

QUESTIONS - ORAL

B/118 The Third Island Region Member (Mr Guillaume) asked the Commissioner responsible for Education whether, as regards admission of students in Rodrigues College, he would obtain information on the following:

- (a) what is at present the CPE ranking required for admission in Form I;
- (b) how many girls and how many boys were admitted in Form I in Rodrigues College yearwise from 1990 to 1997;
- (c) how many girls were admitted in Form I in 1997, 1998 and 1999; and
- (d) what are the names and ranking at CPE Examination of girls admitted in form I in the year 1998?

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

Since 2001, ranking has been abolished and admission in Form I is not at present done on the basis of CPE ranking. As regards Rodrigues College, admission to Form I is based on the best aggregates, parents' choices, the college's reserved list for teaching and non-teaching staff and other medical or social cases.

For part (b), the number of girls and boys who were admitted in Form I at Rodrigues College yearwise as from 1990 to 1997 is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
1990	70	67
1991	78	79
1992	60	61
1993	61	61
1994	52	49
1995	57	59
1996	64	59
1997	58	58

For part (c), the number of girls who were admitted in Form I in 1997, 1998 and 1999 is as follows:

1997	58 girls;
1998	66 girls;
1999	55 girls.

Mr Guillaume: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner for Education say if he could offer any explanation why there were more girls admitted in 1998 as compared to 1997 and 1999?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, specifically in 1998 the intake for girls covered the ranks up to 69 and the last six included, Miss Clair, Agathe, Boodoo, Gaspard, Raffin and Prudence.

Mrs Prosper: Mr Chairperson, Sir, could the Commissioner inform the House what was the rank of Miss Clair?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, Miss Clair was ranked 68.

Mr Guillaume: Mr Chairperson, Sir, could the Commissioner say what was the last rank admitted for girls in Rodrigues College in 1998?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the last rank was 69.

Mrs Prosper: Mr Chairperson, Sir, would the Commissioner agree with me that exceptionally the intake of girls in 1998 was up to 69 just to accommodate the daughter of the ex-Chief Commissioner?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I don't have this information handy. But I am very much tempted to come to the same conclusion because, with your permission, I have the admission list of 1998 which I table for your information, please. **(Appendix A)**

Chairperson: Yes, no more supplementaries, can we move on to the next question?

The third Island Region Member.

Mr Guillaume: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I move to withdraw question B/119.

Mr Chairperson: Yes, application granted. Yes, the next question.

B/120 The Third Island Region Member (M Guillaume) asked the Chief Commissioner if he would state whether there has been any co-operation or collaboration between the Regional Assembly and the Trust Fund for vulnerable groups and, if yes,

- (a) what has been the nature of the collaboration; and
- (b) would he enquire whether there has been any bulk procurement of materials on behalf of the Trust Fund, involving the Regional Assembly, over the last two years, if yes, for what amount, and from which suppliers?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, as you are aware, the Trust Fund for the Social Integration of Vulnerable Groups operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. However, I am informed that the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is providing the following to the Trust Fund in Rodrigues:-

- (a) payment of rent for the office at Cliderlex Building since October 2001;
- (b) the services of an office Attendant; and
- (c) assistance for the operation of the bank account of the Fund.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (b) of the question, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is in no way involved in any procurement of materials by the Trust Fund for the Social Integration of Vulnerable Groups.

Mr Chairperson: Yes, can we move on? No supplementary? Can we move on to the next question?

B/121 The Third Island Region Member (Mr Guillaume) asked the Commissioner responsible for Fisheries whether, as regards shrimp net fishing in Rodrigues, he would state

- (a) whether there have been any applications for shrimp net fishing and, if so, how many;
- (b) how many have been granted up to now, if any;
- (c) whether there are any applications which have not yet been considered and, if so, why; and
- (d) whether the remaining applications will be considered?

Commissioner Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, 19 applications have been received for shrimp net licence.

As regards part (b) of the question, please note that 11 owners of shrimp net licences were operating up to now.

Part (c); no application has been considered since 2001 because the position was supposedly a shortage of staff. But since my coming into office, there has been a reorganization of the Fisheries Division and consideration is being given to the applications, provided that the applicants are registered professional fishermen and they possess a boat.

