

No. 1 of 2006

RODRIGUES

SECOND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 1 of 2006

Sitting of Saturday 16 December, 2006

The Assembly met in the Passenger Terminal Lounge at 3.30 p.m.

The National Anthem was played

RODRIGUES

First Regional Assembly

Debate No. 1 of 16 December, 2006

TO PROCLAIM THE OPENING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Assembly met in the Passenger Terminal Building Lounge, at 3.30 p.m.

The National Anthem was played.

Proclamation No. 22 of 2006

**TO PROCLAIM THE OPENING OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

To fix the place, date and time at which the Regional Assembly shall meet for the purpose of Sections 12, 13 and 14 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001.

President of the Republic

The Right Honourable
ANEROOD JUGNAUTH

- By the Right Honourable SIR
ANEROOD JUGNAUTH,
Grand Commander of the
Order of the Star and Key of
the Indian Ocean, Knight
Commander of Order of Saint
Michael and Saint George,
Queen's Counsel, President
of the Republic of Mauritius.

&c., &c., &c.,

WHEREAS by section 71A of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2002, it is enacted that the President may, by Proclamation, fix the place, date and time at which the Regional Assembly shall meet for the purpose of sections 12, 13 and 14 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act.

NOW THEREFORE, I do hereby proclaim that the meeting to administer the oaths to the Members of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, and the election of and the administering of oaths to, the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, the Chief Commissioner and the Deputy Chief Commissioner, shall take place in the Passenger Terminal Lounge at Port Mathurin on Saturday 16 December, 2006 as from 15.30 hours.

Given at State House, Le Réduit, this 13th Day of December two thousand and Six.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO MEMBERS

The following Members made and subscribed before the Assembly, the Oath of Allegiance as prescribed in the First Schedule of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 and signed the Roll of Membership:-

Mr. Jean Christian Agathe, come forward please.
Mr. Louis Daniel Baptiste
Mr. Louis Serge Clair
Mrs. Marie Thérèse Clair
Mr. Joseph Allan Ladd Emilien
Mr. Louis Philippe François
Mrs. Rose Marie Franchette Gaspard Pierre Louis
Mr. Franceau Aubret Grandcourt
Mr. Désiré Laval Guillaume
Mr. Gaëtan Jabeemissar
Mr. Nicolson Lisette
Mrs. Marie Désirée Lordana Chan Meunier
Mrs. Marie Arlette Perrine-Bégué
Mr. Louis Ange Perrine
Mrs. Jacqueline Prosper
Mr. Johnson Roussety
Mr. Simon Pierre Roussety
Mr. Jean Daniel Spéville

CHAIRPERSON – ELECTION

Mr. Jean Christian Agathe: First Local Region Member of Marechal) (being the member having recorded the highest percentage of votes at the 10 December last election) in the chair

Mr. Johnson Roussety (First Local Region Member of Port Mathurin: I move that **Mr. Joseph Chenlye Lamvohee** be elected Chairperson of the Regional Assembly.

Mr. G. Jabeemissar rose and seconded.

Mr. Jean Christian Agathe: Is there any other proposal?

There being no proposal, **Mr. Joseph Chenlye Lamvohee** is elected Chairperson.

(Applause)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON – ELECTION

Mr. A. L. Emilien (Second Local Region Member of Marechal): I move that the Second Island Region Member, Mrs Marie Desirée Lordana Chan Meunier, be elected Deputy Chairperson of the Regional Assembly.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt rose and seconded

Mr. Jean Christian Agathe : Is there any other proposal?

There being no other proposal. I declare **Mrs. Marie Desirée Lordana Chan Meunier**, Deputy Chairperson.

(Applause)

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Joseph Chenlye Lamvohee made and subscribed the oath of office prescribed in the Second Schedule to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 and signed the Register.

Mr. Chairperson (Mr. J.C. Lamvohee): Respected Members, I am extremely honoured by the confidence and trust the House has again placed on me and according to customs, I submit myself to the will of the House.

