

QUESTIONS – ORAL

FAILURE TO ATTEND OFFICE BY COMMISSIONERS

(No. B/31) Mr. Agathe (*The Second Local Region Member Marechal*) asked the Chief Commissioner whether any Commissioner failed to attend his/her office on the 12th April, 2006 or any subsequent date, and if yes, whether he was aware of the reasons therefore?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, provided that the Chief Commissioner is discharging his duties with accordance to the law, whether she or he has attended his office, on which date and time and what are included in his time schedule cannot be question in this House.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the question is here. It is on the Order Paper. He should reply to the question.

Mr. Chairperson: How can want me to force the Chief Commissioner to answer question? I cannot have any control on their answers.

Mrs. Clair: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order. I think that the Chief Commissioner...

Mr. Chairperson: A point of order?

Mrs. Clair: Yes, what he has just said is contrary to parliamentary practice. He says it cannot be questioned in this House.

Mr. Chairperson: Minority Leader, I cannot follow what your member is talking.

Mrs. Clair: But the question has appeared on the Order Paper. So, if it could not be question in this House, it should not be on the Order Paper, according to me, if I am right. He has said he refused to answer the question; he is challenging your authority, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. If you have accepted the question here, this means it can be question in the House, so he should say he would not answer but not question your authority Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: There is a point of order, if you want me to respond to it. I cannot find anything faulty with this question as regards its admissibility

on the Order Paper, the more so that I cannot anticipate the contents of the answers if any, coming from the Commissioners. This being said, the Chief Commissioner has answered. He makes it very simple and unambiguous that the matter as the question as he sees it and the answer relevant to it will fall outside the ambit of the House. Well, this is his answer.

The Minority Leader: Is the Chief Commissioner aware, Mr. Chairperson, Sir...

Mr. Chairperson: You are taking the floor in which point?

The Minority Leader: I am asking a supplementary question.

Mr. Chairperson: Of course proceed.

The Minority Leader: I think it's useless to fight upon a point of order, it is clear that he don't want to answer. Let's go on another side of this matter. Is he aware that some of his Commissioners around the date following the 12th April 2006 around this date, some of his Commissioner's did not at all went to their offices?

The Chief Commissioner: I have already answered to the question, even to the supplementary question by saying that a Commissioner is discharging his duties in accordance with the law, whether he or she has attended his office on which date and time, what is included in his or her time table cannot be questioned in this House. This means that the question of the deliberations meetings of the Executive Council has no link to what is being questioned here. We know that the Regional Assembly has got its all powers and the Executive Council have got its own powers. Deliberations of the Executive Council must not be questioned here in the Regional Assembly.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we should not jump from one thing to another. My question is attendance of members of this Regional Government at their individual offices. We are aware that Commissioners did not attend...

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait no need to shout. You wish to frighten me?

The Minority Leader: It is my right of expression. I did not think you would be frightened. I am just speaking for the people of Rodrigues and this shouting come on behalf of people of Rodrigues.

(Applause)

My question is “is he aware, as Chief Commissioner, that these big offices, luxurious offices which have been put at the disposal of Commissioners, that some of these Commissioners did not attend their offices and he said that, according to law, they may not attend their offices. Is that a general concept? Does it mean that Commissioners, whenever they comply with their law, they may never if they wish attend their offices?

The Chief Commissioner: I have replied to the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what is happening here? We know that this Executive Council has flouted the basic rules of government Mr. Chairperson, Sir. And now, the Chief Commissioner is refusing to confront the opposition. He is refusing to give answers why Commissioners did not attend their offices. Just tell us, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, why these Commissioners did not attend their offices on the 12th and the days following the 12th because people from whose pockets money is disbursed – taxpayers’ money – to pay these people and they don’t attend their offices to meet their mandate, to meet people. And some of them did not attend official functions that they themselves organized Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Can we have explanations about this? This government is accountable to this House, to this opposition. So, please, speak Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The Chief Commissioner: I have already replied to the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, supplementary? Ok.

Mr. Jabeemissar: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner inform the House whether around the date of 12th April he had any disagreement with his Commissioners which caused them not to attend their work and office?

The Chief Commissioner: I have already replied to the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I put the question to the Chief Commissioner. Has this situation occurred in connection that the Chief Commissioner’s opinion that his Commissioners as “*indisciplinés*”?

The Chief Commissioner: It is a pertinent question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

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Mr. Chairperson: Yes, this will be a last supplementary.

Mrs. Clair: Mr. Chairperson, Sir..

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order please! I am hearing something that should not happen in this House! I am sorry.

Mrs. Clair: Can I ask the respected Chief Commissioner whether, according to him, the said Commissioners who did not attend their offices went on some kind of strike?

The Chief Commissioner: I have already replied to that question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, order, please. Yes, next question. Same Member.

STORE LOSSES - YEAR ENDED 3rd JUNE 2005

(No. B/32) Mr. AGATHE (*The Second Local Region Member for Marechal*) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to store losses for the year ended 30th June, 2005, he would

- (a) table per commission the list of items lost including their market value and the police stations where the losses were reported and by whom;
- (b) state whether any losses occurred as a matter of negligence of some officers, and, if not, the reasons therefore; and
- (c) state whether any action was taken against the officer/s concerned according to the Financial Management Manual and, if not, why?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the information asked for is being compiled and will be submitted for circulation.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, are we joking in this Assembly or are we working?

Mr. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner pretends that the information is being compiled. Here, we are talking about store losses. This means that there are many items – I would like to ask him, how come he has not come to this House with at least part of the answer, of the items which have been listed and table it in this House for further clarifications.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the question is whether, with regard to store losses for the year ended 30th June 2005. So, we must compile for the losses before that date.

Mr. Agathe: Sir, I have, what we call the Director of Audit Report. I can share the book with the Chief Commissioner. Here we have got the signature of the Chief Commissioner i.e Louis Serge Clair, G.C.S.K, Chief Commissioner. I can table it.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, you want to table it, is it a copy?

Mr. Agathe: Yes, it is a copy of a document which is in the library. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, here we have many Commissions; we have the Chief Commissioner's office, we have the Deputy Chief Commissioner's office and Commission for Education and Training. There are losses which amount to Rs 556,672.98. Can the Chief Commissioner answer to this House what steps he has taken in order that these are big sums. I'll give you an example, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: You ask a question and now you make it more complicated. I would not be able to follow you.

Mr. Agathe: Yes, first of all, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at the Environment Unit, there are officers who have lost digital cameras, we have also official files Mr. Chairperson, Sir, are lost in vehicles, not official vehicles but private vehicle, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. How come these government files are lost in private vans?

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, this is your question? Chief Commissioner?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when I look at the different parts of the question including the market value, negligence of some officers, even of police and so on; this need to find out all information concerning this question. It is not in two or three days that we can do that; even if we work on weekend, we don't work on Sundays. Now, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I say everywhere, even at the National Assembly, ministers reply that the information's are being compiled. We have to rely on our officers in order to

give all the information's which are being asked here in your question. That's why I say the information's are being compiled.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't know whether the Chief Commissioner is taking us for a ride. But the question refers to store losses ended 30th June, 2005. Today we are the 9th May, 2006, nearly one year Mr. Chairperson, Sir. How come that all this have not been compiled so far?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it's not only the losses. If you look at the other questions "say whether any losses occurred as a result of negligence, say whether any action has been taken against officers concerned". These have to be compiled and find out from files.

Mr. Grandcourt: M. le Président, la lettre a été signée le 16 août 2005, entretemps c'est pas la question qui a été posée par mon collègue qui va déclencher la machinerie pour aller compiler des informations. Le Chef Commissaire aurait dû, à partir du 16 août, faire des enquêtes pour voir. La question aurait du être facile. Qu'est-ce qu'il a fait pendant tout ce temps ? Est-ce que l'enquête a été faite? Il a signé une lettre sur *store losses* le 16 août. Puis il vient nous dire on ne peut pas le faire en trois ou quatre jours. Qu'est-ce qu'il a fait entretemps ? C'est pour ça qu'on a posé la question, c'est logique. Qu'est-ce qu'il veut nous faire comprendre, ici? On peut pas venir ici et dire des choses. On a signé et puis qu'est-ce qu'on a fait. C'est ce qu'on appelle de l'incompétence, M. le Président.

Mr. Chairperson: No insinuation, please! Well, it seems that there is a question before this House. Yet, Chief Commissioner, you have understood the question?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the officers say they are going to compile the information, not only what has been mentioned here in the document, but also all the information asked here concerning the question. So, we have to look at the different files, whether there has been any prosecution, who are the officers responsible, this information has to be compiled.

Mr. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Chief Commissioner – before he submitted that annual report of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for 3rd July 2004- 30th June 2005. When he included in that report the total amount Rs 556, 672.98 did he asked himself or did he take it for granted that such amount of losses could not be questioned. What action has he initiated in order to see to it why such big amount has been lost from that financial year and what action did he undertake to shed light on this loss?

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The Chief Commissioner: Any losses mentioned or happened in any Commission has to be reported to the Financial Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and it is the Ministry of Finance which says what disciplinary action should be taken. And all this has been referred. Sometimes this takes a long time. And we have some replies but it is the replies from the Financial Secretary's Office that we shall take action. So, this information has to be compiled through the different files of the different Commissions. And that's why I say those information are being compiled. It's not only to give losses but what measures have been taken concerning those losses. That's why I say we are compiling those information's in order to give exactly the answers to the different parts of the question.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have information that as regards the Commission for Education and Training, the losses that happened in the Human Resource Centre amount to Rs 219,215. This is the figure that the Chief Commissioner gave to the Director of Audit. The figure is more important than that, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I have information that they want to write off all these items, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Will the Chief Commissioner come later with a statement as to what has happened to all these losses because we have photocopying machine, trolley ... how come that such a loss happened in a Human Resource Centre which is being watched by at least 4 watchmen there?

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, I do understand that the Chief Commissioner has stated that the answer is being compiled. Now you want a statement to be made on this or do you want a written answer?

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, you give me the opportunity to ask the question again for the next sitting.

Mr. Chairperson: Of course there are rules concerning these sort of matters, you know these rules. Yes, let us move to the next question.

RADIO COMMUNIQUÉ – 12/ 17 APRIL 2006

(No. B/33) Mr. AGATHE (*The Second Local Region Member for Marechal*) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to a communiqué which was broadcast on radio during period 12 to 17 April, 2006 informing the public that Commissioners would not receive members of the public, he would state

- (a) the price paid for the communiqué and the total amount of money involved in the whole exercise; and

- (b) table a list of expenses incurred since they assumed office by Commissioners on such communiqués in the mass media for the period ended 30 June, 2005 together with the names of the media involved?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the payment has not yet been effected for the communiqués which have been issued in April, 2006 as the claim has not yet been received from the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation. The details with respect to part (b) are being compiled and will be circulated as soon as the exercise will be completed.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can we know at least the price of at least one communiqué that the Commissioner sends?

Mr. Chairperson: You mean the communiqué issued over for the period 12th to 17th April?

The Chief Commissioner: There are arrangements with the MBC that as a lot of communiqué are issued from different Commissions, we to pay only 50% of the cost of each communiqué. This is Rs 200. The Matinal (Rodrigues) is Rs 125 + VAT. At 6.50 p.m. – Rs 250 + VAT. Rodrigues FM – Rs 125 + VAT, i.e 50% less than the normal rate.

Mr. Agathe: I want to have ... Mr. Chairperson, Sir, today we are in May 2006, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is for the end of 30th June, 2005.

(Interruptions)

Can we have a copy?

The Chief Commissioner: The question is, whether, with regard to a communiqué which has broadcast on radio during period 12 to 17 April, 2006, informing the public that Commissioners would not receive members of the public. The price paid for the communiqué and the total amount of money involved in the whole exercise and table a list of expenses incurred since they assumed office by Commissioners on such communiqués in the mass media for period ended 30 June, 2005. The information is being compiled.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Director of Audit has seen these books. The accounts of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly have been audited by the Director of Audit Mr. Chairperson, Sir. These information should be there.

Mr. Chairperson: Any mobile on in this House?

Mr. Agathe: We have figures here. Can we know exactly what amounts have been paid to all media? We have figures here; what is the purpose of having figures here, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The Chief Commissioner: We should differentiate between the work of the audit and the details of information which we have to give here. Well, the audit, in its report, does not give details of the information. So, have also give details on the informations; the number, amount paid every month and so on. That's why we are compiling.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

The Minority Leader: I have a supplementary, question Mr. Chairperson, Sir because I still fail to understand Mr. Chairperson, Sir under the normal ways of governing the country and the practices of administration, how come that question part (b) cannot be answered. I will insist that this is either withholding information or mere competency on the part of the Chief Commissioner, because we are asking for a list of expenses incurred since they assumed office by Commissioners on such communiqué's meaning communiqués of this nature in the mass media. We have people working as Advisers in this administration under the office of the Chief Commissioner. Don't they have a list, a record of what is being broadcast, what is being published and at what price? If they don't have even this, I would simply ask what these are people doing in office, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. If the Chief Commissioner, the Commissioner who has appointed a person as Adviser on communication matters paid out of public funds Mr. Chairperson, Sir, , having an office there, files and the Commissioner can't come to this House and give us details of publicity in the press, what is he doing, he should resign, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Well, this is not a question, it is more or less a sort of impeachment. Well, I draw your attention to this. Yes, but it is not this time. You've got a motion coming afterwards. Don't mix up issues. It is question time, you have got to put questions. Yes, Mr. Allan Ladd Emilien, this is the last supplementary question, time is up.

Mr. Emilien: I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, how come that the officers of the Director of Audit's office had access to records, to compile their records and the office of the Commissioner cannot compile the information for part (b) of the question which ended on 30 June 2005 as said earlier, it will be nearly one year very soon. How come officers of the Director of Audit's office had access to documents to compile their figures and that his office does not have these reports?

The Chief Commissioner: We must differentiate between the work of the Audit's office and officers of each commission. And I think that the officers of the Audit, they have all the files and have all the time to do it. Whereas in the different commissions, we have the officers who are busy in other business whereas those in the Audit they go strictly on audit work in the finance office. Well, audit officer will give information but we here according to information asked for we have to compile every information, every file from one year to another to know exactly whether we have received the claim, whether the claim is being played and so on. This takes a long time. That's why we say the information are being compiled in order to give the exact information. Does the information given by the Commissioner or by this office requires a different form than the information given by the Audit Department. But it takes a long time, it is not the same. Now we are basing on the Audit Report to reply to questions. This is the problem. We don't base ourselves on the Audit Report to reply to questions. We base on what the information from the Commissions...

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order, please! No more supplementary questions. Time is up. Let us move to the next question.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I see that the Commissioner seems to be ill. I don't know whether...

Mr. Chairperson: You have some compassion for her? Take your seat, please. It's all right, next question, then. Yes, thank you.

FESTIVAL CREOLE - FINANCIAL YEAR 2004/2005

(No. B/34) Mr. Agathe *(The Second Local Region Member for Marechal)* asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts and Culture, Women's Affairs, Family Welfare, Community Development, etc whether, with regard to item 04-101.292 (Festival Créole) for the Financial Year 2004/2005, she would

- (a) state the original amount earmarked at the committee of supply of the Regional Assembly;
- (b) state the expenditure actually incurred at the end of 30th June, 2005;
- (c) table a list of all the expenses incurred at the end of the financial year 2004-2005;

- (d) state whether there has been any increase in the amount voted by the Regional Assembly and what expenses had not been envisaged at the preparation stage of the budget by his officers and from where the money was re-allocated to meet these expenses; and
- (e) state whether these practices were in line with the financial regulations, and, if yes, table a copy of these regulations and, if not, what actions will be taken against the officer/s concerned?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Bégué (Commissioner for Arts and Culture, Women's Affairs, Family Welfare, Community Development): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my commission is responsible for the organisation of numerous cultural activities and events every year according to my area of responsibility in arts and culture. It is neither economical nor practical from the organisational point of view to have these organisations and events spread over the year as in Mauritius and elsewhere is done. Normally we should have organised some twelve to fifteen activities – the artistic and cultural spread over the years. But in view of the limitation of time, resources, staff because I have only one Arts Officer and the eagerness of local, cultural as well as artistic sections of the population to have activities organised within the “*festival créole*” which is...

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, there are 2 persons rising.

The Minority Leader: A point of order! We are having much strain on the business of the House today. We have important questions. The Commissioner is taking the time of the Assembly. We have not even heard the first part of the answer. She is entering into all sorts of administrative explanations. I will invite her if she wants to take all these time for these administrative explanations just to table the answer because we have asked for (a). Where is part (a) formed? I have even heard part (a) after five minute answering!

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order please! Mr. Roussety...

The Minority Leader: Please, rule on the point of order.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, Minority Leader, you've got to contain yourself. Yes, this is a House of Assembly. Yes, consider this from what I have heard from this morning, as a last warning. I am not going to give any lessons, this is the last warning.

The Minority Leader: I have a point of order, just let's have a ruling.

Mr. Chairperson: The Minority Leader thinks that even if he is in the Assembly he can react however he feels like; banging files on the table, mobile phoning, shouting in this Assembly, even treating people "*de bouffon*". I've heard this. I have no lesson to give you. This is the last warning. Enough is enough in this House. I am telling you. Well, when I am addressing the House, I don't want to have any interruptions from both sides of the House.

A point of order was raised by the Minority Leader. I cannot root this point on any of our existing Standing Orders. This is a non-point of order. But, however, I wish to stress that while I don't have any power to control the answers of Commissioners, it stands to reason that the Commissioner, of course, should be guided by the answer and what is needed is nothing more than the answer to the question.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Very often, the minority group wants sometime to substantiate with their questions. This is what I am doing. There is nothing in the Standing Orders that say that even if I am ill, I am saying that there is nothing in the Standing Orders that say that I must go through the order of the question. The fact is that I have to answer to all the question which has been put here and this is what I have been doing, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. What I said is that normally, as an Arts and Culture Commissioner, just like the Ministers – what I said is that normally, I should organise a number of artistic and cultural activities around the year but because of the limitations that I have. As you know, as compared to Ministries, with lot of staffs and...

Mr. Chairperson: Yes?

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, she is still doing the same thing. There are question here. We want a reply to what we have asked.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, the second member for Marechal, you have to understand, I have no power to control the answers. But I said that the Minority Leader is right. Commissioner got to be relevant.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: What I said is that because of limitations of time and other resources, staff and also the eagerness of cultural and artistic sections so that their activities fall within the purview of the "*Festival Créole*". And so, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are a number of festivals that are being organised and that are being coincides with the *Festival Creole*. And so, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the 2004 *Festival Créole*, included four debate conferences and *graphie l'harmonie, creation de muse d'histoire, architecture tropicale, jeunesse des iles* and these activities and exhibitions are concerned with cultural

development and not the festival directly. There is also another festival within the festival. It is called the theatrical festival, which normally, before autonomy...

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I refer to part (c). She will have to table a detail list.

Mr. Chairperson: You want a question which is rather exhaustive from the Order Paper and then you don't want her to answer. Probably next time you could ask for written answers.

Mr. Agathe: What she has said could be table.

Mr. Chairperson: What do you want me to do? Members rising for points of order they probably got certain reasons. An answer is an answer. It should be a statement of policy or whatever. I don't want to guide or to direct a Commissioner how to answer questions. But the essence of the question is the answer.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: I just wanted to make an introduction to be able to answer the question. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not going to be directed on which way to answer this question and I am answering. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I was saying there were some fifteen activities organised and I was enumerating these activities that have been organized because they must understand how things are being done.

And so, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, these are a number of groups, artistic, even those who are economic activities who want their activities to coincide within the purview of the Festival like the women i.e. And what I said; the cost of activities if organised separately would have to charge under various item of my Commission's budget e.g promotion of arts, culture and leisure, promotion of women's development, family welfare and also other operating activities.

However, since the abovementioned events have been organised simultaneously with the *Festival Créole*, all related expenses. So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in respect to item 04-101.292 in 2005-2005 budget estimates, an amount of Rs 1 million was originally provided for in the approved estimates. At 30 June, 2005, actual expenditure under this item was RS 2,235,841.66. A list of expenses incurred 2004-2005 under this item is at (**Appendix A**) which I am tabling. Allocations amounting to Rs 1,250,000 as per Appendix B, which is being compiled actually have been made in accordance with the provision of the Financial Management Manual. Reallocations of up to Rs 300,000 under individual items have been authorised by the Departmental Head in accordance with section 25(2) of Chapter 20.3 of

the Financial Management Manual as amended by the Minister of Finance's Circular No. 6 of 1996. Approval for the reallocation in excess of that limit has received the approval of the Chief Commissioner and the Commissioner of Finance as provided by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001. Reallocation advice No. 1(a) and 25(a) have been issued in accordance with Section 29 of Chapter 20.3 of the Financial Management Manual.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether she has got, for this events, donations from any firms?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Yes, but I don't have the list here, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have compiled only funds that have been discharge by the commission out of government funds.

