't say exactly what portion of land.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Order, please.

(Interruptions)

The Chief Commissioner: I have said that it is in the vicinity. He has received his land lease in the vicinity of Grewals. That is not enough for you?

(Interruptions)

Well, I don't know. I don't know. I have already given the information. I said in the vicinity.

Mr Emilien: Mr Salomon Louis has been granted not only a letter of intent, but also a licence to deal in auto cycles, motorcycles and accessories for repairs. How come that Mr Salomon, who has got a licence to operate on this site, has been paying Rs1000 as fees for this licence - but without authorisation to operate on this plot of land at Baie Lascars.

Mr Chairperson: You mean the licence is supposed to be at the place for which he got the letter of intent.

(Interruptions)

Please, wait before you answer. I will not allow any interruption from a sitting position. Those, who want to intervene, should stand up and raise any pertinent point they would wish to raise. But, I will not allow any interruption from a sitting position when one Member is having the floor.

The Chief Commissioner: Well, I'll find out in what conditions Mr Salomon got the licence. If ever he has paid a land lease at Baie Lascars, this would be taken in consideration for his lease at Camp du Roi.

Mr Chairperson: Yes.

Mrs Meunier: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can I know from the Chief Commissioner whether Mr Louis Salomon – he has been paying since a number of years before he has received his letter of intent - is going to be reimbursed? What is going to be done?

The Chief Commissioner: I've already replied to the question. I have said that this will be taken into consideration for the lease he is being granted.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have one supplementary question.

Mr Chairperson: Yes, Minority Leader.

Mr J. Roussety: Leases have been granted and now these persons are being asked to move? Why have they not been authorised to carry on their trade?

The Chief Commissioner: This decision has been taken during the years 2000 to 2002 by the ex-Minister Lesjongard. I don't know what had happened at that time. The then Prime Minister paid a visit there. It seems that granting leases on reclaimed land does not comply with the Land Use Plan.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, action of Government is continuous, whether it was ex-Minister Lesjongard or now the Chief

Commissioner. Errors have been committed by Government, by the Authority. They have granted leases and then they have seen that it is not correct. *Ce n'est pas la faute des gens qui ont eu des baux là-bas. Je vais lui demander ce qu'il compte faire maintenant, parce que ces gens-là ont déjà construit. Est-ce que cela veut dire qu'ils vont devoir démolir leurs structures?*

The Chief Commissioner: Comme j'ai déjà dit il y a certaines personnes qui ont déjà construit. Des officiers du *Town and Country Planning Unit* de Maurice étaient venus ici pour faire une enquête. Trois ou quatre personnes ont déjà construit leurs maisons. Le *Town and Country Planning Unit* a demandé qu'on les laisse là mais qu'on peut bouger les autres qui n'ont pas commencé à construire. On va revoir leur permis de construction. Donc, on est en train de chercher d'autres emplacements pour les loger.

Mr Chairperson: Last supplementary question, yes.

Mr Emilien: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to quote the last paragraph of the letter, dated 30 July 2004 and addressed to Mr Salomon Louis by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. I quote -

"I shall be grateful if you could inform this office in writing within a period of one (1) month as from the date of the letter, whether you are agreeable to the above."

I would like to know from the Chief Commissioner, what will be the outcome if Mr Salomon is not agreeable to this new portion of land granted to him?

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: This question falls under the category of hypothetical questions. Well, this is not allowed; perhaps the Chief Commissioner would wish to add anything on it.

(Interruptions)

Yes, it's hypothetical. So we move to the next question.

LA FERME AREA HEALTH CENTRE – INCIDENT

(No. B/577) Mr A. L. Emilien (First Local Region Member for Marechal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health whether, with reference to the case of an old aged patient, namely one, Davidson Legoff of Ile Michel, who left La Ferme Area Health Centre recently while an in-patient and who was found injured and unconscious, the Commissioner would -

- (a) give a detailed statement of the nature of his injuries;
- (b) inform the House about the reasons for his injuries;
- (c) state the circumstances in which this patient left the Area Health Centre in spite of the presence of security guards, and
- (d) state what measures have been taken or envisaged by his Commission to avoid recurrence of similar incidents.

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that patient Legoff Davidson, aged 89, residing at Ile Michel, was admitted in the male ward at La Ferme Area Health Centre on Wednesday 30 June 2004. He was suffering from cellulitis, that is, an inflammation of the leg and had high blood pressure.

Mr Chairperson: Please wait, Commissioner. I just have to inform you that what you are telling may fall under the category of privileged information of the patient. So, you are warned if you want to pursue.

Mr Sooprayen: Thank you. In the morning of 03 July 2004, he tried to escape from the ward by jumping through the window and had a fall. He sustained injury to his right hand and his right elbow. He was referred to the orthopaedic surgeon. Radiological examination, carried out on the same day, revealed a fracture of the right hand. He was operated on the 13 July 2004 and was put on analgesics, antibiotics and given transfusion of two units of packed cells. He was discharged on the 25 July 2004 to continue dressing at the Local Community Health Centre and was given a review with the ortho-surgeon in two weeks' time.

With regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that, at about 6.00 o'clock on Saturday morning, 03 July 2004, the hospital servant observed that only four (4) aged patients in the male ward wanted to go home though they had not been discharged. Patient Legoff Davidson tried to

escape from the ward, but the hospital servant locked the door and went to inform the Nursing Officer. In the meantime, he then jumped through the window and was injured.

As regards part (c) of the question, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the patient did not leave La Ferme Area Health Centre as stated in the question. He remained at La Ferme Area Health Centre and was transferred to Q.E.H on the same day to be seen by the surgeon.

With regard to part (d) of the question, Mr Chairperson, Sir, let me inform this House that such incident is not a common phenomenon in our health institutions. However, in order to prevent the recurrence of similar incident, we will study the possibility of providing safety bars, but same will only be implemented after consultations with the personnel as we want to avoid a situation whereby patients will feel that their human rights are not being respected. Moreover, we are quite aware that the aging patients need more geriatric care. We have already initiated procedures for the recruitment of ten Health Care Assistants to support our patients requiring such personal attention.

Mr Emilien: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner stated that the patient, Mr Legoff, is 89 of age. The windows at La Ferme Area Health Centre are about three to four feet. How come that in spite of the presence of safety guards, this patient...

Mr Chairperson: You mean at La Ferme?

Mr Emilien: Yes. How come that this patient, that old aged patient left the ward through a window placed at that height?

Mr Sooprayen: This is what I was informed and this happened.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the respected Commissioner through open door?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is the right information that I received and I'm sure...

Mr Emilien: I would like, Mr Chairperson, Sir, to refer to question B/422 of the 16 March 2004, ...

Mr Chairperson: You can't do that. This is question time. Put your question straightaway.

Mr Emilien: I'm referring to a reply given by the Commissioner on security at hospital.

Mr Chairperson: Put your question, please.

Mr Emilien: The Commissioner was talking about security measures to be taken shortly and he informed this House that security measures were taken within two weeks' time at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Area Health Centres of La Ferme and Mont Lubin. What are precisely the security measures taken by his Commission so far since he informed the House of same on 16 March?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we already have security guards there. And now, with what happened, we'll have to reinforce.

Mr Grandcourt: Can we know from the Commissioner how many safety guards are there at La Ferme Area Health Centre?

Mr Sooprayen: There is one.

Mr Grandcourt: Only one?

Mr Sooprayen: There is a shift system. He does not work for 24 hours.

Mr Chairperson: Next question, please!

**CAMP DU ROI/LE CHOU – ROAD MAINTENANCE,
BUS STOPS, ETC**

(No. B/578) Mr A. L. Emilien (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the road from Camp du Roi (Le Bon Marché) to Le Chou (IVTB) the Deputy Chief Commissioner could inform the House about -

- (a) what his Commission is contemplating to remedy the very bad state of this road, and
- (b) the number of bus stops and other traffic signs found along that road.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the road from Camp du Roi to Le Chou, I am informed that regular maintenance of the road is being carried out and that the last patching work was completed on 03 August 2004.

Moreover, the road section of my Commission has been reinforced to cater for the cleaning of drains in regions where the flooding of roads usually happen. The National Transport Authority has already made a survey on that portion of road on the siting position of bus stop signs. There are presently no bus stop signs on the road and only two speed limit signs are now in place.

Tenders for road signs have already been launched and necessary traffic signs and bus stop signs, where the need is felt, will be placed as soon as possible by my Commission.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, does the Commissioner mean that a tender has been launched only for traffic signs for that portion of road Port Mathurin-Soupirs?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I will ask the respected Member to refer to the statement that I made in this House concerning road signs. We have commissioned road signs for the placing of same all around the island, not only on the secondary road from Le Chou to Camp du Roi.

Mr Chairperson: Next question, please!

ANSE RAFFIN - WATER TREATMENT PLANT

(No. B/579) Mr A. L. Emilien (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the concrete structure recently built close to the football pitch at Anse Raffin, the Commissioner could state the nature and purpose of same.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with your permission, I would like to answer the question B/579. I am informed that the structure recently built near the football pitch of Anse Raffin will accommodate a water treatment plant to treat water from the Anse Raffin dam.

Mr Emilien: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether water from this plant will be pumped to the villages of Rivière Coco and the surrounding ones or it will go by gravity?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, normally the location of a treatment plant depends on different parameters. The treatment plant has been located near Anse Raffin dam because it is near to La Collectrice du Sud and, moreover, water can be pumped in two directions, either from Anse Raffin to Rivière Coco, to regions in the southern part of the island, or from Anse Raffin to Mourouk.

Mr Emilien: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner said that the plant is near Anse Raffin dam. I would like to draw his attention to the fact that it is some one kilometre away from the dam. Would it not have been wiser to have it a few metres downhill the dam so that water treated in the plant could go to the surrounding villages by gravity, instead of wasting public funds in a pump?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have said that the treatment plant will be located near La Collectrice du Sud, that is the pipe carrying water from Mourouk to Rivière Coco. The location of this

treatment plant had been studied by engineers and consultant; and it is the best place where it should be.

Mr Chairperson: Next question, please!

**INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE –
RODRIGUAN REPRESENTATIVE**

(No. B/580) Mr J. C. Agathe (Second Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the Committee on “International Coastal Zone Management” set up in Mauritius, he could state -

- (a) the name of the Rodriguan representative on the Committee;
- (b) whether the representative forms part of any environment committee in Rodrigues and if yes, state his position therein, and
- (c) whether any monthly fee/allowance is being paid or will be paid to him/her and, if yes, the quantum thereof monthly and the total amount paid to date inclusive of travelling, board and lodging.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, no “International Coastal Zone Management” Committee has been set up in Mauritius. If the respected Member is referring to the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Committee, the representative of Rodrigues is Mr Joseph Robertson.

With respect to part (b) of the question, Mr Joseph Robertson is the Secretary of the Rodrigues Environment Committee as well as the Secretary of the three subcommittees which have been set up by the Rodrigues Environment Committee.

As regards part (c), Mr Chairperson, Sir, no allowance is paid for attending the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Committee. But as far as all official missions are concerned, the officer is provided with return air tickets and hotel accommodation in Mauritius or subsistence allowance and out of pocket allowance if he makes his own arrangement for accommodation.

The total amount paid for air tickets, hotel accommodation and subsistence allowance from November 2003 to date are: Rs20,432 (Rs12,000 is for air ticket), Rs12,410 and Rs1,570 respectively.

(Interruptions)

This applies to all officers going to Mauritius, not only for Mr Robertson. An amount of Rs785 representing subsistence allowance and out of pocket allowance for one day for attending the last meeting in July has not yet been paid to the officer.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can we know from the Chief Commissioner, what are the criteria which have been taken into consideration before selecting Mr Robertson to sit on that Committee?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, Mr Robertson is an Enforcement Officer; he is the Secretary of the Environment Committee of the RRA. There is not only Mr Robertson who represents Rodrigues on different committees in Mauritius; there's also Mr Legentil who also represents Rodrigues on other committees. The criteria is that only people who are versed in environmental policy or environmental affairs. We can't send people outside our Environment Committee.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, Mr Robertson is the secretary of the Environment Committee in Rodrigues. We all know that a secretary is someone who jots down only notes of meetings. So, what will be the role of Mr Robertson in the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Committee?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the secretary is not only the person who takes notes; he is the person who follows the policy of the committee. And he is an Enforcement Officer appointed by the PSC. So, he is very well versed in environmental affairs.

Mr Chairperson: Next question, please! Same Member!

SECOND DIVISION FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT - MATCHES

(No. B/581) Mr J. C. Agathe (Second Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for sports whether, with

regard to the Second Division Football tournament held in Rodrigues, he could state where all the matches are being played and why.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, matches of the Second Division football tournament are being held at Grande Montagne playground. The Rodrigues Regional Football Committee, after consultation with the Second Division teams, has found it safer to set the fixtures as stated.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner made mention of safety. Can he enlighten us what he means about safety?

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards safety that I mentioned in my answer, it is felt that in some parts of the island, there is a threat to the security of the referees as well as the players. So, this is why the Rodrigues Regional Football Committee together with the players and different *dirigeants* have found it proper to have the matches played where it is safer.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, does the Commissioner consider that it is only at Grande Montagne that referees are safe?

Mr Chairperson: One question at a time!

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is what I've said. The Referees Committee as well as the Rodrigues Regional Football Committee felt that this is so.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, does the Commissioner consider that the other regions of Rodrigues, outside Grande Montagne, are unsafe?

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, matches are also played outside Grande Montagne.

Mr J. Roussety: He said all matches for Second Division are played at Grande Montagne. Concerning the Second Division football tournament, can I know where these matches are played?

Mr Lisette: I stated in my answer, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that matches of the Second Division Team are played at Grande Montagne. But for First Division Team, matches are being played at Camp du Roi Stadium.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, being given that they play all Second Division football tournament matches at Grande Montagne because of safety measures, does the Commissioner consider that other places in Rodrigues (Baie aux Huîtres, La Ferme, Rivière Coco, Maréchal, etc) are unsafe?

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is a universal concept. I remember of one case in Mauritius where a match has had to be played outside Mauritius because it was felt that that might be a threat to the security of the players as well as the referees. So, what is wrong if matches are transferred from one part of the island to another part for the safety of the players as well as the referees!

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, what about the other implications in playing football? The Commissioner gives priority to safety. I don't think there are any problems for referees in other regions. There is the Police, Mr Chairperson, Sir. People in Rodrigues are civilised. Football players as well as supporters are civilised persons. This is a bad insinuation against football in Rodrigues. They are saying that only at Grande Montagne Second Division football matches can be played. This is unfair Mr Chairperson, Sir, and I believe that the Commissioner merits the motion of no confidence against him.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: There is no question before this House.

(Interruptions)

Can I know which question it is? The Second Member for Maréchal seems to think that there is a question before this House. Can he tell me which question it is?

Mr Agathe: It is about safety, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Chairperson: No, you have to follow. If you wish to put your question now, you can do so.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner is mixing issues; he is referring to Camp du Roi Stadium. I know that First Division matches are being played at Camp du Roi Stadium because we have gate money there. But, at Grande Montagne the different teams don't have gate money. So, has there been any statement made to the Police referring to problems regarding matches played outside Grande Montagne?

Mr Lisette: I referred to the report of the referees made to the Rodrigues Regional Football Committee. Such a statement has been made, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Emilien: The Commissioner for Sports said that matches for the First Division are played at Camp du Roi Stadium and he was referring to safety of referees at Grande Montagne. I would like to know from the Commissioner whether there are two teams of referees, one for Second Division Tournament and one for the First Division.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the referees' committee, together with the Rodrigues Regional Committee, normally selects the referees for the different matches to be played on the different playgrounds.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, is there a list of referees for First Division, Second Division and Third Division?

Mr Lisette: I'll have to look into the matter, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mrs Meunier: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner, if the problem of safety is only with the Second Division Team or with all the football teams in general?

Mr Lisette: It is with football in general, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, if First Division football matches are played at Camp du Roi, this means that Camp du Roi is a safe place. First Division matches are more important and they attract more supporters. Then, why are Second Division matches concerning the Northern and Southern region, la Ferme, etc, not played at Camp du Roi?

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the stadium is already booked for the Tournament of the First Division team. So, matches are being played

during weekends, on Saturdays and Sundays. These are already booked for First Division Tournament. So if you want to have a simultaneous Tournament for Second Division, this means that it has to be played on another playground.

Mr Chairperson: Next question, please!

FARMERS – ANIMALS STRAY DOGS

(No. B/582) Mr J. C. Agathe (Second Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to problems faced by Rodriguan farmers in connection with stray dogs, he could –

- (a) state the names of farmers already affected;
- (b) table the number of animals per category injured/killed by these dogs;
- (c) state what facilities, financial or otherwise, were granted to these farmers to compensate them for their losses, and
- (d) say what measures he contemplates to avoid such happenings.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling the names of the farmers, their addresses as well as the number of animals lost as a result of being killed by stray dogs. The Commission for Agriculture certified the losses for the veterinary services. My Commission has recommended the Development Bank of Mauritius to facilitate loan disbursement to these farmers if requests are made. As from now, only one farmer has made a request for a loan and has been granted same from the Development Bank of Mauritius. In order to avoid recurrence of same, officers of the Extension Service of the Agricultural Services are advising the farmers on how to protect the animals from stray dogs and other predators and also on the possibility of using grabs for straying dogs.

Moreover, following a mission from Mauritius in July last, a delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture is planning for a visit in September to advise on the way of catching stray dogs and more particularly

on the way of disposing of the caught animals in a human way by implementing a unit here.

Following this visit, my Commission is aiming at organising a campaign against stray dogs, look into the possibility of fining severely the owners of stray dogs in cases where the dogs responsible for these attacks are identified.

Mr Chairperson: Next question!

INDEPENDENCE / REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS – EXPENDITURE INCURRED

(No. B/583) Mr J. C. Agathe (Second Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner for Arts & Culture whether, with regard to the last Independence/Republic day celebrations, she could give a brief account of the activities carried out, including the total expenditure incurred on each activity or event.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of Independence and the 12th anniversary of the Republic, the following activities were organised by the Commission –

- the official flag raising ceremony at La Ferme;
- the final of the Independence Football Cup at La Ferme Stadium between Hearts and St Etienne, and
- a cultural show at Grand La Fouche Corail.

The stadium at La Ferme was renovated with the cooperation of the different Commissions namely, Public Infrastructure, Youth & Sports and my own Commission. The official flag raising ceremony included an official parade, a display by 200 primary school children, a display by 200 athletes of the *Ecole des Sports*, a motorcycle display. The cultural show included presentation of the show “*Couleur la Nation*”, eleven groups offered a choreography, performance by five first winners of the song competition “Stars 2010”, organised in the context of Music Day 2001, a sketch presented by the Rodrigues Drama Association, performance by the

first five song winners 2003, organised by MBC. The show ended with fireworks by the Special Mobile Force.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, there is something missing about the total expenditure.

Mr Chairperson: Put your question, please! This has been the answer.

Mr Agathe: No, it is in the original question.

Mr Chairperson: The question has been answered. If you feel it is incomplete, you've got to put another question. Otherwise that's the end of the matter.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can we know from the Commissioner for Arts & Culture, what is the total expenditure incurred on each activity or event?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the renovation of the stadium cost my Commission Rs525,963; overtime of employees of different Commissions Rs268,122; flag raising ceremony and football match Rs235,007; cultural show Rs58,000 and fireworks Rs18,000.

Mr Chairperson: Next question!

TOILETS – CLEANING – PROGRAMME OF WORK

(No. B/584) Mr F. A. Grandcourt (First Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the cleaning of toilets by a contractor in Rodrigues, he could state -

- (a) how many employees are involved in the cleaning of same, and
- (b) what techniques are used in the cleaning process.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (a) of the question, according to the approved programme of work, the contractor, Messrs La Voirie, have deployed two persons, one man and one woman to

clean the nine toilet blocks included in the contract awarded to them. The toilets are being cleaned twice daily and the two employees are conveyed to these toilets accordingly.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (b) of the question, the cleaning is carried out according to the requirement of the contract including brushing, washing with detergent and sanitising.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, there are nine toilets in Rodrigues.

Mr Chairperson: Nine toilets or blocks? I'm sorry, I understand from the answer that there are nine toilet blocks.

Mr J. Roussety: For us here, in local language it means nine toilets. Nine blocks of toilets, that is, Port Mathurin, Mont Lubin, La Ferme, hospital and Administration. Nine toilets multiply by two cleanings per day make 18 cleanings.

Mr Chairperson: Please, wait! From my memory it seems that there were 10 blocks?

Mr J. Roussety: Yes.

Mr Chairperson: I'm sorry, this has been the answer in this House.

Mr J. Roussety: Thank you very much. Then it would be ten times two which makes twenty cleanings, in Port Mathurin and La Ferme. Two more cleanings.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: On a Point of order, Mr Chairperson, Sir. Can the Minority Leader ask his question straightforward?

Mr Chairperson: Yes, I agree with you that this should be the way questions are put. But at times you need a small basis in order for the questions to be more intelligible. This normally should not be a form of speech. Minority Leader, you can proceed but you have to be brief.

Mr J. Roussety: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir. I would be brief to please my friend, *un "adversaire"* from the other side of the House. There are 20

cleanings for two employees in about five localities in Rodrigues. I would like to ask the Commissioner responsible for this matter, whether he considers this correct, appropriate and whether there would be an efficient cleaning of these toilets. Could he, first, give us the number of places they have to clean, and whether he considers this appropriate?

The Chief Commissioner: The toilet blocks situated at the Rodrigues Administration, 2 blocks; Baie Lascars Bus Terminal, 2 blocks; Queen Elizabeth Hospital, 1 block; Mont Lubin Health Centre, La Ferme Health Centre, Granary Port Mathurin, Port Mathurin Green Space and Petit Gabriel, each one block.

I received this information from the Environment Unit which inspects the cleaning of those toilets. I'll try to find out with the Environment Unit and the Enforcement officers whether those blocks are being cleaned twice daily, and then I'll come further with a statement.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner has been talking about 9 toilet blocks, but I think there are, at least, 10 toilet blocks in Rodrigues. I don't know where he has got his information. How come that two employees clean 10 toilet blocks in Rodrigues, Mr Chairperson, Sir? This makes 108 cleanings per day, Mr Chairperson, Sir! The toilets are not cleaned as they should be. I should like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether he is aware that some of the toilets are locked in some parts in Port Mathurin.

The Chief Commissioner: I must say that the cleanings are done twice daily by two persons, which means that there are 10 cleanings per day.

(Interruptions)

I am informed that those persons are conveyed to these toilet blocks by transport of the contractor. Well, if you have 10 blocks, divided by 2, it means five multiplied by 2, that is, 10 cleanings per day.

(Interruptions)

The Member mentioned that the toilets are locked. I'll find out.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether it is correct to clean toilets only twice daily because I think toilets should be cleaned each time they are used.

(Interruptions)

Yes, as and when required, not twice daily.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I agree with the Member of the Minority. In the first contract that we have launched which amounted to millions and millions of rupees, we have tried to have cleaners daily, at all time, in each block. But this could not be possible for us, because according to the tender it costs a lot of money. In the new tender which is coming, we'll see whether those contractors could employ more people so that effectively the maintenance and the cleaning of those toilets can be done regularly. We'll ask for Enforcement Officers to go and check. I know this question of public toilets causes us a lot of problems. Sometimes people don't know how to use the toilets; and there is lot of damages, so we have had very often to replace the accessories. In the first tender, the contractor would have had to provide water, to replace the accessories destroyed there. But, as I said, it costs us a lot of money. I'm personally very sensitive concerning the question of public toilets. In some countries this is managed by the private sector and people have to pay. Even in France you have to pay about Rs30 to use a toilet. These public toilets cause us a lot of problems.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, if you would allow me a last question on this issue. I wonder how many times did the Chief Commissioner visit these toilets? I can assure him that he...

Mr Chairperson: The Member can ask him if he wishes.

Mr Jabeemissar: He has mentioned at least two places at Port Mathurin, the green space near the Police Line Barracks and the one at the bus terminal. I meet those workers there everyday and they are always complaining. If they want to clean the toilets twice daily, who will provide them with water? Very often, they complain that there is no water. And secondly, when there is water, the fittings are either rusted completely and worn out as the one in the green space, or totally leaked as the one in the bus terminal. The Chief Commissioner has talked about monitoring ...

Mr Chairperson: The Member should not be too long, please.

Mr Jabeemissar: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether in the monitoring process the Enforcement Officers make recommendations about the types of fittings so as to enable the workers to do their work normally? That's why I think lots of problems are being encountered there.

The Chief Commissioner: We have discussed in the Environment Committee about the damages caused to the toilets. Effectively, there is a lot of damages and that we have tried to see whether we can fix those fittings sometimes. All the pipes have been damaged by people using the toilets, even the walls, the doors and so on. We have thought of replacing the fittings not with the PVC type, but with galvanized fittings which can be fixed to the concrete. This will be done in the future.