When for the first time I was elected to this Office, that is on 12 October 2002, I recall having said the following:-

“Fairness and impartiality will be my overriding principles. The right of each and every member to express himself will be sacredly safeguarded, no matter whether the member belongs to the majority or not and no matter whether his view is generally acceptable or not, as I will not belong to any party”.

I wish to reiterate these words and I reassure each and every member that it is with the same frame of mind that I will keep maintaining the dignity of this House.

Before I take the Chair I wish to thank the Clerk of the Regional Assembly and his personnel for their loyalty and devotion to each and every member of this House.

I again thank the House for the confidence it has placed on me.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Chairperson: I would now invite the newly elected Deputy Chairperson to come forward to take the oath of office.

Mrs. Marie Desirée Lordana Chan Meunier made and subscribed the oath of office prescribed in the Second Schedule to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 and signed the Register.

The Deputy Chairperson: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am deeply and greatly honoured to be the first woman in whom trust has been entailed to perform the duties of Deputy Chairperson.

I solemnly promise to do my utmost to show that the trust this House has placed in me is well deserved and I shall always endeavour to live up its high expectations.

Members can rest assured that I shall always provide my undivided support to Mr. Chairperson and that I will fulfill this function to the best of my ability.

Once more let me thank all members for the confidence they have placed in me.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson Sir.

(Applause)

CHIEF COMMISSIONER – ELECTION

Mr. Chairperson: I now invite a Member of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to propose and another member to second, in turn, a nomination to the office of Chief Commissioner. Is there any proposal?

Mr. G. Jabeemissar (The Second Local Region Member of La Ferme): Mr. Chairperson, I move that the First Local Region Member of Port Mathurin, **Mr. Johnson Roussety**, be elected to the Office of Chief Commissioner.

Mr. A.L. Emilien rose and seconded.

Mr. Chairperson: There being no other proposal, I declare **Mr. Johnson Roussety** elected to the office of Chief Commissioner.

(Applause)

The Chief Commissioner made and subscribed the oath of office prescribed in the Third Schedule to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 and signed the Register.

DEPUTY CHIEF COMMISSIONER – ELECTION

Mr. Chairperson: I now invite a Member of the Regional Assembly to propose and another Member of the Regional Assembly to second in turn a nomination for the office of the Deputy Chief Commissioner.

Mr. Johnson ROUSSETY: Mr. Chairperson, I move that **Mr. Gaëtan Jabeemissar** be elected to the office of Deputy Chief Commissioner.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt rose and seconded.

The Chairperson: There being no other proposal, I **declare Mr. Gaëtan Jabeemissar** elected to the office of the Deputy Chief Commissioner.

(Applause)

The Chief Commissioner (Mr. Johnson Roussety):

Mr. Chairperson, Sir,
Your Excellency Sir Anerood Jugnauth,
President of the Republic,
Lady Jugnauth,
Mr. Rajeswar Purryag, Speaker of the National Assembly,
Honourable James Burty David, Representative of Prime Minister, Minister of
Local Government,
Honourable Nandcoomar Bodha, Leader of the Opposition,
Mr. Gaetan Jabeemissar, Deputy Chief Commissioner,
Your Eminence,
The Bishop and Representatives of Religious bodies,
the Island Chief Executive,
Members of the National Assembly,
The Clerk of the Regional Assembly,

Departmental Heads,
Mr. Vithilingem,
Adviser to the Regional Assembly,
the Deputy Chairperson,
Members of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly,
the Divisional Commander of Police,
Honorary Consuls,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me first and foremost Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to congratulate you on the occasion of your re-election as the Chairperson of this august Assembly of the people of Rodrigues. I also extend my congratulations to all returned members of this Second Regional Assembly as well as to the newly elected Deputy Chairperson and to my Deputy Chief Commissioner.