Mr. Agathe: Did she receive cash or only substance?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: In terms of donations? Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, normally we write to sponsors, some of them paid directly to groups and others pay by cheques to the commission.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether the moneys that has been collected are recorded in the accounts of funds of the Regional Assembly?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Last supplementary.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I've heard the Commissioner mention of.. if you would have a look, I will have to put two questions together since it is the last. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have earmarked Rs 1 m and at the end of the year it amounts to Rs 2.2 m. According to the Financial Management Manual, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is what we called excess expenditure. And the excess exceeds the original amount that has been voted by more than 200%. These practice according to the Financial Management Manual, is a serious lapse of financial management rendered and this is sanctioned by the Financial Management Manual. What action has been taken for these irregularities?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I said, the problem is that they have not listened to the first part of the answer as they were making a lot of noises. As I said, e.g the number of conferences and exhibitions that have been organised fall under the purview of another item (promotion of arts) for which I have Rs 1.5 m. And these activities are organised because of time, question of staff and because all these actors wanted their activities to be

organised within the *Festival Créole*. What should not have been done is for the finance not to charge it under the item (Festiva) but under the (promotion of art) because these are activities of promotion of art. E.g we are securing that the Rodriguan language be considered under the “*graphie l’harmonie*” and ask “*conférenciers*” from Mauritius for which the government said give them work to do and we urge them to come. This is not paid under the (*Festival Créole*), it should be paid under the promotion of art and that is what he has done e.g “*architecture tropicale*”, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. These are not things for the “*Festival Créole*”. They coincide. That is what I said at the beginning of my answer that if these items were charged separately e.g when you look at what is done for promotion of Crafts, now the Crafts people want their activities, “*une foire*” to be organised during the “*Festival Créole*” because they have tourists etc. We cannot prevent them from doing that. But this should be changed under related funds.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is illegal. What she has said is clearly illegal. This is called a malpractice, Mr. Chairperson, Sir...

Mr. Chairperson: If it is illegal, there is a procedure. We should be very worry to use these sort of word.

Mr. Agathe: We have procedure in the Financial Management Manual.

Mr. Chairperson: You impute something illegal to a member of this House. You have to be very careful about this; there are procedures.

Mr. Agathe: Because here, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have items “*Festival Créole*”, here the Commissioner can’t mix issues. She is talking about “promotion of arts”, this is different, completely different, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I am talking here of item “*Festival Créole*”, not promotion of art; it is different.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what I was saying is that I have already answered that we have had at least three reallocation advices which pass through the hands of these officers of the Finance Cadre who approved it.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is specifically according to the Financial Management Manual. As you know, in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001, there are procedures for this type of reallocation. This is as it is done in Mauritius. There is nothing illegal in that. And I would say, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is no mixing of issues. All these things are concerned with creativity, are concerned with culture and artistic developments.

So, you cannot say we are not putting health and *festival creol*. These are things which are different Mr. Chairperson, Sir. And also, I would also like to draw your attention that my Departmental Head was a Head Cadre in the Audit office in Mauritius, so that he knows all the procedures. He went there, I think the Director sometimes. So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, he knows how to follow procedures and procedures have been followed.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, let us move to the next question.

SPORT COMPLEX -COTRON DONIS

(No. B/35) Mrs. Prosper (*The Sixth Island Region Member*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth and Sports, etc whether, with regard to the sport complex at Citron Donis (football and volleyball grounds), the Commissioner would inform the House of its present state?

Mr. N. Lisette (Commissioner for Youth and Sports): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the content of "*Festival Créole*" the Executive Council decided to upgrade the Football ground and the volleyball pitch at Citron Donis. The scope of work consists of the following:

Football ground:

Leveling of ground

Construction of masonry retaining wall

Drainage system

The leveling as well as the construction of masonry wall has been completed. As regards to the drain it has been observed

(GAPS ON CASSETTE)

The asphalte work has been completed and additional work needs to be done as regard to the footpath and the fencing work.

A works order was issued by the Commission for Public Infrastructure to the contractor AJ Maurel at the estimated cost of Rs. 6.3 m. up to now only Rs. 4.3 m has been paid to the contractor. In alternative to have to apply to the contractor for any unjustified delay in the completion of work. My Commission has already liaised with the Commission for Public Infrastructure for the installation of poles and marking of pitch.

Mrs. Prosper: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Commissioner aware that the players from Citron Donis and Eau Vannée go to train at Malabar Center because of lack of equipment?

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson. Sir, *c'est le prix du développement, le sacrifice que le joueur doit faire. Même quand on a procédé à la donation du terrain de Baie aux Huîtres et du terrain de Grand Baie, il y avait des sacrifices qu'on avait demandés aux joueurs de faire. D'ailleurs, par rapport à ces joueurs qui doivent aller à Malabar pour l'entraînement, on a fait une réunion au préalable, c'est-à-dire avant qu'on commence la construction du terrain de volleyball.* Therefore, I think the players are well aware of the sacrifice that they have to do.

Mrs. Prosper: *M. le Président, il y avait un filet à Citron Donis. Est-ce que le commissaire peut nous dire où ce trouve le filet actuellement parce que les joueurs ne peuvent pas s'entraîner?*

Mr. N. Lisette: There are two types, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Normally, if you have "*un école de foot*" at that particular sport structure, the net belongs to the particular school and it is under the custody of the animator of that school. But if is private and the net belongs to the club and I cannot say where it is because it is a private property. I cannot, therefore, say where it is.

Mr. Grandcourt: M. le Président, le commissaire a parlé de sacrifices. Est-ce qu'on peut savoir combien de temps dure ces sacrifices que les joueurs doivent faire?

Mr. N. Lisette: It is clear, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that at the level of my commission, I am going to do my utmost best so that we reduce the burden on the players as soon as possible. But, view of what I have said in my answer relating to the delay of the contractor, we have to wait until it is completed before the various players – football players, volleyball players will be able to play.

Mr. Grandcourt: M. le Président, le Commissaire n'a pas répondu à la question. On veut lui demander combien de temps ces sacrifices que font les joueurs de la région dure? Combien de temps, ça dure?

Mr. N. Lisette: This is a substantive question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is a subjective question where we cannot say for sure the amount of time that it is playground is going to be ready. Of course, as per our contract that has been given to the contractor, there is a limit for the work to be completed. And as I said that if the work is not completed we shall apply the penalty clause. They will to pay liquidated damages and, as a consequence, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I cannot say. We are going we are going to do our utmost best so that the work is completed in the shortest possible time. But right now, it cannot be said that it is going to be ready in the next one or two months. We are going to do our best.

Mr. Grandcourt: M. le Président, peut être que le commissaire doit apprendre un peu le français. J'avais demandé combien de temps dure ce sacrifice. Je n'ai pas demandé combien de temps ça va durer. Le commissaire n'a pas répondu. J'ai demandé combien de temps ça dure?

Mr. N. Lisette: I have already answered, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has mentioned that the contract has been allocated for Rs 6.3 m out of which Rs 4.3 m have been paid so far. And he is insisting on the fact that the penalty rate will be paid if the delay is not respected. So, can I ask the Commissioner to tell the House when according to the contract document, this work has to be completed?

Mr. N. Lisette: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, actually, as per the works order issued to A&J Maurel, it was supposed to be completed in December last. So, this is why, as I have said, liquidated damage and penalty will have to be applied.

The Minority Leader: M. le Président, si je comprends bien, ces travaux ont été entrepris autour du Festival Créole l'année dernière. Comment se fait-il que ces travaux, moi je suis là-bas tous les jours, il y a de l'eau qui s'accumule sur le terrain. Il y a de la boue sur le terrain, il y a de la poussière, il n'y a pas de filet sur les poteaux, il n'y a pas de marquage, il n'y a rien. Le terrain a été massacré et c'est toujours un massacre. Est-ce que le commissaire peut dire quand ces travaux vont être finalisés et quand les gens qui y jouent peuvent avoir au moins un terrain décent pour pouvoir pratiquer des activités sportives?

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have given relevant details for the question by have been asked by the Minority Leader.

The Minority Leader: M. le Président, je lui ai demandé, il y a un contrat qui est en cours. Apparemment, il y a un «penalty clause», ne sais pas qu'est-ce qu'il raconte encore. *Je lui demande, M. le Président, quand les habitants, the constituents, people who pay taxes at Citron Donis, taxes which are used to pay the salary and the fuel of the Commissioner's Pajero, when these people are expected to have a decent playing ground at Citron Donis? When, whether it is after, he will be re elected, whether it will be one month, when, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? Because we can objectively expect, being given that these works were done for the "Festival Créole", that these works regarding the Football ground should have been completed since long?*

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if you refer to the answer that I have given, the football pitch as well as the volleyball pitch should have been completed in December last. Provided that the works have not been completed

so far as per the orders issued, I have said that we are going to apply for penalty to the contractor what is for sure. In the meantime, we are going to follow procedures; if the works order will have to be cancelled so that the work is done by another contractor, we are going to follow the right procedure to see how best we can complete the works at Citron Donis.

Mr. Chairperson: The question is “when”? When is it going to be completed?

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner for Sports mentioned that the works should have been completed in December 2005. Five months later, I’d like to know from the Commissioner what has been done at the level of liquidated damages or whatever penalty that will be paid by the contractor; what has been done so far?

Mr. N. Lisette: I have said we have Rs 6.3 million, the project is about Rs 6.3 million. We have paid only Rs 4.3 million. This means that there are Rs 2 million which are left, which have not been paid yet to the contractor. This means additional works have to be done. If the contractor does not do the work, ultimately we are going to pay him for which has not been done.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it seems to me that the Commissioner has not answered my question because ...

Mr. Chairperson: Ask the question again.

Mr. Emilien: Because coming to tell Rs 6.3 million minus Rs 4.3 million, we all know that there are Rs 2 million left. My question was what has been done so far; five months after the works should have been completed? What has been done so far? What will be done?

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson. Sir, of course we are constantly liaised with the contractor. Of course, I am not going to justify the delay that has been put on by the contractor. I know they are busy with other works. May be they are putting more emphasis on the construction of roads but I am not going to justify the delay in the works at Citron Donis on this basis on course. I am liaising with the contractor so that the works is done according to the works order.

The Minority Leader: M. le Président, est-ce qu’on peut savoir de quand date la dernière communication échangée avec le contracteur, c’est-à-dire sur cette affaire de travaux non complétés. Je m’explique bien pour qu’on comprenne ! Parce que d’après mon ami, il y a certains qui ne comprennent pas

le français – de quand date la dernière communication sur cette affaire avec le contracteur?

Mr. N. Lisette: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with respect to that contractor, after the heavy rainfall as I have said we have seen have that there are water which is accumulated on the ground; we have had site visits with the contractor as well as meetings with the engineer. I think that our last meeting with the contractor dates back to three to four weeks.

The Minority Leader: Depuis la dernière communication, M. le Président, est-ce que les choses sont restées *wait and see*, pareilles, n'ont pas bougé ou bien est-ce qu'on peut s'attendre enfin que le contrat qui a été commencé l'année dernière pour le Festival Créole avec l'argent qui reste, avec l'argent qu'on dit rembourser, avec les travaux qui ont été mal faits, le terrain qui est inondé. Combien de temps le Commissaire va prendre avec le contracteur bien sûr, avec son ingénieur, avec toute la logistique qu'il a, combien de temps encore pour que le terrain soit remis à neuf pour les gens de cette localité?

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a works order has been issued, it is up to the contractor to perform the work. Of course, we are putting much pressure so that the work is completed. But in the light of the pressure that is being put on my Commission and that of Public Infrastructure, the contractor do not perform the work, of course we are going to follow the procedures to see whether how we can cancel the works order so that either we relaunched tenders for other contractors which is going to take more time. So, taking all these factors into consideration, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are going to take a decision.

The Minority Leader: M. le Président, il n'a encore rien compris, rien répondu. J'ai demandé et je le répète ; peut-être qu'il comprend pas le français. Quand, M. le Président, qu'en tant que commissaire, le terrain va enfin être complété pour que cela soit disponible pour les petits enfants. Les petites filles, les footballeurs, etc. de la région de Citron Donis. I am not concerned with what is going on with the contractor, how much is left etc. My concern is the people. When the people will have a decent playground?

Mr. N. Lisette: The question has already been answered, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The Minority Leader: I haven't heard, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what is the deadline. The contractor is not doing the job. You just keep on exchanging communications with the contractor, telling him "do the job", "you won't do the job, I will put I will put a penalty on you". Well, there is no target at the commission. What is the target, the objective, the time frame, you don't have?

Is there so much indiscipline at the commission that they can't tell us what is the time frame!

Mr. N. Lisette: I have said we are going to follow procedures to see how best we can do the work in the shortest time.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it seem obvious that the Commissioner can't answer the question. I don't know why, but I would like to ask him whether it is a normal practice, when contracts are launched to consider the fact that the contractor is busy, the contractor has got different sites of work. Is this the concern of the commission, has it to consider all this or it has to stick to the contract document?

Mr. N. Lisette: To the conditions of the contract which has been awarded to the contractor, because if I say that we are applying the penalty, it means I am sticking to the conditions of the work order. So, it is clear that we are sticking to the conditions.

The Minority Leader: If the conditions have been stick to, where is the work? You issued a works order. At the opening ceremony of the "*Festival Créole*", Commissioners made a fuss, praising the work which had been done, saying that the villagers would have a very good football pitch, etc. Yes, promises, but where are the results? The Commissioner is unable to tell us when the playground would be ready. He is still lost in the galaxy of the contractor, and the issue of the contractor having no time, this is not our problem. The problem is that public money has been paid and we need the job to be done. So, this is not an answer, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and if he says conditions have been stick to, where are the works? Should he consider tomorrow canceling this order and re-organising this affair? At least our concern is that this football field be ready.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Minority Leader says that I am lost. I think it is him who is lost in his mind. Yes, I have said clearly that the works order was issued. Some work has been done and we have paid for this as certified by the Technical Officer. We have paid for the amount of work done; Rs 2 millions is still left. So, if the contractor is not completing the work, we are applying the penalty and if he is not going to do the work, we have to get it done by another contractor or by another means, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. There are procedures that are to be followed before canceling any works order. I am sure this is what you are not able to understand. There are procedures if the work is still under the liability period, then another contractor cannot be appointed. So, as long as the liability period has not lapsed, ultimately the work cannot be done by another contractor.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, last question. Time is up.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has recruited what is called a Supervisory Consultant i.e Gibbs (Mauritius). Can we know what are the comments of the Gibbs on this issue?

Mr. N. Lisette: The works were not under the supervision of the consultants. It is under supervision of the officers of the Commission for Public Infrastructure.

OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES – 10th 16 APRIL 2006

(No. B/36) Mrs. J. Prosper (*The Sixth Island Region Member*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts and Culture, Women's Affairs, Family Welfare, Community Development, etc whether her commission organised any official activities from Monday 10 to Sunday 16 April this year 2006, in Rodrigues, where all members of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly were invited; and if she did not attend any of these and why?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Bégué (Commissioner Arts and Culture, Women's Affairs, Family Welfare, Community Development): Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, between Monday 10th and Sunday 16th April, 2006, the only activity organised by my Commission was the World Food Day on Saturday 15th April from ten to noon under the "*Chapiteau*" at Port Mathurin near the Administration Building. I was not able to attend this funfair as I was not feeling well.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

SATELLITE DISK - MAURITIUS PORTS AUTHORITY

(No. B/37) Mrs. Prosper (*The Sixth Island Region Member*) asked the Chief Commissioner whether he would, for the benefit of the House, seek information on the reason(s) why the office of the Mauritius Port Authority of Port Mathurin is provided with a satellite disk (Canal Satellite) and whether such apparatus is used for official duties only, and if not, why?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the office of the Mauritius Ports Authority at Port Mathurin is equipped with a set

of communication equipment comprising a VHF radio, an Imar Satellite, both connected with an aerial disk and a vertical antenna installed by the Mauritius Ports Authority in August, 2001 and later in January this year. These equipment is being used for official duties to communicate with calling and passing storms.

The Minority Leader: M. le Président, dans le reponse il y a des materielles de communication, on comprend c'est nécessaire pour le port. Mais est-ce que la parabole, Canal Satellite, est-ce que je peux demander au Chef Commissaire si c'est Canal Satellite qui installe ces équipements de communication VHF communication, Intersat phone, etc?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the information is here. It is the Mauritius Ports Authority which installed those equipment there. I have no information whether it is Canal Satellite. This is not in connection with what I said here. Well, there is an aerial dish and a vertical antenna installed by the Mauritius Ports Authority in 2001 and later in January this year. These equipments are being used for official duty to communicate. Those equipment are installed by the Mauritius Port Authority.

The Minority Leader: Yes, I don't think. The question is that there is. It is a fact that there is a commercial disk and this equipment, I don't think, is linked with official communication. Can we know at night what happens at the office of the Port Authority? We would like to ask the Commissioner whether he is aware – there is football match going on, all sorts of young people in Port Mathurin going there for a football match and other films which I think I should not mention here. Is the Chief Commissioner aware that there is, among these means of communication there, a subscription to Satellite TV and this satellite TV is played all day, all night long until 2 a.m.? Is he aware of this?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to information given by the Minority Leader, we have to make an enquiry. I shall enquire into the allegations made and find out whether there is a commercial disk there for standard TV. We have to make an enquiry and if this enquiry proves to be correct, so we have to take disciplinary measures against people who are running in this office.

The Minority Leader: For the sake of the clarity and accountability, will the Chief Commissioner come forward to this House to give the results of this enquiry? I don't think we need to go into very big details to see whether the facts are founded there. Will he come forward with a statement to give the results of the enquiry to this House?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Minority Leader has given some information. I don't know whether they are allegations. We

have to make an enquiry and we'll see whether there has been a subscription to Canal Satellite and we have to table in this House the results of the enquiry.

GOVERNMENT'S POLICY - REDUCE EXPENDITURE

(No. B/38) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (*The Second Local Region Member for La Ferme*) asked the Chief Commissioner, with regard to the central government's policy to reduce public expenditure by making judicious use of our financial resources, the Chief Commissioner would inform the House of the measure (if any) he intends to take to implement same in Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the following measures have been taken in Rodrigues in line with the Central Government's policy to reduce public expenditure:-

- (a) when the draft estimates were being framed for the financial year 2006-2007, all items of the recurrent expenditure were closely analysed to reduce costs, e.g expenditure on overtime and utilities have been reduced, projects under capital budget were prioritized to allocate funds only for ongoing projects and new projects which are already included in the medium term expenditure framework and endorse by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning;
- (b) I chair a Central Budget Monitoring Committee for the follow up of execution of capital projects under Capital Budget with a view to eliminating wastage and unproductive expenditure. As from July, 2006, this Committee will also scrutinize the trend of recurrent expenditure and it is proposed to establish Budget Monitoring Committees at the level of all commissions; and
- (c) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we shall also implement measures which are being identified by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. In this context, my office is studying the guidelines contained in the Audit Committee's Charter which was recently launched by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development with a view to the introduction of Audit Committees in Rodrigues.

Mr. G. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to the Chief Commissioner's reply, it seems that they have been guided by the policy of the Ministry of Finance where special measures have been stated in his action in order to minimise wastage in public expenditure in Rodrigues. But I would like to ask him whether, in the light of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly's policy, whether he has made any enquiries to see to it that in certain special areas like

the use of electricity for public utilities, incentive given to public workers in the public sector, damages done to roads, etc due to lack of proper management. He is aware that all these contribute to wastage of public funds and if so, can he tell us what measures he has taken or intends to take in order to address to these problems?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I said that I chair personally a Budget Monitoring Committee. All that is being said by the member of the Minority are raise here. And also, let's say we have taken the taken the lead a few 2 or 3 weeks ago. The Ministry or rather the Cabinet office took the decision to introduce in each commission, an Audit Committee. We have a meeting last week on an Audit Committee for all the commissions. Well, this Audit Committee usually takes into account different points which have been raised here by members of the Minority Group. So, everything will be taken into account and what the Minister of Finance says discipline, solidarity and good governance. I think it is an occasion for the Regional Assembly to take seriously all the different points raised here by the members of the Minority.

Mr. Emilien: The Chief Commissioner mentioned a Central Budget Monitoring Committee and he has said also that by July, 2006, budget monitoring committees will be set up at the level of each commission. Can I know from the Chief Commissioner, whether this Central Budget Monitoring Committee concerns the whole republic of Mauritius and, if such is the case, is there any member of this Assembly forming part of this Committee?