Mr Chairperson: Next question, please.

“ROUTE DE L’AUTONOMIE”- MOWING AND CUTTING OF GRASS

(No. B/585) Mr F. A. Grandcourt (First Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, he could confirm, as he mentioned in the Assembly previously, that the mowing and cutting of grass along the “*Route de L’Autonomie*” do not form part of the contract with La Voirie Ltd.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I confirm that mowing and cutting of grass along the “*Route de l’Autonomie*” do not form part of the contract allocated to *La Voirie Ltée*. These works are carried out by employees of the Environment Unit.

Mr Chairperson: Next question, please!

VEHICLES - IMPORT PERMITS

(No. B/586) Mr F. A. Grandcourt (First Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the delivery of import permits to import vehicles in Rodrigues, he could state -

- (a) the mode of application;
- (b) the number of permits which have been rejected since October, 2002, if any, and the identity of the applicants.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that with regard to the import permits, application forms are now available for the applicant to be filled in. Since May 2003, the date from which the delivery of such permits was entrusted to my Commission, the application form has been devised to provide facilities to the public.

However, it was observed that prior to the filling in of the application form, people wishing to import a vehicle had to write a letter and most of the time the required information for taking a decision was not provided. I am tabling a copy of the application form for the information of this House. The application should be submitted along with the required documents.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the list of permits from 2002 to date is exhaustive. The number of permits which have been rejected since October 2002 is being compiled and will be tabled afterwards.

Mr Chairperson: Next question, please!

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL & AREA HEALTH CENTRES – INSECTS INVASION

(No. B/587 Mr F. A. Grandcourt (First Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health, whether he can give detail of the measures he is taking to prevent insects from invading the wards of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the two Area Health Centres?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the following measures are being taken to prevent insects from invading the wards of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the two Area Health Centres -

- (a) A survey has been carried out in the vicinity of the hospital to detect the quantum of adult mosquitoes. Consequently, health education has been carried out among the residents in the vicinity of the hospital requesting them to keep their yard and rooftop of building free from stagnant water. Moreover, they have been requested to keep the yard clear of all shrubs and bushy parts and regular larviciding is being carried out in the vicinity. Recently the kitchens have been provided with ultra violet rays insect killers and arrangements are being made to provide mosquito proof netting in all wards of the hospital and Area Health Centres.
- (b) Insecticides such as white chalk are being placed at specific places to prevent invasion of other insects.

My Commission is monitoring the situation and the Public Health Office will soon carry out an inspection to detect the decline of the adult mosquitoes.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner tell us what is being done right now to prevent mosquitoes from entering the wards of these Area Health Centres and the QEH?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I've already answered the question.

Mr Chairperson: Next question!

(Interruptions)

Order! Order please! I am on my feet.

(Interruptions)

If ever an unparliamentary word is repeated, Members who repeating it would have ultimately to bear the consequences and not the person who is supposed to. The Member is on his feet, please proceed!

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner for Health if he will see to it that dogs and cats and other stray animals are prevented from...

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: The Member should be allowed to put his question properly.

Mr Grandcourt: Yes, the Commissioners are discussing among themselves and they are disturbing me.

Mr Chairperson: Please proceed!

Mr Grandcourt: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner for Health if he can see to it that dogs and cats and other stray animals are prevented from getting into the premises of the Area Health Centre and QEH?

Mr Sooprayen: M. le Président, j'ai déjà répondu à la question.

Mr Emilien: Mr Chairperson, Sir, something is worrying me. Maybe I have not heard very well the answer of the respected Commissioner.

Mr Chairperson: There have been too many interruptions, I believe. There has been too much noise.

Mr Emilien: It seems to me that I heard that a survey is being carried out to know the quantum of adult mosquitoes. Can I know from the Commissioner what is being done to know the quantum of adult mosquitoes?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, these are the technical words of the Public Health Officer and they know their work.

Mr Chairperson: Next question, please!

HYDROPONICS PROJECT

(No. B/588) Mr G. Jabeemissar (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to hydroponics in Rodrigues, he could say -

- (a) how many units have been constructed and their locations;
- (b) the sources of funding and the total costs of the projects;
- (c) which workers were involved in their construction; and
- (d) why the one at Grand La Fouche Corail has not been completed yet and the reason therefor?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that three greenhouses related to hydroponics and protected cultures have been set up by the Agricultural Services as follows -

- (i) two greenhouses of 165m² each at Oyster Bay Agricultural Station;
- (ii) one greenhouse of 200m² at Grand La Fouche Corail Agricultural Station. The two greenhouses at Oyster Bay were donated by the Mauritius Research Council and the one at Grand La Fouche Corail is financed under the Anti-Erosion Programme. The costs amount to Rs1.5 m. and Rs427,022.90 respectively. Labour from the Agricultural Services with the technical assistance of the AREU and the supplies were involved in the construction as the contract for greenhouses was for supply of materials only. The structure at Grand La Fouche Corail was completed in October 2003, but the supplies were not acknowledged due to some missing components on the local market in Mauritius. Meanwhile, with the passage of cyclone “Frank” in February 2004, some damages were caused to the structure. Now that the supplier has provided the missing

items, necessary repairs are being undertaken by the Agriculture Services.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House if the two greenhouses are already operational, and if so, whether their services are accessible to the public in Rodrigues?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, these greenhouses are being tested on a pilot basis on the possibility of introducing “*culture agricole sous serre*” in Rodrigues. And we have begun with cucumbers and they are being sold on the local market on Saturday and also we have had some planters who have gone in Spain to have more details on greenhouses, on “*culture sous serre*” and same will be donated to three of the planters so that we can have in Rodrigues these types of agricultural cultures.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards the one at Grand La Fouche Corail, the Deputy Chief Commissioner has stated that due to a recent cyclone, the greenhouse has been completely destroyed and has had to be rebuilt. Can he explain why a gang of workers from the Agricultural Services are on site there everyday? Can we know what are precisely the work of these workers there?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is another question. It does not concern the question on hydroponics. There is a plot of land nearby the greenhouse on which these agricultural workers are working.

Concerning the greenhouse, Technical Assistants from the extension service with the help of these workers will repair this greenhouse very soon on supply of the materials.

Mr Chairperson: Next question, please!

FISHERMEN - WEATHER FORECASTS

(No. B/589) Mr G. Jabeemissar (Second Local Region Member of La Ferme) asked Chief Commissioner as regards the safety of lagoon

fishermen in Rodrigues, whether the meteorological weather forecasts take into consideration the different maritime conditions prevailing at fishing places and, if not, what measures he intends to take so that fishermen are well informed before they venture out at sea.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the Meteorological Services do take into consideration the maritime conditions prevailing at various geographical locations including fishing places around Rodrigues before issuing forecasts.

Forecasts are issued daily at 5.15 a.m with a 12-hour validity and at 10.00 a.m with a 24-hour validity and are regularly broadcast by the MBC radio both during 'Matinal Rodrigues' and from Mauritius.

I would like to add some information concerning the broadcast on "Matinal Rodrigues". "Matinal Rodrigues" informed us that very often they have some difficulties to be provided with weather forecast. Mauritius Meteorological Services in Mauritius at Vacoas said since that they have now the e-mail address of the MBC in Rodrigues, this will be done very regularly.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, does the Chief Commissioner agree that because there is lack of communication between the main office in Mauritius and that in Rodrigues, there may have been cases where the meteo broadcast bulletin is not in favour of fishermen when they venture out? This question has come from the fishermen themselves, stating that when the meteo broadcasts weather condition for Rodrigues in general, this does not apply for all fishing places.

The Chief Commissioner: The information is provided to Mauritius by the meteorological services at Pointe Canon. We have already discussed that matter with the Director of the Meteorological Services in Mauritius. What the member has said is true, sometimes the weather is very rough on the other side of Rodrigues, especially at Port Sud Est, while it is very calm at Port Mathurin. This is the problem. There will soon be a relay station at Citronelle or at Mont Lubin. The equipment to register *les forces du vent*, have already been ordered so that they can issue the weather bulletins for different places in Rodrigues. They say that they are taking into consideration the different places, but we know that it is not true. We have discussed this matter with Mr Sok Appadu of the Meteorological Services in

Mauritius. A sum of Rs500,000 has already been provided in our budget of last year to buy this equipment.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, Rodrigues Regional Assembly is trying to set up as far as possible institutions and services in Rodrigues. We already have a meteorological station here, which is linked with the Mauritius meteorological services. Since 2004, the meteorological services in Rodrigues has not been able to give weather conditions for the next tomorrow morning or even for the afternoon. I believe that this is a proposal that should be examined. I would kindly request the Chief Commissioner to see that the possibility of setting up a meteorological service at Pointe Canon be envisaged, of course, in consultation, if need be, with the meteorological services of Mauritius.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have already discussed that question with Mr Sok Appadu. Lots of questions have been raised concerning this service here. First, there was that question as to whether the service has the authority to issue to the MBC direct information concerning the weather conditions here. And, secondly, concerning the payment of bad weather allowance, as you know, it is sent to Mauritius to be approved. I think the payment can be done here every month or one month later. We are going to discuss this matter at higher level, with the Prime Minister or the Minister for Rodrigues, so that a Cabinet paper could be prepared so that Government can take a decision that the meteorological services in Rodrigues can issue meteorological bulletins directly to the MBC or to other services in Rodrigues.

Mr Emilien: Mr Chairperson, Sir....

Mr Chairperson: This is the last supplementary question.

Mr. Emilien: Very often, fishermen find themselves at a loss concerning meteorological broadcast on radio, because when they are advised not to venture at sea, in some places, the sea is rather calm. I would like to know from the Chief Commissioner whether he could contemplate the possibility having a more detailed bulletin issued in consultation with the meteorological services in Rodrigues and with the counterpart in Mauritius. When I say a more detailed one, I mean, by region.

The Chief Commissioner: As I say, in order to have detailed information for different places, the meteorological services should have different stations in Rodrigues. We have started with one at Citronelle and there is already one at Plaine Corail. The project of transferring the station to Plaine Corail has been declined. We know the problem and once more we are going to select other places for the setting up of other stations to be able to collect different information concerning the weather.

Mr Chairperson: Yes, thank you. Maybe now it is a good time to break. So, I suspend the Assembly for one hour.

At 12.15 p.m the sitting was suspended.

On resuming at 1.15 p.m. with the Deputy Chairperson in the Chair

PETROLEUM GAS - NO. OF SUPPLIERS, ETC.

(No. B/590) Mr G. Jabeemissar (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner for Trade, Commerce and Licensing whether with regard to the sale of liquefied Petroleum Gas in Rodrigues, he could say -

- (a) how many suppliers are involved in this activity and give their monthly volume of import;
- (b) the reasons for the frequent disruption in the smooth running of this activity, and
- (c) what measures he intends to take to avoid recurrence of same.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have been informed that three companies are involved in the sale of LPG in Rodrigues, namely - Joysim Ltd for ElfGas, importing an average of 640 by 6 kilo per month, AEL DDS transport for Maurigas LPG importing an average of 1,100 cylinders per month; these include cylinders of both 6 and 12 kilogrammes. Shell Mauritius Ltd, importing an average of 556 cylinders per month; these include cylinders of 5, 12 and 15 kilogrammes capacity.

The disruption in the smooth running of this activity is due to the following reasons -

- (i) the application of the International Maritime;

- (ii) dangerous goods;
- (iii) IMDG codes as from January, 2004, and
- (iv) the subsequent changes in the frequency for vessels feeding Rodrigues with LPG cylinders.

Carriage of LPG is now scheduled on a monthly basis. However, it is worth noting that during these voyage up to 20 containers are reserved for suppliers, but they are unable to fill the spaces due to insufficient domestic gas cylinders provided on the Mauritius-Rodrigues brand. As an example, voyage of Mauritius Trochetia which arrives on 06 August, 2004 in Rodrigues carried only 8 containers of LPG.

The second reason is the short stay at quay in Rodrigues of Mauritius Trochetia. As Mauritius Trochetia stays for a maximum of two days at quay, time is insufficient to empty containers of full gas cylinders, to refill these containers with empty gas cylinders and load them on a same vessel.

The main way to tackle the problem is to make a stock in Rodrigues plus reserves sufficiently to last for at least one month. In a view to attaining this objective, the following are being done and envisaged - derogation are given to Mauritius Pride in some exceptional cases to allow it to transport LPG cylinders. However, some conditions have to be fulfilled, which include -

- (i) the application of a special permit to carry dangerous goods, taking of a special insurance cover and reduce the number of passengers from 268 to 34, and
- (ii) all companies should invest more in the purchase of equipment. In this connection, negotiations are on the way to find a mechanism of how to provide support to the different companies involved in the transport of LPG cylinders to Rodrigues as it is of paramount importance that petroleum companies invest more in equipment, for example, in the purchase of more cylinders to avoid any shortage.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, first, can the Commissioner say whether, among the measures he intends to take to avoid recurrence of disruption in the smooth running of LPGs, there is a possibility of importing

that commodity in bulk and have it filled here instead of waiting for empty containers to be sent to Mauritius; and, secondly, whether it is not advisable to have this commodity imported by the State Trading Corporation?

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, when we refer to the answer given, we already know what is the amount of gas which has to be used in Rodrigues monthly. The main problem that we are facing is that there are no sufficient gas cylinders to transport from Mauritius to Rodrigues. Discussions are under way to solve the problem. So, I think that we should, in a first instance, try to tackle this problem by helping the oil companies in trying to have more gas cylinders so that they can have the amount sufficient to be transported to Rodrigues.

Mr Emilien: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner talked about the short time the ship stays at quay, which causes difficulty for the reloading of empty gas cylinders. Am I to understand, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, that we wait for the arrival of the ship to load empty cylinders in containers?

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is of very paramount importance, because we are dealing with gas. We have just learnt what has happened recently in Mauritius about the explosion caused by gas. So, if we are going to fill gas cylinders in containers, maybe two, three days before the coming of Mauritius Trochetia, there is the possibility of gas being leaked from the empty containers and this may lead to an explosion. So, we cannot disregard this safety measure.

Mr Emilien: Mr Chairperson, Sir, how can gas leak from empty containers?

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it may happen that in a container which is considered as empty, some gas may have remained inside it.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, this is a very important issue, because the greatest problem the population is facing now is the lack of gas on the market. People are going everywhere around Rodrigues in the search of one cylinder of gas which cannot be found. Therefore, in the long term, Mr Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner envisage of having a better way of transporting gas from Mauritius to Rodrigues, that is, a special boat equipped to transport gas because in the

near future, our demand here will certainly increase? We should see to it that this situation will not prevail in the future.

Mr Lisette: As we know, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that if the oil companies are able to invest for the purchase of more LPG gas cylinders, the problem is going to be solved. As I have said in my answer, special derogations are given to Mauritius Pride in case a scarcity is observed on the island. So, I think that with these two conjunctions, this problem may be solved.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, for the import of gas in Rodrigues, is there need for the importers to have a special or any official clearance from the RRA or from the Commission?

Mr Lisette: I think, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, everything has to be cleared at the level of the Mauritius Shipping Corporation.

Mr J. Roussety: No, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I was saying at the level of the RRA, of the Executive Council or at the level of the Commission for Trade, Commerce and Licensing. Is there any need for gas importers to have a clearance, an import permit or any other document to import gas in Rodrigues?

Mr Lisette: I will look into the matter, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir.

Mr J. Roussety: It would appear, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, that gas shortage in Rodrigues is due to the fact that necessary clearance has not been obtained from the authorities. I would like to ask the Commissioner whether he is aware of that?

Mr Lisette: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, as far as my Commission is concerned, all clearances have been given. Actually I do not think that oil companies are dealing with my Commission concerning any clearances. Being given that the Minority Leader has mentioned it, I don't think that the problem with the insurance, or whatever, lies at the level of my Commission.

The Deputy Chairperson: Next question, Please.

GRENADE DAM - CONSTRUCTION

(No. B/591) Mr G. Jabeemissar (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner, whether the construction of Grenade Dam is in the pipeline, and if yes, if he would give a tentative date for its inception.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I would like to refer the respected member to my answer and to different supplementary questions to question No. B/560 of the last sitting whereby all information was supplied on the question concerning the Grenade Dam.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I know fully well the answer given by the Deputy Chief Commissioner. That's why I have come again with the same question. He said that the Grenade Dam will be built some time in the future. In the budget which has just been voted, money has been appropriated for the construction of dams, namely the Grenade Dam, Pavé la Bonté Dam and the completion of Anse Raffin Dam. We should like to know whether it is in the pipeline and what will be the date of its inception?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: No, Mr Chairperson, Sir. The construction of Grenade Dam is not in the pipeline. Therefore, the other parts of the question do not arise.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is surprising! And I don't know whether we have voted a budget here just for the sake of voting it. If you would allow me, I would refresh the mind of our Deputy Chief Commissioner, the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure. The Capital Budget 2004/2005 has just been voted here in this House and it has been approved. I have just received a copy of it as approved by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly on 05 April 2004. In the memorandum, you may refer to item 30-102-013 - Construction and Rehabilitation of Dams and Reservoir: Rs75 m. The construction of Grenade Dam and Cascade Victoire Dam are mentioned here. It is in the current budget. And the amount earmarked for the construction and rehabilitation of dams: Rs75 m, it is in the budget and it has been voted. I would like to ask the Commissioner whether this money has been reallocated and why this project is not going ahead if it is in the budget. It is in the budget, Mr Chairperson, Sir, and he says it is not in the pipeline. What type of budget have they done?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, to refresh the mind of the Minority Leader, I would like to say that the minority of this House didn't vote the budget.

Mr J. Roussety: On a point of order, Mr Chairperson, Sir. This type of remarks should not be allowed. The fact that we did not vote for the budget does not mean that we are not allowed to comment on it.

The Deputy Chairperson: Take your seat, please.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: As I have said, at the last sitting, priorities will be given to the Pavé la Bonté Dam. Before constructing a dam, there are different scenarios that should be taken into account. You can construct a dam for agricultural and domestic purposes; you can construct a dam for domestic purposes only, and you can construct a dam for agricultural purposes only. The Grenade Dam was earmarked for financing by the European Union under special commitment from remaining funds. In December 2003 the delegation of European Union informed that an amount of Rs10 m would be available for co-financing the dam. Therefore, there has been a committee whereby these partners have met members of the Executive Council to see whether it is viable to go on with the construction of the dam. Tenders were prepared and launched in March 2004. And due to the high cost of the bidder, that is, about Rs95 m, the project could not be implemented. Geological studies and hydro-geological studies have been carried out. But, we have our priorities; a Government has its priorities. It can have been said in the memorandum.

The Deputy Chairperson: No interruption from a sitting position, please.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, but it is not a priority. Our priority is the Pavé la Bonté Dam because it is found in an area which is hydro-geologically favourable to water availability for both domestic and agricultural purposes. Moreover, according to an hydrological study, this dam, which will be about 95 000 m³ can also be reserved as a “*route de secours*” to supply water from Petit Brûlé to Quatre Vents Reservoir whenever there are technical problems concerning Mourouk Reservoir. But concerning Rivière Bananes, which is an important agricultural valley, as you may be aware, we have already constructed three *retenues collinaires* at

Papayes, Nassola and Rivière Bananes itself. However, we will look into the possibility of constructing other water harvesting structures for the clustering of planters found at Rivière Bananes. In the pipeline, we are constructing a water retaining structure at St. Dore. We are also looking at the possibility of taking the water in this retaining structure when water is available and to supply it to regions, namely Vainqueur and Rivière Bananes.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, there is still the same question because the money they earmarked included part three of their memorandum - Construction of La Bonté Dam and Grenade Dam. So, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner what is the exact purpose of approving a Budget on 05 April 2004, this year, about four months back, approving a budget for the construction of Grenade Dam and Cascade Victoire Dam and, a few months after, saying that these dams are no longer a priority. I would like to ask him what is the purpose of this exercise, that is, including it in the budget, "*lave lizié dimoune*" and then saying there is no money for it. What type of planning his Commission has been doing? In the budget it is said that the dam would be built, and now he says it is not going to be built. What type of planning has he done?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, a Regional Government can vote a budget, but in a budget you can do reallocation of a specific development to another development of the same type. We have said that priority will be given to Pavé la Bonté Dam. Therefore, the money which the Regional Government would have supplied for the construction of Grenade Dam will be invested in the construction of the Pavé la Bonté Dam,

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, has there been authorisation for the reallocation of this project? Because you can't just take money from an item and reallocate it to another item. Have all the financial procedures been complied with, and more specifically is the Accountant- General aware? Has his authorisation been obtained before going ahead with this?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as I have said, we will give priority to the construction of Pavé la Bonté Dam. The Regional Government will decide for the re-allocation after all tender procedures, which have different steps will be completed. Finance being an area of responsibility which falls under the Regional Government, we will

not have to seek advice from the Accountant-General, according to the Financial Management Manual.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, according to the Deputy Chief Commissioner, to make a reallocation in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, they don't need the advice or the approval of the Accountant-General.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: We have Accounting Officers here in our department.

The Deputy Chairperson: Next question, please.

MONT LUBIN AREA HEALTH CENTRE – PILLOWS, BEDS, MATTRESSES, ETC

(No. B/592) Mr D. L. Guillaume (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health whether, in view of difficulties faced by patients at the Area Health Centre of Mont Lubin due to lack of pillows, *guéridons*, beds with well-conditioned back rest and clean mattresses, he could state –

- (a) what measures his Commission is taking to remedy this deplorable situation;
- (b) if each patient receives a pedestal table (*guéridon*) during his stay, and
- (c) table a copy of the receipt when these mattresses were purchased.

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that all the beds have been provided with pillows. We also have some in stock in our hospital stores. Some patients prefer using their own pillows. There is no need for backrest, because there are fowler's bed in the Centres, which serve the purpose.

As regards part (b) of the question, each patient has a pedestal table during his stay in wards. Anyway, we have already taken the decision to replace some old ones.

As far as part (c) is concerned, I am now tabling a copy of the receipt as requested.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner said he is tabling a receipt. This is not a receipt, Mr Chairperson, Sir! This is a stores ledger, not a receipt of what has been purchased.

**POINTE LA GUEULE - NET FISHERMEN CO-OPERATIVE
SOCIETY – BAD WEATHER ALLOWANCE**

(No. B/593) Mr D. L. Guillaume (Third Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to difficulties faced by the professional Net Fishermen Co-operative Society of Pointe La Gueule to obtain their bad weather allowance while they repair their nets every Saturday, he could state –

- (a) how many professional fishermen fish for the society and their names;
- (b) the number of days they have fished for the month of June 2004, and
- (c) if their net repair activities on Saturdays could be deemed working days for these fishermen, so that they may enhance their entitlement to bad weather allowance.

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

- (a) I am tabling a list with the names of 17 fishermen employed by the Net Fishermen Co-operative Society of Pointe La Gueule.
- (b) In June 2004, the fishermen of the Net Fishermen Co-operative Society of Pointe La Gueule fished on four fishing days and on 14 days which were bad weather days according to the report of

the Meteorological Services. There were a total of nine fishing days for that month and, according to established criteria for the payment of bad weather allowance, they should have fished on five fishing days, that is, 50% attendance on fishing days.

- (c) Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the criteria for the payment of bad weather allowance specifies that only days when the fishermen are engaged in fishing activities can be reckoned as days of presence, and only Sundays and public holidays are non-fishing days. Therefore, mending of net activities on Saturdays cannot be reckoned as days of presence. This is the only occasion on which a whole net fishing team does not receive bad weather allowance.

Mr Jean Daniel Spéville, who was acting as Chief Commissioner, met the Head fishermen in July, and he has been advised to discuss with other net fishing societies and submit their proposals on the possibility of not considering Saturdays as official fishing days for net fishing for the purpose of payment of bad weather allowance. Their proposal will be given due consideration by the Executive Council. However, I am informed that some net fishing societies do fish on Saturdays.

POINTE L'HERBE CORAIL – SAND LANDING STAGE

(No. B/594) Mr D. L. Guillaume (Third Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the sand landing spot at Pte. l'Herbe Corail, he could state -

- (a) the number of sand quarry permit and table the names of their holders together with the names of their employees;
- (b) whether any new permit was granted recently, and
- (c) whether any new structure was built at the landing spot recently and state the reasons therefor.