Since the 10th of December, this year, the people of Rodrigues had decided to change its leaders and had adopted a new team to head the political affairs of Rodrigues. This new regional government that I am about to head follows the one which was formed on the 4th of August, 2006 following a change of majority in the House. During four months, we have done a good job and this good job has been recognized by the people. I wish to re-assure one and all that all Commissioners will work in the best interest of all Rodriguans. This is why the same approach in terms of commitment and education will prevail among all members of my Executive Council. With your permission Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will outline them in brief. First of all the ruling party, the Mouvement Rodriguais in this House is guided by the Economic Independence approach. We want more productivity, more creativity and enhanced sustainable growth in Rodrigues now and for the future. My Executive Council will be guided by this approach of economic independence. We want to foster investment in Rodrigues, boost-up export, make our tourism industry a real class one and create a thriving and dynamic island economy. Tourism, fishing and agriculture will constitute the first three pillars that will give Rodrigues its economic take off.

Monsieur le Président, nous sommes conscients de la lourde responsabilité placée en nous et nous comptons tout faire pour faire valoir la confiance placée par le peuple de Rodrigues en nous. Je fais ici un appel pour plus d'esprit d'ouverture et de tolérance les uns envers les autres. Il nous faut comprendre qu'à l'heure de la mondialisation, il nous faut des arguments solides pour pouvoir « *dibout lors nu lipieds* » et survivre à long terme. Le peuple de Rodrigues a exprimé son choix légitime et nous a choisis. Il convient que cela soit respecté et d'éviter toute tentative d'usurpation de la volonté du peuple. C'est pour cela que je fais un appel à l'opposition à faire de l'opposition constructive et responsable.

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais remercier chaleureusement tous les architectes, ces hommes et ces femmes qui ont travaillé depuis plusieurs décennies pour cette victoire historique du Mouvement Rodriguais. En particulier, je voudrais saluer les hommes et les femmes qui ont formé l'équipe du MR, qui a remporté cette victoire. Certains ont gagné et d'autres malheureusement ont perdu mais c'est l'esprit d'équipe et le bon sens qui a été le ciment de ce changement politique.

Je suis heureux que le peuple de Rodrigues ait pu s'extirper de l'immobilisme économique et politique. Je salue mon Leader, Nicolas Vonmally pour sa détermination dans notre lutte pour le changement. Il y a aussi ceux qui sont restés dans l'ombre et qui nous ont aidé à réussir. J'ai une pensée spéciale pour les électeurs de ma circonscription, la région de Port Mathurin qui ont permis à moi-même et mon colistier, Louis Ange Perrine, d'être élus dans cette circonscription. J'ai aussi une pensée spéciale pour un homme spécial, nous avons été le 4 août dernier inspirés par ce que j'avais appelé l'homme du sud. Depuis, les choses ont changé, il y a eu un autre homme que j'appellerai l'homme du pays de l'empire du milieu qui nous a aidé psychologiquement et tant d'autres encore qui saura se reconnaître. Merci au peuple de Rodrigues. Vive le changement. Vive l'indépendance économique. Vive l'île Rodrigues. Vive la République de Maurice. Merci.

(Applause)

The Deputy Chief Commissioner made and subscribed the oath of office prescribed in the Third Schedule to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner (Mr. G. Jabeemissar):

His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Mauritius,
Sir Anerood Jugnauth, G.C.S.K, K.C.M.G, P.C, QC,
Lady Jugnauth,
Hon. Minister for Local Government,
Hon. James Burty David, Official representative of the Prime Minister,
Mr. Kailash Purryag, Speaker of the National Assembly,
Hon. Nando Bodha, Leader of the Opposition,
The Chief Commissioner, Mr. Johnson Roussety,
My Colleagues, Members of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly,
Honourable Members of the National Assembly,
Mr. Lord Bishop Alain Harel & Members of the Clergy, Head of other Religious Bodies,
The Island Chief Executive, Mr. J.C. Pierre Louis,
Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, today is indeed a memorable and a very special day as it marks the setting up of the second Regional Assembly since 2002 and also because the population has finally decided to give us the majority to rule over this Assembly.