The Chief Commissioner: No, the Audit Committee will operate at the level of each Ministry in Mauritius and each commission here in Rodrigues.

Mr. Emilien: So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from him what does he mean by Central Budget Monitoring Committee that he mentioned in his reply?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, we did set up a Committee on the Audit report to find out the different points raised by the Director of Audit report, so, we had a Committee on that, and after that the Cabinet decided that there would be an Audit Committee at the level of each ministry in Mauritius and here we are saying it is going to be at the level of each commission in Rodrigues.

ROADS SEVERELY DAMAGED

(No. B/39) **Mr. Jabeemissar** (*The Second Local Region Member for La Ferme*) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner, with regard to the state of

different roads which have been severely damaged by the recent heavy rainfalls namely the *Batatran to Graviers* road, the *Grand La Fouche Corail to Petite Butte* road, the *Soupirs to Port Mathurin* road and *Trois Soleils to Mt. Cabris Est* road the Commissioner would

- (a) give the reasons for the long delay in repairing same; and
- (b) inform the House of the measures he intended to take to avoid recurrence of such damages?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with your permission question B/39 and question B/55 will be answered together as they are closely related.

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait, B/55, yes.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Following the heavy rainfalls which occurred in March, 2006, an islandwide survey was carried out to assess the extent of damages to the road network in Rodrigues. The following roads in these regions were severely damaged viz *Cygangue, Patate Théophile, Graviers, Grand La Fouche Corail, Rivière Cocos, Camp Pintade, Baie du Nord, Songes, Mont Venus, Terre Rouge* and *Dans Samy*. The road segment leading to *Eau Vannée, Montagne Carlot, Montagne Cabris Est* and *Fond La Bonté* were cut off. The delay in repairing same results from the fact that the rainfall in March, 2006 was a torrential one and many other roads were inaccessible due to landslides and other obstructions.

Consequently, before issuing a works order for repair, many preliminary works had to be carried out such as site surveys, cleaning and clearing of roads and mobilisation of direct labour and road contractor prior to patching and other major repairs.

Moreover, A.J. Maurel Contruction Ltd, the only road contractor in Rodrigues, which entrusted with a tight schedule of road projects, has had to mobilize additional work orders for patching and road repairs.

Moreover, as the soil was saturated with water and that same was overflowing on these damaged roads segment causing waterlog, all the physical conditions were not on the optimal side for effective road repairs. Works have been performed after complete drying of these road segments.

Thirty-five workers have been mobilised to clean the roadside drains and road surface involved in these prone flooded areas to avoid recurrence of damages. Moreover, a survey has already been carried out on the possibility of

doing masonry drainage work in these regions where road segments were severely cut off. My commission has already issued works order for the sum of Rs 550,000 for major repairs at Montagne Cabris Est, Montagne Fanal, Eau Vannée and Fond La Bonté in April where the road segments has been cut off. Works have been completed. A second works order for a sum of Rs 682,000 has been issued to the contractor for patching on damaged secondary road networks.

Mr. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, as regards the clearing of drains in the regions he has just mentioned, whether these works have been completed and, if not, where does the work still to be completed?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the first instance, these workers are mobilised in the northern region and after completing the works there, they will be sent to other villages in the island to do drainage work.

Mr. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given the state of these roads as they are used everyday by road users. In all those places he has just mentioned, the risks of accidents and damages to vehicles are present. In that case, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he cannot ask the Road Safety Committee to install temporary road signs in order to warn road users of the danger which may occur in these places.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said, the road repairs have been completed. But the Police Traffic Branch was requested to place, together with the Road Safety Unit of my commission, they were requested to place advertising signs indicating panels stating that there is danger on these road sites.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I talked to people of my region. I received complaints as I know my colleague; Mr. Allan Ladd Emilien also received same. Mostly for the children who go to the Ste Thérèse de L'Enfant Jésus R.C.A. School, during heavy rainfall, the children cannot return to their homes; this is because of what we call *radiers*. These are a source of danger to the passers-by. Can the Commissioner, take as a measure of urgency, consider whether to convert these *radiers* into bridges?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, *c'est une question qui a été soulevée souvent au niveau de la commission. On a fait un survey concerning all the radiers in Rodrigues and the cost estimates for making these radiers accessible during heavy torrential rain amount to about Rs 2 million per radier. And for the region of Rivière Cocos, we have constructed*

another road network, the road which leads to the cemetery to enable the children on the left side of Rivière Cocos to reach school during rainy days. *Mais comme j'ai dit, on a fait un survey sur tous les raders* – Pistache, Anse Baleine, Baie Diamant, mais depending on availability of funds, these *raders* will be rendered accessible one by one or two by two during the next financial year.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in line with the road repair exercise currently underway, as the Deputy Chief Commissioner mentioned that he is concentrating on the northern region for the time being. I would kindly request him if he could look into the state of the road from Frère Rémy leading to Fond Camp du Roi which is in a very bad state.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, I will look into the matter.

CLEANING OF DRAINS

(No. B/40) Mr. Jabeemissar (The Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner, as regards the General Workers of his commission who are concerned with the cleaning and maintenance of drains, especially in *Port Mathurin* and its vicinity, whether these workers were provided

- (a) with the necessary tools to perform the jobs effectively; and
- (c) with the protective equipment against injury and other health hazards?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the information is as follows; the General workers concerned are provided with tools such as hoes, shovel, wheel barrows for the cleaning operation and are eligible for protective equipment such as raincoat, clothes and rubber boot every three years. Raincoat and boot were last issued in 2004 and orders for sale have to be placed in 2006. It is to be noted that many General Workers do not wear the protective equipments while performing their duties. Supervising officers have been requested to strongly advise the workers to wear them for their own protection against injury or health hazard.

Mr. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards those workers involved in the cleaning of drains in Port Mathurin itself. All of us know that the topography of Port Mathurin is flat and is prone to stagnant water and we

also know that due to a lack of proper drainage system in Port Mathurin, these drains are liable to keep sometimes dangerous substances or materials and exposing general workers to such type of work, Mr. Chairperson, I don't think this is the right policy.

May I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he does not have other workers specialised in this type of work in order to pump the water and excavate debris and so on because now we are in a state of chikungunya epidemic? We cannot expose our workers to that type of work where no protective matters are given to them. Will he see to it that these workers no more do that type of work unless they are provided with the required protective equipment?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said, the workers are being provided with the necessary tools. But now that there is chikungunya in Rodrigues, we will see to it that other necessary protective equipment are given to these workers to protect all the body. But as the member is saying, normally it is the firemen who pump off water at Port Mathurin, *dans les rues et auprès des maisons*. But in the scheme of service of duty of the General Worker, it is said that they are here to clean drains, to clean areas which are prone to debris accumulation and other materials. I will look into it that perhaps other protective equipment can be given during this period of chikungunya.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't know if I heard well. If I am wrong, I just apologise. But it seems to me that the Deputy Chief Commissioner said that workers do not wear protective equipment. If such is the case, according to the Industrial and Labour, is it not compulsory for workers to use these protective equipment?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, it is compulsory. This is why in our briefing at the level of my commission, tools and equipments have always been one of the topics and we have requested the supervising officers to tell these workers to wear their protective equipment.

Mr. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner stated that some equipment was issued to workers as far back as 2004. Now, can he tell the House why such equipments have not being given on a yearly basis? Why hasn't they been issued in 2005?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the time/delay to supply the equipment to workers is written in the PRB Report. We cannot supply workers with boots every month. Some of them sell the boots. They cannot be provided with boots every three months. The PRB gives the

minimum delay that procurement can be made so that workers are provided with same.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, last supplementary?

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, some of the equipment are torn as a result of weathering. So, some may last one year, or six month. What happens in the time frame the equipment gets torn or damaged?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at the request of the workers and the Supervising Officers. same are being replaced. But we have studied the question at the level of my commission – studied the specifications of the different tools given to workers. Sometimes we are buying at a lower price but sometimes the spans of these tools are too short. It is better to look at the specifications of the tools and equipment given to these workers.

TOURISM PROJECTS

(No. B/41) Mr. Emilien (*The First Local Region Member for Marechal*) asked the Chief Commissioner, with regard to tourism projects in Rodrigues, whether he could say if there were any specific projects in the tourism sector which are restricted to promoters domiciled in Rodrigues and state the nature of these projects and the reasons for their being reserved for promoters as defined above?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the Assembly that the Rodrigues Tourism Committee, set up at the level of my commission, has decided that the development of light tourism accommodating structures such as *gîtes, chambres, table d'hôte ou pensions de famille* should be promoted as these are more appropriate and well adapted for our context in Rodrigues. In fact, this is in line with our strategy for the development of ecotourism and has been defined with the stakeholders in the tourism sector in February last year. *Gîtes, chambres et tables d'hôte* are different types of enterprises in the sense that the owner should provide a personalised service with a view to promoting and encouraging the integration of the tourist in a typical Rodriguan mode of life. The owner of these categories of enterprise has to be domiciled in Rodrigues to be able to meet these requirements. For the time being, a draft Rodrigues Regional Assembly Tourism Regulations is being finalised and will be presented to this Assembly in due course with in view to providing an appropriate legal framework and standards for the development of

these enterprises which, unfortunately, are not defined so far in the existing Tourism Act 2004.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner has mentioned that the Tourism Committee has decided that these types of tourism development will be granted to only people domiciled in Rodrigues because it requires the typical Rodriguan mode of life. I am in presence, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, of documents, applications from Rodriguans born, who is presently in Mauritius who applied for such a project and whose applications have been rejected because it is said in his letter that this development would be restricted to promoters domiciled in Rodrigues. I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner, is it true that Rodriguans who have left the island cannot give a typical Rodriguan mode of life to tourist coming to Rodrigues and living in *gîtes* and other such places?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, these are one or two cases where Rodriguans who have married Mauritians and had settled in Mauritius and would like to settle in Rodrigues. First of all, those applications have been rejected. I remember that one application when rejected and the couple has insisted.

(Gap on cassette)

A Mauritian married to a Rodriguan woman, may be allowed to install themselves in Rodrigues and set up a *gites* or a *chambre d'hôte*. It depends also, Mr. Chairperson, sometimes we have people today we are asking ourselves who we are going to trust. Sometimes people tell us, yes, we are going to set up in Rodrigues and I think we must be very careful. Even the Committee chaired by Mr. Bérenger when he was Minister of Finance, a Committee on tourism in Rodrigues and that Committee decided that *gîtes*, *chambres d'hôte* and boarding houses should be rent by local people in Rodrigues. That's why they are people in Mauritius who want to have a boarding house in Rodrigues, their application are rejected. One of the applications, I remember, was accepted after lengthy discussions, the people insisted that they are going to settle themselves in Rodrigues. I don't know whether it is the application mentionned by the member of the minority.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner is mentioning a Rodriguan married to someone in Mauritius. But here I am talking of a couple of Rodriguans born in Rodrigues. The husband and wife are both from Rodrigues, they left Rodrigues as adults. They have been working there to earn some money. In the letter they stated that they are retiring from service and they will settle in Rodrigues. The Chief Commissioner is mentioning a case where the couple is mixed Mauritian and Rodriguan, their application has been approved.

So, I'd like to know from him, what about this case? I can name the person, Mr. Benoit Pasnin. He will come here where he was born. So, how come a couple of mixed origins who informed that they would settle have been considered? Why these different treatments?

The Chief Commissioner: May I ask the member of the minority group to table this application and we would find out with the Tourism Committee in Rodrigues.

Mr. Emilien: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I can do it immediately. I table the application and the reply given by the administration here. I am tabling all the relevant documents. I am sorry I have got no envelopes. **(Appendix B)**

Mr. Chairperson: No need for envelopes. You are tabling. Yes, next question.

DECREASE IN THE FISHERMEN'S CATCH

(No. B/42) Mr. Emilien (*The First Local Region Member for Marechal*) asked the Chief Commissioner, given the considerable decrease in the fishermen's catch within the lagoon and the great quantity of debris (branches, trees and all sorts of materials) carried away to the sea by floods during the recent rainy periods, what measures he had taken or intended to take to remove these debris which represent both a threat to fishermen and a danger to the marine eco-system?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, following the heavy rain which has occurred during the course of last month, it has been observed that branches and other waste has been carried away to the sea and has been deposited on the coast, specially in the northern region from *Grand Baie* to *Baie du Nord* and the southern region from *Mourouck* to *Petite Butte*. It was understood that these debris might have been transported from the sea wall from the lagoon by the action of waves and might represent an obstacle for Fishermen community especially for navigation.

Manual workers have already been deployed for the removal of these debris from coast line. The operation is still underway and will be repeated each time there is a heavy rainfall. Furthermore, we are envisaging to hold a cleaning campaign in the lagoon and the context of the forthcoming celebration of the World Environment Day 2006 as was organised on the occasion the Environment Day in 2004. The distinguished members are invited to indicate any specific places in the lagoon where debris has been accumulated so that appropriate action can be taken.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will give the Chief Commissioner a list of regions where I personally identified these debris. But he is saying that a cleaning campaign will be run shortly. Can I know from the Chief Commissioner who are the people who will be involved in this cleaning campaign and will it concern beaches and the lagoons also?

The Chief Commissioner: In 2004, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, these were NGOs especially those who are involved in diving business. Other organisations like Shoals, these organisations, in 2004, did this cleaning in the lagoon. So, during n this International Day for the Environment, we are having a meeting next week. We are going to organise the cleaning of the lagoon. It is not only branches, but plastic bottles, plastic bags and cans and different articles. Though we are organizing this, not only with the workers but also with NGOs involved in marine environment.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Chief Commissioner whether fishermen will be involved because as I said in my question, these debris causes a threat to fishermen also. Will they be involved in this cleaning exercise?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, usually the NGO's asked the fishermen; they organised the cleaning. As in 2004 they made meeting through different organizations of fishermen and organised the cleaning.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I took the case of *Petite Butte* near Mr. Yung Kit Yan store. I have seen a lot of debris on the sea. It like there is another extent of land on the sea up to a long distance. And here the Chief Commissioner is mentioning about manual workers who are going to clean the sea but they have taken only the plastic containers. But we have also a lot of branches, a lot of organic waste in the sea also. What type of equipment have they used in order to take off these debris from the sea.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, during the environment week in the beginning of June, we are working with the different NGOs. They know what to do, how to train the fishermen, how to get rid of those debris from sea. Well, NGOs like Shoals, like Diving Run and also diving people, those who are employed for diving at Cotton Bay and Ebony.

Well, as regards the question of *petite Butte* and the environment there, we have to think seriously about that because the waves are diminishing the shore and the waves are coming close to the roads. That's why we are envisaging with the Environment Unit to think of what measures we can take to impede the waves from washing away all the sand and reaching the road.

That's why I say that during this Environment Day, we are going to put stress on the cleaning of the lagoon and the seashore and also as regards "*desertification*", Mauritius is encouraging "*plant a tree*". I think this also could be done around the island from the seashore. Here also it will depend on the region. We have seen that *La Coqueluche* near the seaside is becoming a nuisance for the protection of our lagoon. So, we are thinking of how to plant other trees as advised by experts – the kinds of trees that should be planted near the seashore. I think the main activity of this Environment Week will be the lagoon and the seashore.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is good to use the Environment Week to clean our lagoons and other parts of the island but it would have been better to do it on a regular basis. As my colleague just mentioned the region of Petite Butte – the Chief Commissioner may know that in this region we have a small pass going along the coast from Petite Butte to Pointe Vingt Tours. Actually, we've got what the fishermen call "*ptit marais*" meaning that there is not much water at high tide. So, these fishermen encounter lots of problems at low tide to travel within the lagoon. I heard on radio that the *Association des Pêcheurs de l'Ile Rodrigues* had asked for the dredging of these passes around the island. Can the Chief Commissioner state whether, in line with this cleaning campaign during the Environment Week, he is contemplating the dredging of passes around the island also?

The Chief Commissioner: For the dredging of passes according to law, we need an EIA and we have just received the report from the Ministry of Fisheries and Environment concerning the dredging of passes. We are going to approve this report in our next meeting so that we can go ahead with the dredging of passes.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Chief Commissioner Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is that dredging of passes has always been done manually. They remove the sand and all the stuff with spades and other "*outils rudimentaires*" et après quelques temps, ça retourne dans les passes, M. le Président et ou retourne toujours à la case départ. Est-ce que le Chef Commissaire envisage d'autres moyens pour que l'argent public soit dépensé pour avoir des résultats plus efficace dans l'avenir ?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le Président, ça a toujours été le cas. Malheureusement, les équipements à la *Marine Authority*, autrefois il y avait des grues, il y avait des pontons, il y avait des bases aussi. On pouvait creuser avec ces équipements et ensuite aller jeter en haute mer. Aujourd'hui ces équipements n'existent plus. Maintenant il y a des possibilités d'avoir une petite drague suceuse. On nous a proposé d'acheter une drague suceuse de

seconde main. Tout ça, il faut évidemment aller au ministère des finances et avoir l'argent nécessaire.

Pour l'instant, l'entretien pour creuser des passes ont été fait manuellement. Et c'est pourquoi aujourd'hui, il y a même des experts, on est coincé entre ceux qui vous disent qu'il ne faut pas faire ça et comme ça. A d'autres moment, on vous dit il ne faut pas mettre la machine dans le lagon. Ça va tout remuer et ensuite ça va aller sur les récifs et va détruire les coraux. Il y a toute la question d'érosion des plages. On vient vous dire il ne faut pas toucher. Laissez comme ça. Vous voulez protéger. Pour Anse aux Anglais, par exemple, il y a le sable qui est charrié sous le pont. On vous dit ou peut être un mur là-bas pour faire un test pour voir si c'est vraiment le sable de la plage qui vient à l'intérieur.

Parfois on se demande qu'est-ce qu'il faut faire. Les experts vous dit, il ne faut pas trop bouleverser l'écosystème dans le lagon. Alors, est-ce que creuser à la pioche, évidemment ce n'est pas la solution qu'il faut. Ce qu'il faut c'est creuser une passe d'à peu près dix mètres de large et à certaine profondeur, ce qui peut durer jusqu'à dix ans. Alors, le gros problème, M. le Président, c'est justement ça. On nous a proposé une petitedrague suceuse. Il faudrait aussi peut-être se poser la question, faut-il acquérir cette drague suceuse, la formation des gens qui vont l'opérer. Maintenant où aller jeter le sable marin? Il y a tout ça. Ça coûte, M. le Président, et nous sommes en train de voir la possibilité d'aller beaucoup plus vite pour élargir et approfondir les passes pour que les bateaux circulent plus rapidement.

Mr. Emilien: La pêche est un secteur très important dans notre économie embryonnaire. Le secteur de la pêche doit être pris en considération et donnerla considération qui lui est dûe. Le Chef Commissaire parle de plages, des pontons qui n'existent plus ; les équipement de la *Marine Authority*. Mais il y a bien de choses qui n'existaient pas à Rodrigues, comme les Pasjero par exemple sa n'existait pas mais ont l'a acheté. Pourquoi on ne peut pas acheter des équipements pour la fouille des passes à Rodrigues.

The Chief Commissioner: C'est ce que j'ai dit, M. le Président. Il faut discuter, comme j'ai dit en réponse à une question. Maintenant, pour pouvoir lancer un projet, il faut avoir le *clearance* du Ministère des Finances. Donc, dans la mesure où demain, avec des organisations internationales, des bailleurs de fonds, si on peut arriver à avoir les équipements qu'il nous faut pour élargir les passes, nous serrons tous heureux.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question?

Mr. Emilien: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether, so far, any negotiations have been held for the purchase at least of equipment for the dredging of passes?

The Chief Commissioner: Not specifically for the dredging of passes but for the Port development and negotiations have been held with the Ministry of Finance which has stated that they can't finance the project. We have asked them to go and negotiate with the World Bank or other banks like BAOEA and so on, so, they are looking into the matter.

PHYSICS DATA LOGGING PROJECT

(No. B/43) Mr. Emilien (*The First Local Region Member for Marechal*) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the Physics Data Logging Project recently launched in Rodrigues by the Mauritius Institute of Education, he could inform the House

- (a) whose initiative it is;
- (b) how long will the project last;
- (c) how much this project has or will cost his commission; and
- (d) what will be the outcome of the project?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the project for the use of Information and Communication Technology as a new pedagogical strategy in the teaching of physics in secondary schools is a pilot project initiated by the Mauritius Institute of Education. It covers eight schools in Mauritius and two in Rodrigues namely Rodrigues and Le Chou colleges. The project will last two years and was first launched in Mauritius in August, 2005. The project is financed by the Tertiary Education Commission. My commission provides logistic support such as transport, office facilities, etc. The expected outcome of the project is to improve quality and problem solving skills; namely Physics in secondary schools in Mauritius and Rodrigues. The findings from this study will be beneficial to various stakeholders viz the education of human resources and the implementation phase of IT in the leading of Science and Technology subjects. The Mauritius Institute of Education in curricular planning and teacher education, increasing the enrolment rate in science, in particular physics, among both boys and girls, thus, reducing exclusion. Secondary school teachers in their quest for a new approach in the teaching of physics, students in deepening their understanding of concepts as well as developing problem solving skills and

critical thinking. Teachers and students as assessment is grounded in this innovative approach.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for the time being, two colleges are concerned with this physic data related project namely the Rodrigues and Le Chou colleges. Can the Commissioner say whether these facilities will be extended to students of other colleges in the island?

