

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (i) **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS – CHIEF INSPECTOR FOKEERAH**
- (ii) **RRA – WEBSITE AND STANDING ORDERS**

**Mr Chairperson:** Respected Members, a warm welcome to you all after the mid year recess well earned. We are now at the start of the second meeting for this year. I strongly believe that the works of this House will proceed with equal standard, if not higher.

Members, you would have noticed a new Sergeant-at-Arms in this Assembly. Our Sergeant-at-Arms has been awarded a scholarship to follow higher studies in Mauritius. Chief Inspector Fokeerah is present for today's sitting. As you are aware Chief Inspector Fokeerah is the Sergeant-at-Arms at the National Assembly. These arrangements have been made possible thanks to the Commissioner of Police and the Divisional Commander.

I also have to inform the House that upon my initiative and with the blessing of the Chief Commissioner, a website for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is now permanently operational. Our special thanks go to the Clerk without whose collaboration the website would not have been a reality at this point in time. Respected members, the Island of Rodrigues is now open, of course depending on the information available on the template, not only to the people inland, but to the whole world. This is very significant indeed at this stage when we are now witnessing the end of the second year since the creation of this Assembly. The Executive Council will, I expect, ultimately ensure that a continuous flow of information is maintained available on the site.

Respected Members, I now refer to the motion that appears on the Order Paper of today. The motion was received by the Clerk on 18 August, last. On the same day I took cognizance of same. After a thorough study of the standing Orders and Rules, and the practice obtainable in Houses with same precepts, I ruled that the motion is to be set on the present Order Paper.

Standing Order 68(5) provides, I quote -

"The Chairperson shall not be bound to give any reason in support of any of his decisions"

Considering the extent of what have been reported, the balance weighs in favour of the stand where I may for the sake of clarity explain my decision. The decision, however, having already been taken, what I would say should not be considered *stricto sensu* as a ruling.

Standing Order 25(2) sets out as follows -

"A motion of no-confidence in the Chief Commissioner, if any, shall be debated as early as possible but not later than one month after notice thereof has been received."

This Standing Order obviously makes it clear that during a meeting, I have to set down such a motion on the Order Paper within one month from the date tabled. In circumstances where, for example, the next sitting is scheduled after one month or during the period of recess, one can refer to the cases of Attorney General v/s Ramgoolam in 1993, case reported in MR at page 81 and the case of Attorney General v/s Duval in 1991, case reported in MR at page 271, in that it does not relate to calendar months but month in relation to sittings and, therefore, to the day on which the sitting takes place. A contrary interpretation would render lame the impugned Standing Orders in those circumstances.

Considering, in addition, the practice of the National Assembly, I ruled that the motion has to appear on the Order Paper for today's sitting. I wish to add and stress that the decision is mine and mine only.

The only instance where I am bound to call the House under the Standing Orders and Rules is when the Chief Commissioner informs me that a sitting is warranted for public interests. There is, however, a strict condition to be observed. Such sitting should be restricted for the exclusive

transaction of Government business. Even if the Chief Commissioner would wish that a meeting be scheduled for debate on the motion, yet he had had to convince me that this falls part of the business of the Executive Council. The motion coming as such from a private member speaks in itself.

This is all that I have to say as far as the Standing Orders are concerned. However, the matter does not stop here.

Section 59 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act provides that both the Chief Commissioner and not less than one third of the members can call for a special sitting. I would have no discretion in the matter. It is clear, therefore, that the qualified number is obtainable from both sides of the House. *Stricto senso* both sides are on equal plane. The Chief Commissioner can call for a special sitting of the Assembly in the same way as the Minority Leader supported by the members from the Minority Group can.

No written request for a special sitting has been forwarded to me.

This is all that I have to say.

I thank you for your attention.

## **STATEMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

### **CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE – ACHIEVEMENTS 2002-2004**

**The Chief Commissioner:** Mr Chairperson, Sir, with your permission, I would like to make the following statement with regard to the main achievements in different areas of responsibility falling under my office for the period October 2002 to October 2004.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, in line with our vision for the sustainable socio-economic development of the island, we have already initiated a series of measures to improve the standard of living of the population.

#### **Central Administration**

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 was amended on 15 June 2004 to confer the status of "public officers" to the employees of the establishment of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Thereafter, the Civil Establishment Order for Rodrigues was approved by the National Assembly on 27 July 2004. This has enabled the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to resume its recruitment and promotion exercise.

## **State Lands**

Mr Chairperson, Sir, during the period under review new criteria was established for the allocation of State land leases for residential purposes and this was largely publicized. Some one thousand one hundred and twenty six (1126) leases were granted, six hundred and forty-seven (647) letters of intent issued and two hundred and eleven (211) permission for pledging of rights were granted. In addition, a computerized revenue system was introduced for an improved collection of rent. Furthermore, the Land Squad was reconstituted in order to combat squatting and 27 October 2003 was set as cut-off date, after which no squatting will be tolerated.

## **Civil Aviation**

The runway of Plaine Corail Airport has been extended to 1250 metres and resurfaced. This measure has enabled the landing of a ATR72 for the transport of a large number of passengers. A new apron for the parking of aircraft has been constructed and the new passenger terminal and air control towers were completed in October 2003.

## **Tourism**

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the operation of direct regional flight to and from Réunion Island since December 2003 has helped in the increase in tourist arrival. The number of arrival in 2002 which was 60,355 has increased to 63,649 in 2003. Approval of five new hotel projects will increase available room capacity by some 50%. The number of rooms available to date is 257. Action has already been initiated for the regularization of *gîtes*, *chambres d'hôtes* and *tables d'hôtes*. A Giant Tortoise Reserve and Cave Project is being set up at Anse Quitor and nature trails are being created to promote ecotourism. Two nature trails have already been completed, one from St. Gabriel to Grande Montagne and the other from Malabar to Cascade Pigeon.

## **Environment**

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Rodrigues Environment Committee set up under the Environment Protection Act 2002 has established three sub-committees to work on –

- (a) Information, Education and Awareness
- (b) Waste Management, and
- (c) Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Landscaping.

The report on vulnerability of beaches to coastal erosion has been received and a Rodrigues Oil Spill Contingency Plan has been worked out and necessary equipment received. The design for the creation of a controlled waste disposal site at Pointe au Sel is being worked out. A plan has already been finalized for the upgrading of St. François public beach.

## **Marine Parks**

A Financing Agreement has been signed for an amount of US\$ 2.3 million to be co-financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the creation of a Marine Protected Area at Mourouk and Port Sud Est.

An Environment Impact Assessment Report for the creation of a marina at Port Sud Est for the mooring of fishing boats is being finalized. The advertisement for the recruitment of project staff has already been published. Four sites have been surveyed for the creation of marine reserves at Rivière Banane, Coco and Sandy Islets, English Bay and Grand Bassin respectively.

## **Fisheries**

Mr Chairperson, Sir, in respect of the fisheries industry, I am pleased to inform this Assembly that a Co-ordinating Committee on fisheries and marine resources has been set up to ensure constant consultation with stakeholders. Six beacon lights have already been installed at various passes around Rodrigues for safe access of fishermen to and from the lagoon. State

lands near the *Maison des Pêcheurs* have been parcellised for the allocation to promoters of off-lagoon fishing projects in Rodrigues. Proposals from three Mauritian fishing companies to invest in Rodrigues have been received in addition to two companies in Rodrigues. Two new Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) have been deployed to supplement the four existing ones. A technical delegation from Seychelles was on mission in Rodrigues for the training of fishermen in new fishing techniques and also for providing advice on appropriate type of fishing boats.

## **Meteorology**

As for the Meteorological Services, one Automatic Weather Station has been installed at Citronelle. The installation of additional Automatic Weather Stations in other regions of the island is being considered.

## **Planning**

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to report that a Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues (SIDPR) project has started in July 2004 and its main objective is to formulate a plan that will contribute to economic growth, employment and natural resources and for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The plan will also provide for the creation of an Economic Planning and Monitoring Unit. This project is being co-financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to the tune of US\$261,000. Four working groups in the following sectors have been constituted –

- (a) production,
- (b) infrastructure,
- (c) social issues, and
- (d) cross sectorial issues.

## **Town and Country Planning**

As regards town and country planning, a National Development Strategy Report has been finalized in 2003 and the draft outlined scheme is being amended accordingly. A detailed planning scheme is presently being prepared for the region of La Ferme.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I should like to place on record my appreciation for the efforts put in by the staff to enable the sustained development of Rodrigues. I hope that we will continue to receive the co-operation of one and all towards the sustainable socio-economic and cultural development of Rodrigues.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for your attention.

### **DEPUTY CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE - ACHIEVEMENTS 2002-2004**

**The Deputy Chief Commissioner:** Mr Chairperson, Sir, two years have elapsed since Rodrigues have acceded to the status of an autonomous island. Two years have elapsed since, the OPR Party, is shaping the Rodrigues of tomorrow. We have been *au four et au moulin* for the past two years and I am pleased today to announce some of main achievements of my Commission for the past two years.

Firstly, in the field of agriculture, one of the major actions in the agricultural sector is the new trust we have inculcated in our planters and farmers. *On a aujourd'hui tout un peuple à Rodrigues qui croit dans l'avenir de l'agriculture.* This is a major achievement, Mr Chairperson, Sir, as such a trust in the future of the agricultural sector is the backbone of all reforms that we are aiming at.