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

- (a) I am tabling a list with the names of 13 persons who hold valid sand removal licences as well as the names of their employees.
- (b) No new licences have been granted recently. However, the licence of Mr Jacques Désiré Clarel Clair, which expired in September 2001, has been renewed on 13 July 2004 and approval has been conveyed on 05 August 2004 for the renewal of that of Mr Karl Capdor, which expired in December 2001.
- (c) A new landing stage of 22.6 m x 9.8 m has been built at Pointe l'Herbe Sand Landing Station in July 2004 by Mr J. Désiré Clarel Clair. This structure is meant for the offloading of sand.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the new structure on the coast, I won't say that there has been an EIA because most obviously they don't have it. But, were the details of the structure submitted to the Chief Commissioner's Office of the RRA for approval before a building permit, construction permit was issued?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Clair has not sought authorisation to construct a sand loading area. And even in the past, those who built structures there did not ask for authorisation. This has not been reported to the Environment Committee, but as all structures built in the sea should have an EIA, this is being controlled and monitored.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, if that sand extractor did not have an EIA, has not got approval, therefore, he is in illegality as far as construction on the coast is concerned. What will happen if everybody constructs his own sand-landing platform?

The Deputy Chairperson: This is hypothetical. Put your question please.

Mr J. Roussety: My question is: what measures is he contemplating to take to deal with that matter at the level of his Commission, as this is illegal? Because, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, when a 'small' Rodriguan builds a small house *en bois et en tôle*, he is sent to the *cadastre* and to Court, whereas when someone else - I don't know who is that person - builds a structure on the coast, the Chief Commissioner says that it is alright, as if he is not concerned. I would like to ask him what measures, legal administrative or otherwise, he is taking against that person.

The Chief Commissioner: The Minority Leader talked about illegal construction and persons being sent to Court. Let me inform him that no person is being sent to Court. Concerning those illegal constructions of sand landing structures, we have decided to raise this issue at the next Environment meeting, so that we can take a decision. We are even going to raise the cases of those who have constructed sand landing structures in the past at the next Environment meeting, so that the Environment committee can take a decision.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, for the preservation of the environment in that area, that is, the coastal environment, the coastal zone, will the Chief Commissioner arrange for this structure to be demolished and all the materials removed?

The Chief Commissioner: As I have said, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the matter will be brought to the Environment committee. As the Environment Committee has got powers to advise and recommend, it will take a decision concerning those illegal structures.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner does not seem to take this matter seriously. Being given that officers of the Environment didn't give notice to his office that such structure has been illegally built on the coast, why is it that no sanction has been taken against these officers? Why is it that, whenever there is any illegal construction somewhere, immediately the office of the Chief Commissioner is being made aware and sanctions are taken, whereas in that particular case no action has been taken yet?

The Chief Commissioner: Does the respected member mean sanction against an officer?

Mr Jabeemissar: Yes, of course!

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner does not take action against any officer. This is done at the level of the Island Chief Executive, or if a Departmental Head refers a case to the Island Chief Executive. As I said, all matters will be discussed at the level of the Environment Committee, and the Environment Committee will decide whether to give the officer a warning or make him aware of his duty, so that in the future this situation does not recur. We are not going to decide

what kind of sanction should be taken against a government employee. This is not our job.

Mr Jabeemissar: Another question, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir. The Chief Commissioner made mention of, at least, two permits that have expired in 2001 and which have been renewed in 2004, that is, three years afterwards. I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner, in that particular case, why is it that those permits have been renewed after three years? What consideration has been given to these and on what ground are they being renewed?

The Chief Commissioner: The reason put forward by the two persons is that they could not carry out their sand removal activities since 2001 because the boats were damaged during cyclonic conditions. The expiration of a licence depends on the will of the licensee. He can ask not to renew, to cancel his licence, but as regards this one, there has not been any letter saying that they would like to cancel their licence.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, according to the reply of the Chief Commissioner, he stated that two new licences have been renewed, namely those of Mr Clair and Mr Capdor. But, on the paper, we don't see the names of Mr Capdor and his employees. Something is said in the House, but the answer seems to be incomplete. Which is which?

The Deputy Chairperson: Put your question, please.

Mr Grandcourt: Which is which?

The Deputy Chairperson: Put your question and sit down.

Mr Grandcourt: How is it that the name of Mr Capdor is not on that list?

The Deputy Chairperson: Give the opportunity to the Chief Commissioner to reply.

Mr Grandcourt: And this happens, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, quite often. We receive incomplete answers. I don't know if there is cover-up or something else.

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Chairperson: Please, no more interruption, no more allegation.

The Chief Commissioner: We have taken note of the question of the respected member and we will see why those names do not appear on the list.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, two licences have been renewed after a period of three years of not being in operation. Has there been a Governmental policy or any regulation, which says that we must not issue or renew any licence?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, as I said, those two persons could not go ahead with their activities, because their boats were damaged during cyclonic conditions and they took perhaps a long time to repair them or to acquire new ones. So, the question of cancelling of licence did not arise.

(Interruptions)

All that we know is that these people did not express the wish to cancel the licences; the licences were still valid. They have explained that they had not been able to continue the removal of sand activities, because the boats were damaged during cyclonic conditions and that they took a long time to have them repaired or to acquire new ones.

MANGUES SPORTS COMPLEX – MAINTENANCE

(No. B/595) Mr D. L. Guillaume (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Sports whether, with regard to Manges sports complex, he could state -

- (a) the amount of money earmarked and then spent for its repairs,
- (b) who will be responsible for its maintenance.

Mr Lisette: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, I have been informed that the amount earmarked for the renovation and the running of Manges sports complex is Rs1,066,800. So far, Rs486,593.75 have been paid to the contractor.

Insofar as part (b) is concerned, the Commission for Youth and Sports is responsible for the maintenance of the complex.

Mr Agathe: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, can we know whether the work has been completed?

Mr Lisette: The handing over has already been done, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir. All the works that were supposed to be done according to the contract document have been completed.

Mr Agathe: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, since the maintenance of the complex falls under the Commissioner responsible for Sports, how is it that the key was delivered to the president of Manges village council?

Mr Lisette: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, it is just a matter of control before entering the complex. Normally, it is the persons practising handball, volleyball or any other discipline who attend the complex. As a measure of security, it is more practical to hand over the key to the president of the village council.

Mr Emilien: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, being given that the key is in the custody of the president of the village council, may we know from the Commissioner for Youth and Sports who will be accountable if ever there is any damage to the sports complex?

Mr Lisette: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, there is a sort of *“participation démocratique”* *parmis les villageois*. The Commission wants their participation in the maintenance of this complex. In case of minor damage, those using the complex inform my Commission. And, of course, there are technicians who normally go about the complex to check whether there is any repair to be done.

CAMP PINTADE, CITE PATATE AND BAIE DU NORD - WATER PROBLEM

(No. B/596) Mrs J. Prosper (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, he would inform the House -

- (a) if there is any water problem in the villages of Cité Patate, Camp Pintade and Baie du Nord, and
- (b) if yes, what measures he contemplates to remedy the situation.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a), I am informed that there was a water shortage at Grand la Fouche Corail reservoir for the period of 19 to 23 July 2004. Such a shortage was due to an air valve in the feeder, which has hampered the flow of water from Mont Lubin borehole to Quatre Vents reservoir. The defective air valve has been identified and replaced accordingly. Such shortage of water has disrupted and elongated the frequency of water distribution at Cité Patate and Camp Pintade village.

The situation is now under control and water distribution at Camp Pintade has started on 04 August 2004, and Cité Patate is presently being provided with water.

With regard to part (b), at Baie du Nord village water consumers are tapped on the existing water distribution network which is supplied with water from two main sources, mainly Baie du Nord Dam and Limon Dam. Water distribution is inspected twice weekly. Those who do not have an individual water pipe have been provided with water by means of water tankers.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner is talking about Baie du Nord Dam. Can he tell us exactly where the dam is situated? As far as I know, I am not aware of such a dam.

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Chairperson: The Respected member has put a question, so please let the Commissioner answer.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, this dam is found on the upper part of Baie du Nord – at its extremities.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House whether - as a result of the problems encountered in the main pipeline concerning these villages he just mentioned

- any other villages in the vicinity in the western region are not affected by such defects in the main pipeline?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I need notice of the question.

**CHIEF COMMISSIONER/DEPUTY CHIEF
COMMISSIONERS/COMMISSIONERS – DRIVERS’ TRAVELLING
ALLOWANCE**

(No. B/597) Mrs J. Prosper (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner, whether he would, for the benefit of the House state -

- (a) the number and names of drivers attached to the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner and the Commissioners who receive a travelling allowance for travelling from their home to the office and *vice versa*, and
- (b) the distance these drivers travel daily and the monthly travelling allowance paid to each of them.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the number and names of the drivers for the Chief Commissioner, Deputy Chief Commissioner and all the other Commissioners together with the distance from the driver’s residence to the official car park of the Commissioners’ vehicle is reproduced at Annex I for the information of all Respected members. **(Appendix I).**

The monthly refund of bus fares to the drivers is also shown on the Annex. Sometimes, it happens that a driver has to take public transport to assume duty with his Commissioner. Should there be any overpayment, necessary action will be taken to recoup the amount overpaid.

Mrs Prosper: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner say if all the drivers who receive this allowance are entitled to same?

The Chief Commissioner: Any driver who is entitled to a travelling allowance receives his allowance according to information I gave in the

Annex, that is, the number of kilometres travelled. If it is less than 1.6 km, they don't receive travelling allowance; if more than that, they receive travelling allowance as mentioned in the Annex.

Mrs Prosper: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, may we know if the Chief Commissioner is prepared to look into the matter to see if there is an overpayment of travelling allowance?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, we are going to look into the matter to see if there is overpayment and if those who receive travelling allowance do not travel by bus or use their own means of transport or travel by any Government vehicle. There are cases where Government employees receive travelling allowance and travel in Government vehicles. A survey is being done and action will be taken if ever there is any discrepancy.

Mr J. Roussety: Can the Chief Commissioner or the Commissioner responsible for finance explain to us how is it that, a driver whose address is Mont Lubin and whose car park address is Mont Lubin, is being paid a monthly refund of bus fares of Rs680?

The Chief Commissioner: There are some irregularities. In fact, certain employees were working in another department and when they came to work with a Commissioner no modification was made in their travelling allowance. It is the same for the driver of the Commissioner for Social Security, who is receiving Rs1,120. At that time, he was working at Baie Lascars and then he was transferred to work with the Commissioner, but no modification in the travelling allowance was made. That is why I say that if there is overpayment, the sum will be recouped, not only for those drivers, but for other employees also.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner who is also Commissioner responsible for finance is paying travelling allowance from Government funds to persons who are not entitled to same. For example, since October 2002, the driver of the Commissioner for Social Security is receiving Rs1120 per month.

The Deputy Chairperson: It is Question Time now. Put your question, please.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, if I may. In a ruling to a point of order, Mr Chairperson said that a question needs some ‘decorations’. Please, allow me to do so.

The Deputy Chairperson: Respected member, you can ask your question intelligently, without going through ...

Mr J. Roussety: Yes, but, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, if I am being interrupted, I can’t put the question. Are you going to interrupt me again?

The Deputy Chairperson: Please, go on.

Mr J. Roussety: If you are interrupting me, how can I put my question? Unless you ask me to sit down.

The Deputy Chairperson: I am not telling you to sit down.

Mr J. Roussety: Allow me to put my question.

The Deputy Chairperson: Go on, please.

Mr J. Roussety: You are continuously interrupting me.

The Deputy Chairperson: Respected member, I was not interrupting you. It has been the practice to lay some basis before putting a question. I’m just telling you that when you have a question, you can put it intelligently. It is Question Time now.

(Interruptions)

Please, go on with your question.

Mr J. Roussety: We don’t have to take lessons from you.

The Deputy Chairperson: Nor do I from you!

Mr J. Roussety: We don’t have intelligent lessons to take from people like you!

Mr Chairperson, Sir, will the Chief Commissioner, Commissioner responsible for finance, do the needful so that these drivers refund any overpayment made to them?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I have already said so in my reply. Should there be any overpayment, necessary action will be taken to recoup the amount.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, may we know from the Chief Commissioner why no modification was made for two years, and why it is being made now?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, this is an administrative issue concerning any Commission. It has to be taken into account by officers responsible at these Commissions. We have noticed this. If there is any letter which says that this person has been overpaid, the money will be recouped.

The Deputy Chairperson: Next question, please!

“GROSSESSE PRÉCOCE” CASES - BREAKDOWN

(No. B/598) Mrs J. Prosper (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Health as regards “*grossesse précoce*” in Rodrigues, would the Commissioner give the yearly breakdown below the age of 16 and above 16 up to 20 as from January 2000 to date.

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that for yearly breakdown of cases of “*grossesse précoce*” for mothers of age group below 16, it was -

- 11 in year 2000
- 10 in year 2001
- 10 in year 2002
- 11 in year 2003, and
- from 01 January to date, it has attained 16

For mothers of age group 16 to 20 the number of cases were -

- 140 for year 2000
- 145 for year 2001
- 117 for year 2002
- 127 for year 2003, and
- from 01 January to date, it has attained 83

Mrs Prosper: Can the Commissioner say what is being done at his Commission to prevent all this?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the problem of teenage pregnancy has been a major issue concerning my Commission. My Commission is implementing a programme in collaboration with NGOs such as *Action Familiale* and Mauritius Family Planning Association to sensitise the youth on sexual reproductive health issues.

Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, Let me mention a few activities in which we have been involved:

Firstly, Family Planning Education is being dispensed in the primary schools (CPE students) and secondary schools by NGOs, namely *Action Familiale* and Mauritius Family Planning Association with the financial support of the UNFPA project. These organisations also target out of school youth through youth clubs and community centres.

Secondly, training is being organised for twenty peer educators through La Croisée Youth Counselling Centre so that they eventually counsel their friends on reproductive health issues. Moreover, the youth services deliver talks to youth in the youth clubs on similar subjects. The Youth Counselling Centre also has programmes to sensitise the teenage mothers on issues relating to sexual reproductive health with the objective of preventing another pregnancy.

Thirdly, the eight community health workers posted to the health institutions carry out sensitisation campaigns in the community health centres and provide contraceptives to those above 18 years of age. The Consultant Obstetrician and his staff have been carrying out a number of talks and sensitisation sessions in the community. Following meetings held with stakeholders, a strategy is being put in place for the prevention of pregnancy among teenagers.

The Deputy Chairperson: Next question!

MOTHERS (SINGLE) - SOCIAL AID ALLOCATION

(No. B/599) Mrs J. Prosper (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Social Security -

- (a) whether he would state the criteria for allocation of Social Aid to "*fille mère*" in Rodrigues;
- (b) state whether there are any cases of same who have been deprived of this aid as from January 2003 to now and if yes, why.

Mr Mercure: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to inform the Assembly that the allocation of social aid is governed by the Social Aid Act of 1983 and, according to this law, social aid is allocated to any person, who, as a result of any physical damage or mental disability, any sickness or accident certified by an approved medical practitioner, abandoned by his spouse or any sudden loss of employment which has lasted continuously for not less than six months, is temporarily or permanently incapable of earning adequately his livelihood and has insufficient means to support himself and his dependants. The eligibility of applicants for social aid is subject to the statement of the applicants and verification by the Higher Social Security officers through domicile visits. The Higher Social Security officers are authorised to determine the qualification of an applicant for social aid as per law.

Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, although it is not specified in the Law, it is a common practice in both Rodrigues and Mauritius that single mother "*fille mère*" is considered as abandoned spouse. To be qualified for social aid, the single mother should satisfy the criteria, that is, she does not live with any partner, she does not have sufficient means to support herself and her dependants. This is determined through means testing of the applicant's income, if any, according to the First Schedule of the Social Aid Act. The income of the applicant should not exceed the rate prescribed by the Act.

Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, nobody is deprived of social aid if found qualified for same. I am informed that all cases of single mother from January, 2003 to date have been qualified for the assistance. But, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, one must bear in mind that the allocation of social aid to any qualified applicant is not permanent, but is subject to regular monitoring through domicile visits effected by the Social Security Officers. The aid may be stopped if circumstances effecting the eligibility criteria of the beneficiary had changed.

The Deputy Chairperson: Next question! The Second Island Region Member, Mrs Meunier!

FAMILY COUNSELLING SERVICE - ACTIVITIES

(No. B/600) Mrs M. T. Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Women's Affairs as regards the Family Counselling Service of her Commission, whether she would inform the House -

- (a) about the activities carried out from January 2003 to date;
- (b) whether the service is equipped with the required staff, and
- (c) about the number of cases of domestic violence her Commission has dealt with and how the service has attended to these cases.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I've already replied to that question in my answer to Question B/515. The House will recall that I replied that the Family Counselling Service of my Commission has been continuously providing support to victims and explaining them their rights. All cases of domestic violence and other abuses are inquired into and followed up. Victims are accompanied to either hospitals or safety in Rodrigues or in Mauritius and to the Police or to the Court as the case may require.

This unit liaises with these above authorities about the welfare of the victims. As I had mentioned earlier, the contract of service of the liaising officer formerly posted to the Counselling Unit has not been renewed by the National Women's Council in Mauritius since May 2004. So, therefore, the service was fully operational from May, 2002 to May, 2004 at Cliderlex and

as from then, pending the recruitment of the required staff, the administration of my Commission, through a desk officer for family issues with the assistance of her colleagues, attends to cases reported to the Unit. 353 cases of domestic violence have been dealt with by my Commission.

Mrs Meunier: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner mentioned about an officer working at the Family Counselling Service desk. Is that officer working under conditions set up by the Ministry? Because if she has to intervene in cases of domestic violence, I think that she needs an insurance cover and also protection from law. So, is she working under these conditions?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, this Desk Officer has the right to inquire, but she cannot represent the victims before Court like the Welfare Officers do. And in these cases, the victims are sent to the Court directly where they can apply for legal aid advice. But in certain cases, we have also asked the Legal Adviser of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to represent victims in, at least, one case I think.

Mrs Meunier: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, in some cases we need legal advice, but in other cases we need counselling and psychological advice. So, what is being done at the level of her Commission?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, as I said, we do not have any psychologist for the moment. We didn't have same well before because that person who was working at the Counselling Service of the family was recruited as a Liaison Officer and not as a psychologist, but she had a B.Sc. in Psychology. Therefore, I have already apprised the Executive Council of the situation, but since in Rodrigues actually, as I said in a previous question, that a psychologist must have a Master's Degree or a B.Sc. plus five years clinical, we won't have this person unless we recruit on contract from Mauritius. But this also is not an easy thing. And I would like to say here, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, that in Mauritius where they have, at least, some 10 Family Counselling Units around Mauritius, they have only one sessional psychologist working at the moment. I raised that question with the Minister when she came here and when I went to Mauritius. They have only one person working and it is the same crisis if not worse than in Rodrigues. The Minister understands my situation, but she herself is facing the same difficulty. The problem is that when psychologists are recruited in the public service, they immediately can get a post in the private sector

where they are better paid. The Ministry is willing to help us. Just like with the social security or whatever services, we have technical assistance from Mauritius, but they themselves are having problems. I have said that the Child Development Unit and the Family Counselling Services are relatively new services in Mauritius after the law of 1998 or 2000. We are also in a transitional period and I think that gradually Rodriguans will understand where our scarcity lies, where we need specialists. I think, if they have the qualification they would wish to come and work in Rodrigues. Otherwise, I would encourage youngsters, like the Commissioner for Education is doing with orientation of capacity building.

Mrs Meunier: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the prospect of recruiting psychologist seems to be a little difficult. Why can't that person who was working as Liaison Officer before be called back in the meantime to do the job which she was doing at the time?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: I appreciate this question and I would like to say that we have done so in the case of the crime that happened in Citronnelle. But that person just refused because I think she has taken a job elsewhere or she doesn't want to continue doing this job. We have tried to enlist her services urgently, but she didn't respond. So, the only thing that we can do is to wait until we can recruit a psychologist. But I would like to say that during my discussions with the Minister, the question of salary was raised to attract people in the public service. They are increasing the salary scale of psychologists and other specialists; and they are recruiting four more psychologists. I went to Mauritius some three weeks back and I discussed with the Minister once again, telling her of the urgency of the situation and she has agreed to send a psychologist at least once per month in Rodrigues pending the recruitment of four. Then somebody can be sent to Rodrigues on a permanent basis.

Mrs Meunier: One last supplementary question, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir. Can I know from the Commissioner whether this person, who was working before, was contacted in writing or officially? Maybe this was not properly done.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I cannot react on this because I have been given this information. So, I cannot go and find everything in the file, this is not easy.

The Deputy Chairperson: Next question, please.

ASTHMA/ RESPIRATORY DISEASES –DEATH

(No. B/601) Mrs M. T. Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health, whether he would inform the House about the number of patients who have died of asthma or other respiratory diseases for the period January, 2004 to date and how the Health service in Rodrigues is equipped to deal with these problems?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that twelve (12) deaths, attributed to asthma and other respiratory diseases have been recorded at Queen Elizabeth Hospital during the period January 2004 to date. In accordance with the WHO (World Health Organization) classification, the causes of the deaths were -

(a) Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome	5 cases
(b) Bronchial Asthma	4 cases
(c) Pneumonia	2 cases
and	
(d) Acute Pulmonary Oedema	1 case

Queen Elizabeth Hospital is equipped with nebulizers to deal with patients suffering from asthma.

All the equipment in place are in good running condition and there is no shortage of drugs and oxygen used to these nebulizers.

A ventilator has been ordered for the Intensive Care Unit and is expected soon.

Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, we are currently implementing an NCD control and prevention programme. Asthma is a non-communicable disease and all patients attending the NCD clinics are advised by the medical officers to take necessary precautions such as avoiding dust and taking prescribed drugs in time.

Mrs Meunier: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, when the Commissioner for Health talks about nebulizers, can we know how many nebulizers there are exactly at QEH, in good running condition?

Mr Sooprayen: I don't have the exact number, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, but I can assure the House that nebulizers are available everywhere.

Mrs Meunier: Is the Commissioner aware that there is only one nebulizer at the casualty ward and when there are two or three patients who come, then there is a problem.

Mr Sooprayen: I will look in the matter, Mr Deputy Chairperson.

The Deputy Chairperson: Next question.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT UNIT – GENERAL POLICY

(No. B/602) Mrs M. T. Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts & Culture with regard to the Child Development Unit of her Commission, whether she would inform the House –

- (a) about the general policy of her Commission concerning Child Development for the year 2004-2005;
- (b) about the outcome of the visit of the Ombudsperson as far as Child Development is concerned; and
- (c) whether this unit is equipped with the required staff and logistics?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, first I would like to say that this question covers more than one subject and could be broken into two or three because it's somehow breach of the section 19 (2) (A) of Standing Orders, but then I will try to answer.

(Interruptions)

Mr J. Roussety: On a point of order, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir. Is the Commissioner allowed to comment on questions which have been ruled correct by the Chairperson on the Order Paper?

The Deputy Chairperson: I think the Commissioner should go straight to the answer, please.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Well I will try, because it's a bit long. It is the policy.

Mr J. Roussety: Under Erskine May, if the answer is long and given that we have restricted time left, we propose that she circulates the answer not to take the time of the Assembly.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: I'll do so.

The Deputy Chairperson: We have 20 minutes left for six questions. We have ample time. Next question, please.

MUSIC DAY - CELEBRATION – JUNE 2004

(No. B/603) Mrs M. T. Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts & Culture as regards the celebration of the Music day in June 2004, whether she would inform the House:

- (a) about the different activities organized by her Commission on that occasion;
- (b) about the number of local and international artists who participated individually or groupwise, and how they were selected; and
- (c) about the detailed expenditure in respect of each activity and each artist's participation.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Commission for Arts & Culture had organised at Mont Plaisir, on the 26 June 2004, a traditional dance and song competition for children between 9 and 13 years. The Commission also launched, on that day, a CD containing the songs interpreted by the finalists of the inter-zone competition for youth in 2003. The Commission had written to Government and private organisations in Rodrigues to invite them to celebrate Music Day at their own level and at their own cost in order to give a national dimension to that event. However, logistic assistance was extended as far as possible to a minimum of those institutions who responded to our invitation. The unique activity organised by the Commission at Mont Plaisir was supplemented by songs by individual artists. All local artists registered at my Commission have been

invited to participate in the show. No international artist was invited by my Commission and participated whether individually or groupwise.

Expenditure incurred by the Commission in relation with the above activity was -

- Rs45 500 for the five first prizes;
- Rs15 000 for launching of CD;
- Rs12 500 for payment of fee, and
- Rs500 to each of the 25 Rodriguan artists who participated individually in the show.

The Deputy Chairperson: Next question.