The Chief Commissioner: I must say, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it's a pilot project. The pilot project covers 8 schools in Mauritius and 2 colleges in Rodrigues. After the results are known, the Ministry of Education in Mauritius will decide whether this project could be extended to other colleges.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I know that 2 sets of equipment have been sent to Rodrigues by the Mauritius Institute of Education; one set has been sent to each of the two concerned colleges in Rodrigues. The Chief Commissioner is talking about the pilot projects which will last 2 years. Can I know from the Chief Commissioner whether, after the expiry of the project, this equipment will go back to the MIE or will stay in Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, I think it will stay in Rodrigues for continuation. If the project proves to be beneficial for the teaching of physics through IT, they will continue to do it. The equipment is financed by the Mauritius Tertiary Education Commission. This means that the equipment will stay here.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, probably it's a good time to suspend the Assembly. I, therefore, suspend the Assembly for one hour.

(At 12.30 hours, the Assembly was suspended for one hour)

(Resumption at 13.30 hours with Mr. Chairperson in the Chair)

Clerk: Resumption of questions.

Mr. Chairperson: Can you resume where we stopped? It should be B/44, the First Local Region Member for La Ferme.

DEFOGGING CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHIKUNGUNYA

(No. B/44) Mr. Emilien (The First Local Region Member for Marechal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health, as regards the

defogging campaign since the outbreak of chikungunya in Rodrigues, whether he could state

- (a) the frequency of the defogging exercises;
- (b) the regions where defogging has taken place, giving the number of housing units involved;
- (c) the criteria used for the defogging exercises; and
- (d) whether Rodrigues had benefited from the donation of anti-mosquito devices from the Indian government and to what extent?

Mr. Sooprayen (Commissioner for Health & ors) : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to begin with, I wish to apprise this Assembly that my Commission has embarked on a fogging campaign since the outbreak of Chikungunya in Rodrigues and not a defogging campaign as mentioned in the question.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as a caring regional government my Commission has set up all the mechanism to fight the spread of Chikungunya in Rodrigues. As soon as the first case of Chikungunya was confirmed in March 3rd 2006, fogging campaign was immediately launched and fogging operations carried out on a daily basis including weekends. Three fogging apparatuses were used and the number of apparatuses increased subsequently to twelve with the constitution of three teams of 4 Sprayermen.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to date the following regions have been covered at these frequencies: Cascade Jean Louis, Nassola, Pointe L'herbe, Songes, Anse Quitor, Cyganges, Champs, Coromandel, Batatrand, Camp Du Roi, Chateau D'eau, Chateau des Fleurs, Fond la Digue, Fond la bonté, Saint Gabriel, Accacia, Baie Diamant, Anse Pansia, Terre Rouge, Creve Coeur, Pointe la Gueule prison, Quatre Vents, Piment, English Bay, Montagne Cabris, Pajerome, Deux Goyaves, Oyster Bay, La Ferme, Mangues, Petit Gabriel, Mont Lubin, Citonelle, Port Mathurin, Roseaux, Baladirou, Papayes, Baie Malgache, Bigarade, Dans Coco, Latanier, Montagne Fanal, Montagne Charlot, Pompé, Oranges, Palissade, Solitude, Pointe La Guele, Citadelle, Manique, Baie Topaze, Montagne Du Sable, Malartic, Grand La Fouche Corail, Mangues, Allé Tamarin.

Moreover, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Mont Lubin and La Ferme Area Health Care Center and school in Rodrigues are being covered on a weekly basis. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed the number of housing units covered

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to date amount to 2429, whereas some bare land have also been attended and my commission is ensuring a close follow up of the situation in the island.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform this Assembly that there is no hard and fast established criteria for fogging operations. Recently upon notification and confirmation of a case of Chikungunya in particular area/region, immediately fogging is carried out and it use to cover a radius of 100 m around the case.

However, with a spreading of cases of Chikungunya in some scatted areas of the island, fogging is now being done to cover the whole region where cases are being notified and it has been yielding better results.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the outbreak of Chikungunya disease in the Republic of Mauritius has not left our friendly allies in-sensible to this problem. In this respect the Republic of India a friendly country has contributed a lot in sending medicines and other apparatuses to help us fighting the said Chikungunya disease and Rodrigues does benefit from the Indian assistance.

My commission have received donation of the Indian government through the Central Government in Mauritius as follows:

2 nd April 2006	- Mosquito coils	-	4980 boxes
	- Fly killer spray	-	1020
2 nd May 2006	- Turbo timer (an apparatus with liquid)	-	2400
	- Odomos cream	-	4892
	- Fly killer spray	-	1800

We have already started distribution to the public, we have the 48 Agent de Santé to be distributed among the needy. Commission for Education, all schools; pre-primary, primary and secondary, I have 52 x 25 boxes to be use in these schools. Hospitals, the wards, the OPD, the Health Centers have been given spray and coils for everyday use. All the odomos cream 4892 has been handed to the pharmacy at QEH to be distributed to all our health centers and eventually to all patients attending with chikungunya.

We are making arrangement with Commission for Education to distribute spray and turbo timer just received and also with the President of villagers that are not covered by the Agent de santé.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner for Health has mentioned that a certain number of devices have been received through the Government of Mauritius by the Indian Government. He just mentioned that all patients attending Queen Elizabeth Hospital will receive cream. Can the Commissioner tell the House whether it is a normal practice to wait for people to be contaminated by the disease chikungunya to be given cream or whether it is not wiser to distribute the cream as it is done in Mauritius, to distribute to people through Community Health and Service Centres as a preventive measure?

Mr. Sooprayen: M. le Président, à Maurice le gouvernement de l'Inde a fait don de tonnes et des tonnes de ce médicament, ici, comme je viens de le dire, on en a eu 4892. Ce n'est pas assez, on a demandé encore. On a eu une partie le 2 Avril. Après quelques semaines, on a eu un autre partie. Pourquoi on a eu ça après quatre semaines c'est parce que la cargaison sortant de l'Inde, la première cargaison, il y avait peut-être 38 tonnes, et puis, il y a un bateau de l'Inde qui a accosté – il y avait un remorqueur qui était retourné après avoir été réparé en Inde. Ce bateau avait emmené une deuxième cargaison. Maurice vient de recevoir cette deuxième comparaison. On a fait une demande.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my question has not been answered to the fact that I wanted to know from the Commissioner whether it is not wiser to have preventive measures and use the lot that has been received *utiliser pour des mesures preventives et non pas attendre que les gens soient déjà affectés par cette maladie pour donner ça à travers la pharmacie de l'hôpital. C'était ça ma question.*

Mr. Sooprayen: M. le Président, on a plus de 35,000 personnes. On a plus de 8,000 familles, on a eu 4,800 et quelque chose; comment donner à toutes ces personnes. On a pensé, ce n'est moi qui le fais. C'est le directeur de la santé qui le fait. Il y a un comité et ça a été proposé qu'on le fasse de telle ou telle autre façon.

Mr. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the fogging campaign is done to eliminate the vectors of chikungunya disease i.e the Aedes ... I can't pronounce it's name correctly, the mosquito. But in addition to that, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the fogging campaign sufficient to eliminate the mosquitoes? For example, I was at Marechal College yesterday when somebody told me that the day before there has been a fogging exercise in that region and, to my great surprise, I spent less than one minute in my car and I was invaded by a swarm of mosquitoes. That is to say that because in that region there are forested areas where the branches need to be topped off and so on and so on. I think that if we continue in this way, we won't get rid of those mosquitoes. Will the Commissioner see

to it that, in addition to the fogging campaign, other measures are taken to eliminate that nuisance?

Mr. Sooprayen: M. le Président, j'ai une autre question, B/51 à laquelle je vais répondre pour vous dire qu'il y a plusieurs mesures qu'on a prises. Dans la question B/51 je vais donner la réponse.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner informed the House that when cases are reported to his commission, where cases of chikungunya have been identified, the fogging exercise is done within a radius of 100 metres. Does it mean that the mosquitoes can fly only over a distance of 100 metres? Because I have got information that whenever a case is reported, the fogging exercise is done in the immediate environment of the house. Take e.g, in my village, there are different householders which are being affected by this chikungunya and I would like to know from the Commissioner for Health what will be the action of his commission in these cases?

Mr. Sooprayen: M. le Président, le moustique *Aedes Albopictus*, d'après tout ce qu'on a entendu par des experts, des spécialistes, ne parcourent pas une distance pas plus de 100 mètres. Avant on nous avait dit 50 mètres, maintenant on dit « pas plus de 100 mètres ». Mais alors, pourquoi cette propagation à toutes les à toutes les régions ? C'est que les gens voyagent ; deuxième point, vous dites qu'au début, lorsqu'on a eu un cas, quand c'était un cas confirmé, tout de suite on est allé – l'équipe sanitaire – pour faire le nécessaire. Et puis, lorsqu'on a eu « *suspected cases not only confirmed cases* », là on a fait encore plus. Mais actuellement, on couvre toute la région complete : 100 mètres et puis plus.

Mr. Emilien : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, *I would like to come back to* la cargaison de médicaments et autres appareils qu'on a reçu en donation de l'Inde ; tout récemment, il n'y avait pas de case de chikungunya à Rodrigues. Donc, on a comprend peut-être le peu d'équipements, le peu de médicaments qu'on a reçus par rapport par rapport à la situation. A Maurice il y a des milliers. Mais la situation actuelle veut que le nombre de médicaments et d'autres appareils reçus devraient augmenter. Qu'est-ce que la commission de la santé a fait pour avoir encore plus parce que la donation de l'Inde n'est pas venue en une seule cargaison. Il y a eu une quarantaine de tonnes depuis plusieurs semaines de cela et là, nous sommes en présence d'un petit lot – c'est peut-être en rapport avec la population à Maurice mais tout de même, qu'est-ce qui a été fait pour augmenter la quantité?

Mr. Sooprayen : M. le Président, on a fait la demande parce que au parlement, à une question, le ministre de la santé, Satish Faugoo a répondu ce qu'on a eu de l'Inde et puis il a dit il y a « 9000 qu'on va envoyer à

Rodrigues ». De ce 9000, on a dit en étant donné ici ça continue. Notre seul soulagement c'est qu'on attend qu'avec l'hiver qui arrive, ça va définitivement baisser.

CONSTRUCTION OF TRACK ROADS

(No. B/45) Mr. Grandcourt (*The First Local Region Member for La Ferme*) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the construction of track roads in Rodrigues, he could table a list of the places in Rodrigues where same have been constructed or will be constructed up to July this year, giving their length and a breakdown of the amounts of money earmarked for each project?

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

The construction of track roads has been carried out and financed under different projects such as the Anti-Erosion Programme, the Trust Fund for the Vulnerable Groups, IFAD and my commission. The list of track roads which have been constructed by the commission of Public Infrastructure is at annex 1 (**Appendix C**) and the list of ongoing works on track roads and footpaths is at annex 2 (**Appendix D**).

Mr. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a supplementary question. With regard to the construction of track roads, can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner who has got the contract to deal with track roads in all the regions? Whether this is being done by the villages themselves or one or many contractors?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, some of the track roads are being built by contractors and the others on a voluntary basis by villagers themselves in different villages of the island.

Mr. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as per the Central Tender Board, has he been advised to construct these track roads all over the island or any specific villages in the island?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there was only a contract based on the construction of track roads in four villages which has been launched by the Central Tender Board. All the other ongoing track road construction works are being done on a voluntary basis.

Mr. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I can see on annex 2, there are some track roads which are ongoing. We see Petit Gabriel, Petit Gabriel, Eau Vannée. This means out of 8 track roads, four are being constructed in a particular area of the Island. Can we know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner the reason for this?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at the Commission of Public Infrastructure, we have a long outstanding demand for the construction of road accesses in different villages of the Island. These track roads are being built on a voluntary basis in these villagers where the beneficiaries have signified their intention to provide free labour. However, we have already surveyed about 35 road accesses all around the island and where villagers offer their free labour. Our Commission will supervise construction and provide materials to the villagers.

Mr. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner admitted that there is a long list and then he says there are 35 villages and those people are ready to give free labour. But how come that it is only one region. What I don't understand is Petit Gabriel – 150 mètres, Eau Vannée – 60 mètres, *Petit Gabriel – 175 mètres et Petit Gabriel (La Gare) – 375 mètres. C'est ça le problème, M. le Président. Il y a 35 villages où les personnes ont signifié leur intention de donner free labour. Pourquoi out of the 8, quatre sont à Petit Gabriel? Est-ce qu'il y a des raisons politiques M. le Président? Est-ce que le commissaire peut nous éclairer là-dessus, car nous n'arrivons pas à comprendre ?*

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said, we have surveyed 35 other road accesses. These first eight accesses were surveyed before the 35 ones. But I would have to enlighten the respected member that the village of Petit Gabriel itself, there are different electoral zones and all these track roads together with the 35 others will be built all through the island as you can see on the list. You have Dans Samy, Accacia, Crève Coeur and the other track roads which have already been surveyed and where villagers intend to give free labour in the next financial year. Same will be done all over the island in La Ferme also.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have been traveling all around the island through track roads and we have seen that some track roads have the width only for a wheel to pass through. Can we know whether there are a certain standards, norms for building track roads?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said in the first part of my answer, some track roads were financed by Anti-Erosion Programme and the Trust Fund. The width of these track roads is 3 feet width

for one track. And we intend also, perhaps in years to come, to fill the middle of the track road with other materials so as these track roads become complete road and provide better accesses to villagers.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner mentioned that the inhabitants of the regions where these four track roads have confirmed their participation in the works in terms of free labour. Can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, being given that 4 out of 8 track roads have been built in one village, whether in other villages, people have not agreed to offer their free labour for the building of these track roads?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, many of these villages intend to give free labour. But we have some road accesses which measure about 1 km where which will need construction by contractors. This is why in the capital budget, we have created a vote item for New Infrastructural Development in villages to cater for that.

CAMP PINTADE FOOTBALL GROUND

(No. B/46) Mr. Grandcourt (*The First Local Region Member for La Ferme*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports whether, with regard to the improvement works carried out on the football ground at Camp Pintade, he could give details of all the works carried out there to date?

Mr. N. Lisette (Commissioner for Youth & Sports): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission has undertaken a series of work for the upgrading of several football grounds around the island with the help of a maintenance team under the supervision of the commission for Public Infrastructure. So far, the following grounds have been attended to: *Dan Coco, Maréchal* and *Patate Théophile*. The fencing of *Baie Topaze* football ground is now being upgraded. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to point out that upgrading of grounds is being done on contract as well as by public officers. Other football grounds which my Commission is going to upgrade by the maintenance team include *Rivière Cocos, Camp Pintade* and *Montagne Cabris Est*. As regards to *Camp Pintade* football ground, the works were done by A.J. Maurel and Co. As stated above, as per our plans of activities, my commission will, after the stabilization of the soil of the pitch, proceed with fencing, retaining wall, removal of rocks and the installation of posts.

Mr. Grandcourt: M. le Président, le commissaire a parlé de Dans Coco, Rivière Cocos, Montagne Cabris, Maréchal. Il faut voir, on peut s'extirper de la réponse. Ma question était sur Camp Pintade. Je me rappelle très bien, M. le Président, le travail a été fait juste avant les élections, l'année dernière et puis

rien n'a été fait. Pourquoi ces jeunes de Camp Pintade doivent monter vers Baie Topaze pour venir faire des entraînement ce qui est injuste. On ne peut pas appeler ça des sacrifices parce que pendant tous ce temps on arrive pas a comprendre pourquoi juste avant les élections ? D'après les réponses on attend jusqu'à ce que le *excavated soil* be stabilise. Mais après tout ce temps, pourquoi rien n'a été fait?

Mr. Lisette: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the aim of the answer Mr. Chairperson, Sir, was to give an idea to the member of the way we are proceeding with the upgrading of the ground. The member is wrong when he says that the excavation of the ground was done before the election. As per our records, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the leveling of the ground was done in September and the general election was in July.

Mr. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I was there. Vous pouvez dire que je ne peux pas faire des insinuations. J'étais là, M. le Président, lorsqu'on a fait ces travaux-là. Je passais par là, accompagné d'un des candidats. Aujourd'hui, venir nous dire M. le Président que ça été fait en septembre, non. *This is misleading this House.*

Mr. Chairperson: There is no need for me to react to this point of order. Everybody knows. Is there a question?

Mr. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the works were done in September.

Mr. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I maintain that the works were done before the election.

Mr. Chairperson: Move to the next, the Second Island Region Member.

SHELTER FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(No. B/47) **Mrs. Clair (The Second Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts and Culture, Women's Affairs, Family Welfare, Community Development, etc, as regards the shelter for victims of domestic violence and others found at Oyster Bay, whether she would inform the House

- (a) about the number of victims or other persons sheltered there at present and their age, sex and status; and
- (a) whether any of these persons escaped from the shelter during the months of April to May 2006 and the reasons therefore?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Bégué (Commissioner for Arts and Culture, Women's Affairs, Family Welfare, Community Development): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, today there are 7 children at the shelter at Oyster Bay. There are a boy aged one year, six girls aged between 5 months to 15 years respectively. one girl aged 5 is at Oyster Bay Primary School, the girl aged 13 and 15 attend Mont Lubin and Le Chou colleges respectively, two other girls aged 15 do not attend any educational institutions. Three other girls escaped from the shelter on 29 April 2006 along with another girl who has just been admitted in the shelter on 6 April 2006. An enquiry is still in progress by the police. The girls have declared that they have fled from the shelter to meet boy friends. The Commission has given the chance to the girls at the shelter to explain themselves and to justify the reasons why in the first instance they have run away from their homes. This is why at the first time they ran away the commission has arranged for their security at the shelter with the approval of the court. Unfortunately, these girls escaped again from the shelter and the commission is now in a position to say that they are children beyond control.

At the hearing of the case on Monday 8th May, 2006, that is yesterday, my commission has informed the Magistrate of the four girls misconduct and applied for them to be removed from the shelter and placed in correctional institutions. The Magistrate has instructed my commission to refer the case of misconduct for those four girls to the police for enquiry as the law requires specific procedures for that purpose after which the court will decide on 15th May 2006 whether they should be transferred to a probation hostel or to a correctional youth center.

Mrs. Clair: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner for Arts and Culture; so this is the second time these girls escaped as she said they are beyond control. Who assumes regularly security at this shelter so that these girls could escape twice?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, normally, we asked before the opening of the shelter, from experienced shelters in Mauritius which were run before taken over by NGOs, we asked the Ministry how it is done. Normally, since these persons are not prisoners, they are not supposed to be look after by police. What we have done is modeled on the system in Mauritius i.e we pay for security guards, one up to 17.00 hours and after that for two security guards. But as it is said, the security guards provide a service as these

persons have come to us to ask for security for themselves because they in the environment where they are they are not feeling secure. This is the basis where we put people in the shelter. This is supposed that these persons would not be running away. We ask for security like it is done in all these institutions, for security against wounds, for protection when they are threatened or whatever.

Normally, the contract with these security guards require them to make sure that nobody gets into the shelter and now we see that these persons are busy, , these are young people as the magistrate said; they must be treated as such because they may be passing through different adolescence, youth problems. But what I can say is that the girls unscrewed the burglarproof bars – after some time happened to do it, girls that they are, and had tactics to divert the attention of those persons who were inside because they had in mind that their boyfriends were waiting for them.

Thank you.