History will recall how my party, the Movement Rodriguais took over the lead of the previous regional government due to the resignation of the OPR government. During that short term of office during which I was assigned the responsibility of Deputy Chief Commissioner, I was very proud and committed to serve my country.

I extend my sincere thanks to my Leader, Hon. Nicolas Vonmally to the President of the party Hon. Christian Leopold, to my friend and colleague, the Chief commissioner Johnson Roussety and to all my colleagues Members of the Regional Assembly for the great confidence placed in me, a lot in the discharge of my function as Deputy Chief Commissioner.

There is no doubt, my contribution to the good running of the previous regional government has certainly met the consideration of my party, that's why I have once more been assigned the portfolio of Deputy Chief Commissioner of course it's with great pride, joy and honour that I accept such responsibility.

I assure my party, my mandates, the whole population of Rodrigues of my sincerity and my willingness to serve my country before any personal considerations.

There are many great challenges awaiting us such as unemployment, economic and social development. Now that the electoral campaigns are over, there should be no more quarrels and rancor.

Our country needs everyone of us – elected Members or not. Let's work together “pou sauve nou pays”.

En politique, nous sommes des adversaires et non des ennemis. Il ne faut pas nous laisser guider par l'esprit de vengences même s'il est légitimes pour nous de chercher des revanches.

(Applause)

Mr L.S. CLAIR - MINORITY LEADER – APPOINTMENT

The President of the Republic of Mauritius: In pursuance of the provision of section 16(1) of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001, I am appointing **Mr. Louis Serge Clair**, Minority Leader of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Mr. Chairperson: I will invite the appointed Minority leader to come forward to receive his letter of appointment.

(Applause)

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH (OR AFFIRMATION) OF OFFICE TO COMMISSIONERS

The President of the Republic of Mauritius: In pursuance of the provision of section 34 (2) (c) of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 and acting on the advice of the Chief Commissioner, I am appointing **AGATHE Jean Christian, CLAIR Marie Thérèse, EMILIEN Joseph Allan Ladd, GRANDCOURT Aubret Franceau and PERRINE Louis Ange as Commissioners.**

Mr. Chairperson: I will invite **GRANDCOURT Franceau Aubret, AGATHE Jean Christian, EMILIEN Joseph Allan Ladd, PERRINE Louis Ange, CLAIR Marie Thérèse** to move forward in turn to receive their respective letter of appointment and to subscribe the oath of office.

(Applause)

The following Members made and subscribed the oath of office prescribed in the Third Schedule to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 and signed the Register.

Mr. Jean Christian Agathe
Mr. Franceau Aubret Grandcourt
Mr. Joseph Allan Ladd Emilien
Mr. Louis Ange Perrine
Mrs. Marie Therese Clair

The Minister of Local Government (Mr. James Burty David): On behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Navin Ramgoolam, and in my own name, I would like to salute the democratic exercise which has honoured the Island of Rodrigues. This is yet another evidence of citizenship and patriotism. Rodrigues, which forms an internal part of the Republic of Mauritius, has gone through an election in a responsible manner. This sense of wisdom needs to be underlined.

Now that the ballot box has already expressed the electoral wish of the Rodriguans, the time of campaigning and partisanship should leave room for togetherness and oneness of purpose.

Members of the Regional Assembly are here today as a result of a democratic process. I would like to congratulate all of you for having gone through that political litmus test. This swearing-in ceremony is a solemn moment. It also brings home to everyone that power is so intimately associated with a sense of duty and responsibility. It places as top priority on your agenda the welfare of the people. It is essential to keep the focus on this commitment. Do not hesitate to have bold dreams for the island. You are here to take the inhabitants from where they are to where they have never been. Go for gold in every one of your endeavour. Have your eyes fixed on the summit while you clear the way up. Your ability to reach the top will depend on your determination and conviction. This is the measure of true leadership. Your vision of progress must be bold enough to excite the minds of the Rodriguans and motivate them to action. You have the opportunity to elevate the lives of people who will look up to you to translate their hopes into tangible results. Take it as a challenge and act with courage and humanity.