MONT VENUS HOTEL PROJECT – DESALINATION UNIT

(No. B/604) Mr J. Roussety (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner concerning the desalination unit included in the Mont Venus Hotel Project, whether he will –

- (a) state whether the notice for inspection of EIA report has been published or broadcasted in the press in Rodrigues and, if yes, on which date;
- (b) give a description of the chemical composition and volume of brine that the desalination plant proposes to release into the sea, and
- (c) state whether his Commission has taken into account all the negative externalities and social costs involved especially as regards the impact on the marine ecosystem, fishing and tourism.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Deputy Chairperson Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, notice for inspection of the Environment Impact Assessment Report of Pointe Venus Hotel was published in two issues of the Government Gazette and two daily newspapers in Mauritius with an interval of seven days between the two publications according to Section 20 (2) of the Environment Protection Act 2002. The notice specified that the report could be inspected at the seat of the Environment Unit in Rodrigues. The notice was published on 24 December 2002. Although it is the practice to broadcast communiqués in Rodrigues to invite the public to inspect EIA

Report at the Environment Unit, there is no legal provision for the issue of notices in Rodrigues and no notice was published or broadcast with respect to the EIA of Pointe Venus Hotel.

As regards part (b) of the question, the chemical composition of the brine which will be disposed will be the same as that of sea water, except that the salt content of brine is much higher than sea water. As a matter of fact, the concentration of brine may vary according to each complete process cycle. Sea water will be desalinated in a plant having a capacity of processing 5 m³ of sea water per hour from which 2m³ of desalinated water and 3 m³ of brine will be produced. The maximum volume of brine to be disposed will be 75 m³ per day.

As regards part (c) of the question, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, it should be noted that the granting of EIA licence rests with the Ministry of Environment in accordance with the Environment Protection Act. The Rodrigues Regional Assembly is consulted by the Ministry of Environment on projects to be carried out in Rodrigues. The Environment Impact Assessment Report which was submitted to the Ministry of Environment for the purpose of obtaining a licence was considered satisfactory by the aforesaid Ministry inasmuch as the promoter has been granted a licence in accordance with the Environment Protection Act. The EIA Report indicates possible adverse impact which the project is likely to have on the environment and proposes measures to mitigate these impacts. The examination of the EIA application has, amongst others, taken into consideration the following parameters –

Zoning, landform, land use, availability of statutory services, setback from the High Water Mark, risk of marine and ground water pollution, solid waste disposal, sewage disposal, sensitivity of site, traffic implications and parking facilities, sensitivity of the site, coastal stability, endemic flora and fauna, socio-economic and socio cultural impacts, environmental enhancement and project justification as submitted in the EIA Report.

In fact, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the EIA licence issued is conditional to the implementation of these mitigative measures.

The marine ecosystem of the point of discharge located 100 metres from the beach, in the sea consists of a one-metre deep clear sandy area

inside the lagoon in front of Mont Venus where very little algae, coral and marine activity is observed. There is good circulation due to tidal activity and natural currents along that portion of the lagoon. The Assembly may wish to note that the Environment Impact Assessment was examined by the EIA Committee established under section 22 of the Environment Protection Act.

The desalination plant of 50 m³ nominal capacity will act as back -up to water resources. The desalination plant will not be operated on a continuous basis because of its prohibitive cost but on and as when required basis to supplement supply by the Water Unit.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, as regards the negative externalities and social costs involved in the project, especially the impact on fishing and tourism, due to the setting up of the desalination plant, damages will be caused to the environment; fish catches will decrease and there is just in front of Port Mathurin, *grand pâtre* where fish come in. I should like to ask the Commissioner whether the social impacts on tourism and on the incomes of fishermen have been examined.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, as I said, all the economic implications have been taken into consideration. The examination of the EIA application has, amongst others, taken into consideration the following parameters –

endemic flora and fauna;

socio-economic and socio-cultural impacts, and

environmental enhancement and project justification as submitted to the EIA.

Usually, in the EIA, all those points are being looked into by the report.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner has been talking about the measures to reduce the impact of this project on the marine ecosystem. Can he name some of the measures which will be taken?

The Chief Commissioner: After the Environment Committee met to discuss that project of desalination plant, one of the measures which has

been mentioned in the letter from the Ministry of Environment is close monitoring of the water around the place where the brine will be ejected. But, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I should like to show to the House a bottle of brine. We went to Seychelles last year and we visited about five desalination plants, even small islands desalinate 300 m³. Even at Sainte Anne where the Beachcomber Hotel is situated, 300 m³ of brine is being ejected in the lagoon which is a Marine Park. Can I have a glass, please?

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, we don't know what the Chief Commissioner has brought into this House.

(Interruptions)

This is not allowed, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

The Deputy Chairperson: Please, sit down! Please, sit down! Would Members from the other side wish to taste?

(Interruptions)

Mr J. Roussety: On a point of order ...

The Deputy Chairperson: The Chief Commissioner is still on his feet. Go on!

Mr J. Roussety: My point of order is that the Chief Commissioner is coming with evidence in this House, a bottle which is unidentified, no label on it, no certificate attached to it and this should not be allowed in this House.

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Chairperson: Let the Minority Leader speak.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, anybody can come to this House with a bottle and say it is brine. Where is the certificate? What if the Chief Commissioner comes here with a bottle of whisky? There is not even a certificate and how can we say this is brine. This should not be allowed.

The Deputy Chairperson: All right.

Mr J. Roussety: I've not finished my point of order. I oppose to that bottle being opened here in this House.

The Deputy Chairperson: I understand the point of the Minority Leader, I think that...

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I have this bottle in my office when I myself had a bad idea of what is brine. I asked even my colleague who was with me, I questioned the people over there, it was in my mind that brine is solid.

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Chairperson: Please, no interruption from a sitting position.

The Chief Commissioner: The salinity of water is about 35%, and this water is filtered first before going for desalination; the brine is about 55-60% of sea water. It's most salty than the normal sea water. This is brine. I myself did not have a correct idea of brine. That's why we went to Seychelles, because we have heard that brine is being ejected in a marine park near Sainte Anne where Beachcomber Hotel is.

(Interruptions)

The marine park should be more preserved than the lagoon. When the water is diffused in the sea water, it is being mixed with the sea water. There's no solid in that. It's liquid water, but more salty than the sea water itself. That's why I say...

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Chairperson: I think the House should be thankful to the Chief Commissioner because he brought things here.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, would Members like to taste the brine?

(Interruptions)

Mr François: Is this process of desalinating sea water for hotel projects present in other islands, probably in the Indian Ocean or islands of the world?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, Seychelles in 2001 faced a very big drought. They had only 2% of water in their reservoirs. That's why they rushed to the question of the desalination plants. We also have a project for desalination plant, for which that there was no EIA before, but concerning this project there will be an EIA. They are preparing the documents; this also exists even in Trinidad and Tobago, Santa Catalina and elsewhere. In Trinidad and Tobago they have produced about 10 million cubic meters of desalinated water.

(Interruptions)

Yes, outside the lagoon, but that depends on the volume which is being ejected. If it is about 1000 m³ this will not be in the lagoon, it will be outside the lagoon, it will be off big sea. It does not concern this hotel only. All hotels which will be constructed here will be advised to put a small desalination plant.

(Interruptions)

We will have the experts from the environment.

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Chairperson: Order! Order, please!

The Chief Commissioner: On a point of order, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir. The Minority Leader is insinuating that we are having money from this project.

(Interruptions)

What did he say? He said *to pou gagne l'argent avec ça!* Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, will you ask the Member to withdraw his allegations?

The Deputy Chairperson: Could you withdraw that word, please?

Mr J. Roussety: I did not say these words.

The Deputy Chairperson: You said it. I heard it. Would you kindly withdraw that word?

Mr J. Roussety: You said that whatever is said from a sitting position is not allowed. The Clerk never records things which are said from a sitting position on the minutes of the Assembly unless the Clerk wants to come forward with the word that I have said, I would withdraw.

The Deputy Chairperson: Could you please, Minority Leader, withdraw that word?

Mr J. Roussety: Which word would I have to withdraw, Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir?

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Chairperson: *Ine mange l'argent la-dans.*

Mr J. Roussety: You yourself did not hear what I said. You are misleading us.

The Deputy Chairperson: Yes, I heard.

(Interruptions)

Could you please kindly withdraw that word?

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Chairperson: May I remind the House that the Minority Leader doesn't want to withdraw that word?

Mr J. Roussety: I would withdraw the word if you tell me what offensive word I have used in this House

The Deputy Chairperson: You have said: *ine mange l'argent la-dans.* Withdraw those words.

(Interruptions)

May I remind the House that question time is now over! My watch says there are two minutes left.

Mr J. Roussety: I would have a supplementary question during these two minutes. In reply to question B/551 which we had on this issue on 20 July, the Chief Commissioner said and I quote –

“The brine should be discharged in the channel and preferably at high tide for easy dispersion”.

In the channel means “*dans la passe*”. Section 9(32) of the EIA says -

“At the end of the jetty, the outfall pipe will finally discharge into a diffuser to ensure the required dilution, substantially reducing the brine concentration.”

He says that the brine will be discharged in the channel and the EIA says that the brine will be discharged at the end of the jetty at Mont Venus. I would like to ask him how he would reconcile these two?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, this matter has been discussed in the Environment Committee with all the members present there and those who are very environmentally minded as far as fauna is concerned. It has been decided that instead of putting the residue near the jetty, it should be put under the seabed. There is a small channel near the jetty which leads to a path, and we’ve decided that the diffuser can be at 200 millimetres under the seabed so that it cannot be seen and it can be diffused under the seabed.

The Deputy Chairperson: No more supplementary questions? We have three questions unattended and they will be given a written answer as in the law.

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER

NURSERIES - ACTIVITIES

The Commissioner for Arts & Culture (Mrs M.A. Perrine-Bégué):
Mr Deputy Chairperson, Sir, regulations made under the Child Protection Act provide for standards to be observed for the running of nurseries.

There are two officially registered nurseries in Rodrigues and a third association has applied for registration. Many of the standards laid down under the legislation are not being followed through ignorance of the law and on account of certain infrastructural constraints on the part of the nurseries owners.

My Commission has thought it fit to enforce the law gradually, whilst at the same time providing the necessary assistance (*encadrement*) to the persons responsible for the running of nurseries. In this context, six persons, that is, two from each of the three nurseries, have been sent to Mauritius for a two-week training. These persons will be equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to enable them to provide better care and services to the children at their respective nurseries. They will be made aware of the contents and importance of legal provision relating to the rights and welfare of children under their care.

The Rodriguan ladies will be on placement in nurseries, their training being prepared by the Ministry for Child Welfare and the Municipality of Port Louis under the Twinning Agreement which the latter had signed with Port Mathurin last year. Already the regional Government is finalising their land lease for the construction of safe nurseries and they will be supported by my Commission in their quest for financial support to do same.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, my Commission is concerned by the daily problems facing Rodriguans families and spares no effort to bring solutions thereto.

These problems are becoming more and more complex and require urgent and scientific attention. I have had extensive discussions with the Minister for Family Welfare both in Rodrigues and in Mauritius in order to

find an acceptable solution for our two islands pending the recruitment of adequate staff in Mauritius and in Rodrigues.

I am pleased to announce that as from this month, the services of a psychologist and a legal adviser will be available at the Child Development Unit and the Family Counselling Service once a month during a whole week. The cost of air tickets and accommodation will be borne by my Commission.

Now that the Civil Establishment Order has been passed and is now effective, my Commission will recruit two Family Welfare and Protection Officers.

At 2.45p.m the sitting was suspended.

On resuming at 2.55 with Mr Chairperson in the Chair.

MOTION

COMMISSIONER FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS – MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE

Mr Chairperson: I'll call upon the second Local Region Member for Maréchal to move his motion.

Mr J. C. Agathe (Second Local Region Member for Marechal): Mr Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move the motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, namely -

“That this Assembly has no confidence in the Commissioner responsible *inter alia* for Youth and Sports.”

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the aim of this motion is clear-cut. Though Rodrigues has got its autonomy, it still remains part of the Republic of Mauritius. It is understood - and the Chief Commissioner, himself, always reminds the population on our local radio “*Matinale Rodrigues*” - that all laws in force in mainland Mauritius apply to Rodrigues.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, one must ask oneself the reason behind being here in this Assembly. We all know that our role as Parliamentarians is to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and to strengthen the rule of law.

Being in an "*Etat de droit*", Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is understood that all men are equal and have the same rights. Some of the drawbacks which can hinder our democracy are *laissez-aller*, fraud and corruption.

Consequently, Mr Chairperson, Sir, things once started will be difficult to stop. So, we, as Parliamentarians, must see to it that nothing goes against the law. In the same breath, I will enumerate some large discrepancies or rather disquieting practices that are continuously arising in the Commission, *inter alia*, for Youth and Sports, Consumer Protection, Trade, Commerce, Licensing and Handicraft –

- Setting up of illegal management structures for judo in violation of the Sports Act, thus ignoring the official structures;
- disbursement of public funds without the authorisation of a legal regional committee, resulting in public funds being managed by unauthorised persons;
- sexual discrimination;
- severe flagrant shortcomings in the issuing of licences, and
- lack of market strategy.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, our youth is one of the backbones of our economy. Nowadays, we are facing lots of challenges due to the media and globalisation. And one has to develop these sectors accordingly. Our youths are in need of a model that, unfortunately, sometimes can't be found in their immediate family. Appointing someone as young as the Commissioner responsible *inter alia* for Youth and Sports, Consumer Protection, Trade, Commerce, Licensing and Handicraft, is quite beneficial for the Rodriguans since, it is the latter who has to set the correct guidelines. The guidelines must be known to the sportsmen, the youth, the population at large, and

himself as Commissioner. Unfortunately, the sportsmen, the youth and our traders are of the view that poor guidelines are being set up, thus causing the decline of sports, trade and commerce and the economic sector in the island.

My intervention on the motion today will be directed towards sports and I will leave the other points to be raised by my colleagues. I would like to show how the Commissioner responsible for Youth and Sports has been working in complete contradiction with the Sports Act.

The Sports Act is a tool to guide both the sportsmen and the authorities dealing with sports in the Republic of Mauritius. From time to time, the Sports Act is amended so as not to put aside certain regions and to take into consideration some major changes. Nowadays, everybody dealing with sports in the Republic of Mauritius is using the Sports Act 2001 to guide them. Until the law is amended to make special provisions for Rodrigues, we understood that all individual sports and team sports shall comply with its rules and regulations. It means that the Commission should not be working outside that context. But it seems to us that special leave has been granted to the Commissioner to do so. Under that piece of legislation, Rodrigues was considered as a sports region in the first schedule under section 3. One year before the RRA election, almost all the Regional Sports Committees have more or less complied with the Sports Act.

What is interesting in that Act, Mr Chairperson, Sir, is that Rodrigues has not been left out. In the Act part II concerning regionalisation of sports, it is clearly stated that a Regional Sports Co-ordinating Committee has to be set up. Some of the members have to be appointed by the Chief Commissioner under section 14 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001. I am aware that same was set up and had as Chairman, Mr Jean Pierre Rose, who peculiarly resigned in a very short period of time. By setting up a Rodrigues Regional Sports Coordinating Committee, is it not assumed that the Chief Commissioner and the Commissioner for Sports are conversant with the Sports Act 2001? This Assembly had unanimously voted a sum of Rs50,000 in the 2004/2005 Budget under item 07-101.013 for allowances to be paid to members of the Sports Coordinating Committee. As a matter of fact, any practice or provision denying the Sports Act will be *ultra vires*, null and void.

What is more surprising, Mr Chairperson, Sir, is that nowhere in the Sports Act mention is made for the setting up of a committee parallel to the

one which has been enacted upon by the Minister for Sports through the respective sports federations. Is it not more surprising to see the Commissioner *qui a toujours clamé d'avoir les soucis de la légalité de mettre en place des comités contraire au Sports Act?* Do you know, Mr Chairperson, Sir, where is the official seat of the illegal committee? It is in a public building known as Malabar Gymnasium in Rodrigues. I am tabling, Mr Chairperson, Sir, two documents to certify same.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner responsible for sports set up two committees of different names known initially as Rodrigues Judo Steering Committee which was renamed later as Rodrigues Judo Coordinating Committee with the same members. On 06 May 2002 in reference to PQ No. B/157 the Commissioner for Sports left us quite perplexed. The existing Rodrigues Regional Judo Committee from which three members have resigned were working at full swing. Unfortunately, the Commissioner for Youth and Sports found this not to his liking and looked for a ruling from the Judo federation disregarding the works performed by these people. Strangely enough, the Commissioner for sports, who always wanted to be Chairman, installed himself as President of the Rodrigues Regional Judo Coordinating Committee. Unfortunately for him, the Sports Act rightly mentioned that no person who is actively engaged in politics could be the Chairman of a given sports committee. By this action, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner himself is creating a precedent. Are we going to politicise sports in Rodrigues? These illegal committees have forced the Rodrigues Regional Judo Coordinating Committee which was approved by both the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the *Fédération Mauricienne de Judo* to become dormant. Would the Commissioner not be able to work with the existing Committee? Where is democracy? Even though we like it or not, the Committee has a four year contract!

Mr Chairperson, Sir, not only judo discipline is affected by this practice, but also other sports have been the victims of the Commissioner and his team, namely, handball, badminton and, recently, boxing.

As far as handball is concerned, this discipline was dormant for more than one year. By so doing, no club was able to represent Rodrigues in the *Coupe d'Afrique des Clubs Champions*, *Coupe des Coupes de l'Océan Indien*. Added to that, some places where handball used to be practised, for example, at La Ferme Sports Complex, had been removed and original

markings have been erased. Due to that unhealthy situation, the number of handball players has drastically decreased from 300 to 170.

As far as badminton is concerned, two members of the Rodrigues Regional Badminton Committee were officially requested by their respective sports federation to officiate badminton discipline in Mauritius for the Indian Ocean Island Games. No tickets were made available to them despite their repeated requests and those of the *Fédération Mauricienne de Badminton*. Knowing their importance as officials and their commitments towards their federation during the game, they personally bought their air tickets. However, Mr Chairperson, Sir, some people who had nothing to do with the game were granted air tickets to attend same. For example, a representative of handball attended the game when the said discipline did not appear on the official list for the games. The two committee members, on their way back to Rodrigues, *ont baissé les bras*. Actually, badminton is almost unknown to the population.

Le judo est la discipline qui a été la plus grande victime de la Commission car selon nous la Cour Suprême a donné gain de cause à l'actuel président du comité régional de Judo par le secrétaire à vie du commissaire.

Since the inception of the illegal committees, Mr Chairperson, Sir, many irregular practices and shortcomings are occurring *au vu, au su et à la barbe du commissaire*. *Une somme de R 85,650.40 fut dépensée sur le judo jusqu'au 12 mars 2004 sans l'approbation du comité régional*. *Ce qui est étrange c'est que chaque comité régional respectif doit envoyer son calendrier d'activités et le coût total de ses dépenses avant la présentation de chaque budget*. *Aussitôt que le travail est fait, les membres du comité régional de Judo n'ont pas le droit de gérer cet argent tandis que c'est le comité fictif set up by the Commissioner for Youth and Sports qui le gère*. As we say in Créole: *boeuf travail, cheval mangé!*

Le 01 avril 2003 - j'ai la liste avec moi - la Fédération Mauricienne de Judo envoie une lettre de participation au commissaire de sports pour le 7^{ème} Tournoi International de judo du 10 au 11 mai 2003 au gymnase de Beau Bassin et qui sera suivi d'un stage du 12 au 16 mai. Le nombre des participants est 10. Les participants ont été sélectionnés par la fédération, mais la commission a pris sur elle pour envoyer un onzième. Le billet d'avion aller/retour a été payé par la commission pour aller faire on ne sait

quoi? Quand on parle de développement au commissaire, il répond toujours: "*Subject to availability of funds*".

A plusieurs reprises, les noms des différents membres du comité régional des jeux sont exclus de la délégation qui accompagne les athlètes à Maurice malgré que leurs noms figurent bel et bien sur la liste soumis par la fédération. La commission a reçu une lettre de la même fédération lui demandant d'envoyer 8 personnes à un tournoi et qui sera suivi d'un cours d'entraînement du 12 au 20 mars 2004.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have here two letters. One is from the Commissioner for Youth and Sports signed by the Departmental Head, Mr Polin and the other one is from the Mauritius Judo Federation.

Mr Chairperson: Has the Member got the original letters or photocopies?

Mr Agathe: They are copies of the letters.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the original letters would be in the file. We would not have them.

Mr Chairperson: If they are copies of the letters, the Member should mention it. Are they copies of the letters?

Mr Agathe: Yes, Mr Chairpeson, Sir. They have chosen only 6 persons. I will quote the letter which says -

"The delegation will leave Rodrigues on Friday 12 March 2004 by flight MK120. However, Mr Antonio Félicité will stay in Mauritius until Sunday 28 March 2004 so as to have working sessions with coaches in Mauritius".

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as we said, some important facts have arisen at the Commission. The federation received the letter that the Mauritius Judo Federation wrote to the Head of Department of the Commission of Youth and Sports.

"The federation invited six judokas and two officers from Rodrigues. It was with much concern that we noted the non-inclusion of Kenneth

Mercure and R. Perrine. The federation does not want to know the reasons behind such action, but we noted that this is quite detrimental to the good relation with your committee. Among the judokas who were supposed to stay in Mauritius for their training course, James Ravinah left the hotel on Monday 15 March. The federation has learnt that he was replaced by the wife of an official."

(Interruptions)

C'est aberrant! This is unacceptable!

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the letter continues -

"You may take note that in the past the federation reported Rodriguan judokas for leaving training course without informing the national coach of the federation".

There is again something more aberrant, Mr Chairperson, Sir, concerning Mr Antonio Félicité -

"It has also come to the knowledge of the federation that Mr Antonio Félicité has informed your office that he has been retained by the federation for the period 20 to 28 March. Such has never been the case. Nobody should try to shield behind the federation when it favours himself".

Look at this type of letter, Mr Chairperson, Sir!

(Interruptions)

At last, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the letter says -

"The federation should feel much grateful if in the future decision for inclusion of Judokas by the Managing Committee be respected so that we do not have to face any problem that may arise, and this beyond our control. We wish to have good relation with one and all and keep any troublesome factors out of our field".

Mr Chairperson: Are you going to table the letter?

Mr Agathe : Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Chairperson: Before you table the letter, I understand your predicament of not having been able to lay hands on the original letter, but you have to certify before this House that they are in fact true copies of the original.

Mr Agathe: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Agathe: Dans cet état de choses, il me semble que c'est la Commission qui antagonise la fédération et non l'inverse.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is why this motion of no-confidence stands.

I suggest that these letters be circulated to all Members today.

Mr Chairperson: Which letter does the Member mean?

Mr Agathe: The letter which has just been laid on the Table.

Mr Chairperson: Please, wait. It is tabled and everybody knows in this House that they can consult at the Library.

(Interruptions)

The fact that you say you have to circulate, this is rather surplusage. because there is a procedure according to the Standing Order.

Mr Agathe: M. le président, je dois faire ressortir ici, dans cette Assemblée, qu'à Rodrigues, les sports sont pratiqués sur une base régionale, mais toutes ces disciplines sportives sont divisées internationalement pour ainsi dire que nous avons des fédérations internationales de judo, de boxe, de badminton, de volley-ball, FIFA etc. Dans un passé, pas trop lointain, il y avait une enquête commanditée par le ministère de la jeunesse et des sports - le Chef Commissaire en sait quelque chose - pour savoir pourquoi le sport est stagnant à Rodrigues. La Commission se surnomme "mission". L'ingérence politique figure sur le *top list*. J'invite le Commissaire de sports à prendre conscience avant qu'il ne soit trop tard.

En ce qui concerne l'affaire des kimonos, malgré les différentes demandes pour avoir accès au *tender document*, nos requêtes sont restées vaines. Que cache le Commissaire? En attendant venir ce qui ne viendra

surement pas, nous voulons attirer l'attention de notre auguste Assemblée sur le manquement concernant les kimonos.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I refer to Question No. B/481 with regard to the kimonos bought for judo. The Commissioner has confirmed that tender was launched on 15 December 2003 and there were three bids, one from All Sports, the second from Zenco Martial and the last one from Sunassee & Sons.

All Sports have sent samples and confirmed to be of better quality according to the reply. We wonder how is it that the firm has sent all the samples, but when the sportswear arrived to Rodrigues, they are different? According to my knowledge, apart from the technical evaluation, but concerning the financial situation, since Zenco Martial has sent bids for Rs520.83 per unit compared to K. Sunassee and Sons, Rs535 per unit, it should have been the second best. 188 kimonos should have been bought from Zenco Martial. I wonder why Zenco Martial has sent only 63 units and Sunassee 45 units. Since it was an urgent commodity, why was tender launched on 15 December 2003 and the first delivery was made on 07 April and afterwards on 17 May 2004? Is that coincidence, Mr Chairperson, Sir? The Tender Committee met on 07 April 2004 and on 08 April 2004, Zenco Martial supplied the kimonos. Is it a coincidence? *C'est incroyable, mais vrai!*

M. le président, c'est la pratique à Air Mauritius de privilégier un groupe excédant 12 personnes, c'est-à-dire, qu'un billet gratuit est offert au groupe. Je demande qu'une enquête soit faite au sujet de ce billet pour élucider des pratiques douteuses.