Part (d); according to the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act of 1998, Section 32, only 15 shrimps net licences can be issued in the lagoon of the island of Rodrigues. My Commission is encouraging these applicants to group themselves in co-operatives for the benefit of the maximum number of fishermen. I am tabling a list of all the applicants up to now. **(Appendix B)**

Mr Guillaume: Mr Chairperson, Sir, could the Commissioner for Fisheries say whether he intends to provide training to encourage off-lagoon fishing?

Commissioner Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, since we are contemplating to develop the fisheries sector in Rodrigues, the time will come when we will have to assess the resources, i.e the shrimp outside the lagoon and, the time will come when we are going to train fishermen.

Mr Chairperson: Yes, next question, the sixth Island Region Member.

B/122 The Sixth Island Region Member (Mrs Prosper) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources whether, as regards the distribution of water, he would state

- (a) whether all the villages in Rodrigues are connected to the domestic water supply network and, if not, what actions are being taken to ensure continuous supply of water to those villages; and
- (b) whether there are private lorry tankers which give services to the public, and, if so, where do they collect the water and what are the criteria required for them to obtain authorisation to collect water?

Commissioner Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, may I point out to the House that water is life and without water, life would not exist.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, *étant un politicien sur le terrain*, I used to come across villagers of Rodrigues who receive water weekly, fortnightly, monthly and some receive it from water tankers. The first mission I undertook as Commissioner responsible for water resources was to command a survey on families who have a domestic water prise and those who do not. Mr Chairperson, Sir, I must say that the survey is not yet completed. In line with the philosophy of this Regional Government too provide water to all Rodriguans, a decision was taken to give priority to connect Bangelique and Baie du Nord to the distribution network. I must quote out to this House, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that initially, we organized meetings with people in the small villages at the rear of Plaine Corail Airport. I must point out that, for more than 25 years, 300 months, the inhabitants of this locality have not received a single droplet of water coming from the domestic waterpipe. In the first month in office, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the first month, the new Regional Government has been able to give this family water, *même p'tit Grenade ine disparaître*. Some people are *au bord des larmes*. This is a caring government Mr Chairperson, Sir, we can say that “*actions plus qui paroles*”.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, for Bangelique, I am pleased to inform the House that the water distribution network is now established. I still don't understand, Mr Chairperson, Sir, why such action was not initiated for more than 25 years. Today, during the sitting of the Regional Assembly, a team of workers are now working at Baie du Nord. The Water Resources Division has set up a cluster of plumbers and pipe fitters, gangman, Chief Tradesman and General Workers to carry out the necessary works. A team of 15 employees is on site since yesterday. A length of 3.5 kms of HDPE pipe ranging from 36 to 90 mm will be laid as from Manick at Plateau Roche via fibre glass tanks installed uphill at Baie du Nord to the village in the valley at the bottom.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have also organised meetings with the people of Baie du Nord, Mr Chairperson, Sir. One villager said that he had been living in Baie du Nord for more than 65 years and he has never received a single droplet of water.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b), there are 7 private lorry tractors with tankers which have received authorization to collect water as follows:

For Mangues for construction purposes only, Le Chou and Mourouk for domestic purposes. I am to inform the House that for the last two weeks, no private vehicle is allowed to collect water at Le Chou borehole except government vehicles, as there is a decrease of the water level in the borehole. Mr Chairperson, Sir, in order to be authorised to collect water for distribution, a private tractor or lorry owner has to follow these steps and satisfy the following criteria:

- (a) an application should be made at the office of the Water Resources at Malabar;
- (b) a permit is issued to the applicant against his signature; and
- (c) the approval of the Senior Inspector of the unit.

Two copies of the aforesaid permit or authorisation are delivered to the applicant, who will retain the original and the duplicate handed over to a filter man or reservoir keeper or pump operator posted on site for such purposes. A very clear label data is stamped on both permits, which authorise the tenderer to collect water as authorised on the permit.

Mr Chairperson: Can we move on to the next question, please?

