

No. 9 of 2005

RODRIGUES

FIRST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 9 of 2005

Sitting of Tuesday 31 May, 2005

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

(Mr Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 31 May, 2005

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The Executive Council
(Formed by Mr. Louis Serge Clair)

Mr. Louis Serge Clair	Chief Commissioner responsible for Central Administration, Civil Aviation (administration), Education (administration), Customs and Excise Duties (administration), Environment, Fisheries, Forestry, Industrial Development, Judicial (Administration), Legal Services, Marine Parks, Marine Services (administration), Meteorology (administration), Registration, State Lands, Statistics in respect of Rodrigues, Tourism, Town and Country Planning.
Mr. Jean Daniel Speville	Deputy Chief Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, Food Production, Housing, Infrastructure including Highway and roads and Public Buildings and Utilities Plant and Animal Quarantine, Transport, Water Resources.
Mrs. Arlette Perrine-Begue	Commissioner responsible for Arts and Culture, Child Development, Community Development, Family Welfare, Library Services, Women's Affairs.
Mr. Andre Lelio Roussety	Commissioner responsible for Civil Status, Employment, Information Technology & Telecommunications, Museums, archives, historical sites and buildings, Postal services (administration), Vocational Training.
Mr. Soopramanien Sooprayen	Commissioner responsible for Co-operatives, Fire services, Health (administration).
Mr. Nicolson Lisette	Commissioner responsible for Consumer Protection, Handicraft, Trade, Commerce and Licensing, Youth and Sports.
Mr. Roberston Mercure	Commissioner responsible for Labour and Industrial Relations, Social Security (administration), Prisons and Reform Institutions (administration).

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Mr. Chairperson	Lamvohee, Mr. Joseph Chenlye
Clerk	Vithilingem, Mr. Soocramanien
Serjeant -at-Arms	Louis, Mr. Jorgenson

Chairperson: The fourth Island Region Member.

Mr. J. PIERRE LOUIS: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Mr. Chairperson, Sir ...

Chairperson: Yes, please.

Mr. J. Pierre Louis: B/88

UPGRADING OF GRAND BAY FOOTBALL GROUND

B/88: The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr. J. Pierre Louis) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports whether, as regards Grand Bay football ground, the Commissioner could inform the House:-

- (a)** when the tender exercise was launched for the upgrading of same;
- (b)** who is the successful bidder and the sum quoted by him; and
- (c)** what will be the scope of the work?

Commissioner N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (a)** With a view to upgrade the football playground at Grand Baie, the Executive Council approved at its meeting of 26 April 2005 the launching of tender. Same was launched on 29th April 2005 and closing date was fixed for Monday 9 May 2005.
- (b)** On opening of tenders, two bids were received namely from Allied Builders Ltd and Marday Calleemallay. After examination, the Tender Committee recommended that the contract be awarded to Allied Builders Ltd, the lowest bidder at the quoted sum of Rs 621, 000 inclusive of VAT. The contract was awarded on 17th May, 2005 and the duration of the work is of 91 days as from the date of award.
- (c)** The work consists of the construction of a new boundary fence with timber supports and plastic coated heavy duty chain link fencing of 2.2 metres on three sides

Chairperson: Yes, the Commissioner can have a minute. I understand that the microphone is not working? Yes, wait a minute, please, otherwise you won't have any record here.

(interruptions)

Chairperson: Serjeant see whether in a few minutes I can suspend ...

Serjeant-At-Arms: Yes.

(further interruptions)

Chairperson: Can we resume now where we stop? Commissioner for Youth & Sports?

Commissioner N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with a view to upgrading the football ground at Grand Baie, the Executive Council approved at its meeting of 26th April, 2005 the launching of tender. Same was launched on 29 April, 2005 and closing date was fixed for Monday 9th May, 2005. On opening of tender, two bids were received namely from Allied Builders and Marday Calleemallay. After examination, the tender committee recommended that the contract be awarded to Allied Builders Ltd, the lowest bidder, at the quoted sum of Rs 621, 000 inclusive of VAT. The contract was awarded on 17th May, 2005 and the duration of the work is of 91 days as from the date of award. The work consists of the construction of a new boundary fence with timber support and plastic coated with heavy duty chained linked fencing of 2.2 m on two sides and a masonry wall of 0.6 m facing the sea.

Chairperson: Yes.

Mr. C. Agathe: It seems that there has been a lack of competition since we have only two bidders. I would like to ask the Commissioner what has been done in order to have more competitors in that tender documents?

Chairperson: Yes.

Commissioner N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for every tender which is launched, normally this is published in the newspaper but for this also at the level of my Commission we did contact all the local contractors so that they buy the tenders for the construction of the fencing.

Mr. C. Agathe: Can we obtain from the Commissioner what are the newspapers that had been contacted? Can we know the name of the newspapers?

Chairperson: Yes.

Commissioner N. Lisette: The tender was launched in “Le Nouveau Rodriguais” and same was sent to “La Tribune” but unfortunately La Tribune did not publish.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I refer to what the Director of Audit mentioned in his report in November, 2003. The RRA needs to create an environment to boost competition among Civil Engineering Contractors with a view to obtaining fair and reasonable contract prices for projects. It seems here that this has not been taken into consideration. What would the Commissioner reply to this?

Commissioner N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson Sir, what I can say is that the price is very reasonable. First of all, because the expected price as provided by the Consultant GIBBS Mauritius was Rs 825,000 so that we say here we have a bidder, we have something, we have a contractor who has bidden less than the expected amount. So, I think that the amount is quite and really reasonable.

Mr. C. Agathe: Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, who has prepared the tender documents for the Commissioner?

Commissioner N. Lisette: The tender was prepared by the Chief Consultant, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Chairperson: Yes.

Mr. C. Agathe: Can the Commissioner state what amount will be paid to GIBBS Mauritius for that project?

Commissioner N. Lisette: We don't have the exact figures here but it is as per the contract which has been agreed since the appointment of the Consultant.

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask for tenders which are not published in newspapers procurement which is made by sending letters to the respective suppliers, what is the minimum number of suppliers to which the Commission send for the supply of materials.

Commissioner N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't think that this question is related because I go through tender document published in newspapers so I don't know the amount of time for launching of quotation through direct

Minority Leader: My question, Mr. Chairperson Sir, for the tender process to be carried on, what is the minimum number of tenders that is required?

Commissioner N. Lisette: Mr. Chairpersons, Sir, as per the tender which was launched, upgrading of the football ground at Grand Baie, we have provided a minimum of fifteen days which is in line with ...

Minority Leader: The Commissioner is misunderstanding my question. My question is what is the number, the minimum number of tenders from a competitive point of view that is needed before the tender allocation of a tender is made?

Commissioner N. Lisette: It all depends, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it may depend on the urgency of the work even if we have one tender if the Client feels that it is a matter of urgency even one tender can be considered.

Minority Leader: It is surprising to note here that GIBBS Mtius has provided to the Commission, an estimate of the expected works and (i) that the successful tenderer has tendered for less and (ii) what mechanism has there been in the tender the tendering process to ensure that there has been no collusion between GIBBS Mtius and any other tenderer?

Commissioner N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that has not been any collusion between the Consultant and the Contractor. Before Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let we act things straight away; we have a tender which is published in the newspaper, when these tenders are published, the contractors are not aware about the amount which is estimated by the Consultant. Now, this means that every contractor has the right to sent whatever amounts he feels he will bid for the work which is under tender. So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as per the rates which are quoted by the different tenderers, different contractors, it is by this rate that we are going to calculate the total of the tender with respect to the work which is going to be done. So, it is a question of rate which is going to be tendered by the Contractor himself. Now, another possibility, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is that there are some contractors who do not have the required equipment to carry out the work. In such cases, they will have to hire the equipment as a matter of fact the tender the work will be compared to a Contractor who already has the required equipment.

Minority Leader: Can the Commissioner tell the House whether the land at Grand Baie, the legal status of the land, this legal status is clear before going on; the matter has been cleared before the project will be started.

Commissioner N. Lisette: The land which is going to be used for the construction or before upgrading the football ground, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, belongs to the state.

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to disagree, I remember, seeing the publication in national newspapers on compulsory acquisition by Honourable Georges Pierre Lesjongards or the football ground at Grand Baie and I believe that the purpose was to acquire that land. It was mentioned in the notice, I don't have the exact date. It was mentioned in the notice that this is private land; compulsory acquisition is being made of it and the Commissioner comes here to say that the land is state land. I would like to ask the Commissioner (i) whether he is sure of what he is saying in this House in the light of the information I have just given regarding compulsory acquisition process which was launched by the central government.

Commissioner N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in light of the information given to me, and as per the survey carried out by the Cadastral Office I state that the land is a state land

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner was talking about urgency, matters of urgency where the number of tenderers may be considered even if there is only one. Can I ask the Commissioner whether the upgrading of this football ground was considered as an urgent issue?

Commissioner N. Lisette: Of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, of course this is an urgent issue because we are going, how to say we are almost at the end of the financial year, so we do consider this as a matter of urgency.

Chairperson: Time is up, last question.

Minority Leader: We understand the rush at the end of this financial year, especially in this period we speed up projects, can I ask Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether - what they have been mentioning vaguely and not applying in my opinion, the approach of democratie participation whether the people of Grand Baie have been consulted appropriately regarding the implementation of this project the kind of project they want, the kind of infrastructure they want and if yes, on which dates how many meetings have been held?

Commissioner N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the project for the upgrading of Grand Baie was well before 2004, in fact it was decided in the Festival Creole to upgrade the whole village of Grand Baie including Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the football ground. With respect to the consultation with the villagers, I am not sure that the Commissioner for Arts and Culture or whether who is responsible for the Festival Creol had had the consultation with the villagers, I myself I did meet the footballers and all the stakeholders who are going to use the playground we discuss the project.

Chairperson: Next question, please.

Mr. J. Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/89.