Another main achievement is the preparation of an Action Plan by my Commission on how to promote best the traditional Rodrigues products together with an organic label. In that context, a list of activities has been drawn up and I am pleased to announce the following measures that have already been taken to meet the above objectives -

- (1) A survey of alternate planters and farmers has been carried out and the final list is being drawn up.
- (2) The agricultural services have been reorganized to meet the expectation of the planters. A one-stop shop has been open at Maréchal and a second one will be opened soon in the east region.

- (3) A marketing study has been conducted on how best to market our products and the recommendations of the study are being implemented.
- (4) The *regroupement* of all farmers and association of planters and farmers into a federation has been made possible and my Commission will spare no efforts in making this federation a dynamic one.
- (5) With the help of IFAD, we are revamping our honey sector by implementing the strategies identified in the plan aiming at producing honey of high quality of international norms for exports.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, these are only a few of the main achievements we have accomplished in the agricultural sector. Let me now turn to other sectors under my purview, namely in the field of Public Infrastructure and Public Utilities.

- Global Consultancy Services have been recruited for the rapid execution of capital projects. An office block at La Ferme is nearing completion and will house several offices of different Commissions which will help in our policy to decentralise services and to make public services available nearer to the public.
- The construction of residential quarters at Jeantac is also nearing completion. A new office library block at Port Mathurin is presently under construction. The dam Montagne Jérôme has been completed whereas the following roads are presently under construction – Palissade, Ferney, Montagne Malgache, Cascade Jean-Louis, Anse Quitor.
- A new bridge has been constructed at Port Sud Est. Some 200 traffic signs with international norms have been purchased and have been installed islandwide.
- The following primary water networks have been laid and are almost completed at Montagne Cabri, Mangélie via Anse

Quitor, Papaye Mannick, Grand La Fouche Corail, Piment, Camp Pintade and several other secondary networks.

- The construction of Anse Raffin dam is nearing completion whereas the design for Pavé Labonté dam has been completed and the consultants are now preparing tender documents. Four retenues collinaires have been constructed to harvest more water. A new water treatment plant at Mannick has been installed and water from Telbert dam is being treated.
- The construction of 83 low cost housing units is nearing completion.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am naming only a few of the projects that have been carried out by my Commission.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform you that the total expenditure on the construction of roads, buildings, water and other infrastructures for the past two years amounts to about some Rs500 m.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, our people will remain the priority of this Regional Government. We have three more years to go and we are fully committed and we can assure our people that we will meet our objectives as set up in our electoral programme.

With these words, Mr Chairperson, I thank you for your attention.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURES – NAMING & RENAMING**

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with your permission, I would like to make another statement to this House.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, you will recall that, almost two years ago, we were celebrating the setting up of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. A system of Government, whether national or regional one, cannot afford to

forget the names of those persons in the past or present that have made history and have contributed significantly to the development of Rodrigues.

In that context, the organising committee of *La Journée de Rodrigues* has recommended that certain streets be renamed. The Executive Council at its special meeting on 07 October 2004 has endorsed the recommendations of the organising committee.

Last year, I stated in my statement that it is the policy of this Regional Government that the naming and renaming of roads, streets and other public infrastructures be a continuous process and not an *ad-hoc* measure. *Ce n'est qu'un premier pas dans ce processus que veut le conseil exécutif de l'assemblée régionale de Rodrigues, à mettre en valeur tous ces hommes et ces femmes qui ont marqué l'histoire de Rodrigues et qui ont mené le combat pour l'autonomie de ce pays.*

We are continuing in this effort this year and I am pleased to announce that the following decisions have been taken –

Morisson street – the street which passes in front of Lull's Bakery and leads to the harbour is renamed Rue Ajibye Fatehmamode in memory of one of the greatest businessmen of Rodrigues. He was very socially active and has on several occasions lent money to the Rodrigues Administration to pay the Civil Servants in Rodrigues.

Man Street - the street which starts from the front of the Adventist Church and stops at the corner of Rue de la Solidarité, opposite the Administrative Block, is renamed as Rue Paul Elysée. Mr Paul Elysée has worked for a long time in the Port sector helping in the loading and unloading of ships and the handling of freights, between Mauritius and Rodrigues well before the harbour was built in the 1970s.

The road from St. Gabriel Cooperative Corner to Lataniers is being named Route des Filles de Marie in memory of the Congregation of the daughter of Mary which was the first religious congregation to arrive in Rodrigues to help the Clergy to set up schools for the education of the children of Rodrigues.

The road along the mechanical workshop up to the Container Park is being named Rue Gervais Mercure who was a courageous and very brave

man. He was the only one who dared to stand against the dictatorship of a local magistrate.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for your attention.