B/123 The Sixth Island Region Member (Mrs Prosper) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure whether, in relation to Anse Raffin Dam, he would state

- (a) whether there has been any involvement of Gibbs (Mauritius) Ltd and, if yes, as from what stage, what has been its total involvement until the completion of the construction of the dam, and what was the total sum paid to them;
- (b) what were the sums paid to each of the contractors involved in the construction of the dam;
- (c) whether there has been any enquiry, being given that, as stated in the Director of Audit Report of 2003, the cost of the overall project had increased by 78% and, if yes, what kind of enquiry and by whom and what has been the outcome of such enquiry; and
- (d) whether there has been any staff of the Regional Assembly involved in the enquiry?

Commissioner Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, with your permission, I'd like to answer the question.

Mr Chairperson: Yes you can proceed.

Commissioner Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to make a brief recapitulation of this project. A safety analysis study was commissioned in 2000 on Anse Raffin Dam. Subsequently, needful has been done by the Ministry of Local Government in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Infrastructure to initiate action for the construction of a new dam at Anse Raffin. Mr Chairperson, Sir, tenders were launched and the Consultant Gibbs (Mauritius) was appointed to evaluate the bids and to supervise the construction of the new dam at Anse Raffin. The total sum paid to Gibb (Mauritius) Ltd is Rs 5,919,287.32 i.e 4.38% of the final contract value. I am to state that following a parliamentary question at the National Assembly on 15 November, 2005, the Honourable Mr Kasenally, Minister for Public Utilities stated "*Mr Speaker, Sir, as one can see, this*

work was a work which was badly done and shows gross incompetence of the appropriate Consultant”.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (b), the amount paid to joint venture Allied Builders/AJ Maurel Construction Ltée is Rs 125,309,876.63. However, the final contract value was Rs 134,915,895 i.e an amount of RS 9,606,018.37 is still unpaid. Mr Chairperson, Sir, according to the Annual Audit Report 2004-2005, it was clearly mentioned that the contract value was revised three times viz March 2003, July 2003 and February 2004. It is to be noted that the said report mentioned that in April 2005, the Consultant Gibb (Mauritius) Ltd reported that water was leaking from the Dam.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (c), I have been informed by the Chief Commissioner of Police (Crime Section) that there is an enquiry which is being conducted by the Central CID since 3 November 2005. The enquiry was initiated following a letter of complaint wherein critical observations were made regarding the scope of work and the funding of the construction of the Anse Raffin Dam. There has been allegations of malpractice and misuse of public funds. There have also been allegations of conspiracy to defraud public revenue. The enquiry is being conducted with a view to establishing whether there has been any breach of the criminal law and to examine the justification for the increase in the cost of the project. Explanations of the various stakeholders have been recorded and the enquiry has reached an advanced stage. A request has also been made to the Government for a counterexpertise of the work and to evaluate the cost of the project. The enquiry is still under way.

In regard to part (d), the Central CID has informed that the enquiry has not revealed any criminal involvement of any staff of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly so far. However, Mr Jacques Davis Hoo Hee Tong Vee Hong Whye, the then Departmental Head at the Commission for Public Infrastructure, Rodrigues, who has handled the project, has been questioned and his explanations recorded regarding the procedures adopted and reasons for the recommendation of the increase in the cost price of the project. So far, nobody has been arrested.

Mrs Prosper: Monsieur le Président, est-ce que le Commissaire peut informer s’il y avait une collusion entre les Consultants et le contracteur?

Commissioner Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, up to now, I have no information in hand to state whether there has been collusion. But as far as I know, the Consultants i.e Gibbs (Mauritius) and the AJ Maurel firm used to rent the same house in Rivière Cocos. I myself, see it as – it may be that there has been collusion between the two parties.

Mrs Prosper: Mr Chairperson, Sir, could the Commissioner inform the House what was the initial scope of work and state whether there has been any modification?