INCREASE IN WATER SUPPLY AT MANGUES

B/89: The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr. PIERRE LOUIS) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether the Commissioner would inform the House of the measures he is contemplating to increase water supply at Mangues and whether same is safe for domestic purposes?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that a pumping station has been constructed and is operating near Mangues Dam since 3rd May 2005. Water is being pumped on a daily basis as from 7.00 am to 14.00 pm to feed reservoir Mte du sable (rectangular). Arrangement is being made to connect the circular reservoir at Mt. du sable with that pumping main.

The water is being treated through a mobile treatment plant which is equipped with a flocculation, filtration and chlorination device for treatment of water to World Health Organisation standard. The actual water production capacity is 10m³/h. Results of recent water tests carried out from our mini Laboratory taken from the aforesaid dam, in the reservoir and a pipe outlet of a consumer has revealed that the treatment process is fully working and that the water is potable. The implementation of this system is among our measures to treat surface water available to improve the water distribution in that region.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner whether he pays more attention to the quantity of water or the quality of water in that village?

Chairperson: Yes.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, normally, before distributing water, before treating water, special attention is being given to the quality of water before. We have a mini laboratory installed at Malabar and every time water is being treated, samples of that water is being taken from the sources and tested before giving water to people.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have learnt that water is tasteless, odourless, colourless. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I live at Mangues. The water that is being distributed to the villagers is green water, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and the water

Chairperson: Do you mean gray or green?

Mr. C. Agathe: Green! Green water.

Chairperson: Yes, green water.

Mr. C. Agathe: I don't know whether because of my party but the water is green there. So, I would ask the Commissioner whether the greenish water is according to the World Health Organisation standards?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: The result of tests of these samples of water has revealed that the different results are reliable with the normal result, normal standard of quality agreed by the World Health Organisation on the different water parameters and the free chlorine found in the water in the water is only 0.4 mg per litre compares to the limit of 1.0 mg per litre. The turbidity of the water is 1.5 ntu compared to the 5.0 ntu, the normal level. The colour of the water is 18 colour units compared to the maximum level of 20 units. However, it should be known 18 colour units compared to the maximum level of 20 colour units. However, it should be known that sometimes the people, have tanks which are not clean. The valve operator has requested to inform the population to clean their tanks as free chlorine might react to the impurities in them. But for the time being, we have no health hazard concerning the water which is being given at Mangues and given to the population.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has been talking about a mini laboratory at Malabar. Glad to know what you are asking? Who are the technicians? Who perform the tests here in Rodrigues and what are their qualifications? Whether they are qualified to test samples of water.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have a laboratory technician attached at the water unit at Malabar and this technician, he has had technical courses at the Central Water Authority in Mauritius.

Mr. G. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether with a view to ensuring more acceptance from the population to use that water whether he has had meetings with the people in the region to make them understand that the water being given to them is according to the norms. Whether such action has been done by him and if not what is he going to do? Because he is stating that the water is according to the norms and people who are receiving this water do not accept this because of the greenish aspect of the water.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, normally as I had said all water treated is being tested by our laboratory and according to the results that we have had we ensure that the water is of good quality and the water unit is monitoring this situation every week and any, and if there is any deterioration in the quality of the water the operation will be ceased.

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, would the Commissioner arrange as Commissioner responsible for water, to meet these people and go and see water by himself?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have looked at the water sample at the water unit of Malabar and at glance, I would like to tell this assembly that the water is of good quality.

Minority Leader: On behalf of the people of Manges, I am telling the Commissioner that the water is greenish and that the people of this country residing at Manges are saying that the water they receive is not of good quality. I repeat my request, my question, my invitation to the Commissioner whether he would go sur le terrain à Manges, voir les gens, les rencontrer et écouter leurs doléances.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the quality of water will not rely only on the presence of the Commissioners in this meeting. It is reliable on the different tests that have been done on the samples. We have even brought this sample to Mauritius to the Central Water Authority to compare the different physical and bio-chemical tests and these tests have proved that the water is potable.

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I repeat my question. Whether the Commissioner would envisage, I agree, we accept that the laboratory is saying that the water is o.k. O.k, it's good, congratulations to your commission, technicians at your laboratory. But I am telling him now that recently the people residing at Manges have said that the water is greenish, that they can't consume

it would be kindly go and see these people meet them, their representatives look into the problem because Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the problem is not a laboratory test, the problem is what the people is saying. And when there is a problem, I believe that it is the duty of the Commissioner in this very small island to go and look what is going on. My question is whether he will go there to look into the problem?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the Water Steering Committee of my Commission, we have begun meetings with the different valve operators of the different regions of the island and we have also planned for regional meetings with the consumers and if this is so, I hope that there will be a regional meeting in the south and people in this region will have the opportunity to come and give their grievances.

Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner is talking about a mobile treatment plant, I would like to ask him, as it is a mobile treatment plant whether this treatment plant remains still there or it has to perform other work in other places also and such is the case at what frequency that is mobile treatment plant at Mangles?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have two units of mobile treatment plants, one has been installed at Cascade Victoire and the other one is used to treat surface water with water where available. For the time being the mobile treatment plant is not left on the site at Mangles. It is returned everyday at the water unit at Malabar and for the time being the mobile treatment plant is being left at La Ferme water unit because the technician is working on the water treatment plant at Anse Raffin.

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the treatment plant, these two treatment plants, mobile treatment plants would the Commissioner confirm that these treatment plants are basically met for use for disaster purposes.

Chairperson: Yes.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, these mobile treatment plants can be used in any circumstances; it can be used for disaster, it can be used also if there is no disaster, it can be used on sites for a certain duration. For the time being, we have installed one unit at Cascade Victoire, it is working satisfactorily and for this mobile treatment unit, it is more preferable to leave the unit on site than to make the unit run everywhere in every circumstance. It has

been designed to work for disasters but it can also be used when there are no disasters.

Chairperson: No. no time is up for this question., next question. I said last question but you rose up, I gave you the floor for the last one. Yes, next question.

Mr. J. Pierre Louis: B/90.

**NHDC HOUSING UNITS
- NEWLY BUILT IN DIFFERENT VILLAGES IN RODRIGUES**

B/90: The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr. PIERRELOUIS) asked the **Deputy Chief Commissioner** whether, as regards the N.H.D.C. housing units, newly built in different villages in Rodrigues, he could inform the House of the criteria to be considered for allocating same?

Chairperson: Yes.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to inform the house that the Executive Council has approved the criteria to be considered so as to allocate the NHDC type housing units.

The allocation criteria are as follows:

- (a) applicants should not be owner of a housing unit or of a plot of residential land, private or state land;
- (b) priority should be given to applicants presently living within a radius of 2 km from the sites;
- (c) priority will be given to married couples without houses and single headed household families;
- (d) at least one spouse should be in employment (private or public)
- (e) repayment capacity should not exceed 33% of the income.
- (f) the houses will be allocated to households whose total earnings and less than Rs 10,000 per month.

It is to be further noted that the actual cost of one unit is more than Rs 225,000 including contractor costs. The Executive Council being aware that if the houses are sold at the actual cost, many segments of the population will not be in a position to become the owner of the house.

In that respect, the Executive Council has further decided that the selling price of the house will be as follows.

- (1) Household earning less than Rs 5000 : Rs 125,000
- (2) Household earning more than Rs 5000 but less Rs 7500 : Rs 150,000
- (3) Household earning more than Rs 7500 and up to Rs 10,000:
Rs 175,000

A call for application will be launched shortly. A technical committee will be set up to evaluate all the application. It is to be further noted that my Commission has had discussions with the Mauritius Housing Company and the first two categories will eventually benefit from a further grant on their loan up to a maximum of 20%.

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, ...

Chairperson: Yes.

Minority Leader: One of the criteria to be considered for allocating these units which by the way it is very surprising that these units cost Rs 250,000. Can I ask why this criteria that one person in an employment, "one of the head of household is in employment" has been retained?

Chairperson: Yes.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, these houses are houses that can be extended and the Executive Council has taken the decision that the applicants of these houses should take a loan from the relevant authorities to buy

a house and, normally for people to be able to buy a house or take loan from relevant authorities, normally these people should be in employment.

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is it not a way to exclude people basically those who first should be given access to these houses, e.g fishermen, they are not employed by anybody, they don't have any pay slips. Planters, farmers, self-employed, people who are in handicrafts. This is Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is another way. With the high rate of unemployment here, most young people, married young couples in these regions where these houses have been built are unemployed. They don't have a decent employment, how is he going to deal with this problem?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this project has been inherited by the Regional Government, the contract was given before the setting up of the Assembly and as I have said, these houses can be extended and my Commission has taken the decision to give people who are working the opportunity to buy these houses because these houses should be architecturally modified from the original one so as they can match the topography of the island. And the Regional Government in the 2005/2006 Budget, has provided a vote item in the Capital Budget of Rs 21,000,000 to construct low cost housing for people who are in need fishermen, planters and others.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Chairperson: Yes, this will be the last question. Yes.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner, according to these criteria whether (i) some people like fishermen are entitled to have these houses, first of all and (ii) whether he has fixed a deadline for allocating these housing units?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said for these houses priority will be given to those who are in employment and, if the repayment capacity of the applicant or the beneficiary does not exceed 33%, normally he will be prioritized and the deadline for allocating these houses has not yet been fixed because there are other procedural steps that have to be followed before allocating same to people in Rodrigues.

Minority Leader: There is a clarification which I need

Chairperson: Yes.

Minority Leader: Because in his original answer he says priority will be given to people in employment and the minute before he says priority will be given to people who is in employment. What are you saying? I am not here to hear unemployment, listen to the tape, he said unemployment, all of us hear unemployment.

Chairperson: Yes, will the Commissioner respond to that? Next question.

Minority Leader: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

Chairperson: Yes.