Mr Chairperson: If the Member wants an inquiry, it is good that he mentions it. He will have to refer the matter to the appropriate institution, of course.

Mr Agathe : Permettez moi, M. le président, d'aborder un autre sujet d'extreme mécontentement. Parlons du complex sportif de La Ferme. Nous apprenons qu'environ R 500,000 ont été dépensées sur ce projet. Toute personne responsable, interviewée, nous donne une estimation maximum de R 100,000 pour ces travaux effectués. On réalise maintenant que le travail a été baclé. Rappelons que les documents pour l'appel d'offre, malgré nos multiples demandes, n'ont jamais été déposés à l'Assemblée. Toujours est-il

que nous avons constaté de graves manquements dans les travaux. Des fêlures importantes sont apparues, presque partout sur le sol en béton. En ce temps de pluie normale, la piste se transforme en piscine, ce qui fait que le complexe est devenu très dangereux pour les sportifs. L'argent public a été ainsi gaspillé et nous, qui sommes des représentants des Rodriguains, n'arrivons même pas à savoir quels sont les travaux à être effectués ainsi que les spécifications des matériaux à être utilisés. C'est une situation inacceptable qui reflète l'imcompétence et le non respect de cette Assemblée.

En ce qui concerne l'allocation aux animateurs des écoles de sports, des multiples athlètes Rodriguais font honneur à notre petite île et la nation mauricienne en général sur la scène nationale, africaine aussi bien qu'internationale. Derrière chaque performance, il y a sûrement quelqu'un qui a travaillé dur, laissant de côté la vie familiale pour pouvoir aider ces athlètes. Certains de ces animateurs sont grassement payés et certains non, comme, par exemple, Benoit Castel qui, depuis des années, entraîne l'école de foot de Port Mathurin, mais n'a rien reçu à ce jour. Il y a aussi le cas de Marcellino et Hardy Bégué, tous deux, ceinture marron, qui entraînent des clubs depuis plus de dix ans et n'ont rien reçu comme allocation comparé à leurs collègues, des nouveaux venus et sans diplômes et qui figurent sur la liste des animateurs. Les deux Bégués ne figurent même pas sur la liste des animateurs. M. le président, pour que quelqu'un soit éligible à cette allocation, il doit avoir un *club coach* certificate pour avoir une attestation de la fédération.

Toutes les équipes de football qui jouent des matchs officiels sur le stade de Camp du Roi reçoivent un *gate money*. Les différentes équipes reçoivent chacune 25% du taux collecté du public. Tout le monde sait pertinemment bien que c'est la Commission qui finance les écoles de football à Rodrigues. Ils obtiennent des maillots, des équipements sportifs pour l'aller et le retour ou autre, pour ainsi dire que les écoles de football sont indépendantes du comité de foot, du comité de gestion, conséquemment qui gèrent le *gate money*.

Les points avancés, M. le président, démontrent de manière flagrante qu'il y a un manque de transparence dans la gestion des activités sportives. Pourtant, M. le président, toutes les activités de cette Commission sont

financées par l'argent public, c'est-à-dire, des contribuables. Tout laisse penser, M. le président, que cette situation engendra des malaises profonds au sein de la communauté sportive de l'île au point de laisser planer une perception d'incompétence et laisser-faire par certains.

Face à toutes ces bévues, M. le président, il est impératif que le Commissaire de tutelle, vienne nous éclairer dans le but de dissiper tout malentendu chez nos amis sportifs et la population en général. Dans le cas contraire, le peuple rodriguais sera libre de porter son jugement pour demander un retrait du Commissaire de la jeunesse et des sports.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with these words I commend the motion to the House.

Mr Chairperson: May I know who are the persons who will intervene on the minority side?

Mr J. Roussety: Three Members.

Mr Chairperson: I understand there are three more Members.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it will depend on the number of intervenors on the other side and what they will say.

Mr Chairperson: Members should realise that we are in a House and we have an administration. Contrary to the practice that obtains in Parliament, normally there is a list of intervenors. I have received a list from the majority side which I commend. But I have never received the list from the minority side. I understand the predicament, but we have to remind ourselves that this is a House. I will ask the first person from the majority to take the floor.

Mr J. Pierre Louis (Fourth Island Region Member): Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is with great pleasure that I would like to comment on the motion of no-confidence in the Commissioner responsible, inter alia, for Youth and Sports laid down in this House by a Member of the minority side which is, of my opinion, a sort of life comedy, un *pince- sans-rire*.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, since Rodrigues has been given an autonomous status with the setting up of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly House and a governing Council, the latter immediately after 12 October 2002 took office and put ourselves into activities despite the difficulties met by my friends Commissioners to start work. Almost all the Commissioners took office with an acute lack of equipment, furniture and staff. In some Commissions, the lack of staff with specific skills is still being felt, Mr Chairperson, Sir. Among is my friend, Commissioner, responsible for Youth and Sports, who is also my fellow candidate in region No. 4 where we were plebiscited, with whom I have been very closely involved in the preparation of some specific work. We started laboriously despite the difficult situation. We did not sit down and wait, but rather put ourselves into action by reviewing the Budget Estimates and redefining the priorities of action of our electoral manifest and programme.

Concerning youth and sports, Mr Chairperson, Sir, especially the practice of sports in Rodrigues, the redefining of the role and responsibility of all regional sports committees and the sport coaches in Rodrigues was vital with the installation of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and Rodrigues as an autonomous region in the Republic of Mauritius.

The achievement of new sport goals have been clearly defined and set forth by the Commissioner for Youth and Sports which will depend on close team work between the Regional Government and the sports community. The Regional Government committed itself to the creation of an ideal climate for sports to be prosperous within the constraint of our Budget. Since the advent of autonomy, no effort has been spared to improve the level of sports in Rodrigues, Mr Chairperson, Sir. The idea of a free and strong sport community is paving its way throughout the island and many measures have already been taken and targeted to reach these goals and among those include the following -

- (1) The Sports Award event which is going to be held on a yearly basis.
- (2) Sport persons, administrators and coaches will be rewarded for their demonstrated dedication to sports in Rodrigues.

- (3) The wise decision of the Executive Council to give a stipend of Rs100 to all pre-selected athletes of the last Indian Ocean Island Games held in Mauritius with a view to enhancing the possibility of the Rodriguan athletes to reap more medals in the games including also the judo team competition, which was held at Malabar gymnasium in Rodrigues and for which the gymnasium and the surrounding were renovated for that historic event for the population of Rodrigues.

The performance of our athletes in the competition was satisfactory and encouraging. The competition was a success. We had proven to the world that, as a nation, we can host major sporting events successfully and that bodes well for future bids that we may want to embark upon such organisations as often as possible.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, success is a too small word to qualify the holding of judo team competition in Rodrigues under the responsibility of the Commissioner for Youth and Sports. I will seize this opportunity to recall to this House some details of the broad outline of our achievements for financial year 2003/2004 as regards youth and sports.

The renovation of the sports complexes of La Ferme and Mount have already been completed. As regards Camp du Roi Stadium, some renovation works have already started due to some damages caused to the infrastructure aftermath Kalundé. The construction of stands and cloak rooms at the football ground of Oyster Bay and the upgrading of other grounds as mentioned in our electoral programme, Mr Chairperson, Sir, as one can see, money has already been budgeted and work has already started at Oyster Bay and the other playgrounds at Soupir, Grand Bay, Gravier and Patate Théophile. Some have already been completed and on the other hand, the construction of the first olympic swimming pool at Maréchal is in progress.

Furthermore, the Commission for Youth and Sports has already set up not less than 10 new *écoles de sport* in different disciplines in remote villages like Port Sud Est, Vangard, Montagne Goyave and Rivière Cocos. The number of these *écoles de sport* has increased from 15 to 27 and the number of *stagiaires* attending these *écoles* has increased about 1,500. It is to be noted that the Commission for Youth and Sports spent Rs0.5 m for the purchase of equipment just to ensure that basic necessities be provided to these *écoles de sport* for their smooth running. As regards the practice of

football in Rodrigues which was dormant at a point in time became active after the advent of autonomy; and for the first time in Rodrigues, the Executive Council took the decision to allocate a football grant-in-aid to all football teams which are affiliated to the Rodrigues football committee. This will prove useful for the different teams to purchase basic equipment for the smooth running. How can I not mention, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the setting up of a Rodrigues football team recently and their honourable performance against the British army football team and also the excellent performance of our football team, category *poussin* who won the final against Pointe-aux-Sables team of Mauritius last week. For volley-ball, two *centres de formation* have been set up for boys and girls and these are running full-fledged at Malabar Gymnasium. A *Centre d'Entrainement d'Athlétisme* has also been set up. Other disciplines newly introduced such as cycling, kickboxing, triathlon, *boxe française*, tae kwon do are receiving very good response from the public.

Moreover, Mr Chairperson, Sir, sport activities are being integrated more effectively in primary and secondary schools where sport coaches are encouraged to deliver courses in their respective disciplines in the colleges. Tournaments such as football, volleyball, handball, badminton and table tennis are being organised for the benefit of the students.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the new Budget for financial year 2004/2005 where a sum of Rs75.5 m for capital expenditure has been proposed which shows an increase of 136% is a paradox. The Member on the other side said that money is being spent unlawfully, yet the Budget has been increased by 136% and approved by the central Government. The biggest sum ever provided for sports in this Assembly, this is a clear sign that the Regional Government is committed to boost up the level of sports in the island.

To conclude, Mr Chairperson, Sir, although we have been experiencing a range of problems in some regional committees in terms of division. What had been achieved in terms of progress that we are making as regards youth and sports is far beyond expectations. So, Mr Chairperson, Sir, to come with a motion of no confidence in the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports is in, my opinion, a big joke without a little smile and should be given no consideration at all.

Thank you.

Mr G. Jabeemissar (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme): Mr Chairperson, Sir, if my colleague, the Second Local Region Member for Marechal, has brought this motion of no confidence against the Commissioner responsible, *inter alia*, for Youth & Sports and has laid emphasis on the numerous shortcomings identified in the field of youth and sports, I am now going to point out various shortcomings that have been identified in the other areas of responsibility falling under his purview.

At the very start, Mr Chairperson, Sir, let me point out that the Commissioner is not the only one responsible for all the problems encountered at his Commission. In fact, this motion of no confidence is a first *mise en garde* against the Executive Council for all the problems our country is facing now under the Government.

M. le président, d'autres sont déjà dans le collimateur, et leur tour viendra pour être sanctionnés par une motion de blâme. Mr Chairperson, Sir, let me start with an area of responsibility where the Commissioner has failed in his duty.

Mr Chairperson: Take your seat, please. I find it warranted here to mention something very important in this Assembly. Whenever you make a statement of fact, you stand by it. Either you are informed or if you say that this is so, then you will stand by it if it happens not to be exactly the same thing than what you said. So, bear this in mind when you make your intervention.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have not understood your point. Could you please repeat it?

Mr Chairperson: To be clearer to you, when you state something as a matter of fact, you should stand by it.

Mr J. Roussety: This side of the House always stands by what is being said, Mr Chairperson, Sir. My friend has been saying that there can be other motions of no confidence, including a motion of no confidence in the Chief Commissioner. We are saying that, if need be, we will come forward with it.

Mr Chairperson: What is the point about the statement of fact you wish to make?

Mr J. Roussety: You said that may be if he is saying that.

Mr Chairperson: I never stated that whatever he said does not reflect the reality. I just pointed out that when you state something as a matter of fact, there are strict rules according to the Standing Orders. It applies to both sides of the House, of course.

Mr J. Roussety: I am agreeable with what the Member of the Minority is saying. If need be, we will come forward...

Mr Chairperson: This is not a warning. I am not warning anybody. I am just informing you of this principle. Please proceed.

Mr Jabeemissar: Let me start with an area of responsibility where the Commissioner has failed in his duty. Who do not remember all the trouble licensees encountered recently when they had to pay their licenses or renew their trade permits? Some people travelled to Port Mathurin on many occasions and paid more on transport than what they had to pay to settle their bills, because of the bad organisation of the service. Why, after so many months in office, the question of decentralising the service has not been taken into consideration so as to help people in settling their bills? Mr Chairperson, Sir, who has not also noted the great disparity between the licences to be paid by some big traders and the small businesses? In addition to that, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the recent increase in trade licences caused so much havoc among the traders and the population at large, that many traders have expressed the wish to turn down their permits, or not to renew same. When we know how difficult it is for people to earn a living in this country, I think that these measures were too drastic. This is to tell you, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that the social stability of our island is very much threatened by such unpopular measures.

On top of that, Mr Chairperson, Sir, just imagine the feeling of the people, especially farmers and planters, who see all the efforts they have furnished to reap what they have sown vanish. The Commissioner responsible for Trade & Commerce did not have any market strategy to allow the export of their products in spite of the fact that a Rodriguan trade and marketing agency - as they call it - was not set up by the Executive Council. It is not surprising that the whole population itself expresses its

own motion of no confidence in the Commissioner responsible for Trade, Commerce & Licensing and the whole Executive Council at large.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, another great obstacle in the smooth running of trade, commerce and licensing in Rodrigues is the time consuming procedures to have a trade licence or permit.

M. le président, beaucoup de personnes, croyant qu'avec l'autonomie leur démarche pour avoir un permis quelconque serait plus rapide, ont dû abandonner et partir à Maurice, même si là-bas on sait que la vie est beaucoup plus difficile. Ceci, pour vous dire combien l'espoir que les gens avaient en ce gouvernement local a fondu comme neige au soleil. Pourtant, M. le président, on avait promis la mise en place d'un *one-stop shop* pour accélérer et faciliter toutes les démarches administratives avant l'obtention d'un permis. Mais, qu'en est-il maintenant? Pourquoi les gens sont-ils si découragés?

Mr Chairperson, Sir, that's why the population is of the opinion that those who govern us are using the powers given to them by the RRA Act to use arbitrary measures against them, and not to facilitate them. This is fully justified, Mr Chairperson, Sir, because prior to the advent of the autonomy things went on more quickly, to the satisfaction of one and all. Many, many cases that we have raised here in this House can prove that, for example, leases, licences, permits, etc. The autonomy does not take into consideration the specificity of Rodrigues. We have always cried out our specificity, but when it comes to reality, the Executive Council hides behind the law, saying that this is the law which is in force in mainland Mauritius. Therefore, why do we have an autonomy? Where is our specificity? What's the purpose of having our autonomy? Another striking feature...

Mr Chairperson: I don't want to be unpleasant to you, but you have got to be relevant. The motion is against one Commissioner, and not a group. Have you got my point? You are not allowed to go outside this scope.

Mr Jabeemissar: What I am saying is that, because the Commissioner forms part of a team, he is not the only one to be blamed. They have to share the responsibility.

Another striking feature, Mr Chairperson, Sir, is the difficulties encountered by our local merchants to sell their products. Let's take the example of our '*marchands pommes, marchands bananes*'. Instead of facilitating them in their activities, by putting at their disposal a proper and hygienic shelter, the Commission responsible for such uses repressive measures against them. On how many occasions have we not seen them expressing their *mécontentement vis-à-vis l'attitude des autorités*? Finalement, ils ont été casés dans une rue tout près de Winston Churchill. Mais, je me demande, avec la construction du pont, où ils seront logés. Pourtant, M. le président, en essayant de gagner leur vie à leur façon, de leur propre manière, ces gens sont en train de réduire le taux de chômage si alarmant chez nous. Ils sont en train de faire honneur au pays en ne mendiant pas dans les rues. Il faut reconnaître cela.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, in spite of the very difficult economic situation faced by our population, the Commissioner responsible for consumer protection has no definite policy or if he has, there is nothing to protect the rights of consumers in having the required goods when they need. One striking example, Mr Chairperson, Sir, is one issue that we have just raised this morning, namely the LPG. Never before has this commodity caused so many problems to consumers. Before it was very easy to go to a nearby shop and buy our gas whenever we needed it. But, such is not the case today. Just imagine if you were in the place of those who don't have gas to cook their food. Consumers feel victimised because they do not get the protection of the authority.

The same situation also applies to the sale of local fish to consumers. Fishmongers sell the same type of fish at different prices to different consumers - if ever we have a fish! We all know that it is very, very difficult for low income earners to buy fish. It's only the big hotels, restaurants and those who earn a lot of money that can afford buying fish. And this is not acceptable in a country where we know that every Rodriguan used to eat fish nearly every day. This will become like a sort of '*guette dans photo*' *comme on dit en créole*. There is no policy to increase the catch of fish, so that consumers are not trapped in the offer and demand mechanism.

Last but not least, Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is with great concern that we see our handicraft industry falling into decline although we know that we are in a very competitive world. The Commissioner responsible for handicraft does not put the target high enough to allow our handicraft sector to face the

great competitions. We know that some of our local handicraft products can compete with those in mainland Mauritius, and sometimes, intentionally these are in very limited quantity. The great majority of those involved in handicraft are in a declining state. At Malabar, we have a handicraft centre. There is somebody attached to that centre since a very long time. Now, that person is often seen travelling everywhere, going to and fro, from the airport, carrying people. We are wondering whether this person is still attached to the handicraft centre of Malabar or whether he has got the protection of those whom he is serving. This is one reason again, Mr Chairperson, Sir, why I am in favour of that motion of no confidence my colleague has brought. As I have just said, because of all these malpractice tolerated by the Commissioner and the other Members of the Executive Council, I associate myself with my colleague to support this motion.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

The Commissioner for Arts and Culture (Mrs A. Perrine-Bégué):

M. le président, je ne suis pas une experte en sports, mais je voudrais donner un point de vue sur cette motion.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am taken aback, so ridiculous and childish the motion is, and the accusations motivated towards it are complete fabrications – adding two and two together getting five. Anybody not in office can say what he or she likes; but does that mean that this is true?

We have all seen during the course of our different meetings, in this august Assembly, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the grudge that the Second Region Member for Marechal has against our colleague Commissioner for Youth & Sports, Mr Nicholson Lisette. *Mais de là, à proposer une motion de blâme, voire une motion de suspension, il pousse trop loin le bouchon.* We all know that if a motion of no-confidence is voted against a member, this person would have to stand the blame and go. *Mais une telle motion ne passera pas, M. le président.*

Is the Minority Member so blinded by his hate towards our colleague, that he forgets that he has a majority group in front of him? What does he want to prove? That there is a split between the majority members?

Dans ses rêves les plus fous, a-t-il osé penser que nous voterons contre un de nos collègues? *It's niet, Mr Chairperson, Sir!*

My second reaction is about the nature of this motion itself, Mr Chairperson, Sir. In my humble opinion, the member does not know the ‘abc’ of the functioning of Parliamentary democracy. Has he ever heard of the principle of collective responsibility? The famous British Professor Crick put it that way, and I quote –

“ all members of a Government must be unanimous in support of its policies on all public occasions, and that they are all in the same boat - personally, morally and politically - when it comes to success or failure of a policy.”

Mr Chairperson, Sir, in all circumstances the Government members must stick together and their record is that of the whole Government and not part of it. There is no case, Mr Chairperson, Sir, still in my humble opinion, for individual responsibility to answer in this House. And, if ever there is one, normally it can happen in four types of issues –

- if a Government member protests against a collective policy;
- if a member has to answer for gross departmental error; or
- in case of personal conduct, or
- of political indiscretions.

It is up to the Government members, themselves, to solve the problem and it is generally the role of the Head of the Government to sanction the member. Here, the Second Member for Marechal *veut faire les choses à l'envers*. He wants to have the right to fire, while he did not hire. *Il a vu des prétextes pour blâmer le commissaire, alors que le Chef commissaire, à qui reviendrait ce droit, n'en voit aucun.*

The member, Mr Chairperson, Sir, *a des ambitions démesurées*. That is why I objectively think that this motion is ridiculous and childish. I am just wondering whether this motion is in order.

Mr J. Roussety: On a point of order, Mr Chairperson, Sir. If the Commissioner says that this motion is ridiculous and childish, I think that she is attempting to the presidency of the House. I believe that this is

disrespect to your Office. This motion has been allowed, and I think it is a lack of respect towards the Chair for the Commissioner to say such things. I think she should present her apologies to the Chair.

Mr Chairperson: From one point of view, the respected Member may be right. But, I do understand that the purport of the argument that the Commissioner has been putting forward up to now is, in fact, relating to the nature of this motion and not the rationale of the Chairperson having allowed the motion on the Order Paper. It may be ambiguous, I do agree. Please proceed, Commissioner.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, why single out one Commissioner for blame? *Si cela se trouve*, this type of motion *est peut-être une première dans les annales*. Normally, motions of no-confidence are directed towards Heads of Government and not members of Government. For example, the RRA Act 2001, section 36, specifies that in case of a motion of no-confidence, it is a motion of no-confidence in a Chief Commissioner, and does not add Commissioner....

(Interruptions)

Logically, I think.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order, the Commissioner is continuously questioning the admissibility of the motion. I believe the Commissioner should not be allowed to do that, because the motion has been allowed on the Order Paper. Why is she questioning the admissibility? She should question the nature! If, you, Mr Chairperson, have allowed it, I believe that the Commissioner should not be allowed to comment on the admissibility of a motion of no-confidence in a Commissioner.

(Interruptions)

The Commissioner can't be ignorant of what is done at the level of the National Assembly. *C'est permis de mettre une motion de blâme contre un ministre. La même pratique s'applique à Maurice. J'inviterai Madame à être un peu plus versatile et de sortir de son ignorance.*

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Does the Minority Leader want me to rule on this point?

Mr J. Roussety: Well, my point is that the Commissioner is continuously questioning the admissibility of this motion and I think this should not be allowed.

Mr Chairperson: The Minority Leader is right, but that does not prevent any Member from coming forward and expressing any criticism about a motion. If this has been the intention, then it won't be admissible for you, unless you come with a motion of rescission. Please, proceed Commissioner.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the RRA Act of 2001, section 36, specifies the case of a motion of no-confidence. Again, section 25(2) of our Standing Orders stipulates the same thing.

(Interruptions)

According to me, either you blame the whole Government or you shut up! And I think this is what the Second Region Member for Maréchal must do!

(Interruptions)

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order. What kind of language is that? A woman Commissioner, one of the rare women in this House is saying 'shut up!'

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Please! This is not warranted.

(Interruptions)

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, she says shut up to a Member of the Minority, I believe this should not be allowed in this House.

Mr Chairperson: Can the Commissioner please take up again the point where she says 'shut up'?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, I said that, according to me, either the whole Government should be blamed if ever this can be substantiated, or the minority member should shut up. That is what I said.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: This is not unparliamentary.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, what is the Second Member for Maréchal reproaching the Commissioner Lisette? First, I would like to express my concern on the original document quoted here in this House. According to me, these are leakages, Mr Chairperson, Sir, because these information have been leaked out from files and so causing a breach to the Official Secrets' Act. And if ever these persons are found out, they must be prosecuted correctly as pertaining to the law.

Coming to the Judo Committee, did the Commissioner cause any committee dormant, as it was meant to be said from the housetops?

Everybody is aware of the eternal conflict existing in the judo organisation in Rodrigues, and this well before its autonomy. A conscientious Commissioner is now in place; and this Assembly has approved his budget for sports, including judo. Is the Commissioner expected to deprive the sporting public of its right in this particular field only because of conflicts for which the public is not responsible? Instead of being blamed, the Commissioner ought to be congratulated for having taken reasonable actions to promote judo, with the results that are known nationwide and worldwide.

In fact, our Commissioner for Youth & Sports is on the same wavelength as the Minister of Youth & Sports who lately, publicly, declared that he would not finance any Regional Sports Committee which does not deliver. He even added that in these cases his Ministry would take over the organisation of that discipline.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, coming to tender documents, according to FMM, the original tenders, after consideration by the Tender Committee, must be kept confidential and in safe custody for record and audit. That speaks for itself. *Quelle erreur a donc commis le commissaire de la jeunesse et des sports?* Is his probity in sticking to rules of procedure to be blamed?

Anyway, these documents remain available to scrutiny by the Public Accounts Committee, which is made up partly of the minority Members, both in Mauritius and Rodrigues. And also, as a last resort, if they want to satisfy further their ego by finding first sufficient ground, they could have recourse to the ICAC.

Coming to unauthorised payments, for any indiscretion or lack of responsibility on behalf of any member of a delegation sent by the Commission or by any other services in the Government, like it is mentioned in this particular example, should the blame be placed at the door of the Commissioner concerned? Was the Commissioner *omni present*? The bills were sent to federations and Ministry as per the papers circulated. They should have, at their level, simply refused to pay for the additional person who went in the hotel, if it is proved to be true, *et la guerre est finie*.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I will leave the other aspects to be dealt with by another colleague. This motion is the most imaginative piece of nonsense ever waved in front of this House. And what is more incredible is that it is directed towards one of the most serious, industrious and productive member of this Executive Council.