Commissioner Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, there is no document to prove that there has been any change in the scope of work; but I have here the tender document

which I'll read regarding the scope of works. First, the works consist of the construction of a new concrete based rockfilled dam upstream of the existing rockfilled dam at Anse Raffin, a water treatment plant with a design production capacity of 1,500 m3 per day as per WHO standards for drinking water, an access road (tarred road) from the coastal road to Anse Raffin Dam and laying of a pipeline of suitable diameter to be specified by the engineer through the spillway up to existing 150 mm Collectrice du Sud pipeline. The proposed treatment plant shall be located near Rivière Cocos existing service reservoir and shall be designed to treat raw water from Cascade Victoire Dam and borehole Mourouk ductwell and Anse Raffin Dam. Water from Anse Raffin Dam will be conveyed to Rivière Cocos Reservoir through the existing 150 mm diameter pipeline known as the Collectrice du Sud which also carries raw water from Cascade Victoire Dam and borehole Mourouk ductwell along its length to Rivière Cocos Service Reservoir. The works are listed below:-

- construction of a coffer dam and diversion channel dismantling the existing rockfilled dam;
- construction of non-overflow concrete-based rockfilled dam partly using the rockfill material from existing dam;
- construction of concrete spillway, cascade type boulder pitch still channeled with wirenetted gabion layed walls;
- laying of pipeline for the spillway up to the Collectrice du Sud pipeline;
- removal of coffer dam and reinstatement of river course to the original;
- construction of water treatment plant as per WHO statement for treating water; and
- construction of access road i.e tarred road from coastal road to Anse Raffin.

And as from here, Mr Chairperson, Sir, from the scope of work, I can see that there are many discrepancies as regards e.g the construction of access road, the tarred road from the coastal road to Anse Raffin dam and also the treatment plant which "shall be located" at Rivière Cocos. But now, it is situated at Anse Raffin on the football playground.

Chairperson: Yes, can we move to the next question, please?

B/124 The Sixth Island Region Member (Mrs Prosper) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture whether, with regard to the applications for lease of agricultural land, he would state

- (a) how many applications have been received by his Commission since October, 2002;
- (b) how many leases had been granted up to July 2006; and
- (c) whether outstanding applications will be considered and when?

Mr Chairperson: Commissioner for Agriculture?

Commissioner Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am to inform the House that the Commissioner for Agriculture does not grant any lease, but we work in collaboration with the Commission for state land granting leases. The following *modus operandi* has been established. After the application for state land for agricultural purposes is received, the necessary steps are taken by my Commission to issue an agricultural permit. Subject to being favourably reported upon and approval by the Chief Commissioner's office, there is issued for agricultural purposes. Mr Chairperson, Sir, since October 2002 the Commission for Agriculture has received 1370 applications for agricultural permits. I am also informed that between 2002 and 2006, the land office under the Chief Commissioner's office has recorded some 4284 requests for state land leases for agricultural purposes. This has been compiled into a book which I now table.

Regarding part (b), Mr Chairperson, Sir, from 2002 to 2006 the Commissioner for Agriculture has issued 275 agricultural permits. Mr Chairperson, Sir, my action speaks for itself. I am to inform to the House of the following: up to 31 July, 2006, there has been some 30 extra applications for state land lease for agricultural purposes. During this short period of time that the Commission for Agriculture is under my responsibility, officers of the agricultural services have drawn a list of 150 applicants which have already been considered and have received necessary clearance from the Environment Unit and very soon be forwarded to the Chief Commissioner's office for approval prior to issue of agricultural lease.

(Applause)

As regards part (c), outstanding applications for leases for the last 2 years as well as new ones are presently being considered and I have given instructions to treat these within the shortest time possible. Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to put this on record; that for the year 2005, the former Commissioner for Agriculture has not delivered a single agricultural permit or state land lease for agricultural purposes. This explains why the agricultural sector was in such a bad state and people felt discouraged. I have now taken the necessary steps to revitalise this sector and I am sure that in years to come, Rodrigues will, again, be known as the "*grenier de l'île Maurice*".

Mr Chairperson: Yes, no supplementary? Next item.

STATEMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

The Deputy Chief Commissioner (Mr G. Jabeemissar)

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have the following statement to make in order to clear out certain ambiguities that could have resulted from my answer to Question B/177 during the last sitting of 19 September, 2006.

Mr Chairperson: Did you say B/177?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I am sorry. It is B/117.

First, I have to confirm that Mr Lelio Roussety was the Manager of REDCO when it was brought to the attention of the company that a member of the National Assembly, Mr Jean Alex Nancy, had been falsely and continuously representing himself as holder of a “*licence de biochimie*” from the university of Henri Poincaré of Nancy, in France.