## **THE COMMISSION FOR ARTS & CULTURE, WOMEN'S AFFAIRS ACHIEVEMENTS 2002-2004**

**The Commissioner for Arts & Culture, Women's Affairs (Mrs A. Perrine Bégué):** Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am proud that as at today nearly fifty percent of the Electoral Manifesto regarding arts and culture has been attended to. Many new structures have been created for a better governmental support to the different artistic and cultural disciplines.

I will not mention all the projects that have been created, but I would like to mention the scheme for financial assistance to artists and also cultural exchanges between Rodrigues and other countries such as Mauritius, Réunion, Seychelles, France, India, South Africa and other invitations have been received. Never before have the Rodriguan people and the artists been so *sollicités* by other countries to represent Rodrigues than after the Autonomy.

A study for the development of cultural industries is underway. Capital projects for the setting up of the appropriate institution as set in our Manifesto will start this year with the construction of a cultural centre costing some Rs30 m. Our cultural mandate with the Rodriguan public, Mr Chairperson, Sir, is ambitious and right from the start we set to work seriously.

Today we are proud to have communicated the right message of our vision and mindset to the population as regards cultural development.

### **Library Services**

Library Services in Rodrigues have been reorganized to provide a better service. The opening hours have been extended. Newspapers are available daily in all the libraries around Rodrigues. Free internet access

facilities available in the public library and the free CLACs will soon become operational.

## **Community Development**

As regards community development, an amount of Rs10.8 m. has been spent for the construction of 12 kms of track road. Five pre-primary schools have been renovated or constructed and 16 community centres under the Community Development Projects have been constructed. Two training programmes for beneficiaries have been organized and the following projects have been financed to the tune of Rs2.3 m. that is seven projects for women's associations, one environment project and nine projects for planters' association.

## **Women Affairs**

As regards women affairs, training programme was our main target and we have opened five centres for training of women, *ce sera comme une pépinière ou les femmes vont avoir l'esprit de l'entreprenariat* mainly in handicrafts, aerobics. *On a aussi lancé le sport de masse, dressmaking, weight management en ce qui concerne la santé des femmes.* We are about to open three other centres around Rodrigues.

In addition, in textiles, nurseries, handicrafts, training were organized for women in Mauritius, India and in Botswana. The Women Centre at Malabar will soon be renovated at the cost of Rs5 m. and an integrated centre with professional services will be constructed this year.

The participation in international fair and *Congrès International des femmes entrepreneurs* will totally sponsored by my Commission.

## **Family**

Financial assistance has been given to women and children in distress. Six persons benefited from that assistance. Men were encouraged to be more involved in the Rodriguan family and we are soon to finalise the Rodriguan chapter of the family policy.

## **Children**

A strategic plan was presented in November 2003 for the protection of children. This strategic plan comprised the development of a plan on parental education, the setting up of a child watch network and *une association de soutien aux victimes de violence domestique*.

Now after negotiations, we have two representatives of Rodrigues on the National Children's Council and the draft Bill on the Rodrigues Children Council is ready since the first semester of 2003.

Finally, I would like to apprise the House of the following structures that have been established by my Commission –

- a Steering Committee for the Protection of the Rodriguan Child
- a Rodrigues Regional Women's Committee
- *une association de soutien aux victimes de violence domestique*
- *une association pour le développement integral du jeune enfant de Rodrigues (la DIJE). Cette association, d'ailleurs, fera école en Afrique*
- Programme Steering Committee of Rodrigues for l'IFAD project
- Artists Assistance Committee

Je voudrais terminer ici, M. le Président, pour vous dire que ma Commission progresse et je suis fière du parcours, de tous les développements qu'on a pu faire dans cette époque charnière de la transition à peine deux ans après l'autonomie.

## **AUTONOMY - SECOND ANNIVERSARY**

I would like to make, Mr Chairperson, Sir, another statement.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, on 12 October next, Rodrigues will celebrate the Second Anniversary of Autonomy in a very sober, but solemn atmosphere. This very morning, a patriotic keynote has been struck by the Chief Commissioner's message which was read out in all educational institutions of the island.

Students have been urged to assume responsibilities, to dare take initiatives and bring new solutions.

The whole island will be invited to debate on the patriotic and civic role of individuals in the community. Such debate will trigger that sense of belonging and solidarity which every Rodriguan is expected to develop for the construction of a team of dedicated people.

The gratitude of Rodriguans is proverbial and to say 'thank you' is one of the most important Rodriguan values which needs to be institutionalised. Since last year, deserving persons are being honoured for their patriotism and accomplishment for a better Rodrigues.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Executive Council has approved, during a special meeting held yesterday-

- the conferment of the status of Honorary Freeman on eight (8) persons and institutions;
- the award of a *Médaille de la Reconnaissance Rodriguaise* to twenty-seven (27) personalities of the public and private sector who have been a role model in their relevant field of activity and who have been at the root of a dynamics of their respective sector;

- that the names of persons who have distinguished themselves be given to streets, buildings and bridges so that present and future generations may always remember their contribution to making of Rodrigues what it is.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the autonomy last year a patriotic song called “*Se pou sa*” was interpreted *en avant-première* during the *soirée de récompenses*. This song is a tribute to the people of Rodrigues and praises the continuous struggle of many generations. Each verse is a poetic recognition to politicians, economic actors, social workers, activists of culture and religious bodies in a general way.

I am happy to announce that this song has now been recorded on a compact disc which will be launched on 12 October next.

To illustrate the agricultural vocation in Rodrigues, its ecotourism, the development of its infrastructure, a series of special stamps and first day covers will be issued by Mauritius Post. The latter will take this opportunity to inaugurate at the Port Mathurin Post Office a Community Interactive Kiosk to allow access to internet and Government online services.

There will also be a popular celebration of “Rodrigues Day” at Camp du Roi Stadium on 17 in the afternoon. Several displays of calisthenics, aerobics, martial arts and traditional dance music will provide moments of relaxation and pleasure before the inevitable football match, which will oppose the Mauritian team ASPL 2000 to the Rodrigues selection team.

Sporting activities will include women’s handball festival at the gymnasium of Malabar on 16 October.

There will be no less than five inaugurations or laying of foundation stones by the Chief Commissioner’s Office and that of the Deputy Chief Commissioner in the field of tourism, public infrastructure and social and community development projects.

I would like, Mr Chairperson, Sir, to express my thanks to my colleagues of the Executive Council pour *avoir encadré et orienté* the Rodrigues Day Organising Committee. A special word also to my brothers and sisters of that committee, some fifty-five members of the public services

and NGOs who joined hands together for organising the Rodrigues Day 2004.

The staff of my Commission and the organising committee who have endeavoured for the past four months have still more to do to make of that event a success.

Même si elle est simplement commémorée, la journée de Rodrigues se doit d'être solennelle par respect pour cette île Rodrigues qui nous est si fidèle. Le programme d'activités imprimé par l'imprimerie du gouvernement à Maurice et qui nous arrive aujourd'hui sera distribué à tous les membres de l'Assemblée Régionale ainsi qu'à vous, M. le président et au clerc de l'Assemblée Régionale.

Je termine en souhaitant bon anniversaire à Rodrigues, à tous ses enfants et à nous tous.

Merci, M. le président.

## COMMISSION FOR EDUCATION - ACHIEVEMENTS 2002-2004

**The Commissioner for Education (Mr L. Roussety)** Mr Chairperson, Sir, today I am proud to address this Assembly on the occasion of the celebration of the second anniversary of the accession of our island to the status of autonomy. The 12 October 2002 will go down in history as one of the most memorable days in the history of our beloved island. The engine of autonomy is on the march and it is gathering momentum when today we are addressing the issue of our achievements.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am now going to highlight the achievements in one of the most important sectors for the future of Rodrigues - the education sector. During the period under review, there has been the construction of Mont Lubin State secondary school, the completion of Citron Donis Form VI College and the extension of Le Chou and Maréchal colleges. Classes of Forms I and II have started at Mont Lubin. Repairs have been effected in all primary schools following the passage of cyclone Kalundé as well as all school premises have been embellished. This has created a more conducive environment for the school children and the staff.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the number of scholarships for Rodriguan students have been increased from seven to eighteen, more than double. This is a tremendous achievement in itself when it has opened new avenues of excellence and capacity building for the autonomous Rodrigues. Concerning polytechnique, Rodrigues has been awarded 22 seats at Sir Guy Forget Polytechnique, Swami Dayanand Institute and the *Institut Supérieur de Technologie*.

Training has been one of the prime preoccupations of my Commission. The University of Mauritius has run a certificate in management course for 33 participants from the public, private sector and parastatal bodies. The Human Resource Centre organises other training courses, viz; pig rearing, supervisory skills, design of websites, agro-processing, hosts/hostesses, seamstresses, installation of electricity, etc. to name but these few.

Some 2000 participants have benefited from the training sessions/programmes during the period under review. A network for career counseling has been set up to improve the delivery of career guidance services.

The University of the Indian Ocean undertook a Training Needs Analysis in the ICT sector following which a training in Web Site Design was organized in June 2004. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in February 2004 with the Industrial and Vocational Training Board to facilitate the implementation of the vocational and industrial training of Rodriguan youth.

A job fair was organised in September 2003 to foster the professional integration of the youth through the dissemination of information and training and employment opportunities.

The ARPEGE Project (Appui Régional à la Promotion d'une Education pour la Gestion de l'Environnement) has been implemented since January 2004 and the two primary schools and one secondary school are to date involved in this project under the aegis of the *Commission de l'Océan Indien*.

In May 2004, the ZEP project was launched and a workshop for ZEP schools was organized for the benefits of the pupils of Ste Therese de l'Enfant Jésus RCA schools, who are served with a balanced lunch on a daily basis.

The Commission for Education and Training is equipped with a modern IT laboratory and it has been operational since February 2003. A Documental Unit as well as a Binding Unit has been set up. The Documentation Unit, set up in May 2003, provides documentation in various fields. It is also accessible to internet. The Binding Unit is equipped with modern equipment that could easily bind documents and books for public service.

That is the amount of my intervention, Mr Chairperson, Sir and I thank you very much for your attention.

## **COMMISSION OF HEALTH - ACHIEVEMENTS 2002-2004**

**The Commissioner of Health (Mr S. Sooprayen):** Mr Chairperson, Sir, I will make a statement on the main achievements of my Commission since the advent of autonomy.

My first area of responsibility is health. Here, our objective is to provide both curative and preventive services to the people in proper environmental conditions, thereby contributing towards the goal of higher health life expectancy. In this sector, my Commission has recorded many achievements.

Major medical equipment have been provided to improve health services. They include a Heavy Duty X-ray Film Processor for the X-Ray Department, an anaesthetic machine and a gastroscope for the operating theatre, a dental unit – sterilisers for the dental services and laboratory equipment such as plasma extractor and coagulometer. Three additional ambulances have been added to increase the fleet to fifteen.

In order to guarantee a regular power supply, especially during the cyclone, two automatic generators have been commissioned at La Ferme and Mont Lubin Area Health Centres. In addition, a new underground electrical network has been installed at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the new 200 KVA generator manufactured in the United Kingdom is awaited shortly in Rodrigues. Solar water heaters have been installed at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and two Area Health Centres for the benefit and security of our patients.

In respect of infrastructure development, a Well Wishers Hall has been constructed at Queen Elizabeth hospital and is being used by all visitors daily. In addition, the Commission's policy of preventive maintenance has resulted in better conditions over buildings and equipment.

The hospital environment has improved considerably with regular embellishment of the surroundings. Recently, all the Area Health Centres and Community Health Centres have been painted.

Technical studies have been carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life in order to improve the sewerage network of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, improve maintenance of medical

equipment and to upgrade the laboratory Services. In addition, a study has been carried out to computerize all data on patients attending the two Area Health Centres. A Draft Strategic Plan on AIDS has also been prepared. Implementation of recommendations contained in these reports have already started.

Specialists in new areas of specialisation such as Oncology, that is, Cancer Specialists and Orthodontology, that is, tooth Specialists, visited Rodrigues and saw our patients in Rodrigues. In order to provide orthopedic services locally, especially with the increasing number of road accidents, an experienced Orthopedic Surgeon is in post since March 2004.

Since January 2003, two male Nursing Officers and six female Nursing Officers have been promoted to the grade of Charge Nurse.

Recruitment of 12 Student Nurses (10 males and 2 females) left for Mauritius on 17 May 2003 for training. 18 Nursing Officers completed their 3-year nursing course and started practising in Rodrigues. They have now received their Registration certificates from the Nursing Council of Mauritius.

Four Nursing Officers (two males and two females) are already following courses leading to Diploma in Mental Health since June 2003. One Nursing Officer female attended workshop in Mauritius on traditional medicine in April 2003. One Nursing Officer male attended a two-day workshop in Mauritius on Blood Donor Motivation on 26 and 27 April 2003. Three senior most female Nursing Officers left for a post basic course in Midwifery. Three Community Health Nursing have left for a training in Community Health Nursing in the School of Nursing in Mauritius. A Health Coordinating Committee has been set up to help improving health populations.

Health Promotion which is another component of the NCD Programme emphasizes on training which is now being done at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, health centres, schools, community centres and the collaboration of the NGOs has been sought. The programme aims at educating people about the NCD and risk factors. The resource persons are recruited from among the medical and paramedical staff. Several officers of the health services have been trained in NCD and health promotion programme. The NCD screening through the *Caravane de la Santé* has been

strengthened with the involvement of the *Caravane de la Santé* in mobilizing people to attend the centres. The number of persons attending the clinic keeps on increasing.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, other improvement works are ongoing in the Medical and Health services. I am reassured that our patients are now getting better health service.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, in respect of the other areas of responsibilities assigned to me, the following major activities have been carried out.

- (1) The fire services have been provided with new modern radio communication equipment and a new water tank for its lorry and fire fighting hose. Moreover, all defective motors have now been repaired and are in good running conditions.
- (2) The Cooperative building at Pointe Monier has been renovated to house the cooperative services. The officers dispense all the necessary advice to cooperators, attend all the statutory meetings and audit the accounts of the cooperative societies.
- (3) We did not ignore our prisons. Minor renovation works have been carried out. We have improved both the electrical and water networks. Better drains have also been constructed. The detainees now live in better hygienic conditions.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have mentioned some of the achievements of my Commission, but we will continue to take other measures to improve the health services.

Thank you.

*At.....p.m. the sitting was suspended.*

*On resuming at .....with Mr Chairperson in the Chair*

## **COMMISSION FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS – ACHIEVEMENTS 2002-2004**

**The Commissioner for Youth and Sports (Mr N. Lisette)** Mr Chairperson, Sir, with your permission, I would like to make the following statement.

The people of Rodrigues have much to be proud of as we are about to celebrate the second year of our autonomy. In these first two years of the new political status of our island, the Regional Government and our people have faced enormous challenges and problems. However, what we have done has been remarkable. The status of autonomy has brought pride, respect and transformation to the whole population. This transformation has been triggered as now, we Rodriguans, have a chance to decide for our own fate. The changes that have been brought about to the sports and youth sector have been tremendous and remarkable and are visible reflection of the progress that has been made in the transformation of our Rodriguan society.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, first of all, I would like to highlight some achievements in the sport sector. An amount of about Rs1.7 m. has been spent for the renovation of sport complexes at Mangues and La Ferme. The Malabar gymnasium has been renovated at a cost of Rs400,000 and the construction of swimming pool at the cost of more than Rs85 m. is underway at Maréchal. The construction of stands and cloakrooms at Baie aux Huitres which is underway will cost about some Rs9.4 m. Much effort is being exerted for the upgrading of community grounds and so far four such grounds have been levelled and will be fenced shortly.

In a view of encouraging more youth to practice sports, eight new *Ecoles de Sports* have been opened in different villages, namely Roche Bon Dieu, Port Sud Est, Mt. Goyage, Vangar, Rivière Coco, Petit Gabriel, Accacia and Allée Tamarin. Not later than last Sunday, Mr Chairperson, Sir, a new *Ecole de Tennis* has been opened at La Ferme. My Commission is planning to open a new *Ecole de Volleyball* at Mangues shortly.

A *centre de formation* in volleyball for both boys and girls and a *centre d'entraînement pour les elites en athlétisme* have been set up.

As regards the youth sector, *six ateliers de savoir* have been launched. We are moving forward for the setting up of four cooperatives for the youth in the coming weeks. The Youth Centres at La Ferme, Petit Gabriel and Grande Montagne have been renovated as well as the stadium at Camp du

Roi . The youth centres are now opened up to 20 hours for the youth. Football matches are now being played at the stadium till late at night.

In the youth sector, a Rodrigues Youth Task Force has been set up as well as a Rodrigues Youth Award Committee for the Youth Achievement Award. Continuous activities for the youngsters are being organized regularly.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, to sum up, from October 2002 up to June 2004, not less than Rs24 m. have been invested in improving the sports infrastructure around the island. An additional amount of Rs9.38 m. has been spent for the promotion of youth and sport activities within the same period of time.

It is clear that with the setting up of the Commission for Youth and Sports much are being done for the empowerment of our youth in this island.

With these words, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for your attention.

## **COMMISSION OF SOCIAL, SECURITY, LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - ACHIEVEMENTS 2002-2004**

**The Commissioner of Social, Security, Labour & Industrial Relations (Mr R. Mercure)** Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to make a statement to share with this assembly the achievements of the present Regional Government concerning my Commission, that is, Social Security, Labour and Industrial Relations for the last two years elapsed.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commission for Social Security has set up a Medical Appeal Tribunal to review all cases rejected by Local Medical Board which comprises of the Magistrate posted in Rodrigues, two Specialists and one Secretary from Mauritius. The Medical Appeal Tribunal examined an average of 30 cases per visit.

The claimant must produce the disallowance notice within one month as from the date received and fill an appeal form at their nearest Social Security Office, as prescribed by the National Pension Scheme Act.