Mrs. Clair: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is rather strange that like the Commissioner herself said, she put the girls in this shelter so that they are secure and now they are escaping just like from a prison. So, it means that there, the other children are insecure. If these girls have been able to unscrew, I don't know what to get out; they are beyond control. So, how can they be placed with other children who needs to be in a safe place?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would say you cannot pre-empt the character of people. When problems were made – as you know initially – these persons run away because they were scared of their environment. They made a long police statement. They even intervene in chambers before the magistrate to say why they did not want to stay at home. So, normally the first thing to do is to be secure in another place. But unfortunately, this is what we should do. We cannot bring people who are saying they are suffering, we cannot send people to correctional centres. These were no grounds to do that. It is on the basis that now; they are misconducting themselves that we are coming to the conclusion now that right from the beginning we were behaving correctly.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my colleagues and I have visited the outside of the centre. We have seen that there are male security guards there. And the Commissioner mentioned that the girls went out for their boyfriends. Is it safe to place male security guards there as she just said?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: If I understand you well, it seems that we should not have male teachers. Well, we have mixed activities. This is not correct, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because the shelter is being run by a responsible

organisation because if I follow your logic, this is the same thing that we should be doing. This is not correct because these girls, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, are persons who are having problems. Those security guards, be women or men, have a contract for a specific job to be doing. You know if you are attempt to I don't want to tread on slippery grounds and I don't think that they have been anything which are not correct, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mrs. Clair: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner, given the situation about their security, has there been any psychological treatment/follow-up for these girls at the time they entered the shelter? Because you said before they enter the shelter they had run away from their houses? And after they run away the first time, has there been any psychological follow-up? What is being done now?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: As you know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have a technical team which comes over to Rodrigues twice a month so that any person who needs psychological treatment these persons is being seen. But what we do normally, before people are sent to the shelter, they are seen by a doctors. The case is scrutinised by legal advisers before it is brought before the court. And the police also are consulted psychologists as well, I am sure, I can give the duties, etc, I don't have them now.

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we all knows that children who are admitted to a shelter are those who gave got problems. Otherwise, they would stay with their families. As my colleague mentioned, we were there two days ago we have seen the environment is not friendly, grass not cut at a reasonable level and I would like to ask the Commissioner, since the first case where the girls escaped from the shelter, what has been done to reinforce security – I don't mean the number of security guards because it seems you will have to cater for security agents for your security guards because they themselves are not secure there. So, what has been done to reinforce security to prevent them from escaping from the shelter?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have asked for security company to give us reasons why. But as I told you, our contract in the first instance is so that they prevent people to get in but not from getting out but they were watching. Now, as regards a system has been put in the sense that these two security guards are supposed to move round the compound and each time they move they must record it in a book. Also, we have changed the locks and key of the different parts to make sure – but I think these girls also are sports girls. There is one of the three they have long legs...

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, time is up.

PUBLIC TOILETS

(No. B/48) **Mrs. MEUNIER** (*The Second Island Region Member*) asked the Chief Commissioner, with regard to public toilets in Port Mathurin, whether he would inform the House

- (a) about the number of toilets presently in use; and
- (b) whether they were in a satisfactory state?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are four public toilets in the region of Port Mathurin; two at the Bus Terminal at Baie Lascars, one at the Granary Building and the fourth one is found at the green space opposite the police station for the time being only the toilet at the granary building is in use. The other three is not in a satisfactory state and are temporarily put out of service due to repeated break down resulting to mis-utilisation and vandalism. A series of materials have already been purchased for the repair of these toilets which will be effected shortly. Concurrently, the management of these toilets through public/private partnerships approach is being considered and will be implemented once the modalities have been worked out.

Mrs. Clair: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it seems every time we come here we are talking about toilets; it's really painful to see that here we have a regional government and they cannot even manage toilets. We have two toilet blocks at the Bus Terminal and they are not in use. Everyday we have people coming in and going out and now they are waiting. It is to be considered that a private company is going to manage toilets because of vandalism and other people that damage the toilets. I would like to ask the Commissioner, are we going to wait for how long to have these toilets restored and be used by people?

The Chief Commissioner: This is not the first time that we repair toilets. Every month the toilets are being repaired and now the company in charge of the toilets – it is not a private management company. It is just cleaning of the toilets. How to manage this? People come in and they use the toilets correctly, this is not in the contract of *La Voirie*. That's why we are now thinking that people should pay for going into the toilets and that's why we have worked out the possibility of contracting to either private organisations or private companies the management and make people pay whenever they use them. We have worked out the management of toilets night and day and this cost a lot of money. That's why we are managing the toilets, even the environment in Rodrigues where funds have been allocated. We are aware of that. We are also thinking how a compost toilet can be use. We are working on

that project for the other toilets. But the two toilets in Port Mathurin must be managed separately, night and day. This is our objective.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner say, in the meantime, being given that there are only two toilets. What is the situation in Port Mathurin for those persons who have an urgent natural need? What answer, I am asking on behalf of these people who come to Port Mathurin from far-off away, what are these people supposed to do? When they need to go to the toilets, the toilets are closed.

The Chief Commissioner: We can't allow people to go into these toilets when they are damaged and you know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the procedures to buy equipments I takes certain times. When we saw the equipment has been vandalized, we had to go through the procedure to buy these items of equipment. In the meantime, what are we going to do? Open the toilets and leave it like that. I think we have to close them.

The Minority Leader: My question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what should people who need the toilets in urgent situations; people coming from all parts of the island. What are they expected to do? I want to know what alternative, if any, are available for these people, what alternative are there?

The Chief Commissioner: If the Minority Leader will come with suggestions, we'll follow them.

Mr. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, je voudrais dire au Chef Commissaire que le Minority Leader a dit, est-ce que le Chef Commissaire sait où vont ces gens qui viennent à Port Mathurin ? Parce que ces gens-là, les touristes ont des besoins. Je prends l'exemple de la gare de Port Mathurin ; est-ce qu'il sait où vont ces gens ? C'est ça qu'il faut savoir au lieu de dire qu'on va faire payer. On parle des spécificités rodriguaises; sait-il où vont ces gens ?

The Chief Commissioner : Je ne crois pas. Il y a des gens, des touristes, ils vont dans les restaurants, d'autres lieux où ils peuvent faire leurs besoins. Mais dans le cas présent, vous avez quatre toilettes et toutes ces toilettes sont vandalisées. Pour les nettoyer, de grosses pierres, tout est cassé, on l'a vu, des poteaux. Alors, est-ce qu'on ouvre ça aux gens? Et quand je dis qu'on va préparer ces affaires-là, ça va prendre un peu de temps, vu les procédures, il faut acheter, il faut réparer et maintenant, lorsqu'on va réparer, les mêmes personnes, probablement, vont venir démolir ces histoires-là. Pourquoi ces personnes font ça – pourquoi, posez-vous la question – pourquoi ces personnes vandalisent ces toilettes ? Posez-vous la question ? Alors, justement, une question de conscience. Alors, vous aussi, faites l'éducation de vos gens.

Je dis que nous allons réparer le plus vite possible et nous allons essayer de mettre une gestion le plus rapidement possible.

Mr. Chairperson: There is a point of order?

Mr. Jabeemissar: I heard the Chief Commissioner say “*faites l’éducation de vos gens*”. He is assuming that those acts of vandalism belong to us. I would want him to remove these words.

The Chief Commissioner: Faites l’éducation des gens. Bon, alors, je retire, je dis faites l’éducation des gens.

Mrs. Clair: Je suis étonné que le Chef Commissaire se laisse emporter par une affaire de toilettes. Mais malheureusement pour lui, en tant que commissaire de l’environnement, je pense qu’il y a des *Environment Officers* et d’autres personnes qui travaillent dans son département, qui peuvent entretenir les toilettes. Il a parlé de suggestion ! Pourquoi il y a le gardien qui surveille, par exemple, le département des travaux, l’administration. Pourquoi, il n’y a une sécurité à côté des toilettes à Port Mathurin?

The Chief Commissioner: Ce n’est pas une question de gardienage. Non, c’est une question que la personne entre à l’intérieur, est-ce que le gardien sait ce qui se passe à l’intérieur? C’est ça, M. le Président, quand on a la gestion, on fait payer la personne qui entre et la personne qui s’occupe de ça doit aller appeler, voir si la bonne utilisation a eu lieu. Alors, ce n’est pas un gardien qui va empêcher le vandalisme. Non. Quand ils vont à l’intérieur, vous voyez vous? C’est ça le gros problème, à Maurice aussi ça se passe, à l’extérieur aussi un peu partout.

Mr. Grandcourt: M. le Président, est-ce que je pourrai demander au Chef Commissaire quand il compte mettre en pratique ce nouveau concept de toilette payant. Mais j’aimerais lui dire, M. le Président, c’est à lui de voir, c’est à lui de trouver la solution. Il a été mandaté par la population pour emmener des solutions, qu’il le fasse. Il ne peut pas venir dire ici « aller faire l’éducation des gens » quand c’est lui qui est responsable. On le paie pour ça, il voit lui comment trouver la solution.

The Chief Commissioner: Même ces officiers dans *l’Environment Unit* se casse la tête pour savoir qu’est-ce qu’il faut faire. Alors, nous allons essayer, après la réparation de ces toilettes, de trouver une solution, voir comment ces toilettes restent en bon état. Après, si on trouve la solution, tant mieux ; si on ne trouve pas la solution, sinon beuh...

The Minority Leader: Une dernière chose, M. le Président que je voudrais savoir sur ces toilettes. On sait qu'il y a des contrats pour le nettoyage de ces toilettes. Il y a des gens qui sont payés. Est-ce qu'on peut savoir, pendant la période actuelle où les toilettes sont fermées, est-ce que le paiement pour le nettoyage de ces toilettes continue d'être fait? Est-ce que le fond public que le gouvernement a versé à ces contracteurs ?

The Chief Commissioner: Il y a des *Enforcement Officers* qui doivent faire des rapports et au moment où la compagnie envoie les réclamations, c'est aux *Enforcement Officers* de faire des remarques et de dire que telle ou telle toilette n'a pas été nettoyée. A partir de ça qu'on paie le contracteur.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes.

JOINT PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ

(No. B/49) **Mr. J. ROUSSETY** (*The Minority Leader*) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as Head of the Executive Council, he would give an account of the circumstances which led to the issue of a joint press communiqué by Commissioners, save for the Commissioner for Health, on the 17th of April 2006?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, first of all, I wish to inform the House that a press release, not a press communiqué as mentioned in the question was issued on the 17th April from my office. Moreover it emanates from five commissioners only. Standing order 18 provides I quote:

“questions may be asked of Commissioners relating to public affairs with which they are officially connected or to any administration for which they are responsible”.

There is nothing in the press release which is of any relevance to any area of responsibility assigned to the commissioners concerned or any matter of administration in relation to the respective commissioners. Therefore, Mr. Chairperson, sir the press release deal with matters which fall outside the ambit of the abovementioned Standing Order.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if this press release, and as far as my knowledge of journalism can help me, press release and press communiqué are one and the same thing. The press release had nothing to do with the management/administration and the work of Commissioners; can I ask why the office of the The Chief Commissioner had to issue this press release?

If it was not related to the work of the Commissioners, why was it issued by the Chief Commissioner's Office, going to be paid from public funds?

The Chief Commissioner: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a press communiqué is paid from public funds, but a press release is not being paid by public funds. I have already answered the question.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, would the Adviser responsible for communication at the office of the Chief Commissioner send any communiqué that he wants to send to the public or through the media and so on and so forth.

Mr. Chairperson: You mean the Adviser?

Mr. Agathe: Yes.

Mr. Chairperson: You have understood the question?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, it emanates from five Commissioners. Yes, it is also issued from my office. There is a press release from Commissioners of the Executive Council.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this communiqué said that Commissioners if my memory is good – are making a cross on a conflict which occurred within the Executive Council and that they are getting back to work with the Chief Commissioner. Is he aware that this communiqué contains such information?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have already replied to the first question. Questions may be asked of Commissioners relating to public affairs with which they are officially connected or any administration matter for which they are responsible. This is my last reply on this matter.

The Minority Leader: Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that public utilities, the fax of government, telephone lines have been used for this communiqué, what was the exact nature of this communiqué?

The Chief Commissioner: I have already replied to the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait.

The Minority Leader: Would the Chief Commissioner table a copy of this communiqué, Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

The Chief Commissioner: I have already replied, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, no communiqué, no press release will be tabled.

The Minority Leader: Is that a matter of secrecy? Is it a matter of state secrecy? Because it is a press release; it is available to one and all. What are the reasons why the Chief Commissioner does not want to table a copy for the information of the House?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because I said Standing Order 18 provides:

“questions may be asked of Commissioners relating to public affairs with which they are officially connected or to any administration for which they are responsible”.

We are not coming to other specific issues concerning Commissioners.

Mr. Chairperson: I think the matter is in a sort of way locked. You are asking questions and the Chief Commissioner is maintaining his original answer. This is what I can see. But the question is, if you still continue questioning outside the provision as mentioned by the Chief Commissioner. Then, the question won't be in order. If you ask a question which is pertinent, which is appropriate, then, of course? But bear in mind you can't proceed with question yielding the same answers.

The Minority Leader: This is what I am paid for.

Mr. Chairperson: This is also what my duty requires me to do. I cannot allow questions which are not admissible in this House.

The Minority Leader: May be it is admissible but he does not want to answer. Yes. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know what is the nature. I refuse this argument that this is an affair which falls within the purview of Standing Order 18 because this communiqué has been sent to the press, has been signed by Commissioners and there are serious matters relating to the strategic administration of Rodrigues, Mr. Chairperson. Why does the Chief Commissioner refuses to give information about this communiqué? Is it because there is some shame in it, Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait. The nature of the question is not admissible, you don't question why a Commissioner is not answering. We are in a locked situation.

/UNREVISED/

The Minority Leader: Then, can I ask, are there categories of press releases where they think that there is nothing more to be said about it or even questioned in the Assembly? What is this area of *zone d'ombre* where we cannot ask questions? We can't have access to what has been done.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the same reply – Standing Order 18.

Mr. Chairperson: I understand from the Chief Clerk that time is passed. So, questions are over. Let's move to the next item on the Order Paper.

The Minority Leader: Just, one point, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, one important point on which I would like to stress is that affairs where oral questions are not passed we are supposed to have written answers immediately after.

Mr. Chairperson: Immediately after.

The Minority Leader: Yes, immediately after, I have asked a question, I need an answer e.g B/50 I need the answer today. we are stressing on this, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because my friend, Mr. Allan Ladd Emilien asked questions one year ago and he is still waiting for the answers. So, we'd appreciate that the answers are immediately tabled so that we don't have to wait until the next full moon for the answers.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, you want me to...

The Minority Leader: The Standing Order says where a question is not answered, a written answer must be handed to the Clerk immediately. And I need the answers.

Chairperson: Except for the word "immediately" but Commissioners should be aware that questions have been sent on the Order Paper and I wanted to say if some of the answers are ready, it is normally good for the dignity of the House that these answers be tabled as soon as possible. Yes, let's move to the next item on the Order Paper.

MOTIONS

The Minority Leader (Mr. Johnson Roussety):

"This Assembly resolves that it has no confidence in the Chief Commissioner".

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move the motion standing in my name, another motion of no confidence which is as usual: ***“This Assembly has no confidence in the Chief Commissioner”***.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are the first Rodrigues Regional Assembly ever established by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act, by the Constitution of Mauritius which have been given to Rodrigues a full-fledge Assembly of eighteen members together with its Executive Council. And I do not need, here, to remind every member and every Rodriguan of the provisions of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act. We have, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, an Executive Council and we have, of course, an opposition. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this side of the House, this opposition that I lead and which my party proudly defends, the Movement Rodriguais, we are proud of the jobs that we have been doing since the inception of the Assembly. I am proud of all the work, the immense task that we have faced as opposition members, as elected politicians since the coming into operation of this House. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this mandate will be marked by one event which has occurred recently and for which, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, much shame, much discomfort has been thrown on Rodrigues, on Rodriguans and Rodriguan political figures. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am referring to that crisis has undermined the Executive Council of Rodrigues during the week 12 to 17 April and into the following week where the Chief Commissioner of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, in a press article published in Mauritius.

The Chief Commissioner: On a point of order, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, well, the motion stipulates “no confidence in the Chief Commissioner” and the law says “reference to the Chief Commissioner only as far as his areas of responsibility”, but we are going aside, making insinuation on things which are not allowed within this regional government and issues concerning a political party are being debated here. I should like to have your ruling on that because “confidence in the Chief Commissioner” means government itself, in its way of doing things or assuming his responsibility. So I would like to...

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, I have understood the point of order. I have tried to follow the speech of the Minority Leader. He was just on the point of referring to a press article. From what I have gathered from the Chief Commissioner is that press article deals with matters rather personal or private to his political party and that in his contention, this Assembly does not exist for discussion on those matters. They are outside the official capacity that the law has bestowed on them. Of course, there is a big issue as regards motions. Standing Order 38 states that *“debate should be relevant to the motion”*, but Standing Orders do not provide guidelines on what is normally allowed and not allowed in a clear fashioned way. What we have is the procedural aspect of it and the content which is enumerated Standing Order 36. But it stands to logic

that this Assembly exists for reasons. There is, on the other hand, the Executive Council which exists as an institution for certain reasons. And I stated in one of my rulings that this Assembly is competent to deal only with matters that the law allow them to do so. And in this case, I do understand the point of the Chief Commissioner that personal matters having not a link with his official capacity, is not allowed. And it is none of the business of the House to look either into the internal running of political parties or to deal with private matters dealing with Members. But, of course, the Chief Commissioner should be aware

(Gap on cassette)

that when a matter is purely relevant personally, private matter or any matter which is rather relevant to the official capacity. But I will direct the Minority Leader to make this distinction and not deal with things that are not allowed here. There is no straightforward classification of things that cannot be said. It is not clear-cut in the Standing Orders. But it stands to reason from what we have by ways of Standing Orders that we have to be relevant, no subjective matters which have nothing to do with the official capacity of the Chief Commissioner.

The Minority Leader: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, of course I am not here under this motion of no-confidence, attack the personal integrity of anybody; I am here to comment on the public conduct of holders of office of Chief Commissioner and Commissioners and any member, of course, as public figures, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I think that all public figures in every law book on collective responsibility, individual responsibility of ministers, it is expected that the behaviour of public figures should be beyond doubt, especially as regards those in government, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards this important constitutional convention which lies on the basis of all governments' solidarity – the convention of collective responsibility. So, my intention, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is, of course, not to attack any personal integrity of anybody here. I have seen a woman crying and I don't want anybody crying again. I would like that we examine our motion because, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is our role also. On our shoulders, on the shoulders of this side of the House lie the checks and balances that are of utmost importance in a democracy. We could have called the Assembly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Being given the political situation which was prevailing in our country, we could have called the Assembly long before the sitting today. But we have preferred to wait for today so that this matter can be examined. And as responsible politicians, we would not have let the opposition go without exercising our power, our duty of checks and balances on the Executive Council. And this is the role we are doing and this is what is expected from us and we will always do it as long as we are on this side of the House and as well as when we will be on the other side. So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir...

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order, please!

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Minority Leader is talking about collective responsibility. Well, the collective responsibility of the Commissioners lies in the Executive Council on decisions taken and policy decisions. This is a collective responsibility. We can't talk of collective responsibility when things happen to a political party. That's two things different. Yes, you should understand what I am saying. A collective responsibility is within the Executive Council and within the Executive Council concerning decisions taken by the Executive Council and policy decisions taken by the Executive Council. This is a collective responsibility. Outside of that there is no collective responsibility. A problem happens within a party, a problem within a party is not collective and this must not be associated to the Executive Council as collective responsibility.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, I understand that this is a rather rare situation where – it is not a point of order *stricto sensu* in the sense of the word, but on the other hand it is a matter which falls within the Standing Order 35(11)(b) that the Minority Leader has given way and it is a sort of explanation given to a person. Yes, but in the future, if a member wants to interrupt another member, either he wishes to raise a point of order or if the other member is willing to give way, then he can intervene. Yes, proceed, Minority Leader.

The Minority Leader: Yes, thank you again, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and I would like to stress that the Chief Commissioner would have the full right under Freedom of Speech and all the times he wants, to answer all the qualms, all the criticisms that I am putting to his office as Chief Commissioner and to any office – Commissioner for Sports, Health, I think Training remains only and Arts and Culture, etc, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we don't have to be afraid. Tomorrow I am Chief Commissioner, I am sitting on the other side of the House, there is a motion of no confidence against me, I am here, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will stand. I will stand as a responsible politician to see what the opposition has to say on me. And if what they have to say on me is founded, I am the first, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, who is going to resign, to tender my resignation to the President of the Republic. And this is the school of thought which governs this side of the House. And myself, if I am Chief Commissioner tomorrow, if any Commissioner misbehaves, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will call him to my office

and tell him “you are misbehaving, you must stop, behave well”! And if he continues, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will call him and would ask his resignation. And if he does not want to resign, I use the law, I ask the President to put an end to his office as a Commissioner. And if myself I misbehave and the Commissioner tell me “you have misbehaved, go away”, I would have no other opportunity than to tender my resignation. This is the matter, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. It is a question of pride for this Assembly; we have lost our pride, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

(Applause)

We have to cry the Commissioner for Arts and Culture has cried in this House and this is a very very

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Point of order, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is a matter of self explanation.