Secondly, I have to inform this House that my attention was drawn by members of this House to the fact that I stated that Mr Jean Alex Nancy is holder of a provisional certificate. I do not recollect the totality of what was said. But it is apposite for me to quote the content of the letter obtained from the university of Nancy. I quote “*en réponse à votre demande du 30 août 2000, j’ai l’honneur de vous informer que Monsieur Nancy Jean Alex a été déclaré ajourné aux différentes sessions d’examen de science en 1991 et 1992 et, par conséquent, n’a pas obtenu de licence de biochimie dans notre établissement*”.

Il est donc clair, M. le Président, que le certificat provisoire, produit par M. Nancy est un faux. De plus, M. le président, M. Nancy a produit un certificat provisoire qui est faux et qui ne constitue pas un diplôme. On se demande pourquoi l’honorable Nancy n’a jamais produit son diplôme en bonne et dûe forme à son employeur. M. le Président, ce cas constitue un cas clair de faux et d’usage de faux. Je dépose une copie de la lettre émanant de son université.

Subséquentement, on n’arrive pas à comprendre la position du Board de REDCO en n’allant pas de l’avant, c’est-à-dire ce n’est pas les représentants d’aujourd’hui; mais je crois qu’à l’époque, il y avait d’autres. Ils doivent comprendre qu’en acceptant ce certificat, ils sont les premiers à s’être impliqués.

Ce n’est pas tout, M. le Président, il est dit que M. Jean Alex Nancy a été reçu pour un Postgraduate Certificate. Or, pour pouvoir suivre un Postgraduate Certificate, on doit absolument être en possession d’une licence. S’il s’avère qu’une institution l’a reçu pour une licence en postgraduate, cela démontre qu’il avait fait une fausse représentation

devant cette institution et qu'il continue à le faire. Dans le droit criminel on appelle cela un *continuous offence*, M. le Président et c'est très grave.

At the sitting of the National Assembly on 10 April, 2001, Mr Obeegadoo, a member of the MMM party stated, I quote "*I shall now personally look into the relevant procedure and take all appropriate measures*". Mr Chairperson, Sir, we are not aware of the final decision of the PSSA but we will enquire on their position, particularly whether they will claim the excess payment of salaries. We shall also enquire from the Board of REDCO why, despite being on vacation, therefore, still under employment and pay, Mr Jean Alex Nancy has not been officially requested to give his explanations. Mr Chairperson, Sir, nothing was done by the previous Government. But this side of the House strongly believes that such a case should not be covered up but on the other hand, a strong signal should be given to the whole population in order to restore the credibility of the educational sector in Rodrigues. My Commission intends to instruct the present Board of REDCO to submit this affair to the DPP for further action as may be required.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir, for your attention.

Commissioner for Youth & Sports, Arts & Culture, etc (Mr R. Mercure)

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since the accession of Rodrigues to the status of autonomy in October 2002, my Commission has been organizing various activities, be it, social, cultural, artistic or sports, to commemorate this historical event. In this context, my Commission has decided to commemorate the Rodrigues Day 2006 in three phases as follows:

- (i) laying of wreaths at the '*Monument de l'Autonomie*' at Malabar on Thursday 12 October 2006 at 10.00 hours;
- (ii) organisation of a '*Soirée de Recompenses*' at the Passenger Terminal, Port Mathurin on Thursday 12 October 2006 at 18.00 hours; and
- (iii) official ceremony of the Rodrigues Day at Camp du Roi Stadium on Sunday 15 October 2006 at 13.00 hours.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in an attempt to make the organization of various activities in the context of celebration of the 4th Anniversary of the accession of Rodrigues to the status of autonomy, an Organizing Committee has been set up under my chairmanship and it consists of representatives of all the Commissions of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly as well as the Police Department. So far, I have already chaired four meetings and proposed activities are under way.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am now going to briefly enumerate the above activities:-