Out of 89 cases examined during the three visits effected by the team, 28 cases have been recommended for pension. This makes an average of 31 percent.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, in addition, domiciliary visits are effected by Medical Officer to elderly aged 90 and above. It has been a priority for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, after consultation with different parties, irrespective of their age, all bedridden cases, including ex-servicemen are actually visited by doctors after the filling of a form at the Social Security Offices. At present, 164 bedridden cases below 90 years have been registered in Rodrigues. Furthermore, a Medical Unit has been set up in the Commission for Social Security to cater for any pension concerning medical aspect and health and nutrition club for elderly.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, an ex-Servicemen Trust Fund Sub Committee has been established in Rodrigues in September 2004 to take care of ex-servicemen and make available all the services existing in Mauritius, such as recreational day at the seaside for the ex-servicemen, eradication of poverty, archiving of ex-servicemen souvenirs and remembrance day. Our first action was paying bedridden ex. servicemen at their domicile.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, a Network Support Services (Réseau) has been established in Rodrigues. One Higher Social Security Officer and one Community Health and Rehabilitation Officer have already received necessary training in Mauritius to serve this Unit. The project is being financed by Lux Development in collaboration with this Commission. The main objective of this unit is to accompany people in difficulties and to find out a solution to their problem. These people need not go office by office instead of that they need only to go to Réseau Office and the two officers will do needful together with them. The Network Support Services is working in close collaboration with Community Health Agents, NGOs, private companies and different services under each Commission. In other words, it is a one-stop shop for social integration of people in difficulties in society.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Social Security Division in Rodrigues has been computerized and 11 computers and 6 dot matrix printers have been installed in Social Security Offices. With the computerisation of the Social Security Offices, we will be able to set up an Award Unit, which will be autonomous in Rodrigues, as the system will be on line with Mauritius.

Local staff has already received training in that connection. Moreover, a Principal Social Security Officer will be posted in Rodrigues for the Award Unit.

My Commission has the responsibility of the welfare of workers in Rodrigues. Sensitisation and awareness campaigns have already been done for fishermen around the island concerning contribution in favour of the National Pension Fund and a yearly statement is being sent to each contributor.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, two Prosecutors from the National Pension Fund from Mauritius proceed to Rodrigues on a monthly basis to attend court cases in connection with non-payment of contributions by employers on behalf of employees and my Commission is seeing to it all the rights and privileges of workers in Rodrigues are respected.

The Labour Division is actually engaged in a sensitization campaign on labour law in all hotel establishments, construction sites and private companies. The Commission is having the visit of a Health and Safety Inspector from Mauritius on a monthly basis pending recruitment which has now been advertised. Employees are being sensitized on health and safety issues through regular working sessions on sites and we are having satisfaction for the work done by the Labour Division.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations and my Commission is being worked out for the transfer of power from Mauritius to Rodrigues and a Draft Memorandum is presently being vetted at the State Law Office.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, we are confident that our team will reach destination.

Thank you for your attention.

## **MOTION**

### **MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE IN THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER**

**The Minority Leader (Mr J. Roussety):** Mr Chairperson, Sir, much has been said or written about this motion. We have just had a ruling on your part regarding same.

**Mr Chairperson:** This is irrelevant to the motion. If the Member wishes to proceed with the motion...

**Mr J. Roussety:** I have just started speaking and you do not know what I am going to say.

**Mr Chairperson:** This is contrary to parliamentary practice.

**Mr J. Roussety:** What is contrary? Speaking?

**Mr Chairperson:** If the Minority Leader wants to proceed with his motion, one of the cardinal principles concerning every motion is that he has got to be relevant to his motion. So, if the he wants to proceed with his motion, he must do it according to the Standing Orders and Rules. I am not innovating anything. This is the way it is.

**Mr J. Roussety:** Section 36 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 allows for a Motion of No-Confidence to be deposited against the Chief Commissioner.

Standing Order 25 (2) of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Standing Order and Rules further provides that a Motion of No-Confidence in the Chief Commissioner, if any, shall be debated as early as possible, but not later than one month – it does not specify whether it is a calendar month or parliamentary month – after notice thereof...

**Mr Chairperson:** I will have to stop you. If you have to forward your motion...

*(Interruptions)*

The Minority Leader seems to have something to say. Please, take the floor. If you wish to insist on your motion, you have to move the motion and then comment. You are not allowed to comment on my ruling or any announcement I have made. This is not allowed, strictly not allowed.

*(Interruptions)*

Order, please!

*(Interruptions)*

Minority Leader, if you want to move your motion, you may rise and proceed.

**Mr J. Roussety:** Mr Chairperson, Sir, I regret that I am not being given the opportunity to explain myself, despite the fact that I have requested from you under Standing Order 24 (4). I regret that you are not giving me the opportunity to give a personal explanation. You continue to impeach me from giving my point of view. Being given all the aspects in this matter, we, on this side of the House, will not tolerate that some people interpret the law as they wish and we will not move this motion.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Chairperson:** I heard you clearly; and this is a threat to me and I order you to withdraw these words.

**Mr J. Roussety:** Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am not threatening you, I am saying ...

**Mr Chairperson:** Thank you very much! Take your seat then! Can we move to the next item on the Order Paper?

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**The Chief Commissioner:** Mr Chairperson, Sir, I move that the Assembly be now adjourned to Tuesday, 26 October 2004, at 10.30 a.m.

**The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.**

*Question put and agreed to.*

*At 11.40 hours the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday  
26 October 2004 at 10.30 a.m.*