Mr. Chairperson: No, you can’t for self explanation, yes.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I was ill this morning and my staff called you to say that may be I would not be coming because I was not feeling well. But it had nothing to do with crying, I never cried this morning, and I don’t want this to be taken this way; I was not feeling well and until now I am not feeling well, but it has nothing to do with crying for whatever reason.

The Minority Leader: Yes, it’s good we have the precision to know that the Commissioner was not crying. I was saying, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the pride of the Assembly, the reputation of the Assembly has taken a very bad hook with this affair which started with – we know – a press article, an interview which was made by the Chief Commissioner in L’Express of the 12th April 2006.

The Chief Commissioner: I will insist on a point of order. Well, the Minority Leader is referring to a press article. This has nothing to do with the motion concerning confidence in the Chief Commissioner. Well, we are going with that. Are we going ahead trying to say that the motion of confidence is according to the responsibilities of the Chief Commissioner in his duty or on a reference to a press article which is outside his responsibilities? Well, I should like to know, Mr. Chairperson, whether we are going ahead. If we allow this motion to go ahead like that, we are going to go inside, inside, and at a certain time, we are criticising the political party here. So, I am the leader of a political party and at the same time the Chief Commissioner of the Executive Council, so, I should like to know whether we are going ahead with this motion today, is it on this article which has made a certain fuss or on the confidence in the Chief

Commissioner on the responsibilities given to him or in his duties as Chief Commissioner?

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order, please! Yes, I do understand your point, Chief Commissioner, this is why when I say that the Minority was on the point of referring to a press article. You know the problem for me, in this place, is that whatever I may have gathered outside this Assembly, it is not properly recorded here. What I understand is that the Minority Leader is up to referring to a press conference. Officially, there is nothing, no indication what this press conference contains, but if the press conference contains things which are purely political and concerns the internal management of a political party, this, of course, you'll agree, this is not allowed here. This is not allowed here, and we are not going to waste time on this, you go to the official content.

The Minority Leader: Yes, thank you again. I was expecting a number, a flow of points of order, knowing the attitude of some people, I think I will run. Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, have I mentioned the name of any political party since I started my speech? I have mentioned Commissioners, I have mentioned the names of the

Mr. Chairperson: I never reproached you about this.

The Minority Leader: No, no, I am asking myself. I have mentioned the name of the Movement Rodriguais. Have I mentioned the name of another party? No. Have I said that there is a political in a party? Leader of a party or members of a party are fighting and this should not be done, etc, this is not the purview of the House. This are talks for the streets, for people driving buses, etc, in the bus. We are concerned with Commissioners and a very big problem has arisen in the Executive Council and we have brought to the House today for discussion. And the conduct of the Chief Commissioner first came to light within that press interview. And we form part of a democracy, we have the judiciary, the parliament, the Executive and we have the press, which, they say, is the fourth power in the democracy. Are we going to occult every thing which goes into the press when this does not please us, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? No. What goes on in the press concerns politicians. Some people hide very things, they write in their own presses, they write all sorts of things, all sorts of things on myself, all sorts of things on my leader, on anybody here, all sorts of false things. But when things are written in the national press, he should be able, when somebody refers to it in debate, I don't see if it is not something which is very politically motivated, something which is biased, something which is controversial. I don't see why it should not be applied here. If the Chief Commissioner or any Commissioner tomorrow makes a declaration in the

press and says CPE examinations will be taken at 15 years old, this means that this House cannot talk about this, cannot question this? Under questions, even under questions, we can't put question on what has been said in the press, but in debates, we can refer to what has been said in the press. If you look at all the books which are written about constitution, about Constitutional Law, constitutional practice in the UK, they are always referring to the guardian, they are always referring to the times as a matter of support for the arguments, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. So, why can't we refer? This argument is factious, just a means to escape the scrutiny, today, of this side of the House. But we are going to carry on with our scrutiny of what has gone on, because as I said earlier, it is our duty, it is on our back to scrutinise put forward all these imbalances, the shame which has fallen on the political class of Rodrigues, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. And this, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is a breach, there has been a breach – I just mentioned this important constitutional convention which exists in West Minister style of parliament – is that convention of collective responsibility, Mr. Chairperson, Sir whereby in a few words this convention of collective responsibility imposes that government and we do have a government here, they have called themselves Regional Government and we do have it. We have a Central Government in Mauritius, we have an Assembly here and the executive arm of this Assembly is the Regional Government. This Regional Government is headed by the Chief Commissioner and there are Commissioners, there is an opposition, there is a President of the Assembly, there is a Clerk, all this is well recognised as being a West Minister system of Assembly, a West Minister system of government, and as such, there is full applicability of this convention of collective responsibility.

What does this convention says, Mr. Chairperson Sir? This convention says what? It is ridiculous for people who are governing this country, not to be able to understand the basic principal of ideas governing this convention of collective responsibility. And this convention itself is further subdivided into individual responsibility and ministerial responsibility, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. What do we mean by this? What does the English mean when they devise this? Because when they we are governing, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is government and to be able to be seen as strong, as being respected, government must speak of one voice. There must be solidarity within government, everything which is done within meetings, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner can say anything on his Commissioners and Commissioners can express any idea or wish; and their ideas may diverge. But, when they go out of the Council, they are expected to show one front only, and, most of all, not to reflect on the conduct of others, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and this is what has been violated, Mr. Chairperson. I would like to site, on this convention, a citation from a book constitutional work "Constitutional and Administrative Law" by Hiller Barnett – Fifth Edition, page 290 on collective responsibility. I quote:-

The Convention of collective responsibility, of collective cabinet responsibility emphasises the unanimity of government and its accountability to government. The rationale for the convention lies in the need for government to present a united front to parliament and the public in order to maintain confidence. A government which exhibits public disagreement over policy matters is one which will be regarded as weak and will be subjected to challenges in its authority to continue in office”, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

End of quote

Therefore, it is said in this reference work, a government which exhibits public disagreement over policy matters and this is what we have feared – is one which will be regarded as weak and one which should leave office, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on the point of political legitimacy. What is the legitimacy of government when Chief Commissioner and Commissioners are fighting publicly in the press, on the radios, in the declarations, are fighting publicly among themselves? What has been said in this interview, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? Things which are very very humiliating for ...

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, again a point of order concerning this question of collective responsibility. It seems that the Minority Leader is mixing issues.

Mr. Chairperson: Well, what I understand, it is not a point of order. But you want to elucidate some matters.

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, I gave my permission in order to allow to make your

Mr. Chairperson: The debate. Thank you.

The Chief Commissioner: The idea behind cabinet collective responsibility is that cabinet ministers representing public which in practice means *a priori* present to the media, a decision of policy which has been made by the entire public.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have a point of order! Please wait, please wait. Well, I mentioned...

The Minority Leader: I would like to know what is happening in this Assembly because he rises for a point of order and then he starts making a speech. I have told him we will have time to refer, to answer back my arguments. So, I don't know, whether I will talk five minutes, he wants to talk the other five minutes, so, please wait. I would like, Mr. Chairperson, to know what is the exact point of order which has been raised and if there is no point of order, if you would read out, I think, to continue, because time is going on and we are going to...

Mr. Chairperson: What I understand from what the Chief Commissioner is saying, which was under what I just mentioned, right. Under Standing Order 35(11)(b). Well, it depends upon you. If you want to give way to the Chief Commissioner to elucidate some matters, then it's alright. If the Commissioner wants to raise on a point of order, it is allowed, he can interrupt you.

The Chief Commissioner: The point is that there has been no criticism, critics against policy or decisions of the Executive Council concerning this interview which is being mentioned. That's why we say that collective responsibility does not go outside the cabinet decision, what had been decided and on the question of decision or policy of the cabinet. That's why I say, this interview, talking about Commissioners, criticisms outside; it's not based on decisions which have been taken in the Executive Council. This is my point, well, this is my point.

Why going outside naming an interview and I know exactly, we are going ahead, saying what has been said in this interview. Well, is it collective responsibility? Is it collective responsibility when you site an interview or are we going really in what we say about collective responsibility? There have not been critics against policy or decision in my interview. This is what I wanted to say.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, I take it from the Chief Commissioner that he is aware of what is written in the press. There is no reason for me to doubt his words and conditionally I will put it like this; if the excerpt does not deal with executive matters, and it is purely outside the official functions of the Commissioner, then, of course, I will appeal to the Minority Leader to refrain from addressing those issues because he won't be in order. Yes, proceed.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am allowed, because it has to be allowed a number of points of order on fallacious and petty issues.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, you cannot, you cannot...

The Minority Leader: Invite the Chief Commissioner, he has experience in politics. I will sit a few minutes, couple or a dozen of minute, I will sit down; and anybody wants to say that what have been said is wrong to defend themselves. They will have the opportunity to do it. But, please, listen to the opposition, we are also paid from public funds to do our job and we are trying to do our job. Because a very big problem has arisen in the island, in the country; a problem which will mark history and we are here to add our contribution to the debate in history, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Yes, I am not going to refer to any matter which is partly political, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I am just going to refer to matters which have undermined, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, which have gravely affected the functioning of the Executive Council following this press article and what has been said afterwards, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. And of course, the first thing in this interview regards the review of the areas of responsibility of the Commissioner for Education. Am I not right to examine this here? Of course we are. The former Commissioner for Education, they have removed most of his portfolio and this portfolio has been transferred to the Chief Commissioner's office. And the public reason, the reason which has been given and I cite the article Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is that these people *"ont mené un train de vie qui ne reflète pas la ligne du parti. Certaines ont construit une grande maison à étage..."*

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, point of order. Are we going to refer to an interview?

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: This is a point of order, Minority Leader.

The Chief Commissioner: Are we going to say that what has been written there is what has been said? Mr. Chairperson, I have gone in the Assembly many times and the Speaker...

(Interruptions)

...does refer to any article in the newspaper to debate on?

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order, please. Yes, well, I have to stop. Two persons on their feet, I cannot hear. Well, Minority Leader, if the Chief Commissioner rises on a point of order, you may not like it, but it is the way an Assembly runs. You've got to give way and take your seat. Yes, and then I understand that the point of order is that the Minority Leader should not

proceed. This is what I understand, right? And you rightly point out the Second Member for Maréchal that the point of order has not yet been completed. Yes, I would give the floor to the Chief Commissioner to complete the point of order do that I can make a ruling on it.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I was 20 years in the National Assembly and whenever a member of the Assembly refers to an article and trying to debate on that article, the Speaker will say “**no, we aren’t debating on articles which have been published in the newspaper**”, because what had been written in the newspaper is what exactly has been said. This is what exactly had been said. Are we going to rely on certain reporters or journalists who are sometimes political in their way of writing articles or are we going to debate on that today, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will say that it’s against the morality of this Assembly that we allow articles written in newspaper and we debate on that in the Assembly. I think this is the way to degrade this Assembly. I think this is the way to degrade this Assembly.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order, please.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Before I suspended the Assembly, I understand that the Chief Commissioner was on his feet on a point of order. Will the Chief Commissioner again raise the point of order?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I said that we can’t debate on an article published in a newspaper. You can quote what has been written in a book or somewhere, you can’t quote what has been written in a newspaper because it’s a reporting. We report, but what has been said can be reported incorrectly. That’s why I say, when I was in the National Assembly for 20 years, all Speakers, when someone would like, with a newspaper in his hand, to quote what has been said in a newspaper, the Speaker always said “**we don’t allow a member of the Assembly to quote what has been said in the newspaper**”. That’s why I say, when the Minority Leader wanted to talk about this interview in the newspaper, so, I said that this is wrong and we should not go ahead with that because this will lead us to certain insinuations or allegations written in a newspaper.

Mr. Chairperson: I understand that this has been the main purport of all your points of order. True it is that in case of questions, reference to any press article or newspapers are not allowed in content of questions and however, the basis of debate is more enlarged than questions. And when I said earlier that

debates must be relevant to the questions, this also means that we should not lose sight of the motion which is on the order paper which is a motion of no confidence against the Chief Commissioner. And we are not here to debate upon a press article, this is not allowed. But of course, I understand it; it would on the border line if the member in order to better illustrate his arguments, he may refer here and there, little excerpts, but a document in itself cannot be the basis, cannot be the basis. I mean, this is basic, we say elementary rules in debates in the Houses. I don't want, in a sort of way, to curdle the debate, but all the members should bear this in mind. Right! Yes, you're not going to question no...

The Minority Leader: I would like to apologies for disturbing the proceedings of the House just before you left and of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I repeat, we are not here to debate on press articles. I fully agree with your rulings and I don't see what is to be questioned; otherwise, I would have put a motion on the Order Paper to say that this Assembly debates on a press article which appears in newspaper X etc. This is not the content of the motion. The content of the motion is on reprehensible political and constitutional conduct of the Chief Commissioner and Commissioners, which, as I have said, have flown much shame on our Assembly in their way of doing.

The Chief Commissioner has given an interview in L'Express of 12 April 2006, stating *inter alia*, Mr. Chairperson, Sir – the head of the article is that his Commissioners are indisciplined, *il y a des Commissaires indisciplinés, M. le Président*. This is a clear example, a clear matter of breach of collective responsibility, because, as all people who have read this article and who have been shocked by this way of proceeding, especially in Rodrigues. Even at home, when a parent has something to say to his child, they may not say it in the streets, and they may not say it to another person. You call the person and you speak to him, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and this is the proper way of doing in government. You don't go into the press to say that such and such Commissioner is a drunkard.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, one minute, please, take your seat. Yes, I agree with your reference, but bear in mind the cardinal issue is that whatever is reported in the press, we are not going to preempt, we have no clue about whether the Commissioner, in fact, accept the article or whether there is a case in court challenging the voracity of the article. This is what I want to say. The rights are there; you should not take what is contained in the press as something said for instance, before this House as official.

The Minority Leader: This is not what I am saying.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, I'm sure you understand the point.

The Minority Leader: I'm in the press myself since a long time – I think 10 years I'm in the press also. Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let us read this article which seems to hurt the sensibility of some persons.

Other Commissioners have retaliated in the press and allow me, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because this matter is very sensitive and it shows, allow me to show what the atmosphere was in the country, how Commissioners, by way of the press, by way of the radio, the Chief Commissioner was attacking the Commissioners by way of press declarations, by way of what was written in the press.

I would like to quote an article by the newspaper L'Express of 15 April. What was the state of mind, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and I believe if this was not the case, the Commissioner would have ample time to refute that this is not what he said, etc.

But nevertheless, it has been written, it has been read by everybody, by 1.5 million people in Mauritius, by all the persons who read newspapers on the Internet, this is the state of mind of Mr. Lélío Roussety, Commissioner in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, on the 15 April 2006 and I quote:

“J’ai travaillé pendant vingt ans comme fonctionnaire en Angleterre. Je n’ai jamais été traité de la façon aussi humiliante. Il n’y a pas que moi qui suis blessé profondément dans ma dignité, mais ma femme et mon fils de onze ans aussi. »

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order. Well, I think we are going aside the debate concerning the Chief Commissioner's responsibility and now we are going aside on remarks on a newspaper. Well, this is, according to rules, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is not admissible. We are just reading what has been said in a newspaper. You are going too far on that. This is not the real spirit of the Regional Assembly, even of the National Assembly. I have never heard that in the National Assembly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, I am sure the Minority Leader understands the point of order and that it is well-rooted as well.

The Minority Leader: Yes, but I would like to continue to show what the state of mind to the House because I am here with my rhetoric, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I want members to understand what the point behind my motion is. And I want to convince all the elective members here. If there were 500 members, my class would be easier, of course. But to convince, shouldn't I

have the arguments? Where will I have the arguments? In declarations, in what has been said. This is basic of rhetoric, Mr. Chairperson, Sir..

(Applause)

And if I am not allowed to do it, if I am not allowed to do it, how will I convince, I just come here and smile? Some members were talking, said I have dropped some arguments. The arguments are here; I have my arguments, so let me put my arguments in a democratic way, and if my arguments are false, what I said is false, or I am attacking the personal integrity of somebody, I am just saying what a Commissioner said. It is an official declaration in the press. So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: One minute, there is one point in taking the article itself as the argument and there is another point in citing your argument and supporting.

The Minority Leader: I am supporting but the articles have to be in my hand.

Mr. Chairperson: But put it clearly then.

The Minority Leader: Yes I am supporting. This is why I ask you to allow me and you remain silent meaning that you allowed me, effectively. So Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me to continue to cite this interesting, heartfelt...

The Chief Commissioner: On a Point of order. This is not a parliamentary issue. You report here what you have said, you don't report what has been reported in a newspaper. We must respect this spirit of the Assembly here. We don't report what has been said in any newspaper here, we report what you have heard not reported in a newspaper I think this is my point. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, otherwise, what we are garant? We are being a tribunal *ou nous sommes entrain de juger des personnes de ce coté de la chambre, nous sommes entrain de venir un tribunal en essayant vouloir sous une motion contre le Chef Commissaire de venir juger des personnes de ce cote de l'assemblée.*

Mr. Chairperson : Yes, Minority, I understand the point. The Chief Commissioner is right. We are not here to debate or just to distrair from newspapers point of view.

The Minority Leader: *We are not going to use the passive voice; we are not going to cite anything. So in an article, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, which was published, I was made to understand that the ex-Commissioner for Education said Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that he was humiliated, que lui et son fils de onze*

ans avaient été humilié par cette façon de faire. Que cela est une humiliation à toute cette expérience qu'il a eue pendant 20 ans en Angleterre. Et que selon lui Monsieur le Président, selon le Commissaire que si le Chef Commissaire avait des choses à dire, il aurait dû lui dire dans l'instance appropriée, Monsieur le Président et en toute confidentialité et le Commissaire a même déclaré que c'est comme cela que le Chef Commissaire lui a repris le porte-feuille de l'éducation. C'est-à-dire quand il fallait reprendre le porte-feuille de l'éducation, on a fait comprendre au Commissaire qu'il ne peut plus s'occuper de l'éducation dans le conseil. Et quand on a voulu critiquer le Commissaire on est allé en public dire Monsieur le Président, à cause des beuveries c'est pour ça que le porte-feuille de l'éducation a été retiré.

The Chief Commissioner: Excusez-moi il est entraîné. Il est entraîné d'associer des histoires ...on a point of order. J'insiste dessus. Est-ce que ce journaliste a écrit des choses comme ça a été dit. Je ne cause pas la radio, je cause le journal, je suis entraîné de dire le journal, c'est ce qui a été dit dans le journal.

Monsieur le président, alors je pose la question encore, est-ce que cette Assemblée est réduite à un article écrit dans un journal et certaines choses qui ont été dites, est-ce que c'est vrai ou c'est faux ça a été dit? Vous pouvez écouter tous les journalistes lancent des bêtises. Vous ne savez pas ça, qu'il y a des journalistes qui lancent des bêtises? Vous ne savez pas ça qu'il y a des journalistes politiques dans Maurice ou partout ailleurs qui vendent leurs peaux.

Alors justement, c'est ça que je dis Monsieur le Président, si ça va continuer en une sorte de tribunal? Si cette Assemblée est tournée aujourd'hui en une sorte de tribunal, pour juger le Commissaire ou ce qui a été dit d'une autre manière, qui a été dit selon les journalistes? Est-ce que L'Assemblée Régionale ou le Parlement National est réduit à ce niveau pour débattre sur ce qui a été dit dans un article ou une interview par quelqu'un ou sommes-nous arrivés? C'est ça mon problème.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order, please. This has been said. We understand that the debate is not being proceeded with. Well, Minority Leader, I will appeal to you..

(Interruptions)

Order, please. Please wait. This is a cardinal principal, do not cite the newspapers. You may cite from documents, not from newspapers.

The Minority Leader: Je vous est dit Monsieur le Président, pour pouvoir construire mon argument je dois dire quel est la source du problème et il se trouve que malheureusement..

Mr. Chairperson: Do not cite. Can't you retain from citing article, please.

The Minority Leader: How will I do it to support my argument? I take an argument in the atmosphere.

Mr. Chairperson: You are an intellectual, you know how to do it.

The Minority Leader: *Yes, Mr. Chair, I will appreciate that at least ...* que je puisse avoir l'opportunité de terminer la tâche qui m'incombe sans interruption, bien sure. Je vais essayer de ne pas blesser la sensibilité.

Mr. Chairperson: Please, do not rephrase, don't paraphrase from newspapers.

The Minority Leader: Yes, to make a résumé of these issues.

Mr. Chairperson: You have to be very very...

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will like to table an article which appeared in the press on the table of the assembly, two articles for the sake of history, for the sake of record of the Assembly, I believe the assembly should have this in the hansard, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, one minute please, if you are not allowed to cite press article, then, how can you table press articles.

The Minority Leader: Monsieur Le Président, est-ce que c'a veut dire qu'on doit diaboliser la presse dans ce pays est-ce que Monsieur le Chef Commissaire...

Mr. Chairperson: Please, wait, please wait. I should give an order concerning the press article.

The Minority Leader: si vous voulez pas le prendre,

Mr. Chairperson: No it is not me

The Minority Leader: Give me back my article it will be in the archives. Just give me, I will be glad to take it back. I was just putting it here for the You and the Chief Commissioner is diabolising the press..

Mr. Chairperson: I am not.

The Minority Leader: It is just a matter of information. If members want tomorrow to look at the article and I believe it should be admissible. Some people table one and everything and when we table something, it is not admissible. Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am to get back to the argument and at least get some concentration, to be able to end.

Mr. Chairperson: Proceed

The Minority Leader: As I see Mr. the Deputy Chairperson, it is being said as if a disapproval. What is the role of members here in this House Mr. Chairperson, Sir? What is the role of the Deputy Chairperson here in this House? Does he really understand the concept of collective responsibility? Does the Commissioner here understand the concept of collective responsibility? Does they know what it means Mr. Chairperson, Sir? Does they measure exactly what is the scope of a Chief Commissioner publicly criticizing the behavior saying all sort of things on Commissioners and all sort of personal matter on Commissioners. And Commissioners retaliating saying they will not go into the Executive Council until the Commissioner give explanations. So, we have gone very far away from what is good governance Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This is why I have said and I will tell the President of Mauritius officially and the Prime Minister that there is no more legitimacy in this Regional Government according to what has happened in the country. No more legitimacy to govern Rodrigues Mr. Chairperson, Sir because they have flouted the confidence which has been placed by them, by the people of Rodrigues. People of Rodrigues do not sell people at the level of the Executive Council to fight among themselves, they do not send people there to criticize themselves. They send people there as a team to work for the best interest of Rodrigues. And we see while people are having all sort of people there in Rodrigues, all sort of difficulties; unemployment difficulties, poverty, more and more young people are leaving the island in search of work for Mauritius, Toilets in Port Mathurin are not operational, all sort of problems in this island, people having much difficulty to send their children to school etc. These people at the level of the Executive Council are just fighting among themselves and are showing a very bad picture of politics and showing a very bad picture of the island to the nation and to the rest of the world Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This is why we have call for their resignation because they have flouterred one fundamental aspect of democracy and good governance which is this affair of collective responsibility Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

J'ai cherché M. le Président, j'ai demandé à certaine personnes qui sont un peu plus expérimenté que moi dans le domaine politique de l'histoire des exemples dans lequel dans un gouvernement ou il y a eu une mutinerie pareille dans un gouvernement et personne n'a été capable de me donner d'exemple. Peut-être qu'on ne prend pas assez en compte l'aspect historique ; ce que l'histoire retiendra de cette affaire. Mais on peut vous dire que l'histoire retiendra qu'il y a eu un genre de mutinerie au sein du premier conseil exécutif de l'Assemblée Régionale de Rodrigues.

Et quelle est l'impacte maintenant Monsieur le Président, l'impacte sur le travail qui a été fait jusqu'à maintenant et le travail qui va être fait jusqu'à la prochaine élection régionale ou le peuple aura l'occasion de se débarrasser de ce gouvernement régional incompétent *who is fighting among themselves* pour redonner à l'Assemblée Régionale un nouveau gouvernement régional M. le Président.

Quel travail a été fait. Nous apprenons à travers les différentes déclarations par exemple pourquoi il y a eu des remanement ? Pourquoi on a enlevé le porte feuille de l'éducation ? parce qu'on a dit « le commissaire est incompétent, le commissaire n'a pas de dignité, on a dit il y a certains commissaires ont des maisons à étages, il y a certains commissaires qui ne se comportent pas bien en public » il y a certains commissaires qui font ceci, qui font cela Monsieur le Président. Est-ce que c'est le job du Chef Commissaire d'aller dans la presse Mauricienne en plus, pour aller dire telle et telle critique sur telle et telle commissaire.

M. le Président dans le premier discours que le Chef Commissaire avait présenté après qu'il ait provoqué une élection partielle régionale pour être élue à l'Assemblée Régionale il lance je cite :

"Je lance un appel à nos frères et sœurs de l'île Maurice afin de nous aider à construire une bonne base de cette Île Rodrigues autonome dans la confiance, sans provocation, sans hypocrisie et en adoptant une attitude fraternelle et de dialogue "

Il invite les journalistes et les frères et sœurs de l'île Maurice à nous aider à construire les bases de cette île Rodrigues autonome, mais après lui même il enfonce le clou dans sa propre conseil exécutif, il enfonce des clous dans les doigts de ces propres commissaires Monsieur le Président. Dans quel pays avons nous déjà vu un chef de gouvernement, soit un gouvernement national ou régional peut importe la substance de gouvernement, critiqué ouvertement dans la presse, en public, s'engager dans une bataille publique avec ces commissaires. Dans aucun pays j'ai vu cela et si cela c'est passer

immédiatement ce gouvernement aurait du démissionner et les commissaires concerner auraient du démissionnés. Et c'est la Monsieur le Président, que l'histoire jugera la dignité de certaine personnes qui ont été critiqués, sur les quelles pèsent des doutes, certains ont des doutes de corruptions. On a vu dans des articles, le Chef Commissaire dire « la corruption existe belle et bien », mais il va pas dire dans qu'elle Département.

L'envie a cet aspect des choses que des commissaires malgré une mutinerie ces commissaires ne ce sont pas présenter Monsieur le Président. L'instance des décisions on a dit c'est telle parti politique qui a battu pour avoir l'autonomie de Rodrigues. L'autonomie de Rodrigues c'est notre combat ceci cela et après qu'est ce qu'on a fait avec cette autonomie de Rodrigues et le conseil exécutif on a laisse tomber le peuple. Le conseil exécutif na pas pu ce réunir, seule un commissaire ce présentant pour un réunion exécutif et c'est la honte. *This is shame on our country Mr. Chairperson, Sir, shame on all the institutions of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly because one commissioner, all commissioners refusing to come, to take decisions regarding the children, the men and women, refusing to come to solve the problem of people of Rodrigues because of political matters Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The island has been paralysed for one week. Functions organised and the Commissioners not presenting themselves. The Commissioner for Arts organised a Festival de Theatre under the chapiteau and then did not present herself on the pretext that she was ill. But we know why she was ill, she was politically ill Mr. Chairperson, Sir, she didn't know what to do what happened Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I followed that matter personally and people were always calling me and all the Members of the minority to say what is happening Mr. Chairperson, Sir, where are the Commissioners, cot Commissaire été? We hear the Commissioner was at Baladirou in crisis meeting, Commissioners are at Camp Du Roi in crisis meeting, Commissioners are at Fond La Bonté in crisis meeting. The country running in crisis and it is these people, it is the Chief Commissioner who is responsible for this state of affairs which has put shame on us and I say Mr. Chairperson, Sir, work is not going on well.*

The Commissioner for Industrial and Training from which Education has put amputé, he himself publicly said in an article that the Chief Commissioner said that he don't need these Commissioners to work; this was said in a function at Malabar. The Chief Commissioner saying "I don't need these people to work, I don't need these Commissioners"..

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order, I again asked the Chairperson, est ce que c'est vraiment ce qui a été dit a Malabar, est-ce que c,a a été rapporté? Qui ont été les témoins et qui ont rapporté ce que j'ai dit? Alors la encore M. le Président n'est-on pas entrain de rapporter des choses qui n'ont jamais été dite?.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, there is a point of order! This is an official House and of course no Members are allowed to make any misrepresentation of the facts. Reported fact, fact witnessed or whatever, there should be no misrepresentation. I am not querying you! I said Members should not do that.

The Minority Leader: Many persons were there Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at this function where Chief Commissioners said that “*we don’t need these Commissioners to perform*”. Just recently, just last week, somebody who I think is not erratic, and somebody with all his mind who went to collect his lease at the ceremony they organised, the Chief Commissioner again said “you should not be indisciplined in using your lease and he again said you know there are Commissioners also who are indisciplined”. He kept on saying this...

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I did not say that. I did say “*il y a même des élues, pas seulement ici, mais de l’autre côté ici qui font une construction sans baille et sans autorisation*”. C’est ça ce que j’ai dit, j’ai parlé d’indiscipline des élus pas seulement de ce côté, mais de l’autre côté aussi. J’ai pas parlé des Commissaires, j’ai parlé des élus. M. le Président j’aurais aimé qu’on cesse avec ces affaires de rapporter des choses que des gens disent par-ci et par-là. Sommes-nous entrain de débattre des choses véridiques qu’on a entendues personnellement ou que des gens viennent rapporter et ont déformé ce qu’on dit ?

The Minority Leader: M. le Président, je ne sais pas si c’est St Thomas qui a dit il faut voir, ont m’as dit aussi en passant que le Chef Commissaire parle beaucoup de Dieu M. le Président dans ces speech, not only of these matters but I would like to sum up in saying that we have been deeply hurt with what has happened in the Island. What has happened to the first Rodrigues Regional Assembly Executive Council and that it is very sad that such event will go on the history books, on the history pages when people tomorrow will look what has happened on the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Who was the Chief Commissioner? What were the main events and what will come out as main event as this first mandate, this political problem which has paralysed the problem after one week which has thrown disrespect which has thrown shame on all young politicians of Rodrigues Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

I was speaking about the responsibility of Commissioners. When you are humiliated in politics, whatever your level, when you are being humiliated, you are being told that you are not good, you are indisciplined, you are drunkard, you are corrupt, you are inefficient, this is the signal that you must resign Mr. Chairperson, Sir. And some people were saying we were waiting to be formed

government etc. to form what government. We prefer general election Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This is why we say that regional election should be done immediately because those people in front of me no longer have the political and the ideological legitimacy to continue to govern Rodrigues because they have flouted the confidence beginning with the Chief Commissioner, the confidence which has been put in them Mr. Chairperson, Sir. We will not go in the history of Rodrigues Mr. Chairperson, Sir, but every body knows what has happened, to many of those who have joined some particular political affiliation. How they have ended and I am sending this as a friendly warning to all those persons actually listening to me, “don’t make a fool of yourself” because you have your intelligence, you have your dignity and you have your contribution to bring to the welfare political future of this country Mr. Chairperson, Sir and with these word I would like to invite this House to vote for this Motion so that we can get rid of those who have put shame and who have brought much shame on the functioning of the House on executive council and on the Regional Assembly on general and which I have said Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that story will recall of those people who have badly use the tools which have been put in their hands by the people of Rodrigues.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: I have not aware at this stage who are the Members who would be addressing this House on the Motion, may be its time now for me to know who are them, so that I can manage the debate. How many persons from this side? Five persons. Anybody on this side? No.

(Interruptions)

No insinuations, please. But of course the best you can do is to follow the order precedence.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let me congratulate the Minority Leader for having taken the opportunity to move the motion of no confidence in the Chief Commissioner. Today Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have to use the resources and the times of the Assembly is to make the Chief Commissioner understand that even it is true we do not have confidence in them. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, did all the Commissioners attend the Executive Council as scheduled by the Chief Commissioner on Friday 14th April 2006? If ever the majority of Commissioners did not attend the Executive Council this should be considered as a seriousness matter. We obtained information that five out of seven Commissioners were absent. At this particular point of time Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner, if he believes in democracy should have resigned from his post since his authority have been flouted.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, India seems to be the world largest democracy. The brand standing Sonia Ghandy, leader on Indian congress party, seated her inner conscience when she step down in a move that echoed her decision not to become Prime Minister after leading her party to an upset victory in the 2004 election. The lady Mr. Chairperson, Sir, was criticized by the opposing party Hindu Nationalist Maratheea Janata Party Bigepi for her foreign origin. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, least but not last, the said Sonia Ghandy; a woman, resigned from parliament on Thursday 23rd March 2006 after have been charged by the Bijepy that she had wrongfully held another salary public post – *sa ene vrai démocrate, donne zom l'exempe* Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Here we have the Chief Commissioner, we have commissioners who did not attend the Executive Council, this is a signal, and this is a sign of no confidence in the Chief Commissioner, I myself I would have resigned. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if we have a law maker who did not give the signal by giving the good example, what do we expect from people at the bottom of the ladder. What do we expect Mr. Chairperson, Sir, even the Chief Commissioner “*pé gamber dans so place*”.

Today Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the motion of no confidence give the Chief Commissioner the opportunity to defend himself for having rightly or wrongly taxing the Chief Commissioner as *indiscipliné*. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in his last speech at the National Assembly on the 30th July 2002 at 15.10, the Chief Commissioner stated which I quote second paragraphe

“je pense que du coté du gouvernement aussi bien de notre coté, nous ne voudrions pas que ce départ soit un départ rate. Mais un départ bien construit, bien étudier pour que les choses aillent d’une manière harmonieuse et pour aboutir a quelque chose d’extraordinaire”.

Aujourd’hui Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what do we see, the Chief Commissioner himself a rate le depart. M. le Président ce que les Rodriguais ont vu du 12 au 17 Avril 2006 c’est extraordinaire, c’est même impensable. Le pays est rester sans gouvernement pendant au moins 10 jours vu que les Commissaires ont désertés leurs bureau soit disant elles sont malades Chikungunya. N’est ce pas la un départ raté, mal construit par manque de savoir faire du chef commissaire ont ma si bien dit le Commissaire Lelio Roussety. *I want here Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to put on record some remarks of the Commissioner which was towards the Chief Commissioner in case that the later decided to put them aside.* Cette décision ne me fera ni chaud ni froid car le Chef Commissaire a déjà dit dans une réunion privé a Malabar qu’il n’a pas besoin des Commissaires pour travailler et l’autre je ne suis pas né Commissaire.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Assembly is one among the appropriate place to express our likes and dislikes towards things well done or not. Aujourd'hui nous sommes tous réunis dans cette assemblée et c'est le moment tant attendu pour que le Chef Commissaire puisse dire les quatre vérités des Commissaires en face. A-t-il le courage s'il est discipliné comme il le prétendait ?

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there has been a clear instance of disagreement between the Chief Commissioner and his Commissioner's. The day that the Chief Commissioner taxed his Commissioners as *indiscipliné* the situation got worsen up to a point that every commissioners want to express themselves, even today Mr. Chairperson, Sir. My colleague Commissioner in front of me; Commissioner for Art and Culture did not use her Pajero, her Pajero is at the car park. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, after having heard the Chief Commissioner on the radio plus *j'ai mener ma petite enquête sur le terrain pour connaître la véracité des propos du chef, mais tous le monde et les membres du parti du chef Commissaire sont unanime à dire que le chef avait raison.*

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, first of all when we look at the front bench in front of us, we can see among the Commissioners some who have been parrain de Leopold.

(Applause)

C'est la vérité. La corruption Mr. Chairperson, Sir...

Mr. Chairperson: If you want to enter in this slippery ground you have to obey to Standing Orders pertaining to improper motives.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if ever there is no corruption in Rodrigues, we have commissioners in front of us here, I want there to declare their assets. I want them to come and declare their assets. *Mr. Chairperson, Sir, il y avait même un cas Mr. Chairperson, Sir, une pauvre dame se nommait Celine Agathe Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a family of mine, on the 22nd May 2000, one commissioner has bought a land of Rs9, 947 meter square..*

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait. If you are going to enter this probably you should enlighten me as well. I do not see how this private matter is going to find its way here, this is wrong. The second one you are talking about corruption. You know let me cite that "you should not cite improper motives to any member". If you are going to do that, I am sorry I would got to stop you.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner was granted a piece of land 328 m2 under the heading TBR 70/100. When he is now Chief Commissioner
Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the same plot of land has been

amended under TBR/69/63 for an acre of 1551 m² c'est la corruption Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: You are saying that this is corruption. Yes, this is not here that you can say this, there are other forum for it. I order you not to confine this point again.

Mr. Agathe: I will leave this for the people of this House to understand why such things.. the Adviser of Land at the office of the Chief Commissioner have acquired a piece of land at the 20th January 2000.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, bear in mind that the motion is again the Chief Commissioner. You've got to show the link first before impeaching other members or other person

Mr. Agathe: The initial one has been cancelled and transferred to another place. He has got another lease at Mont Limon. Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

The Chief Commissioner: A point of order! Are we going here in this Assembly to cite cases and names of persons here? I think you must be very careful to cite names of persons in this Assembly here.

Mr. Chairperson: The Chief Commissioner is right. I have told you before.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have said Adviser of Land

Mr. Chairperson: But one thing is still missing is the link between the Adviser and the office of the Chief Commissioner to whom the motion is addressed.

Mr. Agathe: If we had a look at the communiqué that was broadcasted by the Adviser on communication, we can see that even up to now the disagreement is still here. They say that they like their country but they don't say nothing about the Chief Commissioner, they don't say whether they have confident in the Chief Commissioner. So, as the leader of Movement Rodriguais said "*le ver est dans le fruit*". Mr. Chairperson, Sir, all the Commissioners and today I am surprise to see the Commissioners here sitting near the Chief Commissioner and Mr. Chairperson, Sir, every Rodriguans are saying that the commissioners have resume their office due to money. So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the regional election as the Minority Leader just said is a must. We wish that the election be held in Rodrigues.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Jabeemissar: M. le Président, je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter le *Minority Leader* pour avoir pris la décision de venir avec cette motion de *no confidence in the Chief Commissioner* et aussi associer avec notre collègue Monsieur Christian Agathe pour dire ce que nous pensons pour justifier la raison de cette motion de *no confidence* parce que je vais prendre some areas of responsibility which do not normally fall under the purview of the Chief Commissioner. *To support this i would like to take the speech of the 2005-2006, when the Chief Commissioner himself presented the budget proposals, he talk for all his Commissioners.*

*First of all it is not surprising Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to note that more often it is only when you raise question in this House from the part of this side that the Chief Commissioner reconnaît vraiment que il n'a pas réussi à atteindre les objectifs dont il s'est fixé pour améliorer l'environnement à Rodrigues qui est essentielle; primordiale pour l'avancement économique et sociale du pays. Il parle de l'écotourisme, il parle de préserver notre environnement pour assurer la survie économique du pays, mais ce matin même nous avons été témoins comment face aux problèmes des toilettes jusqu'ici après mainte question dans cette chambre aucune solutions n'a encore été trouvés. J'ai été tout récemment à Port Sud Est Monsieur le Président tout près de l'abri bus il y a une toilette publique et cette toilette ne fait pas parti de la liste officielle qu'on nous a remis ici concernant les toilettes publiques de Rodrigues, cela suppose que ces toilettes sont gérées par les habitants du village. Je voudrais demander au chef commissaire s'il est conscient de l'état de ces toilettes. S'il veut que Rodrigues soit un *eco-friendly tourist destination*, si une telle chose peut être tolérée. Je n'ai jamais vu des toilettes dans un état aussi dégradé, aussi déplorable, d'ailleurs la même chose a été constatée un peu partout dans toute l'autre toilette de Rodrigues.*

Dernièrement ont avait posé ici des questions sur le tort que cause le piquant loulou ici à Rodrigues. Ont avait même dit que Rodrigues était venu le *piquant loulou* island. Le Chef Commissaire avait pris l'engagement qu'il allait tout faire pour éradiquer ce problème à Rodrigues. Aujourd'hui qu'on est entrain de poser cette motion, je voudrais demander qu'a-t-il fait pour pouvoir débarrasser le pays de ce fléau M. le Président. C'est impassable dans qu'on passe dans des routes fréquentées telle Mont Charlot, les deux cotés de la route sont envahis par le *piquant loulou*. Il attende qu'on vienne à l'assemblée ici pour attirer leur attention, poser des questions pour que le lendemain on voit des gens en train de couper des branches et attendent qu'on revienne avec des questions.

C'est pour montrer M. le Président que dans la politique que mènent le commissaire avec le conseil exécutif à Rodrigues, il y a rien de cohérent. Il y a

tous simplement, il roule au jour le jour, si l'opposition ne pose aucune question concernant les problèmes qui fait face le pays, pour eux il n'y a aucun problème, pour eux tous est correcte. Mais par compte M. le Président ce problème dont j'ai mentionné sont des choses palpables, tout le monde vous dira que piquant loulou fait un tort immense au pays. Le chef Commissaire il a pris l'engagement pour tous faire l'éradiquer mais n'a pu rien faire jusqu'ici. C'est de même pour les toilettes. Concernant les autres déchets de l'environnement M. le Président. Ce matin on a abordé les question comment dans les cotes sud et ouest du pays après les récentes pluie, c'est a ce moment la qu'on ce rend compte combien Rodrigues est sale.