(i) **Laying of wreaths at the ‘Monument de l’Autonomie’ at Malabar**

The Chief Commissioner and I as well as my colleagues Commissioners, will proceed to the laying of wreaths at the “*Monument de l’Autonomie*” at Malabar on Thursday 12 October 2006 at 10.00 hours. The Organising Committee, in line with the policy of the new Regional Government to practise *une politique de proximité*, has decided that a child of one ZEP School in Rodrigues, a young person, one disabled country fellow and Mrs. Olivia BEGUE, the centenarian as well, will participate in the laying of wreaths ceremony on the occasion.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on that particular occasion, the pupils of Ste Therese de l’Enfant Jésus RCA School will have the opportunity to read a poem entitled “*L’Emphase*” and to sing the song ‘*Se Pou Sa*’. A mini-cultural show is also on the programme and the group *Rayon Soleil* has been identified to perform the traditional dance. This group will comprise both young and elderly people.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in an attempt to bring all generations on board, the traditional dance will be performed by both youngsters and elderly people, symbolising unity among the rodriguan population. Other activities are also on the agenda; particularly consideration has also been given to the release of balloons, subject to the Officer in charge of the Meteorological Services making timely arrangements for the provision of hydrogen.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, arrangements have subsequently been made for the Chief Commissioner and myself to deliver speeches. Refreshments will, as well, be served to guests and participants.

(ii) **Soirée de Recompenses’**

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is no gainsaying the fact that the ‘*Soirée de Récompenses*’ has become an annual feature in the context of the activities organized for Rodrigues Day. On that occasion, the ‘*Medaille de la Reconnaissance Rodriguaise*’ will be awarded to deserving public officers as well as the title ‘Honorary Freeman’ conferred upon the rodriguan citizens who have successfully contributed towards the upliftment of the rodriguan society, be it socially, culturally, economically or politically.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the agenda for the ‘*soirée de Recompenses*’ will comprise a socio- cultural programme and, the participation of various artists, inclusive of the Police Band, have been enlisted for the occasion. The groups identified are Angel Heart, *Etoile Rouge*, children for the song ‘*Se Pou Sa*’, group of accordeonists and a song by a choir of 8 artists.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to state that the '*Soirée de Recompenses*' will end up with a cocktail scheduled from 20.00 hours to 21.30 hours and some 300 persons will be invited. My Commission to this effect has made all appropriate arrangements in terms of logistic, security, and catering facilities to make of this '*Soirée de Recompenses*' a memorable event.

(iii) Official ceremony at Camp du Roi Stadium

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the main event for the celebration of Rodrigues Day 2006 will be held at Camp du Roi Stadium at 13.00 hours. On this auspicious occasion, considerations have been given to have a high calibre guest of honour and discussions are already on with the authority concerned. The programme will, therefore, consist of the official ceremony to be performed in the presence of Guest of honour, Police Band, speeches by the Chief Guest, Chief Commissioner and myself, followed by cultural and sports activities. The programme is expected to end up with a prize giving ceremony for the football match at about 17.30 hours.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as usual the young kids, the pupils and the students have not been forgotten. The message of the Chief Commissioner will be read in all primary and secondary schools. Refreshments and cakes will be made available to pupils of preprimary, primary and secondary schools.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in a spirit of solidarity, unity and sense of belonging to the autonomous Rodrigues, the Organising Committee has proudly proposed that both the National and Rodrigues Regional Assembly flags be hoisted on all the public buildings in the context of the Rodrigues Day 2006.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, an estimate of Rs 1m has been earmarked in the 2006/2007 budget for the organisation of the activities for Rodrigues Day 2006. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let us hope that the 4th anniversary of the accession of Rodrigues to the status of autonomy will be a milestone in the history of our Island and I sincerely believe that the newly sworn Regional Government will not spare any efforts to ensure the sustainable development of our beloved Island, and in the interest of the population at large.

Thank you for your attention.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Chairperson: Yes, no more statements? All items exhausted.

The Clerk: No motions.

Mr Chairperson: Yes, please wait, Clerk. Yes?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I move that the House be adjourned to Tuesday 17 October, 2006 at 10.30 a.m.

(The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded)

Mr Chairperson: Question; that this Assembly be adjourned to Tuesday 17 October, 2006 at 10.30 a.m. Those in favour say “aye”, those against say “no”. The “ayes” have it. No statement on adjournment, no? The House stands adjourned.

(On its rising at 11.15 a.m., the House stood adjourned to Tuesday 17 October, 2006 at 10.30 a.m.)