We live in challenging times. The world is changing fast and new paradigms are needed. Not only do we need mindset in consonance with the exigencies of our times but the key words for improvement is **“good governance”**. Change opens up tremendous opportunities and I am sure that the Rodriguans, under your guidance, will fulfill their dreams and aspirations.

As I have underlined, Rodrigues is part and parcel of the Republic of Mauritius. We must together, with all the other islands which forms part of our nation, build a common future where hope and opportunities constitute driving forces.

Let me conclude by thanking all those who have made of the recent election a successful exercise. The Electoral Commission and its officers, the Police force, the population of Rodrigues at large – all of them need to be congratulated. We have lived and witnessed democracy in action.

Thank you.

(Applause)

The President of the Republic (Sir Anerood Jugnauth):

The Chairperson,
The Speaker of the National Assembly,
The Minister of Local Government,
The Leader of the Opposition,
The Chief Commissioner,
The Deputy Chief Commissioner,
Commissioners,
The Minority Leader,
Members of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly,
Heads of Religious Bodies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today is another memorable day in the history of Rodrigues and our Republic. Rodriguans have crossed yet another democratic milestone by electing through a system of free and fair elections their representatives to the Regional Assembly. Slowly and steadily Rodrigues is consolidating the foundation and reinforcing the democratic system put in place in the island by the Central Government, in response to expressed wishes.

Everything has a price, but democracy has a higher price. I was here on 4th of August this year for the swearing-in ceremony of members of a new Executive Council. As Guardian of the Constitution, I have been called upon again to preside over yet another swearing-in ceremony of a newly-elected Executive Council.

The way the elections have been held shows that Rodriguans are democratically mature and responsible persons. They are given the opportunity to choose the people who will administer the affairs of the island. I am happy to see that everything has been done according to law and the Constitution.

This decentralized system of management has proved over the last four years that Rodriguans have the capacity to manage their own affairs and I congratulate them for this. I hope they will continue on the same path as provided for in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001.

I feel deeply honoured to have the privilege of being associated with the Swearing-in Ceremony of the newly elected members of the Regional Assembly. To all members of the Regional Assembly, my hearty congratulations and I wish them a successful term of Office. The Republic of Mauritius recognizes the maturity of its citizens living in the island of Rodrigues and their exemplary conduct during the electoral campaign and election process, and the discipline with which the polls were taken and the results proclaimed. I wish to congratulate you for that.

I would like now to address myself to the newly-elected members of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. You have asked for and obtained a mandate of five years to manage the affairs of Rodrigues in a responsible, honest manner and to the best of your ability. You have obtained the trust of your Rodriguan brothers and sisters to identify their difficulties and to address them and to meet their aspirations. These should be your guiding principles while deciding on economic and social development policies of Rodrigues, which should fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the Rodriguans but also meet the expectations of the Central Government.

Rodriguans are known to be hard working people. I only wish that you take the right decision at the right time for the betterment and progress of Rodrigues Island as a whole and that you achieve further economic progress, particularly in the fields of fisheries, agriculture, handicrafts and tourism where you excel. But other new economic fields are not to be left out.

Before ending, I once again congratulate the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner, the Commissioners and all the newly elected members of this august Assembly and wish them a successful term of Office.

I avail myself of this opportunity to convey to you and your family and the Citizens of Rodrigues my very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2007.

May the blessings of the almighty be upon you.
Long Live the Republic of Mauritius.

Thank you for your attention.

Mr. Chairperson: I would like to express by warmest thanks to the President of the Republic and all the distinguished guests for their interest and presence here.

At 16.40 p.m, the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned.