

No. 10 of 2006

RODRIGUES

FIRST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 10 of 2006

Sitting of Friday 28 July, 2006

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Port Mathurin at 14.00 hrs.

(Mr. Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY 28 JULY, 2006

CONTENTS

ADJOURNMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

(The Executive Council resigned on the 28th July, 2006)

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

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

Announcements

Chairperson: Members of the Regional Assembly I have one announcement to make.

First, I have received letters from Mr. Louis Serge Clair, GCSK, Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne; Mr. Jean Daniel Spéville, First Local Region Member (Region No. 3) for St. Gabriel/Port Sud Est; Mrs. Arlette Perrine-Bégué, Second Local Region Member for Saint Gabriel/Port Sud Est, Mr. André Lélío Roussety, First Local Region Member (Region No. 5), Port Mathurin/Grand Baie; Mr. Soopramanien Sooprayen, Second Local Region member (Region No. 5), Port Mathurin/Grand Baie; Mr. Nicolson Lisette, Second Local Region Member (Region No. 4), Baie aux Huitres/Petit Gabriel; Mr. Louis Philippe François, First Local Region Member (Region No. 4), Baie aux Huitres/Petit Gabriel. Mr. Jacques Pierre Louis, Fourth Island Region Member.

The President of the Republic of Mauritius will be consequently informed of these vacancies. Consequently, the motion which appears on the Order Paper for to-day for this Special Meeting, in my opinion, no longer stands.

(Applause)

Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, now that the substance of the motion of no confidence has lapsed, given that the Chief Commissioner and his team have resigned not only as Chief Commissioner and Commissioners but also as members of the Assembly. Ma première réaction, Monsieur le Président, si vous me permettez de commenter cette action. C'est une absence de fair play,

une absence de volonté d'assumer l'opposition à Rodrigues, à l'assemblée ; c'est une absence totale de maturité politique, c'est la crainte de se retrouver dans l'opposition ce qui fait qu'en trois, six mois, toute une année, on se retrouve sans opposition. Monsieur le Président, je ne sais pas qu'est que le Président de la République, le gouvernement de Maurice vont conseiller. Mais il reste une année très longue où beaucoup de choses peuvent se faire. Selon moi, il y a deux options qui se présentent. La première est que le Président de la République dissout l'Assemblée Régionale avec nous même ici comme Caretaker Government et la deuxième c'est que nous sommes un Caretaker Government et les élections partielles soient organisées. Il reste une année, la décision ne nous revient pas. Je pense que nous serons consultés et nous aviserons après consultation. Si vous le permettez, je voudrais expliquer brièvement quels étaient les motifs derrière cette motion.

Chairperson: Well, you would agree with me that the motion does not stand. I will allow you, of course, to make a brief outline, not an exhaustive speech.

Minority Leader: We have spent so much time to prepare this, we are politicians and so I would like to welcome Mr. Robertson Mercure on this side of the House. I would like to congratulate him for his courage and his motivation. I would like also to congratulate Miss Lindsay Castel who has not yet arrived, she is on her way and I think she has much courage, much more than all of us here because very much pressure has been exerted on her during these past hours. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is terrible, despite the fact that she had signed a letter informing the Chair that she had left her party, she has had much pressure on her. So, I welcome these two members on this side of the House.

There has much criticism also on Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we will examine later the option of putting a motion – a privileged complaint. This Assembly has been

qualified, this sitting of the Assembly has been qualified by the former Chief Commissioner as a masquerade. This is against parliamentary practice; motions of no confidence have been passed in many countries of the world. And when a majority loses its majority, it is the role of the majority leader to resign and to allow for the formation of a new government. I strongly criticize the position of the ex-Chief Commissioner regarding his clinging to power, embarrassing the Prime Minister and His Excellency the President of the Republic. Typically, when there is a motion of no confidence which is sure to pass, the government must either resign or expect a parliamentary dissolution and request general election. So, this is why I would like also to congratulate the Honourable Prime Minister who has adopted a very positive attitude and has decided that the Assembly is not to be dissolved being given that there is one year and there is full capacity for the formation of a new majority, with a new Chief Commissioner and with new Commissioners. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like on behalf of the people of Rodrigues to congratulate the Prime Minister as well as His Excellency the President of the Republic who have made the right decision in this affair. Of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, one last thing:- allow me to cite some examples because very many criticisms have been made about the fact that we have a majority and we are going to vote this motion. In Australia the Prime Ministers defeated on votes of no confidence were James Collin (1931), Arthur Meyen (1926) John George Diefenbaker (1963) Joe Clark (1975), Port Martin (2005). All these persons. In France George Pompidou (1962). In Germany Helmut Smidt (1982). In India Attal Behari Vajpai (1996) Israel Issack Samir (1990). In Italy Sawfani (1995) R. Photosi (1998). In Japan more than six Prime Ministers have resigned. In New Zealand, Thomas Mackenzie (1912). In Ukraine Victor Yanohovitch (2004). In the United Kingdom, the first motion of no-confidence in history Lord North (1782), James Callaghan (1979) and we have examples even in popular culture; we have Philip Phillip Viron (32 BBY) in Star Wars, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. So, this is something which is very acceptable. What

do you expect us to do as politicians when we have a majority? We keep our majority and we allow the government to continue? And have you seen the situation in the country. We have a very odd situation, a very serious political, social and economic situation. We have a very big problem. So, we are prepared, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is the provision of the law, we are prepared to assume the Executive Council pending the organization of new elections for the whole Regional Assembly or by-elections. So, I will end here. I would like to thank all the people who have contributed to the formation of this new majority. I would like especially to thank my Leader, Honourable Nicolas Vonmally, the President of the Party, Honourable Christian Leopold and I will call him the man from the south, Mr. Chairperson Sir, and his friends, Mr. Willy Auguste, Manager of Mourouk Ebony Hotel. I would also extend thanks to all my fellow members on this side of the House and to the two members who have gladly accepted to support us. I think this may be the last sitting of the First Rodrigues Regional Assembly, if ever there are no by-elections. This may be the last sitting. So, I would like also, if ever we do not have time to meet to extend my thanks to you, I know we have had very hard times. I have been sent away many times from the Assembly and I have been told "*que j'ai grandi*". I would like to thank my friend, Mr. Vithilingem for his advice very often and his courage to continue to work for the Regional Assembly and all personnel of the Assembly, the police, the Head of the Police in Rodrigues and the Serjeant-at-Arms. I do not know if we will meet. If we do not, I wish you all good luck.

(Applause)

Chairperson: Yes, next item.

Clerk: No other item.

Chairperson: All items being exhausted, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that his House has by resolution been adjourned to Tuesday 1st August, 2006 at 10.30 a.m. The House stands adjourned.

On its rising at 2.55 p.m, the Assembly stood adjourned to Tuesday 1st August, 2006 at 10.30 hours.