Minority Leader: this question is not clear for me! First I hear criteria will be given to people who are employment, second he says priority to people who are in unemployment. Unemployment he says. This is very ridiculous for a teacher. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am on my feet!

Chairperson: Yes. Commissioner, please.

Minority Leader: It is astonishing, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that Commissioners can't even pronounce, distinguish between employment and unemployment!

Chairperson: Yes.

Minority Leader: My point is whether people who are unemployed or people who are employed?

Chairperson: Yes.

Minority Leader: Be clear !

Chairperson: Yes, go straight to the question, please.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: the allocation criteria were given, Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

Chairperson: Yes, there's in only one ...

Deputy Chief Commissioner: I said "at least one spouse should be in employment, private or public".

Chairperson: Yes, next question.

Mr. J. Pierre Louis: B/91.

POLYTECHNIC DIPLOMA COURSES IN BUSINESS STUDIES

B/91: The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr. Pierre Louis) asked the Commissioner responsible for Education whether he would inform the House:-

- (a) when the Polytechnic Diploma courses in business studies are expected to start;
- (b) what will be the duration of same;
- (c) what will be the required qualifications for admission; and
- (d) what college premises are expected to be used in this case?

Chairperson: Yes.

Commissioner L. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform this Assembly that since last year the Ministry of Education & Scientific Research had signified its intention to implement the polytechnic project with a view to providing the holders of Cambridge School Certificates with opportunities to a few studies leading to diplomas an equivalent to three university courses. This project will pave the way for more career prospects for the use of the Republic of Mauritius who want to enhance their skills and knowledge. The technical School Management Trust Fund, a corporate body operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Education & Scientific Research will be launching this polytechnic diploma courses for holders of school certificates /G.C.E O' level in line with the ongoing reforms in education in the Republic of Mauritius.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in answer to part (b), courses will be on a full-time - three year duration and will have a combination of both academic and practical components together with a period of industrial attachment in the second and third years.

I am informed that these programs have been developed in collaboration with the University of Mauritius and the University of Technology, Mauritius. The three year polytechnic diploma course is scheduled to start in June, 2005, that is, next month and they will be run at the following centres:-

In Mauritius - at the Swami Duyanand Institute of Management at Beau Plan, Pamplemousses. At L'Institut Supérieur de Technologie, Camp le vieux, Rose

Hill then here in Rodrigues at the Citron Donis Form VI College. The Polytechnic diploma courses will be as follows:-

- (a) The polytechnic Diploma in Business Studies;
- (b) The polytechnic Diploma in Information and Communication technology.

These two courses will be dispensed in Rodrigues. And the third Diploma course is the polytechnic Diploma in civil and structural engineering which will be dispensed at the Institut Supérieur de Technologie only. In the near future, new courses will be devised and they will comprise among others. Polytechnic Diploma in tourism management Financial Services retail management and Medtronic. After successful completion of these three-year full-time courses, the students may pursue the highest studies in their corresponding fields at the University of Mauritius or the University of Technology, Mauritius.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the entry requirements for the abovementioned polytechnic diploma courses are four credits with a least a pass in English at the school certificate level/school certificate o' level. Some course content also require that the candidates do have credits either in Mathematics or Additional Mathematics or Computer Studies or Physics. As regards the implementation of the polytechnic project in Rodrigues, I am informed that courses will be dispensed at the Citron Donis Form VI College. Applications have been invited from qualified candidates and the closing date for submission of same has been fixed on Thursday 2nd of June, 2005. In this respect, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I've already had working sessions with the Chairman and Officer in Charge of this project of the Technical School Management Trust Fund, appropriate arrangements are being made to launch this project at Citron Donis Form VI College as from Monday the 20th of June, 2005.

Mr. A.L. Emilien: Being given Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the course duration is three years as far as the industrial attachment is concerned, what arrangements have been done or being envisaged for students of Citron Donis Form VI College?

Commissioner A. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as far as the attachments are concerned, this will not concern the students at Citron Donis because they are going to do the Polytechnic Diploma in Business Studies and the Polytechnic Diploma in Information Communication Technology only. As far as the practical attachments, those as is the case now. Those who were concerned only are students studying full-time at the Institut Supérieur de Technologie .

Mr. A.L. Emilien: May I ask the Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether the Citron Donis Form VI College is presently fully equipped to house these courses.

Commissioner A. Roussety: As far as the Polytechnic Diploma in Business Studies is concerned, all logistics will be supplied by the Technical School Management Trust Fund. Well, as far as the Diploma Information in Communication Technology is concerned, the practical sessions will probably be carried out at the Human Centre in the computer lab with probably and possibly help from the IVTB and Marechal College and all this is being done to find out that the possibilities are.

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can we know who will, which staff will dispense the courses, whether it will be staff from Mauritius, staff from the Citron Donis College or where will the staff come from and whether the Commissioner will ensure that priority is given to Rodriguans, qualified Rodriguan professional in the dispensing of these courses.

Commissioner A. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the course contents vary somewhat from the course content of the present HSC A' level. In some cases, resource persons will come from Mauritius will be supplied by the Technical School Management Trust Fund but there will be a support of course from the teaching staff of Citron Donis Form VI College. I will go further in saying, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that our working session with the Technical School Management Trust Fund every effort will be made of course to make sure that there is no encroachment on the existing staff at Citron Donis College as far as competencies and the qualifications to dispense courses are concerned

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Citron Donis Form VI College is an HSC School with specific staff, specific management and based on the HSC curriculum and now the Commissioner will make the teachers there work with polytechnic. Can we know whether if it is known yet, what proposals are being made regarding the scheme of work, and whether their condition of work will be revised accordingly? Because many of them are fearing that they have additional work load without revision of their work conditions, of their scheme of work, etc

Commissioner A. Roussety: Of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are going to be full consultations through working sessions with the Consultant. There is no question for the Technical School Management Trust Fund through the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research just to come in to bulldoze their way through and upset the existing working practice so I can assure the house that everything

will be done in order to make sure that there is a smooth introduction of the courses at Citron Donis College.

Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. A.L Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, something is not clear in my mind in what the Commissioner had said concerning the probability of moving to the Human Resource Centre at Malabar. The Students will be at Citron Donis. They will be taught by teachers of Citron Donis Form VI College, what arrangements have been made or envisaged when those students will have to move to the Human Resource Centre?

Commissioner A. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it goes without saying that for practical courses when they have to use the ICT Lab there will be a transport at their disposal for moving from to, will be a means of transport at their disposal for moving between the two institutions both ways.

Chairperson: The First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres?

Mr. P. Francois: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/92.

OUTBREAK OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (influenza, cold and fever)

B/92: The First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres (Mr. François) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health whether as regards the outbreak of infectious diseases like influenza, cold and fever prevailing at this moment in the island and affecting mostly young children and old aged persons, he would inform the House about the causes of that situation and the measures he is contemplating to prevent same?

Chairperson: Yes.

Commissioner S. Sooprayen: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that there is no outbreak of infectious diseases. The increase in the number of flu and cold cases is quite natural during this period of the year due to the change in weather conditions. There is more of an exacerbation of asthma. There are no specific measures to be taken but the usual precautions are wearing warm clothes, avoiding cold drinks and refraining from being exposed to rain.

There is also an anti-influenza vaccination for old aged persons.

Chairperson: Next question.

Mr. P. François: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/93

**THE COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF SPORTS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN RODRIGUES**

B/93: The First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres (Mr. François) asked the Commissioner for Youth & Sports as regards the commemoration of the International Year of Sports and Physical Education in Rodrigues whether he would make a brief statement on all the activities he is proposing to organise and the targeted groups?

Commissioner N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the year 2005 has been declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Sports and Physical Education.

The proclamation made by the United Nations General Assembly in November 2003 aims at raising awareness among the general public and encouraging communities, organisations and individuals to share their knowledge about the value of sports. It also seeks to create the right conditions for more sport-based development programmes and projects.

The United Nations, through this proclamation, aims to use sports as a means and motor to promote education, health, development and peace. In an attempt to meet the objectives mentioned above, the Commission for Youth and Sports has set up an Organizing Committee comprising all stakeholders and a calendar of activities has been proposed which takes into account all targeted groups – secondary and primary students, youth, women, handicapped, senior citizens. Furthermore, a sub-committee has been constituted to prepare and monitor each activity. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, **I am tabling a calendar of activities** together with the name of the chairman of each sub-committee for the information of the respected members of the House. I am pleased to state also that we have experienced a resounding success of all activities that we have organized so far **(Appendix I)**.

Chairperson: Next

Mr. François: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/94.

ELDERLY PERSONS PROTECTION BILL

B/94: The First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres (Mr. FRANCOIS) asked the Commissioner responsible for Social Security whether, with regard to the Elderly Persons Protection Bill, recently introduced in the National Assembly, he would inform the House what is being done for our elders concerning their health and security?

Commissioner R. Mercure: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

The Protection of Elderly Person's Act 2005, which was assented to by the President of the Republic on the 4th May, 2005 makes provision for the setting up of:-

- (i) an Elderly Protection Network;
- (ii) a Monitoring Committee;
- (iii) an Elderly Person's Protection Unit; and
- (iv) an Elderly watch.

The Ministry of Social Security is looking into the modalities of setting up the different units.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as soon as the different units are ready, the President will be requested to proclaim the Act. My Commission will set up a Rodrigues Committee for the Elderly and the Committee will perform such functions as conferred upon the Monitoring Committee in Mauritius as stipulated by the act in Section (5).

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission had already started activities well before the bill was voted in the National Assembly.

Concerning the Protection of Elderly Persons in Rodrigues, e.g my Commission is presently providing monthly domiciliary visits to persons above 90 years and regular visits to bed-ridden patients who are under 90 years of age.

My Commission is presently setting up twelve Health and Nutrition Clubs around the islands with the collaboration of the Commission of Health and the first one has been launched at La Ferme Senior Citizens Centre on Saturday 21

May, 2005. The Health and Nutrition Clubs will deliver talks for the elderly on safety and health and provide regular medical checks up. There are 6 Nursing Officers and Nutritionist who will be working in different regions for that purpose.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission also provides anti-influenza vaccination for elderly who are above 65 years of age every year with the collaboration of the Commission of Health. I am presently working in collaboration with the Commission of Public Infrastructure in the conduct of a survey for all elderly who are facing housing difficulties.

Chairperson: Next.

Mr. P. François: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/95.

UPGRADING OF SAINT FRANCOIS PUBLIC BEACH

B/95: The First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huîtres (Mr. François) asked the Chief Commissioner as regards the upgrading of the Saint François public beach, whether he would inform the House about the progress of work so far and if funds would be made available in the forthcoming budget to complete same?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have to inform the House that my Commission has embarked on a project to upgrade the Public beach at St. François. The project is being implemented in two phases.

The first phase consists of the realignment of the existing road, the tarring of the road, provision of parking facilities, the construction of a bridge over the river. Works have already started since March this year and are expected to be completed by mid July 2005.

The second phase will comprise the construction of an entrance kiosk, changing rooms, public toilet block, a fish landing station, landscaping works, walkways and embellishment works. I have provided a sum of Rs 10,000,000 under relevant Capital Vote and Item for the next financial year to cater for this project along with other environmental projects. The Central Tender Board has already launched tenders for second phase and the closing date fixed to the 29th June 2005. Works are expected to start in August this year.

Chairperson: Next.

Mr. Jabeemissar: B/96

OWNERS OF BUILDINGS ON STATE LAND IN RODRIGUES

B/96: The Second Local Region Member for La Ferme (Mr. JABEEMISSAR) asked the **Chief Commissioner whether**, with regard to owners of buildings on State land in Rodrigues and not yet in possession of a lease prior to the setting up of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, he would say:

- (a) how many are not yet connected to the electricity network;
- (b) whether they have to comply with the regulations now in force to have electricity; and
- (c) whether he would table a list of all applicants for a lease showing their dates of application and the reasons for non-acceptance thereof?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the Assembly that with a view to controlling the growing problem of squatting on State land in Rodrigues, my Commission has made a request to the Central Electricity Board, in a letter dated 15 May 2003, to refer all applications for electricity supply concerning buildings on state land to my Office for clearance purpose. The clearance is issued subject to the applicants satisfying one of the following criteria:-

- (i) the applicant is a holder of a lease or a letter of intent;
- (ii) the applicant is a beneficiary of a housing scheme;
- (iii) the building has been constructed before the cut-off date of 27 October 2003.

The public has been informed accordingly through radio communiqué.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, information regarding parts (a) and (c) **are being compiled and will be circulated in due course.** With regards to part (b), all applicants for

electricity supply will have to satisfy one of the above criteria except those who have constructed on a private land.

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a paradox and I would like to ask the Commissioner whether he is aware of this paradox. The paradox is that the applicant for state land has applied for a state land, a lease, his land has been surveyed some five years ago and he has built up a small house to house his family, his wife and his children on that land and he has gone to the Central Electricity Board but the Central Electricity Board does not want to give electricity. And I have in mind one. Mr. Pierre of Anse Nicolas who was speaking to me and explaining the situation that his five year old daughter cannot watch TV, cannot listen to the radio, cannot do her homework at night of the policy of the Chief Commissioner's Office of the restraining access to electricity to those who don't have a lease. I would like to ask him whether he is aware of this situation, a situation where families in a human rights country are waiting for their lease and while waiting have no access to electricity, whether this is correct.

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that's what I said, the clearance is issued subject to applicants satisfying one of the following criteria; the applicant is a holder of a lease or a letter of intent; the applicant is a beneficiary of a housing scheme, we have Trust Fund here, the building has been constructed before the cut-off date of the 27th October, 2003. If the house has been constructed before 27 October, 2003 and we have received a list of applicants for electricity from the CEB, these cases will be considered after being monitored by the land squad and by the Cadastral Office. We know that there are people, their land has been surveyed and they don't have a lease. We are taking into account those cases, even what we called hardship cases but those who after this cut-off date of 27 October, 2003, we must be very careful. Otherwise, if we allow people after the cut-off date to be supplied with electricity, then people will continue to squat on state land and the Cadastral Office will not be able to finish with the outline scheme or to follow the strategic plan for Rodrigues. That is what I said, I understand what the Minority Leader is saying. We are taking into account those, any cases even those who have built their houses. There had been a lot of application and now these applications have now been referred to the Cadastral Office for to see whether these lands have been surveyed and then no lease have been given a letter of intent or a lease had been issued to those people. That's why we say every case we are taking into account and the land squad is looking into those cases to see exactly whether those cases, those applicants have built their houses before the 27th of October because if someone has started the construction of his house after the 27th of October this will be a problem. The land squad is looking at this. We don't know, we'll see.

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given the hardship case of Mr. Pierre of Anse Nicolas and others, I would like to make plaidoyer ici que Monsieur Pierre qui a une fille de cinq ans, qui peut pas regarder la television, qui ne peut pas faire ses devoirs, etc, etc. Etant donné le fait que nous avons voté Le Rodrigues Children Council Bill ici, est-ce-que le Chef Commissaire va donner des instructions au CEB or issue a letter inviting the CEB to give electricity according to current procedure to Mr. Pierre of Anse Nicolas?

Chief Commissioner: Monsieur le Président, j'ai tout dit! Seulement, on doit verifier si le nom de Monsieur Pierre est sur la liste du CEB qui nous a été envoyée. Mais j'ai tout dit. Il y a même des personnes que jusqu'à maintenant qui n'ont pa eu leurs bails et qui ont une maison depuis quatre, cinq ans et qui même au niveau qui ont eu l'électricité, il y a l'eau aussi on est en train de voir tout cela. Nous comprenons tous ces trucs. Donc, nous allons voir, c'est ce que nous avons fait, nous avons commencé à faire, nous avons commence à faire et là. Il faudrait quand même, il faut dire aussi que le CEB à un certain moment n'avait pas les materiaux qu'il fallait pour pouvoir faire tout les choses qu'on avait comandé et cela justement du CEB, on s'est aquéri auprès du CEB, pourquoi ces personnes que nous avons approuvées sur la liste qui a été envoyée par le CEB et que ces personnes là n'ont pa eu encore de l'électricité, le CEB nous a dit qu'il y eu un problème de materiaux surtout à la fin de l'année dernière et que nous allons voir si j'ai noté ici, si Monsieur Pierre d'Anse Nicolas est sur la liste et nous allons faite le nécessaire et comme nous avons fait le nécessaire pour tout le monde.

Minority Leader: Monsieur le Président: It is not a question of a list, it is a question of dignity for Mr. Pierre. My question is, whether it is legal, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for the CEB to consult a third party. The CEB is a monopoly in Mauritius, I believe according to any monopoly, a natural monopoly from government, it is a public necessity, electricity. It should be given to one and to everybody, of course, according to criteria established. Whether this matter of the CEB having to have the approval of the Chief Commissioner's Office is a legal thing. From the point of view of the law and whether from an ethical point of view also, the CEB has to have the approval of the Chief Commissioner's Office before giving electricity to somebody.

Chief Commissioner: Monsieur le Président, si je savais j'aurais apporté cette lettre qui date de 1992 où le Ministère de l'énergie a envoyé une lettre à l'administration disant de ne donner l'électricité aux personnes qui n'ont pa leurs baux et même à Maurice le gouvernement Centrale a eu des problèmes où on a eu l'électricité à des squatters et aujourd'hui le gouvernement centrale a changé cela. Mai nous nous disons puisque nous avons mi un cutting-off point, ceux qui sont avant. Le CEB doit savoir justement puisque qu'à partir de cette lettre que

le CEB doit demander à l'administration, je veux essayer de produire cette lettre de 1992, il me semble et je l'avais déjà portée ici, une question semblable a été posée que vu justement, quand on parle de dignité, quand on parle de condition humaine, nous sommes nous aussi vraiment concernés par la condition humaine, c'est pourquoi nous disons que à partir de cette lettre le CEB ne doit donner de l'électricité que si la personne a un bail mais nous nous disons le conseil exécutif, a pri la decision tout le pouvoir que nous avons, que nous disons cela au CEB et c'est pourquoi le CEB doit venir vers nous pour que nous puissions dire oui aller, ce sont des hardship cases. Ce sont des gens qui ont déjà construit, ce sont des gens qui ont demandé au CEB mai le CEB vient vers nous et c'est à partir ce cut-off date, cette date fatidique qui est le 27 octobre, 2003. Nous voudrions pas que le désordre qui continue après et aujourd'hui un plan d'aménagement, le plan d'un urbaniste doit voir où construire des maisons et on a souvent parlé ici que ce plan stratégique de développement. Donc nous allons voir le nom de Monsieur Pierre, Anse Nicolas, voir si son nom est sur la liste, donc il sera comme tout le monde même ceux qui ont construit des maisons en béton avant le 27 octobre, ils auront l'électricité.

Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I agree with the Chief Commissioner in his endeavour to avoid present squatting in Rodrigues but he should note that, first of all I wonder why he had not been able to comply with part (a), (b) and (c) of my question that since he took office of the Chief Commissioner, he himself said that he has done a lot in order to improve the service dealing with the application of state land, etc and we have evidence that many people, are still waiting either for their lease or their letter of intent in order to enable them to have access to electricity supply. That's why I ask the Chief Commissioner again what has he done or is he doing in order to inform people exactly those who have built their houses before the date he has mentioned 27 October, 2003, what facilities are being given to them to enable them to have access because we cannot let these people live without electricity for such a long time. There are many people like. Since he has not been able to give me the list which I ask in question (c) what information, what measures is he going to take to inform those concerned what he is going to give to them to facilitate access to electricity.

Chief Commissioner: Monsieur le Président, j'ai répondu deux ou trois fois et en même temps on est en train de régulariser, il y eu des recherches, beaucoup de recherches, beaucoup de terres qui ont été arpentées et dont on ne retrouve pas des dossiers; donc on est en train de mettre de l'ordre, d'informatiser tout cela, et donc c'est ce que le membre de l'autre côté de la chambre dit, c'est ce que nous avons dit, nous sommes en train de donner des facilités – l'eau, l'électricité – même s'ils ont construit, c'est cela que nous avons dit. C'est ça, nous avons pris

la decision de régler tous ces problèmes permettre à tous ces gens d'avoir l'électricité, de l'eau et très souvent le Commissaire vient avec tout une longue liste de demande de l'eau, donc nous avons dit cela plusieurs fois et c'est ce que nous sommes en train de faire et en même temps régulariser les baux de ces personnes.

Chairperson: Next question. No, no, time is up. Next question.

Mr. Jaebeemissar: B/97.

IRREGULAR DISTRIBUTION OF WATER PREVAILING IN THE WESTERN REGION

B/97: The Second Local Region Member for La Ferme (Mr. JABEEMISSAR) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the irregular distribution of water which prevails in the Western Region, he would inform the House of the reasons therefor?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that with regards to water distribution in the western region that the frequency of distribution has been reduced from about once monthly in the month of February/March 2005 to about fifteen days during the past weeks.

It may happen that due to failure in electricity supply, non-availability breakdown in pumps, bursting of pipes and vandalism the frequency of the water distribution is disrupted, thus causing an irregularity in the water distribution.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House that this situation is not typical of the western region only but does happen frequently all over the island.

Chairperson: Yes.

Mr. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner has just mentioned about the change in the frequency which has come to a maximum of fifteen days, is it? I can tell him that not later than people from Cité Patate came to his office at Baie Lascars because these people do not receive water since December last, tap water and since then these people have been supplied with water from tankers twice a week from December last up to this month, until last

week. So, I would like to ask him how is it that he said the problem, the frequency of water has been reduced to three days and how can he explain that people in that particular village which comprise of more twenty families have received tap water since December last, how can he explain that?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, normally people in the village of Cité Patate receive water by lorries or by taps. I have learnt about this problem at the Water Unit of La Ferme and we are investigating the complaint to know where their responsibility lies but I will like to tell the members that we know that there are some problems in the western region but we are doing our best to improve the problem. The destruction of the papayes reservoir by Cyclone Kalundé has been a great burden on the water distribution in that region. After that major decision has been taken to relieve this problem. And there has been the construction of reservoirs, construction of dams and installation of a new primary network among reservoirs and also the treatment of available surface water. The treatment plant of the Anse Raffin Dam has just been commissioned and water from the Anse Raffin Dam will then be pumped to all the connected reservoir in the western region via the Papayes Reservoir whose construction has been completed. After the operation of all this system, I will assure the House that the whole distribution network in that region will be improved.

Minority Leader: Monsieur le Président, on a dit de ce côté de la chambre que les gens de Cité Patate n'ont pas reçu l'eau depuis Décembre et le Commissaire ne trouve rien à dire! Comme solution that he is going to investigate from the complaints books. Il y a des gens qui n'ont pa eu de l'eau depuis décembre, le Commissaire ne trouve rien de mieux d'aller investigate into complaint books! Je voudrais encore lui demander Monsieur le Président dans le cadre de sa politique de proximité, de démocratie participative, est-ce-qu'il va descendre à Cité Patate pour expliquer à ces gens premièrement pourquoi il n'ont pa eu l'eau depuis décembre et sinon deuxièmement la solution il propose?

Chairperson: Yes.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, between December to date, we have had Cité Patate distributed with water from lorries and from the pipeline from Mt. Cabris Reservoir to Cité Patate. We have also had a meeting in the region of Cité Patate during this year and we have talked to the people about all the developments that are being made in the region to assure them of a frequent distribution of water in the near future.

Mr. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if I remember well the Deputy Chief Commissioner mentioned that one of the causes for lack of water was also

vandalism or leakages or defective pumps. Can he inform the house by now, how many pumps are in his Commission, are not in working condition and the reasons therefore?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will come with a statement as I do not have the information at hand but as I know my Commission has already launched tenders for pumps, for motors so that we can have an adequate stock of spare motors and spare pumps and also my Commission is taking the decision to bury all the polypipes all around the island.

Mr. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner at least give reasons as to why there are so many pumps who have breakdowns. Has he been able to enquire about the reasons why there are so many pumps which have breakdown?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will come with a statement at the next sitting.

Mr. A.L. Emilien: I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, how many times he has been informing the House that the village of Cité Patate was issued water from tanks from December to date. How many times these inhabitants have received water from those pipes.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: As I have said, we are investigating the complaint book and the water distribution frequency by the Valve Operators, **I need notice of this question** and I will come to this Assembly with a statement.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

Chairperson: Order, please!

Mr. A. L. Emilien: I don't understand, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner, how come that the issue of water he would find in complaints book, complaint book is meant for complaint! How can you find in complaint book that the frequency of visits of the water tank at Cité Patate? How come that these are shown in complaints books? Complaint books is meant for complaints! If the inhabitants do not receive water, this is not a complain, then!

Chairperson: Yes.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have said that the complaint book and the work progress of the Valve Operators in the region during that period of time is being investigated.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner had been talking about the problems, the problem that arise in the western part of the Island, he said according to his answer that these problems arise almost everywhere in the island. And can I ask him whether, whether around the island, e.g the people receive water after months, after weeks, works is the case.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have said not typical of the western region only but does happen frequently all over the island.

Chairperson: Next question, please, next.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: B/98.

AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO PROMOTE EDUCATION WITHIN THE FISHING COMMUNITY BY THE FISHERMEN

B/98: The First Local Region Member for La Ferme (Mr. Grandcourt) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the award of scholarships to promote education within the fishing community by the Fishermen Welfare Fund, he could

- (a)** give details of the number of students to whom the scholarships were awarded including their names, their localities, the schools/colleges they attend and the amount of money given to each beneficiary for the financial year 2004-2005; and
- (b)** inform the House whether same has been awarded for the year 2005-2006 and, if yes, table the list and the localities of the beneficiaries?

Chairperson: Yes.

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, (a) I am informed that 17 Rodriguan students have been awarded scholarship by the Fishermen Welfare Fund for the year 2004 as follows: Post C.P.E. - 12, Post S.C. - 3, Post H.S.C. - 2

I am tabling their details for the attention of the interested members (**Appendix II**).

As regards scholars for the year 2005, I am informed that a list of 15 students have been approved by the Fishermen Welfare Fund and that the award will be effected shortly. **Their details will be circulated once** the award has been effected.

Chairperson: You want the circular? Yes.

Minority Leader: Can we ask whether in the meantime whether the Regional Assembly has any say in the award of the scholarships?

Chief Commissioner: Usually, the award of the scholarships is according to the results of the examinations, CPE, SC and HSC and also the criteria, they should be registered provisional fishermen.

Chairperson: Yes.

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, are there for this current year for HSC, what is the criteria being used? Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a woman in this House making out. I have a point of order, a woman in this House, the Commissioner Arlette PERRINE BEGUE making very des gestes obscènes.

Chairperson: A point of order, please!

Minority Leader: Quant je parle, je vois la Commissaire, Monsieur le Président, laissez-moi parler.

Chairperson: You've got to know ...

Minority Leader: Je vois la Commissaire me regarder et me faire "cut by throat".

Chairperson: You mean this cut throat!

Minority Leader: Yes, this is what she has done!

Chairperson: Order, please! There is a member on his feet.

Minority Leader: C'est ce qu'elle est en train de faire Monsieur le Président, c'est indigne de la part d'une femme d'agir de cette sorte. Yes, I don't know whether you want to rule or not.

Chairperson: I see, order please, order please!

Commissioner A. Perrine-Begue: Point of order, Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

Chairperson: Please wait, please wait, there is a point order that has been Order please, order please! There is a point Yes, Commissioner for Arts, I'm talking to you! There is a point of order and this point of order to the effect to something that you apparently did before I rule, do you have something to say? You heard the point of order? Yes, you do not have anything to say? If you want, it's alright, if you don't, it's alright because I have to rule?

Commissioner A. Perrine-Begue: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is no obscene act I did! So, I don't understand what the Minority Leader is saying and I want him to remove his words, Mr. Chairperson, Sir because I don't know if I put my hands here and the person is saying that this is an obscene thing! I don't understand, my Chairperson, Sir, and this is very childish and I want his words to be removed because obscene to something very how will I say, this is something very dangerous he is saying, I don't agree with that.

Chairperson: Yes, ruling please, ruling please! The Minority Leader raised a point of order, I believe he's got a right to do it, he wants me to rule that, a member of this House has acted in an obscene manner by, I think by making a gesture and if really I have not seen that ... Order, please! I have not seen that but if this really happened of course we all know that this can't be parliamentary. But I have not seen such things. As far for your request for the removal of the word obscene, I think it's clear that the Minority Leader said obscene by making a small gesture just below the chin. I don't think there is anything, anything more what he expressed in his point of order. Yes, let the debate continue.

Minority Leader: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, everybody in the House did see what I said. Mr. Chairperson, Sir ...

Chairperson: Yes, Minority Leader, don't get distracted, you are on your feet, look at the Chair, put your question.

Minority Leader: When we are speaking, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are like in a class, if a pupil get distracting you

Chairperson: I agree with you ...

Minority Leader: ..., you must raise your this is a teacher's reflex!

Chairperson: By all means, there are interruptions on both sides of the House.

Mr. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we cannot continue like that, each time the Commissioner for Arts is disturbing the Minority Leader, we cannot continue like that, we are in an Assembly, each time she is talking, talking, talking.

Chairperson: Yes, yes.

Mr. Grandcourt: We wait for your ruling.

Chairperson: Yes, of course you are right if this happens but I heard you many times since this morning. You yourself started making sitting interruptions everybody know that this is not parliamentary. Yes, Minority Leader.

Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for HSC, I see that that there are three HSC, the HSC are receiving Rs 750 per month, when somebody is in the HSC, the qualifications is that they have five credits or qualified for the HSC. I cannot understand that the scholarship has been awarded to three, there is an additional one which have been brought for our attention the son of Mr. Pierre Simon MEUNIER of Baie du Nord who is actually at Citron Donis Form VI College. There are three, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, three successful and this person they don't want to allocate Rs 750 rupees, he is qualified, he is in the HSC. His father is a registered fisherman. I would like to know from the Chief Commissioner whether he will look into that matter. **I'm tabling a copy of the letter of a refusal of this scholarship** because they say when they come here, these guys from the fisherman welfare fund, they come here and they say every fisherman will have scholarship every fisherman is entitled Rs 750. and they are refusing this guy.

Chairperson: When you say guys, you mean members in this House?

Minority Leader: The guys from the fisherman welfare fund, thank you . **I'm tabling a copy of that refusal letter.**

Chairperson: Yes.

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to the list here, 2004 scholarships awarded to school certificate students:- Marie Aquilane FRANCOIS from Corail, Rodrigues College – Rs 750 per month for two years; Jean Louis POLIMONT, L'Union - Citron Donis College – Rs 750 per month for two years;

these are scholarships for HSC. Mariano LEGENTIL , la Saline - Citron Donis College - Rs 750 per month for two years and for the HSC scholarships it means those who are going to University; we have two scholarships. Marie Anne Michèle LEVEQUE , Accacia – Rodrigues College - Rs 1500 per month for duration of the course. It can be a course of two years or four years. Jean Patrice FRANCOIS, St. Gabriel – Rodrigues College - Rs 1500 per month for duration of the course. And that's what we have here, three for school certificate or an HSC and two HSC to go to University. Well, we'll find out with the Fisherman Welfare Fund whether the name which has been mentioned here, laid on the table. No, the 2005 had not yet been allocated. Your application for a scholarship refers; according to the board I have to inform you that the application was successful in a competition for the scholarship. So, it's good that we have a copy of this letter, so we can find out why the application has been rejected. This is we have to look for the reasons why the application has been rejected.

Chairperson: Next question.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: I have a supplementary question.

Chairperson: Last one, yes.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Can I know from the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, how many scholarships are there depending on the HSC, SC and so on. Do we have a limited number for Rodrigues and what is it?
Scholarships for this year, you said fifteen, no for this year you said fifteen 2005/2006

Chief Commissioner: Well, we'll see whether there is something wrong there. Seventeen we'll see I am informed that the list of fifteen students have been approved , we do not know whether there is a quota of twenty, seventeen, fifteen, so we'll see why one year it's seventeen and 2005 is fifteen, we'll find out ...

Chairperson: Next question, Second Island Region Member

Mrs. M. T. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/99.

ECHOGRAPHICAL APPARATUS FOR PRENATAL TREATMENT

B/99: The Second Island Region Member (Mrs. MEUNIER) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health whether he would say:

- (a) how many echographical apparatus for prenatal treatment or any other gynaecological treatment are available in the Health Services in Rodrigues;
- (b) if they are operational; and, if not, to give the reasons therefor?

Commissioner Sooprayen: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, (a) there are two echography machines in the Health Services in Rodrigues. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I inform the House that the echography machine is not used for treatment purposes but for investigative procedures; (b) One echography machine is operational at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The other one is under repair. It has been sent to Mauritius. A spare part is awaited from Japan to complete the repair and the machine will be shipped back to Rodrigues.

Chairperson: Yes.

Mrs. M. T. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner whether there have been any shortcomings in the investigation procedures due to the defective echography machine?

Commissioner Sooprayen: At present, they are using one machine, so there is no shortcomings so far!

Mrs. M. T. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I put the question another way? Will the Commissioner say whether this machine, the only one machine is enough to take care of the patients around the whole island?

Commissioner Sooprayen: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do agree that one is not sufficient, that is why the other is under repair. May I add, may I inform also the House that the Commission will buy a new one shortly.

Chairperson: Yes, next question.

Mrs. M. T. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/100.

SETTING-UP OF WATER TANKS AT BAIE DU NORD

B/100: The Second Island Region Member (Mrs. MEUNIER) asked the **Deputy Chief Commissioner** as regards the setting up of water tanks at Baie du Nord, could he say when the project will become operational?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the contract for the construction of a concrete platform and the fixing of fibre glass tank at Baie du Nord and Montagne Fanal has been awarded to Mr. Joseph Ah Hone CHAN SHOW on the 11th May 2005 for the sum of three hundred and thirty thousand rupees only (Rs 330,000). The successful bidder is making arrangements with his bank for the submission of the performance bond and insurance policy. All works will have to be completed within a period of six weeks from handing over of site.

Chairperson: Yes, next question. Next.

Mrs. J. Prosper: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/101.

NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCD) DETECTION EXERCISE CARRIED OUT IN RODRIGUES LAST YEAR

B/101: The Sixth Island Region Member (Mrs. PROSPER) asked the **Commissioner responsible for Health whether**, with regard to the Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) detection exercise carried out in Rodrigues last year, he would say,

- (a) if the results are already available and, if yes;
- (b) what are the findings of such an enquiry; and
- (c) inform the House about the appropriate measures his Commission is taking to have Non-Communicable Diseases under control and to inform those concerned?

Chairperson: Yes.

Commissioner Sooprayen: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the results are not available yet; (b) The results/report of the NCD survey as I said has not been rendered

public yet. In the meantime the NCD programme is ongoing with 9 NCD sessions per week (3 at QEH, 3 at La Ferme Area Health Centre and 3 at Mont Lubin Area Health Centre). Health promotion by the Nutritionist forms part of the NCD programme.

Mrs. J. Prosper: I would like to know when the results will be available?

Commissioner Sooprayen: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I've been informed that it depends on the discretion of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether it is true that the staff involved in that exercise have not been paid so far.

Commissioner Sooprayen: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Monsieur le Président, l'enquête a été faite en octobre, l'année dernière et on m'a informé on prend sept ou huit mois normalement pour payer. Cela a été comme ça depuis très longtemps et ils savent et il ont été avertis mais quand même, j'ai plusieurs fois téléphoné à Maurice pour savoir où on en est et récemment j'ai été à Maurice deux ou trois semaines de cela, j'ai eu une conversation, rencontré la personne concernée au Ministère, on me dit que ce sera fait avant la fin de Juin. Ce matin, pas plus tard que ce matin, j'ai dit à mon Departmental Head de téléphoner au PS du Ministère et voir où on en est avec parcequ'il nous reste le dernier mois pour l'année financière et j'espère que ce sera fait avant la fin de l'année financière.

Chairperson: Yes, next question.

Mrs. J. Prosper: B/102.

FAMILIES AT PARC TORTUE WHO ARE CONNECTED TO THE GOVERNMENT WATER NETWORK

B/102: The Sixth Island Region Member (Mrs. Prosper) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he will inform the House of the number of families at Parc Tortue who are connected to the government water network and who have never been provided with water, and give reasons therefor?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the water distribution network was installed in the year 1999 and that presently about fifteen families have been provided with individual water prise. On

account of the different attitude at which the houses are situated it may be that the pressure at which water is being delivered at each of the different houses may vary each time water is distributed. Up to now no official complaint has been received by the water unit.

Chairperson: Yes, next question.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/103.

Chairperson: Yes, please wait. We are left with seven questions. Well, is lunch ready? No, so we proceed.

WATER DISTRIBUTION IN THE VILLAGES OF ANSE RAFFIN AND TAMARIN

B/103: The Second Local Region Member for Marechal (Mr. AGATHE) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to water distribution in the villages of Anse Raffin and Tamarin, he would state?

- (a) the source of the water supply;
- (b) whether the water is chlorinated before distribution to households; and
- (c) if not, whether it is intended to furnish them with treated water from the new Anse Raffin Dam?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regards to part (a) and (b), I am informed that the village of Anse Raffin and Tamarin is supplied with water from a small intake dam which has been constructed upstream on the river Tamarin. The water is presently not chlorinated due to a breakdown. The point has been raised in the Water Steering Committee of my Commission and procedures for reparation and operation of same have already been engaged. The water is stored in a reservoir downstream from which water is pumped to a fibre glass tank uphill to feed the villages of Tamarin and Dans Mao. Water is presently being distributed twice weekly. As regard part (c) of the question should the need arise during drought period treated water from Anse Raffin Dam may be pumped to that region?

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, could I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner for how many years the inhabitants of Anse Raffin have not received chlorinated water?

Chairperson: Yes.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't have the information at hand but as I know in the Water Steering Committee we are discussing about the different villages where people are not having treated water and we are making our best to engage procedures so as same be done.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, ...

Chairperson: Yes.

Mr. C. Agathe: ... I refer to part (c) of the question, I am of the view that the Commissioner has not given a reply for part (c).

Chairperson: Yes.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (c) of the question, should the need arise during the drought period, treated water from Anse Raffin may be pumped to that reservoir. But however, my Commission is looking at the possibility of constructing a reservoir in the upper part of Anse Baleine so that water from Anse Raffin Dam can be pumped to that reservoir and distributed to Parc Tortue, Anse Raffin, Anse Baleine, Tamarin.