(Interruptions)

Talking of productivity, where in the world have you seen two stadia constructed in the same financial year? I am talking of Baie aux Huitres and Grande Montagne.

With so little financial resources, my colleague is also catering for renovation of almost all sports complexes and infrastructures. *Les écoles de sports sont en train de pousser comme des champignons*. This is called having the gut to go forward and to reinvent things as per what the autonomy accords us.

The Commissioner for Youth and Sports, furthermore, still in my opinion, is also esteemed by his colleagues for his being cautious. He always seeks advice from and approval of his colleague Commissioners before he takes any major decision. That is why we consider that this motion is the most irrelevant and futile. It belongs, Mr Chairperson, Sir, to the majority to decide business in this House.

The Minority Member *peut toujours courir, M. le président*. Childish motions will not get through. *Nous n'avons pas traversé la mer rouge pendant 25 ans pour faire la guerre de coqs* in this Parliament.

(Interruptions)

We have respect for and we mean business in this House. And unless the minority benches concur to our vision, none of their ridiculous initiatives will pass through.

We, the majority Members, will stand together as one and the same, collectively bound until the end of our mandate.

Thank you.

Mrs M. T. Meunier (Second Island Region Member): Mr Chairperson, Sir, the real essence of this Assembly here is directed towards guaranteeing the well-being of our people by reaffirming the principles of equality and non-discrimination in our country.

Our duty, as elected Members or Commissioners, in an era where globalisation and technology have contributed considerably to bringing people together, is to materialise the notion of human family based on equality, dignity and solidarity. This is what we teach our people through our speeches. But do our actions show the same thing? If there is a motion of no-confidence today against the Commissioner for Youth and Sports, certainly some of his actions, those he has taken or he has not taken, have proved to be a dishonour to our profession as Parliamentarians. Should we not be acting as models for our people, Mr Chairperson, Sir! In our work, we have to struggle to keep the values like respect which contributes and constitutes the moral ground and inspiration for our worldwide quest for the good governance we are so proud to speak of, especially on the other side of the House.

In the speech of my colleague, the Second Local Region Member for Marechal, the mover of this motion, we can see the profound lack of consideration on the part of the Commissioner for Youth and Sports and the violation of the law, namely the Sports Act and an aptitude to favour and to hide fraudulent practices as the copies of the letters my colleague has tabled show.

Conditions conducive to greater harmony to favour the development of sports and youth do not exist as too many questions have been left unanswered and are ambiguous. Many projects which will favour those people at the bottom of the social ladder, have been left unattended.

Les exemples flagrants sont les différents complexes sportifs dans les petits villages et notamment, comme mentionné auparavant par mon collègue à La Ferme où un travail bâclé a été fait. Citons aussi le cas de Port Sud Est, par exemple, dont le collègue de l'autre côté de la Chambre en a si brillamment parlé, mais ce qu'il ne sait pas, je lui demanderais d'aller faire un petit tour à Port Sud Est, surtout ceux qui ont été élus dans cette région de voir qu'est-ce qui se passe. C'est vrai qu'il y a des écoles de sports qui ont été faites, il y a des terrains de jeux qui ont été construits, mais jusqu'à maintenant dans les complexes et sur les terrains, il n'y a pas de panier, un terrain de basket sans panier. Je ne sais pas comment les jeunes vont jouer au basket. Est-ce qu'ils doivent apporter un panier en bambous? Un terrain de volleyball sans filet!

(Interruptions)

Je me demande comment les jeunes vont jouer. Même l'entraîneur qui entraînait ces jeunes, il ne les entraîne plus parce qu'il n'y a pas de matériels adéquats. Je me demande de quoi ils sont si fiers.

Not only that, Mr Chairperson, Sir, in the region of Port Sud Est, from Mourouk and Songes, the only football ground is found at Port Sud Est. At Mourouk, *les joueurs...*

(Interruptions)

La marée basse! Quand il y a la marée haute, ils ne peuvent pas jouer. Avec les écoles de foot, il y a la guerre pour le petit terrain...

(Interruptions)

I am talking about the state of that football ground. It is so bumpy. Sometimes the young children playing there, and even the feminine football team from Songes and the masculin football team from Port Sud Est as well,

instead of hitting the ball, they hit the humps. They were talking about safety of referees. We should take care of the safety of the players first.

If we take a look at this region, la région numéro 3, c'est la région la plus négligée et délaissée. En matière d'infrastructure sportive, dans la région numéro 3, il n'y a rien pour encourager les équipes, par exemple, l'équipe de Dragon qui a tellement fait parler d'elle lors des différents championnats et compétitions. Il n'y a pas mal de joueurs dans la sélection même de Rodrigues dont ils en ont parlé. It is a shame, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that some regions are neglected at the expense of political promises to the mandates of the Commissioner for Youth and Sports.

(Interruptions)

Stade Baie Aux Huîtres et stade Grande Montagne!

(Interruptions)

How can our people trust such persons who have in their hands the future of our sports and sportsmen if they sacrifice one region at the expense of political promises?

Now, I will talk about the involvement of women in sports. Despite the fact that many women in Rodrigues are now engaged in all sports, especially now that there is a genuine interest for football, very little is being done to encourage those women. These feminine football teams have existed since more than 6 years and they are still playing out zones. What is being done to encourage their competitive spirit? These women want more. In spite of their continuous pleas to be classified as first and second division football teams and to organise proper football leagues for them, to create more interest, to make these women feel that they are equal to their male counterparts, nothing has been done so far.

Should the Commissioner for Youth and Sports not strive, as he is young - I understand he has a young mind - to combat all forms of discrimination in that sector, through appropriate measures, through gender perspectives, not be integrated in the policy decisions, development plans, programmes and sports activities? This is purely discrimination, exclusion and restriction on his part. It is simply differential treatment based on sex.

It is lacking recognition and destroying the enjoyment of sports activities by women.

Furthermore, why is there no woman representative on the Regional Football Committee when we have a feminine football team? You cannot make a man stand for a feminine football team. This is unfair, Mr Chairperson, Sir. Here, we are boasting of having four women in Parliament. When we go outside, women are striving, they want to have their say in sports as well, but nobody cares for them, nobody listens to them.

In the history of Rodriguan football, we have had only one female referee.

(Interruptions)

She is there; now she cannot do it any more, or does not want to do it. What is being done at the level of the Commission to have more women in that field? Now, we have feminine football teams playing and they are being given money; they pay their affiliation, but they are directed by men. Is it because the Commissioner is a man himself that he forgets that there are women too in the sports sector? What can the Commissioner boast of? These are shortcomings which are not laudable to such a young Commissioner who should have a vision towards a new and modern perspective.

Last year, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the feminine football tournament started in June. This year it has not started yet. Football teams have been informed that they would be playing since April, but until now these poor souls are still waiting. They have already paid their affiliation. They are having training sessions, but they are not playing. These women are waiting. *Elle veulent montrer de quoi elles sont capables. En dépit de leur volonté et leurs talents et malgré le fait qu'elles s'entraînent presque tous les jours, elles attendent toujours, bon gré mal gré, la décision qui viendra, avec le temps on verra!*

The Commissioner will surely boast like his colleague has said about Eric Milazar, Antonio Félicité and the organisation of games in Rodrigues. Is the credit his honestly? Think about it! A proverb says that "many fools are hidden behind a silver coverage". And today we are scratching the silver to find the fool! This is why some people find us ridiculous. We are used

to it. It is easier to be on the side of the majority than to be on the side of the minority. You know that well, but we know what we are talking about. We are not going to tolerate, not a single, not a speck of fraudulent practices. Even though it might seem ridiculous or childish to some people, we are not going to tolerate it, because it will open the door for other....

(Interruptions)

The mask will fall when the time comes! Don't worry! We cannot hide things any more, especially when one occupies such a honourable position. He should be honourable. At this stage, this person, in that post, the Commissioner for Youth and Sports, *toutes ces malversations, les petites cachotteries devraient être évitées, mais malheureusement ce n'est pas donné à tout le monde d'être propre, net, juste et honnête. C'est plus facile de pécher par l'arrogance, la vantardise et la moquerie. Le pouvoir lui-même avilit, salit et remplit d'orgueil certaines personnes, mais il peut aussi souiller l'âme.*

One should not believe that the law is meant only for those who bear no title to their names and that those who can be called so, can bypass the laws. Bear in mind that we are citizens of the Republic of Mauritius. *Quand cela nous arrange, on dit que c'est le gouvernement de Maurice, et quand cela ne nous arrange pas, on dit que c'est nous qui prenons les décisions.* And that, as such, any single one of us should abide by the laws of the Republic of Mauritius, regardless of our position. For some people, what is happening in the Commission for Youth and Sports, will only be a small ridiculous thing *parce que, comme la Commissaire vient de nous dire, c'est avec la bénédiction de toute l'équipe que cela se fait. Qui est la maman qui va dire que son fils est méchant?* We've never heard that before.

But if we don't open our eyes.....

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: On a point of order, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Chairperson: Can you please take your seat? There is a point of order from the Commissioner.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the hon. Member has said that *c'est avec la bénédiction de tous les membres que le mal se fait. Ce n'est pas ce qui a été dit, je voudrais le préciser M. le président. Au*

contraire on a voulu highlight all the courage that the hon. Member has had and all the positive initiative that the Member has taken.

Mr J. Roussety : The Commissioner is not coming with the point of order. Where is this point of order? I have a point of order also.

Mr Chairperson : You have to wait.

Mr J. Roussety: She should come with her point of order. She is explaining unless she wants to raise a point of explanation.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Yes.

Mr J. Roussety: She should raise a point of explanation not a point of order.

Mr Chairperson: Does the Commissioner wish to proceed further?

Mrs Meunier: *Je le redis c'est avec la complicité, que ce soit bonne ou mauvaise de tout le monde* on the other side of this House. This is what the Commissioner for Arts & Culture said. If we don't open our eyes on small matters, we will leave the floor to still more awful practices.

With these words, I leave the House to brood on them and I congratulate the mover of this motion, the Second Local Region Member for Maréchal.

Mr Chairperson: I see from the list submitted to me that we are supposed to have the Chief Commissioner talking and then the Commissioner for Sports. Do we have any intervention on this side ?

Mr J. Roussety: We have two members more.

Mr Chairperson: Deputy Chief Commissioner, you have the floor.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, il est parfois facile quand on est spectateur de dire que les jeunes ne jouent pas bien. Je dois dire ici que la motion faite contre le Commissaire des Sports est nulle et n'a pas de fondement. L'île Rodrigues est autonome et sous le IRA Act on a le droit de faire des règlements et de prendre des décisions pour conserver la

spécificité de notre île qui a eu l'autonomie avec sa différence culturelle. Il est de notre droit de faire notre travail mais on n'est pas là pour baisser les bras, de faire des hypothèses qui paraissent être miraculeuses.....

Mr Grandcourt: Il y a un changement. On ne voit pas seulement si on est aveugle. L'autonomie de Rodrigues est en train de consolider la place de la République de Maurice sur le plan mondial, quand on voit la performance d'Eric Milazar, par exemple, sur le plan national et international. M. le président, il est parfois facile de critiquer. Mais où sont les alternatives qu'on propose?

Pour conclure, M. le président, comme politicien il est inadmissible de traduire le combat d'un peuple, des hommes et des femmes pour seulement les gains politiques par des paroles non consciencieuses. M. le président, je soutiens avec force le travail de mon collègue Commissaire dans lequel je sais que des potentiels existent pour la bonne marche du sport à Rodrigues.

Merci, M. le président.

Mr EMILIEN: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I will be very brief commenting on that motion which I support.

M. le président, je vais parler surtout pour la région de l'ouest, la région qui a été toujours négligée pour X raison. Je parle, aujourd'hui, au nom de ces jeunes de l'ouest. On pensait qu'avec l'autonomie, comme l'a si bien dit le *Deputy Chief Commissioner*, surtout en ce qui concerne les *sports amenities*, cela allait être amélioré. Malheureusement, M. le président, après avoir vu ce qui s'est passé avec le *Sport Complex* de La Ferme, on pensait que d'autres facilités pourraient être mises à la disposition des jeunes de ces régions. Je parle, M. le président, des jeunes de Baie du Nord, de Camp Pintade, de la Cité Patate, qui ont fourni des efforts pour la construction du terrain de *football*. Ces jeunes ont demandé, par exemple, M. le président, entre autres des choses très simples, le *fencing* pour protéger leur terrain, mais jusqu'à présent, M. le président, rien n'a été fait. Mais, ce qui est plus grave, M. le président, c'est que ces jeunes Rodriguais, qui sont supposés être l'avenir de l'île demain, se tournent vers l'alcool, la drogue et la prostitution. M. le président, rien n'a été fait par la dite Commission pour

empêcher tout cela. Donc, M. le président, je parle au nom de tous ces jeunes, non seulement de la région de La Ferme mais aussi d'autres régions de l'île.

M. le président, je termine ici en supportant la motion qui a toute sa raison d'être et je profite de l'occasion pour féliciter *the mover of the motion*.

Thank you.

Mr Chairperson: Yes. From the majority side, who would wish to intervene now?

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like, first of all, to thank my colleagues from the majority side for having supported me and after having made their speech, it seems that they have spelt out the progress done in the sports sector in Rodrigues. After having listened to the different speeches, especially from the other side of the House, I know that there are at least five points which have been raised, which I should say, are senseless. My colleague has qualified the mover of the motion as ridiculous, childish and as a joke. I am going to add more on this, it is null and void and it is senseless. There are five points which have been mentioned by the Member of the Minority, namely, the setting up of illegal management structure, disbursement of public funds without the authorisation of the Legal Regional Committee, people staying in hotels in Mauritius, non tabling of documents and non granting of licences by my Commission. What do we see, Mr Chairperson, Sir, when we have listened to the different interventions on the other side? They talked about autonomy....

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Yes, there is a point of order. Commissioner for Sports.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am very, very surprised to see ...

Mr Chairperson: No. What is the point of order?

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the point that the Commissioner has mentioned does not appear in this, but it appears on the paper that I have

sent to you. How is it that now the Commissioner comes with the point that I have given to you?

(Interruptions)

The Chief Commissioner: On a point of order, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I listened ...

Mr Chairperson: Please, wait! So, what is your point of order? I had not got it clear.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner is referring to the points which I have submitted to you. In the content here, it is different. You can have a look.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Please, wait! Well, I take it that this is a very, very serious allegation. I don't know how this happens. But, at any rate, this is not a point of order. It is a representation that you need to make to the Chairperson in private. Yes, the Chief Commissioner wanted to say something.

The Chief Commissioner: On a point of order, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I followed the speech of the Member. He mentioned a lot of points: illegal structure, licences, tenders and so on. It was in his speech. So, the Commissioner is replying to the points he made.

Mr Chairperson: Yes.

Mr Lisette: I would like to ask the Member on the points that I have raised, which point he has not stated in his speech, setting up of illegal management structure, I think has been spelt out in his speech he has talked about disbursement of public funds, non-compliance with the Sports Act, not taking into consideration the Judo Regional Committee. He said that he read the letter from the Judo Federation stating that persons have stayed illegally like in Mauritius. He has even mentioned in the speech about the tender document for La Ferme which has not been tabled and they have also spoken about the non granting of licences. So, I don't see which point on this paper has not been mentioned from the other side.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I was saying that the motion is null and senseless. If I base myself on the statement that I made lastly, I should say that I don't have anything to say, because most of the points that have been raised here have already been answered in a previous statement. Nevertheless, in a way maybe the Members have a poor remembrance, they don't really

Mr Chairperson: No personal attack, please!

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to refresh their memory as per the different points raised in their different speeches. Let me, first of all, come to the point raised stating that, I, as Commissioner set up an illegal management structure. I have so many times in this House stated and explained clearly why it has been very important for the setting up of the Judo Co-ordinating Committee. I have explained it so many times in the House. Nevertheless, it is worth pointing out, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that setting up of the Judo Co-ordinating Committee is not illegal, as they are trying to say. This is wrong, Mr Chairperson, Sir! As the Commissioner for Youth and Sports, I have the right to set up as many Committees and structures as I want and for the information of the Minority Member, I would like to tell him that this very Friday I am going to meet all the Secretaries and Presidents of the different Regional Committees and I am going to meet them on a monthly basis. Even if this is not stated in the Sports Act, I am doing it. So, if you want to join me...

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with the setting up of the Commission for Youth and Sports...

(Interruptions)

I am the Commissioner and I have the right to set my policy for those who are working with me.

With the setting up of the Commission for Youth and Sports, Mr Chairperson, Sir, we should in some way work in a different way. I took office in October 2002 and that does not mean that all structures or all things that have been done before should be kept in the same way. This is why I

have found it very important that for the good management and for the good development of sports in Rodrigues, additional structures which are not stated in the Sports Act have to be set up. In fact, Mr Chairperson, Sir, Regional Committees have been set up before the coming into practice of the Sports Act and I think that at the time our Chief Commissioner was the Minister for Rodrigues, already such structures did exist. If, at our level, we deem it necessary to set up structures for the development of sports in Rodrigues, I don't see the reason why Members, from the other side of the House, come to say that I am doing things illegally, especially when it is done with a vision for the progress and development of sports in Rodrigues.

As regards the disbursement of public funds, Mr Chairperson, Sir, money is voted for my Commission. I, as Commissioner, have got a policy. I have got an Accounting Officer at my Commission. I don't need to have the authorisation of somebody from the Regional Committees to say how this money should be spent. Of course, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have got Regional Committees which are acting as advisory as far as my policy is concerned, but if they are not doing things in the right way as the Minister for Youth and Sports did spell out last time, I think four months back, I, myself, am not going to disburse any money for the illegal practice or for things that I don't want to see in this island.

Another point, Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is to be noted also that with Judo Co-ordinating Committee that I put in place, which comprises all the *animateurs* of the *Ecole de Judo* and the sports coach who is working at my Commission, who have set up and re-opened the five *Ecoles de Judo*. Mr Chairperson, Sir, the number of judokas has been increased from 15 to 250. Is not that great? So, Mr Chairperson, Sir, when we listened to the different interventions of the Members of the House, we see that they are looking at the other side of the coin and I don't think that this is encouraging for our athletes in Rodrigues. In fact, I think that for the motivation of our athletes in Rodrigues, they need motivation and I believe for their progress and for their better performance, it is better, Mr Chairperson, Sir, to look at the right side of the coin where focus is being done, where much is being done for their development.

As regards, Mr Chairperson, Sir, licences, it is said that my Commission is not giving licences, it is as if I am marginalising the traders, which is, I should say, wrong. When I look at the statistics which have been worked out at the level of my Commission, Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have

got the number of publications. We have received 235 applications at my Commission. The number of applications approved by my Commission is 165 representing 75% of applications that reached my Commission and which have been approved. 56 licences are still under consideration which may have been sent to us during the last week or month.

At the level of my Commission, we have done much so that we can deliver licences in a period of five weeks. I cannot understand the point raised, namely, that my Commission is doing all to prevent persons from having licences or is marginalising *les marchants ambulants*.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, we represent au authority, a regional government. It is our responsibility to see to it that the rules and laws are adhered to. This is very important. We cannot go on the streets and deliver licences to people just for the sake of political scoring.

(Interruptions)

This is a wrong concept. If this is the way they think, we are not a governing body to rule in that way.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order. The Minority Leader said: "*Lère vine avec l'enveloppe*". This is an allegation. I should like to have your ruling on that, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Chairperson: I agree that on this point there may be a strong case warranting my intervention. But it seems to me that the Minority Leader never took the floor and I have not heard what he said, because I was listening to the Commissioner.

(Interruptions)

Now I heard what the Minority Leader said. Can he give an explanation as to what he meant by it?

Mr J. Roussety: I said that they have to submit their applications in envelopes.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Will the Commissioner for Sports proceed with his speech, please?

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I should like to add that applications at the level of my Commission are not sent in envelopes, but rather are processed in an office helped by an officer of my Commission. Therefore, the point that envelopes are being sent to my Commission with the application forms is completely erroneous.

As regards licences, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the minority group should understand one thing. Whenever a licence is being delivered it is very important that we should see the aspect of public safety and security. This is why, Mr Chairperson, Sir, before granting any licence, it is of utmost importance that we have recommendations from the relevant authorities which include the Police, the Fire Services, the Environment Service as well as the Public Health Service. Unless and until those recommendations are favourable with respect to applications sent to my Commission, it is under these conditions that a licence can be issued to the applicant.

A lot has been said, Mr Chairperson, Sir, about sexual discrimination in sports. The respected Member, Mrs Meunier, stated in her speech that there is sexual discrimination at the level of my Commission, that we are not giving enough incentives to the different feminine clubs. It is to be noted that this year, different football teams received a grant-in-aid and the feminine football teams are taken on the same footing at any masculine club. In that respect, Mr Chairperson, Sir, Rs6,000 were paid to each and every feminine team which is affiliated to the Rodrigues Regional Football Committee. With respect to football, formerly, there was only one tournament per year for the different feminine teams. This year, Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have organised two tournaments for the football feminine teams which include the Republic Cup Tournament for the feminine clubs as well as a league tournament. I cannot understand the point of discrimination that was raised by the Member, namely, that we are not giving enough opportunities to the different feminine teams for sports practice.

As regards the other disciplines, namely, volleyball, handball, judo, all feminine players are having the opportunity to practice and to compete in the different competitions which are organised by the different regional committees. Whenever there is a volleyball tournament for the masculine

team, simultaneously, a tournament is being held for the feminine team. The same applies for handball and judo. Where is the discrimination that the Member is talking about?

Whenever there is referee training by the Commission, we normally send a communiqué to the radio and sometimes to the press. Did we say in the radio communiqué that females are not allowed to participate? It is a question of willingness, whether they want to participate or not. Why do they come and say that my Commission is preventing women from taking referees training? They put the blame on my Commission, but it is like women doing politics. If women want to participate in politics they are free to do so. Where do we have discrimination that the Member is referring to, namely, that we are not giving opportunities to women to undergo referee training?

As far as handicraft is concerned, right now, at the level of my Commission, together with the collaboration of SMIDO and NHPA, we are organising a local market. This is aiming principally at encouraging the different artisans who work in Rodrigues to have the possibility of selling their products. At the same time that we are organising this *expo vente*, we are having the training session for artisans at the level of the NHPA in the food processing sector.

On the same line, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Rodrigues Executive Council together with *anti-erosion* we have already set competition for the instatement of a label for Rodrigues. This step is being taken for the benefit of the artisans. After the implementation of the label for Rodrigues it is the artisans involved in the handicraft sector who are going to use at the maximum these labels for the sale of their products overseas. Much is being done at the level of the handicraft sector. At the same time, we are studying the possibility of working out a memorandum of understanding with the National Handicraft Promotion Agency in Mauritius.

As regards badminton, the non-payment of tickets for persons who are going to participate in the JIOI, I say it again, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that I am not going to tolerate at the level of my Commission to pay tickets to persons who are inactive. For badminton, the two persons who paid their tickets to go to Mauritius in view of the *Jeux des Iles de l'Océan Indien* have never been active neither in the organisation of competitions nor in the organisation of training for the local sportsmen. If you are not helping the

sportsmen in Rodrigues, how come that whenever there is an event in Mauritius you ask my Commission to pay for your tickets? This is a wrong practice and this is something which my Commission will not tolerate. I am going to send a clear message to all those who are helping my Commission that you should show, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that you are working for the progress of sports.

Concerning the regional committees, let us take the case of judo. If an athlete does not attend training sessions for two months and there is an event to participate in Mauritius, is it fair, Mr Chairperson, Sir, to grant a ticket to that person at the expense of other judokas who are attending training? Is it right? As far as badminton is concerned, this is the formula that I did apply. If you are not active in Rodrigues, no ticket, whoever you are, is going to be issued to you.

Concerning kimonos, I do not know what the Member was talking about. I know that he has been fishing and searching for information about the tender that was launched at the level of my Commission. But it is to be stated that all procedures with respect to the purchase of kimonos have been followed accordingly, Mr Chairperson, Sir. The Member has referred to the case of Sunassee and he stated that the kimonos cost Rs520 or Rs535. But as per the Financial Management Manual, we have the right to ask for samples. I can receive two samples at the level of the Commission. These cost Rs520 and Rs535. Based on the technical advice of my coach, if I see that the kimonos costing Rs520 do not meet the recommendations, I can reject the offer with plausible reason. Maybe the Member has misunderstood or he has no knowledge in matters pertaining to the Financial Management Manual. This is why he is going wrong.

Concerning gate money at Camp du Roi, Mr Chairperson, Sir, it should be noted that the money is collected by the *Comité de Gestion* for matches played during weekends. It is normally the *Comité de Gestion*, and not my Commission, which deals with gate money collected and this money is distributed on a 25% basis among the two teams, the *Comité de Gestion* and the Rodrigues Regional Football Committee. If the Member feels that some impractice is going on within this *Comité de Gestion*, that money collected is not being distributed as per the rule, I would invite him to come with proof and we are going to enquire in this particular activity. It is too easy, Mr Chairperson, Sir, to come to this Assembly and make allegations when you do not have any proof.

In respect to the point raised as far as the increase of licences is concerned, my Commission has seen to it that the licence fees do not exceed those of Mauritius. On that basis, we have considered the market in Rodrigues which is similar to Mauritius. Basing ourselves on this, we have compared the licence fees which are prescribed in the Republic of Mauritius. It is worth noting that formerly all this money went into the Mauritius Consolidated Fund. Nowadays, Mr Chairperson, Sir, this money is collected for the Rodrigues Consolidated Fund and I think that it is in the concept of autonomy to encourage the population to participate in that *mouvance*.

I think that the population has to participate in the setting up of the Rodrigues autonomy. The money collected with the revision of the licence fee together with other policies that have been taken will give us the opportunity to double our revenue collection.

In the financial year 2002-03, the revenue collection was about Rs8 m. After revision of fees the revenue for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly will amount to about Rs16 m. This sum is going to be used to finance minor projects, maybe social aids and allocation to fishermen.

The money collected is to be distributed where it is felt that there is a need for more money to be disbursed. Concerning allocation to Animators, I think that the Member has taken a very, very wrong example when he said that Mr Benoît Castel has worked for X years without obtaining any stipend. I stated in the House that Mr Benoît Castel is now a Trade Animator at the level of my Commission.

(Interruptions)

Yes, now, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson, Sir, when someone is involved in sports, there is another side of the story that we have to know. Someone who is involved in sports must have the spirit, *l'amour du sports*. *C'est ce qui est important*. If the

Animator is coming just for the sake of getting Rs165 per session, then something is wrong. I believe ..

Mr Chairperson: I am sorry to interrupt you, you said that Mr Benoît Castel is receiving money as Animator?

Mr Lisette: He has been appointed as a Trade Animator at the level of my Commission.

This is why I am saying, Mr Chairperson, Sir, whenever there are volunteers working with different *écoles de Judo* or different *écoles de sports* at the level of Rodrigues, we should also consider the humanitarian aspect, these people are giving a little of their time in the promotion of sports, in helping our youngsters for the progress of sports.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the motion of no-confidence does not matter to me and I think it does not matter also to my colleagues, because there is one thing which is sure, the population has confidence in us.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

The Minority Leader (Mr J. Roussety): M. le président, le commissaire a terminé son discours en disant que la population lui fait confiance. Je voudrais d'emblée inviter le commissaire des sports à quitter son bureau feutré, son confort, ses dossiers quotidiens et de descendre dans la rue pour rencontrer les jeunes de Cité Patates, que mon collègue a mentionné, de Rivière Coco, de Pointe Coton, de Baie aux Huîtres et un peu partout dans l'île. Qu'il aille voir ces jeunes, lui qui est le commissaire des sports et de la jeunesse, et ils lui feront connaître la vérité. Qu'il aille voir ces commerçants, ces opérateurs économiques, ces tabagies, ces petites gens qui ont dû fermer leur commerce parce qu'ils n'ont pas eu leurs permis à cause des règles contraignantes et ils lui diront la vérité. C'est cela la vérité, M le président.

Il y a une seule expression que je trouve qu'il faut considérer pour qualifier cette commission. L'expression appropriée est: confusion généralisée, *a general confusion, a complete confusion*. Cela débouche sur deux choses que j'ai découvert ici en écoutant avec calme; il est vrai que parfois on est excité devant l'arrogance de certains commissaires en entendant les mots comme :'*shut up*'. Je trouve deux-sous expressions qui décrivent l'état actuel de cette commission - 'politisation du sport' M. le président et 'la destruction, le découragement et le blocage du commerce et des activités économiques'. J'ai l'impression que les commissaires se considèrent comme des commissaires rois. *They are king!*

Mr Chairperson: No. This is not relevant.

Mr J. Roussety: They consider that they have all powers and can do whatever they want with Government money.

Mr Chairperson: The Member is continuing on that line.

Mr J. Roussety: This is what they say, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Chairperson: Are you addressing to one Commissioner or to all Commissioners?

Mr J. Roussety: To one Commissioner.

Mr Chairperson: The motion is addressed to one Commissioner only. Please, proceed.

Mr J. Roussety: It appears to me as if the Commission is his belongings, as if he reigns at the level of his Commission at the expense of all those concerned who depend on this Commission.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, there is jeopardy at the level of the Commission. My colleagues have concentrated on sports, but I would like to concentrate on other areas of responsibilities of this Commission. The Commission has

discouraged, by its policies, trade and commerce. It has put a number of restrictions and constraints on the traders. It has considerably increased the licence fees, twice in less than two years thereby causing much cost. A small *tabagie* is now paying a licence of Rs1000 whereas some time ago he was paying less than Rs100. Where will he get that money? There have been drastic increases in the licence fees, which is putting much stress on all those operators. It is not fair, Mr Chairperson, Sir, to consider us like Mauritius. The Commissioner said that the licence fees do not exceed those of Mauritius. Does he know the difference in the cost of living between Mauritius and Rodrigues? In Rodrigues, all costs are higher and adding insult to injury he is increasing those licences. Why does he consider us like Mauritius and in the fora, they say that 'we have our specificity, we are autonomous, we must do things differently.' When it pleases him, he considers us like Mauritius and when it does not please him, he says that we do not have to follow the Sports Act, because we are Rodriguans. But as far as the licences are concerned, he can compare us with Mauritius. Which is which? For licences he says that he can do what he wants. There are lots of contradictions in his speech. For example, Mr Chairperson, Sir, what have we seen concerning the stalls *qui ont été aménagés et qui ont été loués à la gare routière*? Le gouvernement régional veut soi-disant encourager les Rodriguais à développer leur propre emploi, leur propre entreprise. Qu'avons-nous vu? De petits commerçants de Baie aux Huitres, de la Ferme et d'autres régions qui ont importé des vêtements, des jouets, de la braderie, n'ont pas eu des permis pour travailler. Et qui ont eu ces permis? Des étrangers venant d'autres pays, et qui n'ont jamais travaillé à Rodrigues, ont mis des prix supérieurs, bien sûr - car le petit Rodriguais ne peut pas payer R 8,000, R 10,000 ou R 15,000 par an. Ceux qui viennent de l'étranger ont pu le faire. Cette clause est incluse dans le *Tender*, mais on aurait pu aussi inclure des clauses spécifiques pour donner la chance aux Rodriguais qui ont de l'expérience et ainsi ils auront pu bénéficier de ces *stalls*. Ce n'est pas de la discrimination de ma part, mais je dis que c'est injuste et c'est le commissaire qui est responsable de la faillite de ces petits commerçants. C'est une perte de revenus pour les enfants. Je connais un commerçant qui gagnait sa vie de cette façon et qui ne peut plus envoyer son enfant à l'école. Il en est venu presque fou. Les commissaires ne pensent pas aux impacts économiques que cela peut causer sur la population, M. le président. Nous sommes des élus et nous devons penser que les décisions prises dans une commission peuvent avoir un impact. Je trouve cela flagrant qu'on n'ait pas donné priorité aux gens de Rodrigues pour occuper ces *stalls*, M. le président. Ils ont développé une campagne pour chasser les petits

marchands avec l'aide de la Police. Je reconnais qu'il y a des lois à suivre dans un pays, mais ces lois doivent être souples et non strictes. Le chef commissaire, lui-même, M le président, et le commissaire Lisette, d'après les témoignages reçus, se sont intervenus pour interdire une femme de vendre des bananes à Port Mathurin. Cette femme a dû payer une amende de R500 pour avoir vendu des bananes. What is his priority, Mr Chairperson, Sir? His priority seems to cut investment, to discourage economic activity at the level of trade and commerce in his Commission, thereby increasing unemployment in the country, killing the informal economy. In a country like Rodrigues, the informal economy is very important. It has been the tradition for people to work. We do not need a licence to work in the backyard, pour faire un meuble, pour planter des bananes et des maniocs pour vendre. On a brisé cette tradition. Il faut maintenant un permis pour élever un porc dans sa cour, M le président. Et ce sont les commissaires qui ont appliqué cette règle et le résultat est qu'ils ont détruit le tissu social ...

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Order, please. Order, please.

Mr Grandcourt: On a point of order, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Members of the other side are interrupting the Minority Leader.

Mr Chairperson: I have just called them to order. Please, proceed.

Mr J. Roussety: M le président, ils ont brisé le mode de vie de toutes ces personnes. Je pense que, par absence de vision, le commissaire qui est le sujet de cette motion de blâme le mérite amplement. Je félicite le membre qui a pris l'initiative de déposer cette motion qui est supportée par la minorité. Le membre a été désigné *to move that motion*.

M. le président, les nouveaux règlements pour les licences ont semé le doute et la confusion au niveau des opérateurs économiques. Nombre d'entre eux ont préféré arrêter leurs activités étant donné les procédures administratives qui sont devenues très lourdes. Il y a d'autres exemples au niveau du *price fixing* de sa commission. Savez vous qu'un commerçant qui importe un nouveau produit doit attendre trois, quatre mois ou peut être plus pour avoir le prix fixé de son produit? Entre temps son *working capital* est bloqué, ce qui veut dire qu'il ne pourra pas vendre ses produits dans l'immédiat. They are unnecessarily trapping the working capital of traders with these policies, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Au niveau de l'importation du gaz, il me semble que le commissaire veut rejeter la responsabilité de la pénurie actuelle sur une autre compagnie importatrice. Mais quel est son rôle? Il a dit qu'il est l'autorité. Il se proclame commissaire avec de grands pouvoirs. Ou est le planning pour l'importation du gaz pour qu'il n'y ait pas de manque à Rodrigues? N'est-ce pas la un manque de vision et de planning? Qu'est-ce qui est fait pour que ce problème ne se répète pas? Rodrigues est devenue autonome en 2004 et après un mois, il y a une pénurie de gaz! Le commissaire dit qu'il appartient à la compagnie importatrice de trouver une solution.

Le gouvernement a un rôle économique à jouer. It is a chapter in Economics of HSC syllabus –

“The role of Government is to facilitate trade and commerce, to encourage the development of trade and commerce, to provide all incentives to private operators so that they can operate smoothly”.

He says it is not his problem, he is not concerned, it is up to them to import gas. Mr Chairperson, Sir, comments have been made on the motion itself by the respected Commissioner for Women's Affairs. It seems to me that despite the fact that he has made some research, citing an eminent Professor of England, it seems to me that he lacks some necessary basic information about political practice. He seems surprised that we have a motion of no-confidence against one Member of the House. Mr Chairperson, Sir, you have been wise enough to study that matter and to allow it. In Mauritius there have been motions of no-confidence against a Minister, against the Prime Minister. What is the purpose of a motion of no-confidence, Mr Chairperson, Sir? I am completely aware as Minority Leader in this House, we are completely aware that we lack only two persons to make majority, only one to be equal to them. If we have one from the majority coming on this side, we'll be equal.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Order, please!

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it seems that you understand the purpose of a motion of no-confidence. We are 45% of voters on this island, avec toutes ces frasques on a dû atteindre 60%. Je n'ai pas peur de le dire, allez faire le sondage, I challenge you!

Mr Chairperson: Can I know how far this is relevant to the motion? Order, please!

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it seems that you understand the purpose of a motion of no-confidence. We are 45% of voters on this island, avec toutes ces frasques on a dû atteindre 60%. Je n'ai pas peur de le dire, allez faire le sondage, I challenge you!

Mr Chairperson: Can I know how far this is relevant to the motion?

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I'll come back to the motion...

(Interruptions)

Quel est le but d'une motion de blâme quand on est dans l'Opposition? Bien sûr qu'on sait qu'elle va être rejetée mais l'objectif est de ramener à la surface toute la boue qui entoure la gestion d'un secteur. On n'est pas aussi bête que Mme la Commissaire laisserait entendre, we have the guts not to shut up. She asks us to shut up. There are people from the Mouvement Rodriguais on this side of the House who will shut up, but we have proved to you that we are not shutting up.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson, Sir, another example of une autre gifle de la cour de Rodrigues à cette Commission. This matter is not sub judice, it has already been disposed of. There is the case of an application by Mr Pierre Lam Vo Hee, shopkeeper of Piments for the transfer of his licence of consolidated retailer to Audrey Lam Vo Hee, her daughter of Piments, in respect of premises situated at Piments...

(Interruptions)

The officer who went in Court was told by the Magistrate that it is not up to the Court of Rodrigues to issue consolidated retail licence. Mr Chairperson, Sir, not so long ago, in reply to supplementary PQ No. B/521, the Commissioner insisted that it is up to the court of Rodrigues to deliver the licence of consolidated retailer according to the Rodrigues licence regulations of 1921. He said that with insistence; it has always been so and he is confirming, but there has been the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act, Mr

Chairperson, Sir, and the learned Magistrate has ruled in this matter that it becomes clear, I quote –

“The Secretary which means the Island Secretary under the said regulation, 1921, Which is the competent authority to grant or transfer such licence and not the Magistrate of Rodrigues”.

Here he said, it is the Magistrate of Rodrigues. Here the Magistrate says, it is not up to him to deliver that licence. It is a legal confusion, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling the original here with the stamp of the court so that those on the other side of the House can have a look at what has been done in this case. What has happened, Mr Chairperson, Sir...

Mr Chairperson: Please wait! Is there any appeal against this case?

Mr J. Roussety: I do not know, Sir.

Mr Chairperson: Can we confirm before commenting?

Mr J. Roussety: We will have to phone the Court.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Are there any appeals against this decision from the Commissioner of Youth and Sports?

Mr Lisette: No, Sir.

Mr Chairperson: Thank you. You can proceed.

Mr J. Roussety: This has been learnt from the State Law Office. For what purpose? They do not try to understand it. They have Legal Advisers for what? What is the role of this person?

(Interruptions)

Where is he? I have never seen him here to advise the Commissioner...

Mr Chairperson: Are you sure you are up to the motion?

Mr J. Roussety: It is about legal advice. So, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the risk case concerns a case where a father wants to transfer the consolidated retail licence to her daughter. I personally know that person who is old and a bit ill, he wishes to transfer the licence of his reputed shop in the western region to her daughter. The proprietor, Mr Lam Vo Hee, said, according to the judgment that he has applied for a lease, but has not been granted with one. Prior to the setting up of the RRA, he had his licence for consolidated retailer. He has applied for a lease, but he has not yet got it and now he wants to transfer it to his daughter. Mr Chairperson, Sir, they sent the person to the Magistrate. The Magistrate has said it is not up to him, it is up to them.

M. le président, si je comprends bien, le magistrat a dit que l'autorité responsable de *issue of licences*, d'après le *Second Schedule of the Excise Act*, c'est le *District Magistrate* mais part II of the Second Schedule of the Excise Act was not encompassed, that is the licence of consolidated retail. C'est-à-dire que cela n'existe qu'à Rodrigues et ce n'est pas concerné par le Excise Act. Donc the issue and transfer of licence in respect of consolidated retailer is not governed by the exciser. It is, in fact, governed by the Rodrigues licences, regulations 1921. The Secretary became Island Commissioner, Island Secretary and then Island Chief Executive, that is, the responsibility of Executive Council. I am not a lawyer, Mr Chairperson, Sir. I read some law at University level, I understand it clearly. They do not understand it and yet they are Commissioners! An Executive Council cannot interpret a law et être rabroué devant la cour.

Concernant les cinq points, M. le président, il a dit que la motion est senseless. Moi j'ai trouvé qu'il a été assez timide et peureux dans sa défense de nos arguments. Il a dit que la motion est null and void. Je le répète encore, je l'invite à descendre sur le terrain, à aller à Baie du Nord, un peu partout dans l'île, à dire aux jeunes qu'on a mis une motion de *no-confidence* contre moi et je me suis défendu. Ces gens sont fous, c'est une motion nulle et non avenue, allez leur dire cela et vous aurez la réponse, M. le président....

(Interruptions)

Pas les jeunes de l'OPR qui reçoivent tout. Ces jeunes qui sont dans la rue, qui sont menacés par la drogue, par l'alcool. Il y a eu des mises en place des comités illégaux. J'ai toujours été là, à cette assemblée pour écouter les

questions du membre de la minorité, M. Agathe et les réponses du commissaire. Je n'ai jamais rien compris à ces réponses tant elles étaient confuses. On ne sait pas où se trouve le commencement et la fin. C'est toujours comme cela dans ses réponses. Il y a le *disbursement of funds*. Il y a un membre de Baie aux Huîtres. Je ne sais pas s'il doit changer ses verres – qui a dit que le budget a augmenté par 136%. M. le président, il y a un budget de 20 milliards de roupies et si on dépense quelques sous, quelle est l'utilité de mettre un budget de R75,5 millions et de ne dépenser que la moitié ou un quart? Je vous donne l'exemple des estimations pour 2003-2004, votées par l'assemblée, ont été de R32 millions pour la commission de sport et la jeunesse. Il y a les estimations révisées de dépenses et ce qui a été alloué est de R18,500 seulement. Sur R32 millions, ils ont dépensé R18 millions et ils ont le courage de dire qu'on a augmenté le budget par 136%. Il faut regarder les réalisations et non pas les intentions. *We are concerned with facts*, sur ce que vous avez fait sur le terrain, M. le président, j'inviterai le membre qui a fait cette observation à me contacter et je pourrai peut-être l'aider dans la lecture des chiffres.

Donc, M. le président, les autres membres de la majorité se sont fait les avocats du diable pour défendre l'indéfendable.

Mr Chairperson: Order, please!

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it seems that you understand the purpose of a motion of no-confidence. We are 45% of voters on this island, avec toutes ces frasques on a dû atteindre 60%. Je n'ai pas peur de le dire, allez faire le sondage, I challenge you!

Mr Chairperson: Can I know how far this is relevant to the motion?

Et devant l'arrogance démesurée à laquelle nous avons eu à faire face aujourd'hui, je n'ai d'autres mots pour dire que le commissaire – non pas la personne – mérite amplement cette motion blâme. Il gagnerait, ainsi que tous les membres de l'Exécutif, M. le président, à tirer des conclusions de cet exercice, et non pas nous maudire. Il ne faut pas prendre cela comme une attaque. C'est un exercice démocratique, M. le président. Ce n'est pas un affrontement politique. Nous avons été courageux de faire cela. C'est l'occasion pour le commissaire d'entendre ce qu'on a à dire sur sa Commission, et de prendre en considération les points soulevés ici, des deux côtés de la Chambre, pour procéder à des améliorations, parce que selon lui,

tout va bien; *everything is rosy*. D'après tous les membres de la majorité, il n'y a pas de problèmes.

Encore une fois, je félicite tous les membres qui sont intervenus sur cette motion, en particulier *the mover of the motion*. Je trouve que l'exercice a été fort intéressant. Il y a des démagogues qui pensent qu'on a soumis la motion dans le but de la faire voter. Je leur dis que nous n'avons aucunement un manque de courage. Nous sommes courageux et faisons notre travail avec honneur et dignité. Je leur dirai de faire leur examen de conscience, de regarder la réalité en face et un peu plus la dure réalité de la rue. Par exemple, dans les villages, on peut voir des poteaux de football en aloes et les jeunes jouent avec seulement un mètre d'espace entre les deux équipes, pieds nus, sans encadrement. Il y a aussi des jeunes sur le bord de la route en train de boire du rhum, du vin et fumer dans des buissons. Qu'est-ce qui est fait pour le sport au niveau des écoles? Pas grand-chose, M. le président.

Je m'arrête ici en disant que la motion a toute sa raison d'être.

Merci, M. le président.

Mr Chairperson: Unfortunately, we have had a Member introducing new matters. Bearing in mind the nature of the motion, which concerns directly the Commissioner for Sports, I will probably allow the Commissioner for Youth & Sports to just intervene on the point raised, so that he may have the opportunity to explain himself on the last argument that has been raised.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I will react on the different points that have been raised by the Minority Leader, and not by the other Members. First of all, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I don't have any lessons to take from the Minority Leader or from the other Members of the Minority. I think that this regional Government knows exactly...

Mr J. Roussety: On a point of order, Mr Chairperson, Sir. If the Commissioner is going to attack me, I would invite him...

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson, Sir, there are rules in this House! A person who has intervened on a motion should not intervene again, unless he is allowed to

do so. Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner said that he is going to intervene on some points. I would like to invite him...

Mr Chairperson: The new points that have been raised by you.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with all due respect to you, I would like you to invite him to say on which points he is going to intervene first, and then proceed. He should not attack us, because, in this case, we won't finish.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, let's start by the price fixing unit, where the Minority Leader says that persons have to wait for three months to have the prices of their products fixed. This is aberrant and wrong, Mr Chairperson, Sir, because we have made much progress concerning this issue. Formerly, before the setting up of the Commission for Trade, Commerce & Licensing, price fixing was being done on a monthly basis. My departmental Head and myself did have an official meeting with the Minister of Commerce in Mauritius. Now, price fixing is being done on a 15-day basis, which means that every fortnight the prices of products are being fixed. This matter may arise only if an irresponsible trader does not submit his return of cost to my Commission.

Regarding the matter of stalls at the bus terminal, Mr Chairperson, Sir...

(Interruptions)

If they don't submit their return and say that they have to wait for one or three months, then they are irresponsible.

Concerning the issue of stalls at the bus terminal, Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is said that people from abroad have come to get a stall at the bus terminal. In the document that was launched at the level of my Commission, there was one clear clause, where it is stated that only traders already having a hawker's permit delivered by the RRA can bid for the tender. So, the point that there are new traders from Mauritius who have come to have stalls at the bus terminal is also wrong. I think, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that the step taken by this regional Government should be considered as very intelligent. If we have forecast some projects and during that financial year some factors have prevented us from setting up any project, it should be considered as

wise, at the level of this side of the House, to have reallocated funds for other ongoing projects. I know very well that a provision of Rs10 m. in the Budget for the construction of a swimming pool has been reallocated to the Commission. The construction of the swimming pool is already under way, Mr Chairperson, Sir, and it is very important to note that even if there has been a decrease from Rs32 m to Rs18.5m. during that financial year, still the capital expenditure for the whole Government, the whole Executive Council was about 99%. Only Rs2m. remained from the capital expenditure. So, it should be considered as a wise decision...

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson, Sir, sums that have been voted in the Budget are reallocated for other ongoing projects for the benefit of the population, and this should be considered as a very wise and intelligent decision taken by this Government.

With respect to the issue of gas spelt out by the Minority Leader, I have clearly stated in my reply previously that negotiation is under way to see how best we can help the oil companies for the transportation of LPG cylinders from Mauritius to Rodrigues. I should point out that, actually, there is a management committee chaired by the Ministry of Shipping, in which there is a representative of my Commission. At the level of my Commission, we are going to voice out our opinion for a solution...

Mr J. Roussety: On a point of order, Mr Chairperson, Sir. The Commissioner is not replying to what I said and is introducing new matters. He is talking about shipping. These are new matters. I would like to have a point of personal explanation.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Let me rule on the point of order, first. Can the Commissioner enlighten me about the point where he talked about shipping?

Mr Lisette: It is with regard to the gas problem, where the Minority Leader stated that my Commission is doing nothing.

Mr Chairperson: Thank you. Minority Leader, you wanted to make a point of personal explanation?

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it concerns the Budget. The Chief Commissioner and the Deputy Chief Commissioner said that I have been misleading the House.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Order, please! By taking the floor, don't try to explain things mentioned from a sitting position. This would be irregular.

Mr J. Roussety: It appears to me that some Members have not understood my explanations with regard to the Budget. I would like to set matters clear, if you would allow me, afterwards.

Mr Lisette: I would just end by stating one thing about the point raised by the Minority Leader, Mr Chairperson, Sir. He said that I am always confusing the House and that it is rarely the case that he understands me. Maybe, I am going to point out one proverb, where it is said that if you are reading a psychological book and you see that you cannot understand what is said, don't say that the author of the book is silly. But, rather, it is wiser, Mr Chairperson, Sir, to take the book, put it on a shelf and, after some time, you will see that what the author has written is right.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mr Chairperson: I understand the Chief Commissioner wanted to intervene. After the Chief Commissioner's intervention, nobody would be allowed to intervene except the mover of the motion.

As regards the point of explanation of the Minority Leader, he can only try to explain things that he has said and that were misunderstood.

Mr J. Roussety: It seems to me that what I have said has been misunderstood. If Members have a copy of the Budget, they can look at page 8 of the Capital Budget. The sum voted in the 2003-2004 Estimates for the Commissioner of Youth & Sports is Rs32m. The figure as at February 2004 is Rs3 m., and the revised figure is Rs18 m., as I have already said.

Mr Chairperson: Which date please?

Mr J. Roussety: In the Estimates for 2003-2004, there is a sum of Rs32 m. When the Budget was presented in March, they gave the figure of Rs3m., as calculated up to February. I agree with that figure. The revised figure for the year – which has been closed – is Rs18,577,000.19. Some Members said that I have been misleading the House. What I have said is correct.

Mr Chairperson: Of course.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je remercie les membres de la majorité qui ont pris part aux débats sur cette motion, et j'approuve entièrement ce qui a été dit par eux. Je constate que nous sommes une équipe ayant une vision. Tous les commissaires et toutes les commissions ont une mission, c'est-à-dire, conduire l'autonomie dans le droit chemin pour la réussite. Et, pour y arriver, il faut prendre certaines décisions, parfois difficiles. Je prends l'exemple du *Consolidated Fund* qui a contribué à compenser des allocations sociales et autres aides publiques par plusieurs millions, et les allocations de mauvais temps pour les pêcheurs qui étaient de l'ordre de R 40 ou R 44 millions et qui ont dépassé R 50 millions. Cela a été pris du *Consolidated Fund*. C'est un exemple extraordinaire de participation de la population dans ce fonds pour permettre à d'autres personnes de vivre. Cela est un exemple de partage au niveau économique et social.

En ce qui concerne les licences des boutiquiers, il n'y a jamais eu d'augmentation de R 22 ou de R 100 pour R 500, R 600 ou R 700. Lorsqu'on divise tout cela en terme de jours, cela fait à peine R 3 par jour pour la licence de R 1,000 de *general retailer*. Les gens acceptent facilement de déboursier R 10 par jour lorsqu'ils vont dans une boutique. Il y a des publicités qui encouragent les gens à la consommation. Mais, je dois dire ici, M. le président, que notre travail est d'amener cette population à apprécier autre chose. Pour ce qui est des *hawkers*, nous savons, M. le président, ce qui se passe à Maurice. Dans le sillage du jumelage avec la ville de Port Louis, des gens nous ont dit de faire bien attention, afin que Port Mathurin ne devienne pas comme Port Louis, où ceux qui payent déjà la licence de *general retailer*, voient des personnes n'ayant pas de permis en train de vendre devant leurs magasins. A l'île Maurice aussi, c'est la même chose. Nous ne voudrions pas d'un pays où règnent le désordre et l'indiscipline. C'est un mot qu'on n'aime pas, mais qui à l'avenir deviendra payant. Je dis que tout citoyen a ce devoir. Aux Seychelles, même s'il y a eu un coup d'Etat, même s'il y a un parti unique, il y a une conscientisation de la

population. Quand quelqu'un jette quelque chose dans la rue, il y a un autre qui l'interpelle et lui dit: '*Hé, dallon, faire attention l'environnement*', et le gars ramasse ce qu'il a jeté. Il faudrait inculquer cette culture à nos enfants dans les écoles. Si on peut arriver à cela, Rodrigues demain sera un exemple. Des gens jettent toutes sortes de choses sur la route vers Mon Lubin. Je pense que l'éducation de la population doit être faite, et des fois je pense que la radio devrait nous aider un peu plus. Je remercie la MBC qui, très souvent, invite des fonctionnaires de la commission de la sécurité sociale ou de la santé, pour parler de santé et autre. Donc, c'est toute une vision qu'il faut avoir.

Pour nourrir les cochons, il faut un permis du ministère de l'environnement. Maurice, dans quelques années, ne pourra plus faire l'élevage de porc et on le fera à Rodrigues. Avec les villes et villages qui s'étendent, nous disons que l'élevage doit sortir des zones résidentielles pour aller un peu plus loin, et que les petites entreprises doivent être installées dans des zones industrielles pour éviter le bruit. C'est dans cette direction qu'il faut aller.

On a parlé de *rule of law*. Je suis content qu'il y a des lois, mais les lois ne doivent pas être répressives. C'est une manière d'éduquer la population à travers les lois. On ne vote pas des lois pour punir des gens mais pour l'éducation. Je vous donne un exemple . Il y a des agents de santé communautaire qui vont un peu partout pour conscientiser des gens en ce qui concerne l'hygiène. Il y a une personne qui va dans une famille où il n'y a pas de latrines. Alors, il dit à cette personne d'en construire une. Cet agent a parlé à cette personne à plusieurs reprises. Mais la personne n'a pas écouté. Alors l'agent lui a dit que si elle ne construit pas ses latrines, elle aura à payer une amende. Deux ou trois jours après, cette personne a fini par construire ses latrines. La loi c'est l'extrême; la punition c'est l'extrême; le *penalty*, c'est l'extrême. Donc, il y a toute une éducation à faire.

En ce qui concerne ces *hawkers* qui sont fermés, je vais vous donner un exemple. A Malabar, il y en a deux. Il y a un qui fonctionne et un autre qui reste tout le temps fermé. Pourquoi? C'est cela le problème. La question n'est pas qu'on a oublié ceci ou qu'on a oublié cela. L'autre était fermé bien avant qu'on ait introduit l'augmentation sur les *hawkers*, ainsi de suite.

(Interruptions)

Il y a des gens qui comprennent ce que nous faisons. Concernant le *rule of law*, je ne vais pas dire ce qui a été dit quelque part à Port Mathurin. *It's irrelevant here. Rule of law*, c'est justement la discipline. C'est à travers la discipline qu'on peut y arriver.

En ce qui concerne le sport, M. le président, quand j'étais ministre, il y avait des comités de sports. Nous avons introduit le *Rodrigues Regional Sports Committee*, sans la loi. M. Michael Glover était ministre à cette époque. J'avais institué ce comité. Pourquoi? Pour permettre, justement, un plus grand partage des comités régionaux pour qu'ils puissent venir partager et expliquer leurs problèmes et leurs difficultés. Je donne un exemple au niveau du football. Le comité d'athlétisme qui a toujours été ce comité qui a besoin de bon exemple au niveau même de la fédération de Maurice. Cela est très important parce que si les fédérations à Maurice ont des problèmes, cela répercute sur nous. On entend souvent à la radio ou on lit dans les journaux, des personnes qui démissionnent de leur poste à peine deux mois, un autre est ré-élu, il demissionne, etc.

Je vais vous donner un exemple. Quand j'étais ministre ou même après, j'avais soulevé cela à deux reprises à l'Assemblée Nationale. Il y avait un comité de football et à cause d'une petite équipe *unclassified*, qui avait fait des commentaires sur les prix qu'on leur a donné, cette équipe a été sanctionnée à deux ans de suspension. On n'encourage pas les jeunes à travers ce type de sanction. Mais depuis qu'on a eu une bonne direction à la tête du comité de football, aujourd'hui c'est un plaisir. Quand on a une bonne direction, un bon *leadership* à la tête d'un comité régional, c'est un plaisir de voir cela marcher. Il n'y a pas de tiraillement, ainsi de suite et c'est cela qu'il faut. Nous avons dit au Commissaire de la Jeunesse et des Sports de faire tout son possible pour pouvoir vraiment conscientiser les comités de sports à être vraiment responsables, de faire avancer le sport et non pas de se battre. Ces comités ont un rôle à jouer, c'est de faire avancer le sport. Ce n'est pas le travail du Commissaire seulement. Le Commissaire donne des facilités.

Maintenant, en ce qui concerne ces facilités, M. le président, on en a toujours parlé. Mais, en quelques mois, on ne peut pas faire tous les petits terrains de football. Il y a tout un programme. Cela va venir. Nous avons

pris la décision de cloturer tous les petits terrains de football, de leur donner toutes sortes de facilités, de les aménager, et surtout de donner la formation aux entraîneurs. C'est pourquoi nous encourageons les jeunes qui ont quitté le collège de pouvoir, justement, être des arbitres, des techniciens et des entraîneurs.

M. le président, en ce qui concerne les *dormant committees*, le Commissaire en a parlé, il a dit que même à Maurice il y en a. Le ministre Glover avait voulu amender le *Sports Act* pour pouvoir permettre au Ministre de la Jeunesse et des Sports d'agir, pour mettre de l'ordre dans les différentes fédérations de sports à Maurice. Mais l'Assemblée n'a pas voté ou bien on était obligé de retirer, il y a eu des pressions internationales. Mais, c'est ce que vient dire le Commissaire par rapport à M. Yerigadoo, Ministre de la Jeunesse et de Sports, c'est vrai que maintenant il y a des choses qui ne marchent pas. A ce moment, le ministre se pose la question: "Quel est mon rôle? Dois-je continuer à soutenir financièrement ces fédérations ou dois-je essayer quand même d'entrer dedans et de dire – voilà la politique du sport, voilà ce qu'il faut faire?"

M. le président, le membre qui a mis en avant la motion, a parlé de toutes sortes de choses, actions frauduleuses, l'achat des kimonos et ainsi de suite. M. le président, il y a, au niveau de cette Assemblée, un *Public Accounts Committee* qui a tous les droits de convoquer les fonctionnaires, *the Departmental Heads* et *the Finance Officers*. Pourquoi a-t-on institué le *Public Accounts Committee*? C'est justement pour vérifier les finances, les comptes du gouvernement. Et c'est un exercice extraordinaire. Je pense que c'est une occasion pour les membres de l'Assemblée, à travers le *Public Accounts Committee*, de faire venir le *Finance Officer*, le *Departmental Head* et qu'ils expliquent devant les membres du *Public Accounts Committee*, et à ce moment là tout sera clair. Ce que le Commissaire a dit, c'est qu'il a agi d'après le *Financial management Manual* des finances et ensuite les *Purchasing Officers* connaissent bien leurs rôles. C'est pourquoi je dis, d'après ce que j'ai entendu ici, on a attaqué indirectement les fonctionnaires de service de la Commission de la Jeunesse et des Sports qui, justement, font leur travail d'après les règlements.

Evidemment, M. le président, tout ce qui est au niveau d'un *Tender Committee*, les *tender documents* ne peuvent pas être déposés ici à l'Assemblée. Mais les membres de l'Assemblée peuvent savoir, à travers

des questions, qui est celui qui a gagné le contrat, combien le contrat a coûté et comment on va faire ce contrat. Cela peut se faire à travers une question parlementaire.

Je me souviens, quand j'étais ministre, on avait soulevé ici la question des terrains de jeu à Port Sud Est. On voulait faire un joli terrain de football à Songes. C'était propice, mais l'arpenteur avait donné un bail au milieu de ce terrain. On avait dit à ce monsieur que nous allions faire un terrain de football là et qu'on peut lui donner un autre terrain. Malheureusement, le monsieur n'a pas accepté et aujourd'hui, les jeunes de Port Sud-Est et de Songes n'ont pas de terrain de foot. Je vous dit franchement, M. le président, c'est une tristesse quand j'ai vu cette personne refuser. Aujourd'hui, on parle des jeunes qui sont dans la drogue, dans l'alcool et ainsi de suite. Je suis sûr que si cette personne avait accepté ...

(Interruptions)

Il n'avait pas encore construit sur son terrain, il avait simplement construit un mur. On lui avait dit qu'on allait reconstruire son mur.

(Interruptions)

A cette époque, je ne sais pas qui était l'arpenteur qui a donné ...

(Interruptions)

Non, je ne vais pas venir là-dessus. D'ailleurs, c'était une autre procédure à cette époque. A ce moment là, je suis sûr que les jeunes de Port Sud Est et de Songes auraient eu un beau terrain de football. On a parlé de terrains de football à côté de l'école, ce n'est pas un terrain de football car c'est tout petit. On a parlé du terrain dans la mare, à Mourouk, cela aussi, ce n'est pas un terrain. Ce n'est pas facile d'avoir des terrains de football dans ce petit Rodrigues où il y a beaucoup de montagnes.

M. le président, en ce qui concerne les licences, nous sommes dans un processus d'informatisation du paiement des terres, des licences, de l'eau et ainsi de suite. On a commencé ici, mais il y aura une décentralisation. Dès que le bâtiment de la Ferme sera prêt, la Sécurité Sociale va être transférée

dans ce bâtiment et il y aura une caisse aussi à la Ferme pour recevoir les gens. Il y aura une descentralisation et les gens n'auront pas à descendre à Port Mathurin. Et ensuite, cela se fera aussi à Mont Lubin à l'avenir, mais il faudra construire et ainsi de suite.

M. le président, il y a des choses qui ont été dites ici concernant une dame à qui on a mis une amende de R 500. C'est faux, M. le président! Parce que d'après la loi – j'ai posé la question à un officier de la santé publique, il me dit qu'il n'y a pas de loi pour poursuivre des personnes. Tout simplement c'est ce que j'ai dit ...

(Interruptions)

...à la santé publique. Allez régulièrement voir l'hygiène! Il y a des personnes qui vendent des fruits par terre. Nous ne voulons pas

(Interruptions)

Mais c'est par terre! Mais par contre, il y a des gens qui ont suivi notre conseil, qui ont mis les légumes sur une petite table jusqu'à ce que d'autres étals vont être construits. On prévoit encore d'autres étals pour les marchands de légumes, et notre marché va être transféré pour aller de l'autre côté. Tout cela va permettre tout un ensemble au niveau de la gare routière, un brouhaha des petits vendeurs et ainsi de suite. Il ne faut pas laisser les gens sur la route, il faut qu'ils soient à l'abri du soleil et de la pluie pour pouvoir travailler. C'est cela qu'il faut faire. Mais cela ne va pas se faire d'un seul coup. C'est dans notre programme et même nous pensons à chercher des endroits où plusieurs *hawkers* peuvent vendre leurs articles. Il y aura à Mont Lubin sur le comblage, il y aura à la Ferme. D'ailleurs, il y aura une étude qui va être faite par une équipe de Rodrigues concernant l'aménagement de la région de la Ferme.

The Chief Commissioner: Il y aura une foire commerciale du 12 au 15 où on va dire acheter Rodriguais. Des jeunes, qui ont été à IVTB, qui ont reçu une formation technique, ont créé aujourd'hui leur emploi et qui emploie d'autres personnes. Si demain, justement on peut arriver à ce niveau là, au

niveau de la Commission de la Femme ; beaucoup de dames ont elles aussi reçu une formation. On est en train de voir comment elles peuvent avoir leur petit atelier à côté de leur maison mais malheureusement, M. le président, on a besoin de trois à quatre arpenteurs encore. Nous sommes en train de voir comment faire avancer les choses.

En ce qui concerne le gaz, M. le président, au début de cette année, j'avais assisté à une réunion avec ceux qui exportent à Rodrigues. Il y a une loi sur le Code International qui devait entrer en vigueur le 01 juillet avec des règlements concernant le transport du gaz et des produits pétroliers. Ces importateurs de gaz ont eu six mois pour se préparer mais certains trouvent que six mois ne sont pas suffisants. Le fait est qu'il faut stocker des bonbonnes de gaz pour un mois. Certaines compagnies ont demandé plus d'espace, qui leur a été accordé, pour stocker du gaz pour un mois parce que le bateau ne peut apporter du gaz qu'une fois par mois et sans passagers. Le problème qui se pose c'est justement le nombre de cylindres de gaz. Ils ont besoin d'une commande d'un peu plus de 6,000 bonbonnes de gaz pour les exporter vers Rodrigues.

Voilà M. le président, les quelques points que je voulais soulever mais puisque le *Minority Leader* a voulu donner l'explication en ce qui concerne le budget 2003/2004, en principe, le *revised* c'est pour jusqu'à mars mais il y a des *commitments* après mars jusqu'à fin juin. Ce qui veut dire que *only Rs2.5 millions has remained in the Capital Budget at the end of the financial year June 2004*. Il y a eu des *commitments*, des *reallocations* et ainsi de suite ce qui veut dire il n'y a que Rs2.5 millions qui sont restés dans le budget courant et ça c'est exceptionnel.

En tout cas, M. le président, encore une fois, je remercie mon collègue de ce côté de la Chambre et ensuite le Commissaire de la Jeunesse et des Sports. Je dois dire qu'il fait un travail excellent. Il est suivi régulièrement. Nous avons de nombreuses discussions entre lui et moi en tant que Chef Commissaire de même qu'avec les autres. Je lui ai fait certaines suggestions mais malheureusement, comme vous le savez, M. le président, toutes les Commissions ont démarré dans des conditions difficiles. Il n'y avait pas de personnel. Ce n'est que maintenant, avec le Rodrigues Establishment Order, que nous allons pouvoir recruter quelques membres du personnel pour nous aider à aller plus vite.

M. le président, comme vous le savez, nous avons eu l'année dernière le cyclone Kalundé, qui vraiment a pris pas mal de notre temps même si nous avons continué à travailler. Je pense qu'un grand travail est fait au niveau de la jeunesse et des sports. Les fonctionnaires de sa Commission, les animateurs, les entraîneurs et ainsi de suite font du bon travail. Il a régulièrement des rencontres avec eux. Il y a des structures qui sont mises en place - et ça c'est son rôle - avec les entraîneurs, les comités régionaux pour conscientiser, pour qu'ils prennent beaucoup plus de responsabilités dans le développement du sport à Rodrigues.

Merci beaucoup, M. le président.

Mr Agathe: M. le président, je serais bref car je vois que les membres sont épuisés. Permettez moi, M. le président, de prendre le temps de la Chambre pour parler des manquements. Le but de la motion c'est plutôt pour élucider les manquements qui sont intervenus dans la Commission de la Jeunesse et des Sports. Nous avons premièrement le problème de judo. Tout récemment, nous avons eu un problème avec l'équipe de volleyball Ougandais de par l'amalgamation de la politique dans le sport. La fédération internationale de volleyball a sanctionné l'équipe ougandaise pour qu'elle ne prenne part à aucune compétition. La motion est de mettre en garde le Commissaire pour que cela ne nous arrive pas à Rodrigues mais je constate qu'il persiste dans sa démarche et ce qui va arriver arrivera.

Concernant le *gate money*, j'ai parlé de l'école de football. Cette école perçoit 25% du *gate money*. En ce moment, on se demande qui gère le *gate money* que l'école de football reçoit.

Concernant la boxe, tout dernièrement la fédération a envoyé une lettre à la Commission à travers le Chef Commissaire, à travers la MBA et le ministère de la jeunesse devant le refus de la Commission d'utiliser le gymnase de Malabar pour des compétitions. Ceci est grave. Je dépose une copie de la lettre qu'ils ont envoyée aux différentes Commissions.

Concernant les *tender documents*, M. le président, nous avons posé plusieurs questions relatives aux kimonos mais jusqu'à ce jour les *tender documents* n'ont pas été déposés. On a archi demandé mais rien n'a été fait. Ceci s'applique aussi pour le complexe sportif de La Ferme.

M. le président, il y a un dicton qui dit – ‘si on vole une épingle, plus tard on vole un bœuf’. Qu’on triche par omission ou en connaissance de cause, on a triché et l’opposition est là pour veiller à ce que cela ne se fasse pas aux dépens de l’assemblée régionale et à la barbe des contribuables.

The Commissioner for Youth and Sports said that he would not tolerate that those federations, which have been inactive, have tickets to go to Mauritius, but he nevertheless agreed that the wife of a Sports Officer, who has got nothing to do with sports, has been lodged at the expense of public funds in a hotel.

M. le président, pour terminer, je dois remercier tous les membres de la minorité qui m’ont soutenu.
J’en ai terminé.

On question put, the motion was defeated.

ANNOUNCEMENT

EDUCATIONAL REFORMS - SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr Chairperson: I have to inform the House that one of the Members appointed by me to form part of the Select Committee will not be in Rodrigues on the date scheduled since this will be the first meeting of the Committee and there will be the election of the President or Chairperson, it will be more appropriate if all Members could be present.

I will, therefore, vary the date of the first meeting for 13 August 2004, at 2.00 p.m., instead of 18 August 2004, at 2.00 p.m. Of course, if any Member cannot be present on that occasion, he can signify their predicament now so that I can modify the date. Is it perfect to everybody? I, therefore, appoint the first meeting of the Committee to be held in the Assembly building on 13 August 2004, at 2.00 p.m.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Friday 08 October 2004, at 10.30 a.m.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Chairperson: I understand that we have on the Order Paper a Member who did signify his intention to speak on a specific matter today, but I understand also that the Member does not wish to make his statement. Is that so?

The Chairperson: Thank you for your comprehension. The Assembly stands adjourned.

At 6.30 p.m., the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Friday 08 October 2004, at 10.30 a.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FISHERIES PROTECTION SERVICES

(No. B/605) Mr J. Roussety (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether his Commission is aware of the fishing practice consisting of spilling used oil on the sea surface to facilitate the catching of shells, octopus etc, and, if yes, what is being done to prevent and discourage such practices

Reply: In 1997, information was received by the Fisheries Protection Services that some fishers were spilling diesel on the sea surface to facilitate the catching of shells and octopus. Action was taken by the Fisheries Protection Services to detect such practice but without result.

Fortunately, I am informed that since then, no such report has been received, however the Fisheries Protection Services continues its monitoring at sea to detect and control this practice which is an offence according to Section 52 of the Environment Protection Act.

PUBLIC OFFICERS – NIGHT SHIFT ALLOWANCES

(No. B/606) Mr J. Roussety (Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner for Arts and Culture as regards the payment of "night shift allowances" to public officers, whether she will -

- (a) state whether all watchmen are eligible for same and the amount payable monthly;
- (b) give a list of watchmen who have been receiving that allowance for July 2004, and
- (c) state whether some watchmen have not been paid their allowances for July 2004 or previous months, and, if yes, their number and the departments they are posted to and the reasons therefore.

Reply: With regard to part (a), officers working on shift who effectively perform night duty are eligible for "night shift allowances" in accordance with Recommendation 6 – paragraph 2.20 of the PRB Report 2003 on the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Watchmen fall in that category.

In the Errors, Omissions and Clarifications of the 2003 PRB Report the "Shift Work and Night Allowance" mentioned in the PRB Report 2003 (page 565) for the Workmen's Group has been revised and has also been made applicable to Watchmen of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly following authority received from the Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Administrative Reforms.

All Departmental Heads/Heads of Division have been instructed in a memorandum dated 20 July 2004 to take action on the new recommendation and ensure that all Watchmen eligible for night shift allowances be paid as from July 2004.

With regard to parts (b) & (c), there are presently 228 Watchmen in post, night shift allowances have been paid to 105 watchmen.

- Please note that Watchmen may not be eligible for the night shift allowances depending on their roster;
- The eligible Watchmen working in the following divisions have not been paid their night shift allowances -

<u>Division</u>	<u>No. of Watchmen Posted</u>	
Environment	4	
Mechanical Workshop	6	
Public Infrastructure	29	(6 have received part-payment)
Water Resource Unit	25	(1 have received part-payment)
Education	27	
Youth & Sports	12	(2 have received part-payment)

Action will now be initiated to have the night shift allowances paid to all eligible watchmen by the end of August 2004.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL - MATERNITY WARD

(No. B/607) Mr J. Roussety (Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health as regards the maternity ward of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital whether he will –

- (a) ascertain whether there are areas of the floor where there are tiles missing and the extent thereof;
- (b) state the number of toilets and bathrooms available for patients;
- (c) ascertain whether all patients admitted have access to a bed or whether at times there is a lack of beds;
- (d) arrange for the repainting of the dirty and rusted metal beds, and
- (e) state what measures he intends to take to improve the infrastructure and equipment of that ward.

Reply: I am informed that –

- (a) about 150 vinyl tiles for a total area of 150 sq. ft. are damaged (a faint percentage). The maintenance section of the hospital has already initiated actions for their replacement. (However, in view of the new extension to be carried out shortly no other major investment is being made in the ward for the time being).
- (b) May I inform the House that part (b) of PQ. No. B/607 is similar to part (b) of PQ. No. B/476, which I replied to the respected Member for La Ferme four months ago. However, with the extension of the maternity ward provision will be made for additional bathrooms and toilets.
- (c) The policy of one bed per patient is adopted. Every admitting patient has access to a bed. In fact, our policy has been to refer all female patients calling at the area health centres for delivery to the maternity ward QEH in order to offer them a better service. Occasionally patients are referred to the area health centres for convalescence and follow up so as to make beds available to admitting patients requiring more specialised attention.

- (d) My Commission has already made arrangement for the repainting of the community health centres, wards and furniture. The work is ongoing.
- (e) The maternity block will be rehabilitated and extended. Designs for the infrastructure is being finalised. The Commission has just acquired some major equipment for the operation theatre (anaesthetic ventilator) and the laboratory (coagulometer) and we will make provision for modern equipment in the new maternity ward. In fact, we have already submitted a list of equipment to the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life for the initiation of tender procedures.