Mr. A.L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, presently, the water which is issued to those inhabitants of Tamarin and Anse Raffin, is of doubtful quality. The Deputy Chief Commissioner was talking about vandalism earlier. Is it not to what arouses the, how could I say the split of vandalism of those inhabitants knowing that treated water is moving from their village to other villages while they are having water of very bad quality.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said this matter has already been raised and the chlorinated pumps e.g broke down; it has been changed recently and now we are making everything possible to re-align the water network from the Dam to the plant because there is a problem of pressure, sometimes there is air lock in the network and after that the water will be treated and the filter also will be repaired so that good quality water can be distributed to people in this village.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, could the Commissioner say what region is the water from the Dam being distributed up to now? The water from the Anse Raffin Dam.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said the water distribution is being distributed to the villages of Tamarin and Dan Mao.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether the treated water from the Treatment Plant of Anse Raffin is mixed up in la collectrice du Sud with water that is not treated at Port Sud Est and Mourouk.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, water from Mourouk is treated and the water from Cascade Victoire is treated equally. And water from both sources is mixed, is collected with la collectrice du Sud which feeds Rivière Coco Reservoir.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, about what equipment , what type of treatment plant is being used both at Cascade Victoire and Mourouk.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: At Cascade Victoire, there is the mobile treatment plant, it has a flocculation, filtration, chlorination unit and at Mourouk there is a chlorination plant.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I heard the Commissioner mentioning water being distributed to Tamarin and Dan Mao. I heard that.

Chairperson: Yes, you want to precise ...

Mr. C. Agathe: Yes, ...

Chairperson: Tamarin and

Mr. C. Agathe: Is it the chlorinated water or the water from the filter canal uphill?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the water is stored in a reservoir downstream from which the water is pumped to a fibre glass tank uphill to feed the villagers of Tamarin and Dans Mao.

Mr. C. Agathe: Is it the water from the dam, the chlorinated water from the dam, the Anse Raffin Dam , the new Anse Raffin Dam.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is another question.

Chairperson: Next question, please. Same member. Yes.

Mr. C. Agathe: B/104.

**CONTRACT AWARDED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES
FOR VICTIMS OF CYCLONE KALUNDE**

B/104: The Second Local Region Member for Marechal (Mr. AGATHE) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner as regards the contract awarded for the construction of houses for victims of cyclone kalundé, whether he would give the name of the contractor and whether the work had been handed over by the end of 15th May 2005, and, if not, table the progress of work for each unit?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the contractor is Mr. Sinsamy RAMEN and Co. Ltd and that the works have not yet been handed over due to the fact that the contractor has not yet completed them. My Commission has already notified the contractor as per the condition of contract that the client, viz my Commission will enter upon the sites and the works and terminate his employment as contractor on the 30th June 2005 if the works are not completed by that date. A minimum notification delay of 28 days is required as per the contract.

Mr. C. Agathe: May I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner, how many contractors, whether the contractor undertook the work initially from the first stage up to now or whether the work has been carried out by another contractor.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: My Commission has signed a legal contract agreement with one contractor who is Sinsamy RAMEN and Co. Ltd.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the question has not been replied, I said whether the work has been carried out initially by Sinsamy Ramen, I don't know the name, initially since the beginning?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I had had a legal contract with Sinsamy RAMEN and Co. Ltd...

Chairperson: Is it since the beginning, this what his question is about!

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, the contract is still between my Commission and Sinsamy Ramen and the deadline is 30th June, 2005. The question whether Mr. Sinsamy Ramen has sent a contractor to do his work, ça c'est une affaire interne but he should respect the delay the deadline which is 30th June, 2005.

Mr. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if I remember well, the last time this question was raised, the Deputy Chief Commissioner mentioned a deadline of 15th May instant, 2005, yes. Now he has extended the delay to 30th June and since he has not tabled the progress of work as mentioned in part (b), I would like to ask him whether since the time the delay has been extended to 30th June, whether he has noted significant progress in the work which is intended to be done by his Contractor and, if not, what decision is he taking to ensure that the work goes on so that the contractor complies with the delay extended to 30th June.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling the progress of work ... but as I have said the termination of his contract is on the 30th July, 2005 my Commission will enter upon the site and it is in the contract, we are not here to be bound by contractors, it is in the contract, if works have not been respected as per delay given to the legal contract, we have all the right to take over the site and re-allocate same as per the contract document to another contractor and another of launching tender exercise will be done.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner replied in the past that the work would be ended by 15th May, 2005 today we are on 30th of May, nothing has been done. Yes, the progress of work, I have not seen the progress of work and can we know whether there is retention money, what amount has been retained from the contract or whether the contractor has been paid according to the bill of quantities?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this work is being supervised by officers of my Commission and the Contractor is being paid as per the work that has been done. The Contractor will be paid the whole amount of the value of the contract, the project value of the contract, if all the work has been done by 30th June, 2005. But as from today, it has been paid only the amount for the work that has been done.

Chairperson: Please wait, please wait. We are left with roughly five questions and adjournment matters, is it the right time to break or you will finish. Yes. For ten minutes? No, so we break for lunch for 45 mins. I suspend the Assembly for forty-five minutes.

Suspension between 13.05 and 13.50 hours.

Chairperson: Yes, I take it that there is only one member from the other side? Yes. Yes, let us have matters straight, at 1.00 p.m I have stated that I suspended the Assembly for forty-five minutes. That was right, the Clerk.

Clerk: Yes.

Chairperson: And now it is time ...

Clerk: Thirteen five + forty five is 13.50 hours.

Chairperson: And not it is time to resume?

Clerk: Yes, because thirteen five plus forty-five minutes is 13.50. Yes, it is almost time.

Chairperson: Almost time?

Clerk: Yes.

Chairperson: Yes. Well, we proceed with the agenda, then.

Clerk: Yes.

Chairperson: Next question?

Clerk: B/105

Chairperson: The member is not here.

Clerk: The member is here.

Chairperson: Yes.

Clerk: No, he is not here.

Chairperson: There is one member, here.

Clerk: B/106.

Chairperson: The Third Island Region Member, Mr. Guillaume.

Mr. Guillaume: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/106.

**DIFFICULTIES FACED BY OFF-LAGOON FISHERMEN TO HAVE ACCESS
TO PASSE JIMMY, PASSE BUTTE, GRANDE PASSE, PASSE GRENAD
AND GRAND BASSIN AT NIGHT DUE TO LACK OF SIGNAL LIGHTS**

B/106: The Third Island Region Member (Mr. GUILLAUME) asked the Chief Commissioner *whether*, in view of difficulties faced by off-lagoon fishermen to have access to passe Jimmy, passe Butte, grande passe, passe Grenade and Grand Bassin at night due to lack of signal lights, he would state:

- (a) how many persons have been victims in these passes over the past ten years and state their names;
- (b) which passes have signal lights on both sides and throughout; and
- (c) what actions have been taken to remedy this situation?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (a) According to information from the Police, there have been 18 victims at Passe Demie, Passe Butte, Grande Passe and Grand Bassin over the past ten years. Out of these victims, 4 were recovered dead, 5 were recovered alive and 1 was not recovered.

Their names are as follows:

- (i) **Not Recovered**
 - Mr. Joseph Chantal PERRINE
- (ii) **Recovered Dead**
 - Mr. James EDOUARD
 - Mr. Ange FELICITE
 - Mr. Conrad LAROSE
 - Mr. Joseph George Erskine PROSPER

(iii) **Recovered Alive**

- Mr. Jean Marc BEGUE
- Mr. Michelin GENAVE
- Mr. Paul Luisnot CESAR
- Mr. Jean Derick CESAR
- Mr. Jean Denis FONG KYE

(b) None of the above passes have signal lights on both sides. However, the following passes have leading light/lights ashore to guide safe entry:

- Grand Bassin – The beacon light is fixed at the northern part of the reef
- Grande Passe and Passe Grenade: Two beacon lights are installed on the main land at Anse Enfer and Grenade, respectively.

In addition, beacon lights have also been installed to guide entry through Passe St. François and to indicate dangerous point at Grande Pointe (in the north).

(c) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, further to a request made by my Commission, a Nautical Surveyor from the Ministry of Shipping was on mission in Rodrigues in November 2004 to advise on the installation and improvement of beacon lights at sea passes. During his visit, we have been advised that it would not be appropriate to instal beacon lights at Passe Demie and Passe Butte due to their dangerous nature.

Chairperson: Yes, no supplementary, no. We move to next question. Yes, member is absent. Yes, the Minority Leader who is not in attendance has intimated that he will have a statement during adjournment time. I understand he is not here. Yes, proceed. Well, I shall wait for two minutes.

Chairperson: Well, I understand that there are some statements we made. Next item on the agenda, please.

Clerk: Motions

Clerk: No motion, adjournment.

Chairperson: No, no before motion, no statement, are there no statement.

Clerk: Statements by Commissioners.

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, ...

Chairperson: Yes.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

Chairperson: Take your seat, please.

Minority Leader: This Assembly resumed and we were in the lunch room, we do not even hear the bell ringing ...

Chairperson: Do we have a bell there?

Minority Leader: Nobody was here ...

(interruptions)

Minority Leader: This is an infringement of our rights which I think should be corrected. There is a bell here in this house, has it been rung? We were in the House, in the House we didn't hear. So, this is not good and I would like

to invite you to go to the Order Paper where we ended before the lunch, thank you.

Chairperson: Yes, is it a point of order that you made?

Minority Leader: I come here and you say statements by Commissioners, we have not finished, we have questions on the Order Paper! We were there in the House, the bell does not ring. Is the bell, I can't hear the bell where I am the official lunch room, it is not my problem and this is honest.

Chairperson: Of course, if the bell does not ring, you've got a case. Let me confirm with the Clerk. Because I ordered that the bell be rung two times. First Yes, Clerk It was rung.

Minority Leader: In this case, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I invite the Clerk to go into the room where I was and ring the bell and listen whether he hears.

Chairperson: This is not correct.

Minority Leader: This is not correct. Si ou envi ale la haut dans choz , gueter si ou tendé.

Chairperson: So, we proceed with Commissioners' statements.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, please allow me to make a short statement to this House further to some remarks made to this House regarding ...

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, ...

Chairperson: Yes, you can't stop the proceedings of the Assembly like this!

Minority Leader: ... We are leaving the House, this is not correct.

Chairperson: Yes, proceed.

(Interruptions)

Chairperson: Yes, it's alright. Order please! If you want to leave you can, yes continue, please.

STATEMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Deputy Chief Commissioner – Anse Raffin Dam

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, please allow me to make this short statement to this House further to some remarks made in this house regarding the construction of the Anse Raffin Dam at the last sitting. In the contract there was a provisional sum of Rs 5 m for the construction of a pipeline from the dam to Collectrice du Sud via the treatment plant, the construction of a treatment plant and the tarring of the access road. I would like to draw the attention of the House that a provisional sum is an amount that is included in a contract for the execution of any part of the works which sum may be used in whole in part or not at all. At the start of the project, any sense person with common sense will have found that the provision is far less the actual value of the works and priority have to be set out. We will no doubt appreciate, Mr. Chairperson, Sir that any logical and regional decision will have been the construction of the treatment plant and the construction of

the feeder maize as a matter of priority. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the total cost of the treatment plant and the pipeline turns to be more than Rs 10m and approval of the CTB (Central Tender Board) have had to be sought or an increase in the contract value. Thank you for your attention, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Chairperson: Yes. Thank you. No more statements. Next item.

Clerk: Motions. No motions.

Chairperson: Yes.

Clerk: Yes. Adjournment.

Chairperson: Yes.

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I move that the Assembly be adjourned to Tuesday 19th July, 2005 at 10.30 a.m.

Chairperson: Yes. Question this Assembly be adjourned to Tuesday 19th July, 2005 at 10.30 a.m. Those in favour, say aye, those against say no.

Members: Aye.

Chairperson: The ayes have it. Yes the Assembly stands adjourned.

At 14.00 the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 19 July, 2005 at 10.30 a.m.

Written Answers

EXPENDITURE UNDER THE CAPITAL BUDGET OF THE RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE YEAR 2004/2005

B/105: The Second Local Region Member (Mr. AGATHE) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to expenditure under the capital budget of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the year 2004-2005, he would state the amounts of money paid to each of the contractors for capital works from July 2004 to date, the amounts still outstanding in respect of each of them and the details of the works already completed by them?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the information is being compiled for circulation in due course.

NEW SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL BRIDGE AT PORT MATHURIN

B/107: The First Local Region Member of Marechal (Mr. EMILIEN) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the new Sir Winston Churchill Bridge at Port Mathurin, any agreement has been reached with the contractor as regards funding and reconstruction and state where matters stand?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the house that the contractor Allied Builders Ltd has agreed to reconstruct the Winston Churchill Bridge at their own cost as gift offer to celebrate their 10th Anniversary of permanent establishment in Rodrigues. Their offer excludes all asphaltting and rerouting of services which will be on the account of my Commission.

A temporary foot bridge has been constructed and all the Hawkers along the road leading to the site has already been relocated. According to the contractor, the works are scheduled to start within the next fortnight and be completed by mid October 2005.

INCREASE IN PRICES OF BASIC COMMODITIES IN RODRIGUES

B/108: The First Local Region Member of Marechal (Mr. Emilien) asked the Commissioner responsible for Trade & Commerce as regards the increase in prices of (basic) commodities in Rodrigues, whether he could

- (a) give a list of all such commodities whose prices have experienced any increase since 1st March, 2005;
- (b) explain the reasons for such increases;
- (c) give the reasons for such increases;
- (d) say why, in spite of budgetary measures, recently implemented, those commodities instead of a decrease in prices have seen their prices increased?

Reply: (a) If the respected member is referring to those commodities whose prices are controlled as basic, then I should point out that out of the 45 items which are still under price control in Rodrigues, 27 of them did not experience any changes in prices since 1st March, 2005. As regards to the other 18 commodities, there has been either a minor increase or decrease generally depending whether they are being produced in Mauritius or abroad and many other factors. A list of such commodities which depicts the percentage increase or decrease is being tabled (**Appendix III**).

- (b) the reasons for the increase or decrease should be considered on a case to case basis:
 - (i) some items like milk, cheese and butter are non-taxable well before the budget was presented in April last. Hence, no decrease is expected even the budgetary measures.
 - (ii) Items which are produced in Mauritius are not expected to incur any major decrease.

- (iii) As regards to the high percentage increase noted in the price of some of items that have been tabled, their last price lists dates 1 or 2 years back. For example, pilchards in tomota sauce-Atlantics Bd 425g tin has experienced a percentage increase of 35.38%. As per our record, the last time that the price of such items was fixed in Rodrigues dates back July 1996. This means that no such items has been imported to Rodrigues since 1996 and as a result, their new prices are relatively high compared to their old price. Same principle applied to many other commodities like infant food sold under trade mark bananas, Lactée fruits, Bledina Bd 6 legumes and others.
- (iv) As regards to items like fruit juices, some traders from Rodrigues were buying it at duty free directly from foreign countries. Now, with their prices being decrease in Mauritius (which does not necessarily means lower than abroad), they may tend to purchase it from Mauritius which may incur in an increase in prices as some rate of custom duties are still applicable in Mauritius.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have pointed out in my answers to question b/79 during the last session, some prices are expected to decrease with time as their prices will be aligned with their reduced purchase price in Mauritius.

ISSUE OF STATE LAND LEASES IN RODRIGUES

B/109: The First Local Region Member of Marechal (Mr. EMILIEN) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards the issue of State land leases in Rodrigues, he could:

- (a) say how many residential and commercial leases have been issued per month from September 2002 to date, and
- (b) state the number of applicants who are still awaiting their leases, indicating when the applications were first made?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (a) A total of two thousand two hundred and four (2,204) residential and commercial lease have been processed from September 2002 to date. Out of these, 390 leases have not been finalized as the applicants have not turned up for signature of the relevant document. Thus one thousand eight hundred and fourteen leases (1,814) have been issued by my Commission as follows:-

Residential leases	- 1808
Residential/Commercial lease	- 5
Commercial lease	- 1
(+ 26 under consideration for approval)	-----
	<u>1814</u>

I am tabling the number of these leases issued on a monthly basis.

- (b) The number of applicants who are still awaiting their leases are being compiled and will be circulated in due course.

Appendix I

Proposed Calender of Activities to commemorate the International Year of Sports and Physical Education

March 2005

Conference debate on:

- (a) Importance of Physical Education;**
- (b) Nutrition and Sports; and**
- (c) Anti-drug control.**

Sub-committee chaired by Commissioner for Youth and Sports

April 2005

Fun walk and beach activities.

Sub-committee chaired by Mr. Mario Baptiste, Principal Youth Officer

May 2005

Activity in Primary Schools

Sub-committee chaired by Mr. Marclay Roussety, Physical Education Instructor.

June 2005

Non reward music and dance competition.

Sub-committee chaired by Mr. Ange Raphael, Physical Instructor

July 2005

Inter Island Athletics Cadet Championship. (postponed for August due to General Election)

Organising Committee chaired by Commissioner for Youth and Sports

August 2005

Multi sport activity at Marechal College.

September 2005

Sport week for women, handicap and Senior Citizen-- Sub Committee chaired by Jasmine Leopold

October 2005

Cycling around the island.

To be conducted in collaboration with the Mauritius Cycling Federation.

November 2005

One day activity around swimming pool at Marechal chaired by **Mr. D. ANDRE, Acting Sports Officer.**

Tour de l'Ile à pied chaired by **Mr. Mario Baptiste, Principal Youth officer**

APPENDIX II

**LIST OF APPROVED SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER THE FISHERMEN
WELFARE FUND SCHEMES FOR THE YEAR 2004**

Name of Student	Locality	School/College	Stipends
<u>Post S.C. Rodrigues</u>			
1. Marie Achilanne FRANCOIS	Corail	Rodrigues College	Rs 750. per month for 2 years
2. Jean Louis POLIMON	L'Union	Citron Donis College	Rs 750. per month for 2 years
3. Mariano LEGENTIL	La Saline	Citron Donis College	Rs 750. per month for 2 years
<u>Post H.S.C Rodrigues</u>			
1. M. Anne Michèle LEVEQUE	Acacia	Rodrigues College	Rs 1,500. per month for duration of the course
2. Jean Patrice FRANCOIS	Saint Gabriel	Rodrigues College	Rs 1,500. per month for duration of the course
<u>Vocational Rodrigues</u>			
1. Aniella JOLICOEUR	Rivière Cocos	IVTB Le Chou	Rs 375. per month for duration of course
2. Joseph Steward AZIE	Baladirou	IVTB Le Chou	Rs 375. per month for duration of course

LIST OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS
FROM ARTISANALS FISHERMEN SCHOLARSHIP YEAR 2004

Name of Student	Locality	School/College	Stipends
<u>List of Boys</u>			
1. POLIMON Jean Dionovan	L'Union	Rodrigues College	Rs 375. per month for 5 years
2. BEGUE Frederic	Dans Bébé	Mont Lubin College	Rs 375. per month for 5 years
3. ITHIER Jean David	Corail Anse Quitor	Marechal College	Rs 375. per month for 5 years
4. FRANCOIS Adrien Dorian	Montagne Fanal	Le Chou College	Rs 375. per month for 5 years
5. PERRINE James	Thammes	Mont Lubin College	Rs 375. per month for 5 years
<u>List of Girls</u>			
1. PERRINE Marie Christel	Montagne Goyaves	Rodrigues College	Rs 375. per month for 5 years
2. EMILIEN Anabelle M.	Tamarin	Rodrigues College	Rs 375. per month for 5 years
3. BERNARD M. Diessyka	Grand la Fouche Mangues	Rodrigues College	Rs 375. per month for 5 years
4. VOLBERT Jennifer	Battue Madame	Rodrigues College	Rs 375. per month for 5 years
5. CASIMIR Marie Juliana	Songes	Le Chou College	Rs 375. per month for 5 years

APPENDIX III