M. le Président, comme le Chef Commissaire a dit ce matin on peut mettre le tort sur les autres pour dire qu'on ne fait pas l'éducation des autres. Mais Monsieur le Président, qui a la charge de l'environnement a Rodrigues? Qui doit faire en sorte que a travers les écoles, dans les centres communautaire etc qu'il y a un programme pour l'éducation des Rodriguais sur le respect et la préservation de l'environnement. Est-ce que c'est a l'opposition de le faire M. le Président. Aujourd'hui ont doit vient montrer au Chef Commissaire combien lui en tant que responsable de l'environnement, il a failli sur ce point. C'est dommage vraiment Monsieur le Président. Ont voit dans les drains, dans l'air un peu partout des matières plastiques, comme si les gens s'en fiche sont pas conscient que tous sa font un tort immense a l'environnement.

Ce n'est qu'après les grosses pluies que on voit que tous sa c'est déverser dans a mer et que la mer nous rejette tous cela pour nous faire voir voilà le problème est la. Mais Monsieur le Président, ceux qui détiennent le pouvoir, ils ont les moyens pour agir. Il y a la loi, il y a des règlements, il faut l'appliquer. Si on a peur d'appliquer des règlements, si on passe des loi et puis ont ne peut pas les utiliser, mais a quoi sa sert alors. Ce matin aussi je crois ont a aborder dans cette chambre M. le Président le problème de l'érosion des cotes. Si vous passez du coté de Petite Butte, passant par cité Patate pour aller vers Anse Quitor c'est écœurant M. le Président. Vous voyez jusqu'à qu'elle point, la cote a cette parti ou s'il y a une bonne gestion, une bonne planification, on peut la avant trop tard arrêter et cesser la dégradation des cotes. Aujourd'hui la région d'anse Quitor est reliée par une bonne route. Chaque week-end on voit les étrangers aller dans cet parti de l'île pour se reposer. Mais hélas, c'est vraiment écœurant de voir l'état de la cote a cette endroit.

Dans le budget que le Chef Commissaire a présenté depuis 2002, il y a un sujet qui prête le *Coastal Zone Management*. J'avais déjà personnellement posé une question sur letat de la cote a Port Sud Est. Le Chef Commissaire a répondu qu'il a eu des consultations avec des gens de l'endroit, qu'il allait tout de suite faire le nécessaire pour que cette cote aménager et l'état de sa cote rétabli pour freiner l'érosion. Mais jusqu'à maintenant je le demande la ? Où en est-il ? Est-

ce que c'est seulement en terme d'intention ou bien il attend que son mandat soit terminé pour pouvoir exécuter cela. M. le Président si nous sommes la aujourd'hui c'est que nous sommes l'écho des gens qui constate, qui réagissent et qui peuvent pas venir dire en face du Chef Commissaire et son équipe comment le pays est diriger.

Je prends autre chose M. le Président ; les routes. Aujourd'hui ont constate avec les problèmes dont la républiques sont entrain de faire face aux niveau internationale qui ont une répercussion directe sur nous que notre budget est restreint et que malheureusement aux bout des travaux qui ont déjà commencer aux niveau des infrastructure routière ne peuvent pas continuer. Mais les routes qui existe déjà Monsieur le Président a l'instar de Corail, a l'instar de beaucoup d'autre route ont a mentionner ce matin ces routes la Monsieur le Président, même si demain comme l'assistant Chef Commissaire l'avait dit ils ont fait des relevé, fait des études, il vont venir plus tard avec des solutions, des *patching work* etc et tous sa Monsieur le Président, c'est le coût durer. C'est une façon comment le fond publique est gaspiller. Très souvent aujourd'hui ont vient faire le *patching* et la semaine prochaine c'est retourner a la case de départ. C'est parce que il n'y a pas une bonne planification. Le problème Monsieur le Président, avec nos routes c'est que les anciennes routes ont été construite il y a des trentaines d'années. Les drains sont bouchés, il faut que les drains sont constamment aménagé, nettoyer pour que a chaque grosse pluie Monsieur le Président, l'eau n'envahissent pas les routes. Les routes très souvent a la moindre pluie deviennent des ruisseaux c'est sa qui détruisent nos routes.

Aujourd'hui avec un gouvernement régional comment peut-on permettre qu'un telle état des choses persiste. C'est impensable M. le Président. Pour nous c'est clair et définitive ce gouvernement régionale ne peut plus gouverner, il est a bout de souffle. Donc c'est de l'incompétence pur et simple. Si ont regarde Monsieur le Président, dans les morcellement, la encore dans le budget il y a le *project value* d'environ Rs 30 m de roupie pour améliorer les routes dans les morcellements. Si nous passons dans la région nord sortant Pointe la Guele pour aller vers Baie du Nord, combien ont investi ces personnes a construire des maisons dans des endroits ou aucune route n'a été prévue des le départ. Devant même il n'y avait pas d'électricité ou de téléphone. Ce n'est qu'apres que ces gens la de part leurs propres efforts, ils ont fait construire leurs maisons que l'électricité, téléphone etc sont venue, mais jusqu'ici pas de route. Beaucoup de ces personnes Monsieur le Président, ont des voitures et ils doivent laisser ces voitures sur la grande route, marcher, piétiner dans la boue pour aller chez eux et a quoi sa sert d'avoir une voiture, a quoi sa sert de s'investir dans de si belle maison, mais les facilités primaire telle que route n'existait pas encore Monsieur le Président.

Concernant le logement Monsieur le Président. Combien de fois n'avons nous pas ici...

(gaps on cassette)

Mr. Jabeemissar: Mais pourtant M. le Président, ce gouvernement régional avait pris la décision, l'engagement de construire de *very low cost housing units*, apparemment dans le dernier budget ils avaient mentionner je crois 103, je ne sais pas exactement les chiffres, ça figure dans le budget speech 2005/2006 mais par contre il y a déjà 83 logements qui ont été construit par la NHDC. Depuis Mai 2004 la NHDC leur ont remis la clé, ils ont pris leur décision à travers le Conseil Exécutif pour définir des critères pour allouer ces maisons. Je demande au Chef Commissaire jusqu'à maintenant aujourd'hui en 2006 combien a-t-il pu alloué de ces 83 maisons, à ces personnes qui attendent encore M. le Président. Comment on va expliquer ça M. le Président, si c'est pas de l'incompétence, comment on va appeler ça M. le Président.

Maintenant je viens du domaine de la santé Monsieur le Président, quand à la Réunion on avait recensé 200,000 cas de chikungunya, à Maurice il y avait un millier de cas, à Rodrigues on nous avait dit il y avait pas de cas mais au départ on avait commencé avec je crois 9 cas. Monsieur le Président, aujourd'hui les chiffres officiels qu'on avance Monsieur le Président, c'est dérisoire, c'est rien Monsieur le Président, il faut passer à travers Rodrigues dans tous les villages, aller visiter les hôpitaux, les centres de santé tous les jours Monsieur le Président, des dizaines de cas par jour, parfois même on peut recenser jusqu'à 100 cas et toutes les symptômes Monsieur le Président, qu'on recensent jusqu'à, bien sur plus tard on va vous dire, les cas officiels sont moins que ce qu'on dit mais les gens partout on vous allez à Rodrigues Monsieur le Président, tous les cas de fièvre, les cas de paralysie justement sont des symptômes de chikungunya. Monsieur le Président, comme nous avons abordé cette question ce matin Monsieur le Président, pour nous on a mis la charrue avant les bœufs, toutes les précautions qu'il fallait prendre avant pour empêcher que cette maladie se propage aussi vite à Rodrigues n'ont pas été prises, c'est vrai Monsieur SOOPRAYEN. C'est maintenant qu'on vient nous dire et c'est maintenant que dans les écoles, des étudiants reçoivent les produits anti-moustiques, que la démoustication se fait un peu partout mais avant que cette maladie atteigne cet ampleur Monsieur le Président, beaucoup de choses auraient être fait. Dans la région de Baie Malgache, j'ai rencontré deux personnes qui ont été atteint par cette maladie. Quelqu'un m'a dit pour lui il n'a aucune maladie, n'a jamais, je crois que c'est un septuagénaire, il me dit durant sa longue vie il n'a jamais eu une maladie qui donne autant de douleurs Monsieur le Président, alors il me dit on est passé dans la région pour faire le defogging mais quand il est passé.... *le fogging, sorry* au bord de la route sous le, comment on appelle cette arbre, cette arbre envahissante, *la cocluche*, il

me dit que le foyer de ces moustiques se trouve dans *la cocluche* au bord de la route même si on fait le fogging tout les jours mais on peut pas atteindre, il faut détruire l'habitat de ces moustiques si on veut arriver à bout Monsieur le Président. Mais même si les gens constatent tout ça Monsieur le Président, je vois drôle pourquoi les responsables en particulier le Chef Commissaire, pourquoi il n'a pas cette vision de voir que cette maladie en attaquant notre population porte atteinte à la productivité, à l'économie, au tourisme et c'est de cette façon qu'il compte faire avancer ce pays Monsieur le Président.

Maintenant on rencontre des gens tout les jours Monsieur le Président, surtout ceux qui vont à l'hôpital, il y a un grave problème quand ils veulent une ambulance pour des cas urgents Monsieur le Président, pourtant dans chaque centre de santé je crois il y a deux ambulances c'est difficile d'en avoir combien de fois moi-même personnellement ou mes autres collègues ont du véhiculer des personnes vers les centres de santé parce que à ce moment là il n'y avait pas d'ambulance. Alors là je voudrais attirer l'attention du Commissaire de la Santé et en particulier le Chef Commissaire que la santé à Rodrigues est gravement malade non seulement à cause du chikungunya mais à cause de beaucoup d'autres carences qui existent dans le service et auxquelles il doit faire très attention s'il veut vraiment qu'ils continuent à gouverner ce pays pour encore longtemps.

M. le Président, un autre problème que moi personnellement parce que j'ai tellement posé de questions que je ne sais plus comment poser de questions maintenant Monsieur le Président, il s'agit du problème d'eau. A un certain moment quand nous avons tellement abordé la question pour se sortir de l'embarras il nous ont dit que s'il y a le problème de sécheresse à Rodrigues, s'il ne pleut pas comment peuvent-ils faire pour donner de l'eau à la population. Mais ça se comprend Monsieur le Président, quand il ne pleut pas, quand il y a de sécheresse on ne peut s'attendre à avoir une bonne distribution d'eau mais je demande au Chef Commissaire Monsieur le Président, s'il est au courant que maintenant la le problème est plus présent qu'auparavant, dans la région ouest en général il y a aucun endroit qui reçoit l'eau du robinet avant un mois Monsieur le Président, et j'ai fait ma p'tite enquête, il y a longtemps Monsieur le Président qu'à Mourouk principal source d'approvisionnement en eau potable dans la région Monsieur le Président. Sur 5 pompes il y a qu'une seule qui travaille et ça aussi cette seule pompe ne peut pas fonctionner à plein temps parce que sinon il n'y aura plus de pompe fonctionnant à Mourouk M. le Président. Donc ce n'est que dans le budget 2006/2007 qu'ils comptent venir avec un projet pour améliorer la station de pompage de Mourouk M. le Président, mais en attendant vous savez combien souffrent ces gens là M. le Président. Alors moi je demande au Chef Commissaire s'il est au courant de tout ça, si chez lui aussi il reçoit l'eau du robinet une fois par mois ou une fois tout les deux mois comme les autres endroits de Rodrigues parce que si les

rodriguais ont fait confiance à une équipe pour diriger le pays c'est qu'ils attendent à ce que le sort des gens qui d'habitude passent par beaucoup de difficultés soit amélioré. Mais du jour au lendemain Monsieur le Président, le rodriguais deviendrait de plus en plus décourager, il voit rien venir à l'horizon c'est pourquoi M. le Président, on le dit et on le répète aussi longtemps qu'on aura à la tête du pays des personnes aussi irresponsables, des personnes aussi incompetentes M. le Président, le rodriguais n'aurait plus confiance dans l'avenir de ce pays, ils préfèrent Monsieur le Président, quitter le pays même s'ils vont aller rencontrer encore plus de problèmes ailleurs mais ils préfèrent quitter et revenir quand le pays aura changer de direction. On a commencé Monsieur le Président, *un cadastral survey* pour déterminer les maisons qui ont été abandonner, ils vont voir à travers ce *survey* M. le Président, combien de personnes a Rodrigues, combien de famille ont du quitter des maisons. Mais il faut se poser la question M. le Président, à Rodrigues on cherche des baux, on chercher des permit de résidence mais une fois qu'on a investi, qu'on a construit des maisons mais et puis on doit tout laisser et partir mais pourquoi ça M. le Président, il y a des graves raisons derrière tout ça M. le Président, c'est pas pour rien que des gens laissent leur maison et partir ailleurs. Le problème M. le Président, c'est que dans ce pays on n'arrive pas à joindre les deux bouts et c'est ça le problème M. le Président, et tout ça parce que ce qui nous ont promis qu'ils vont rendre ce pays meilleur M. le Président, aujourd'hui à travers le manque de confiance entre eux, il n'y a pas de confiance qui règne entre l'équipe dirigeante dans le pays M. le Président, c'est pourquoi le pays c'est comme un bateau qui est à la dérive, le capitaine lui-même ne peut pas mettre de l'ordre avec son équipage donc M. le Président, comment pouvons-nous espérer que ce bateau va nous mener à bon port Monsieur le Président. Et pour terminer M. le Président, je peux pas m'empêcher de faire une citation ici, je crois c'est de qui dit "We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing while other judge us by what we have already done" So the people of Rodrigues today Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on our behalf is questioning the governing side, they have not been able since 2002 to get our country out of the gutter of misery. So this is how people see that, so I think that this motion of no confidence Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the Chief Commissioner is fully justified and as my two other colleagues I join them in supporting that motion. Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Grandcourt: Monsieur le Président, tout d'abord j'aimerais féliciter le Minority Leader pour avoir déposer la motion. Depuis ce matin je ne voyais en entrant dans le bâtiment je le voyais tout exciter à venir ici dire ce qu'il avait à dire, on sentait que ce le Minority Leader voulait dire était très justifié parce que moi-même je ne pensais pas un jour venir ici parler de ce qui s'est passé que nous savons tous ce qui s'est passé Rodrigues, venir parler des choses

Monsieur le Président, venir parler des Commissaires qui on comprend, on peut comprendre, on peut essayer de comprendre leur état d'esprit comment est-ce qu'ils ont pris la chose. Comment ces Commissaires qui ont été humilié par le Chef Commissaire, on peut comprendre Monsieur le Président, ce qu'ils pensent et on peut comprendre aussi leur façon de faire mais ce qu'on ne comprend pas c'est que une semaine ils n'ont pas travailler. Mais Monsieur le Président, je crois que le Chef Commissaire a été un peu fort en disant des choses non pas à Rodrigues, je ne sais pas s'il se sent plus fort à Maurice qu'à Rodrigues pouvant pas dire les choses comme il faut, en face, au Commissaire même des fois sur des points Monsieur le Président, on n'était pas d'accord. Si on prend l'exemple du Deputy Chief Commissioner et du Chef Commissaire, le Deputy Chief Commissioner, il a ses responsabilités, des fois on n'est pas d'accord on pose beaucoup de questions, des choses qu'on ne voit pas très claires mais si on compare Monsieur le Président, si on arrive à comparer le travail qui a été fait par Deputy Chief Commissioner et le Chef Commissaire on peut voir quelques routes qui ont été construites, on peut voir sous ses responsabilités mais si on regarde le Chef Commissaire lui-même, allons voir Monsieur le Président, le tourisme qu'est-ce qui s'est passé à Rodrigues avec le tourisme, fiasco. Allons voir l'environnement Monsieur le Président, mon collègue vient de parler, catastrophe, la pêche, zéro. Maintenant, l'éducation il veut tout chambouler et la une chose que je voudrais dire Monsieur le Président, j'ai entendu qu'on ne veut plus donner aux élèves du fromage on veut donner des achards, des *campotes*. Vous savez Monsieur le Président, la prévalence de la diabète à Rodrigues, donner aux enfants des *campotes* aux plus jeunes age c'est pas mauvais mais il ne faut pas supprimer le fromage Monsieur le Président. Comment supprimer le fromage, un enfant qui est entrain de développer, on sait qu'on peut dire qu'on ne veut pas supprimer, mais on sait qu'est-ce qu'il y a derrière la tête des gens, *nou kone li bien*. On ne peut pas supprimer quelque chose qui est indispensable pour le développement de l'enfant, le calcium dans le fromage, on ne peut pas faire ça Monsieur le Président. Mais autre chose, parlons de la population vous savez Monsieur le Président, ce qui est triste c'est que la population, cette population de Rodrigues qui est si silencieuse on peut dire, tranquille mais ce qui est très probable Monsieur le Président, de leur façon d'agir de l'autre coté, la population peut perdre confiance dans la politique c'est ça leur problème, c'est ça qu'on veut faire comprendre aujourd'hui si jamais on arrive a ne plus faire confiance dans la politique qu'est-ce qui va se passer à Rodrigues ? Qu'est-ce qui va se passer Monsieur le Président, on voit un genre de politique, je ne sais pas, marionnette. On leur dit de s'en aller s'ils veulent, aller si vous voulez et puis on leur dit de revenir, on n'arrive pas à comprendre parce que le rodriguais Monsieur le Président, veut de la stabilité dans sa vie. Vous savez la vie est difficile maintenant à Rodrigues, la vie est très, très difficile, le rodriguais ne veut pas entendre parler des gens, des commissaires, le Chef Commissaire qui se bagarre. Il y a quelqu'un qui disait, je cite "*banne ti dimoune dans ti lacaze faire beaucoup ti quitchose dans beaucoup ti l'endroit*"

fin de citation. Mais le role s'est inversé Monsieur le Président, *enan banne grand dimoune dans grand lacaze pe faire banne quitchose ki pas bizin Monsieur le Président*, et ça cause problème Monsieur le Président,

(Applause)

Ça cause problème à Rodrigues Monsieur le Président, comment peut-on aller de l'autre coté défendre les acquis de Rodrigues, comment est-ce qu'on peut aller dire '*combat pour le peuple*' lorsque vous êtes pas unis, comment est-ce les investisseurs vont venir à Rodrigues sachant que c'est très instable Rodrigues et autre chose Monsieur le Président, nos acquis sont menacés à Rodrigues de part la façon de faire de ces gens qui se trouvent devant nous. Nos acquis sont menacés et pour aller plus loin Monsieur le Président, on a remarqué ce matin, on a eu la motion qu'on a déposé, on a commencé le débat vers la mi-journée mais la on voit Monsieur le Président, il y a quelqu'un de l'autre coté qui n'est pas là, la personne brille par son absence. Qu'est-ce que ça nous fait penser Monsieur le Président, qu'est-ce qui se passe, il y a quelqu'un qui n'est pas là, cela veut dire que la personne elle aussi n'a plus confiance en son Chef Commissaire et elle ne préfère ne pas venir.

(Applause)

The Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Lindsay CASTEL is ill, she has sent supposedly a letter to you Mr. Chairperson, a medical certificate saying that she could not attend today because *elle a eu une fracture au pied donc elle ne peut pas bouger*.

Mr. Chairperson: I normally should not intervene but I confirm that a medical certificate.

Mr. Grandcourt: Tout est possible M. le Président, *meme dans sa ti Rodrigues la* tout est possible mais on comprend, on ne peut pas aller plus loin, on comprend. Vous comprenez et vous allez comprendre plus tard. M. le Président, le Chef Commissaire vient de parler auparavant "Who to trust ?" Il a parlé who to trust. Si jamais on n'arrive pas à faire confiance en soi-même comment peut-on faire confiance aux autres ? On prend, il y a des exemples, je ne vais pas citer les exemples, ex-ministre venait et partait, l'autre venait et partait, l'autre est venu et parti et la ce qu'il fait, ce qu'il veut faire c'est faire partir un groupe. Comment ces Commissaires vont pouvoir travailler sachant qu'ils vont partir ? Il faut être réaliste Monsieur le Président, il y a certain qui ont dit 'carri ine fini cuit', on peut dire qu'on se mêle des affaires politiques mais ça Monsieur le Président, ça fait du tort à la classe politique, à la population. On ne peut pas à chaque fois Monsieur le Président, *election ici, election labas* on ne peut à chaque fois. Si on regarde bien à Rodrigues tous les

deux ans on a les élections, presque tous les deux ans on a les élections et les gens qu'on a mis là ils s'entretuent, je ne sais pas qu'est-ce qui se passe Monsieur le Président, et la Monsieur le Président, une chose qui s'est passée et qui est très, très grave, une chose qui est bien grave. Un Mercredi saint, le Chef Commissaire viens critiquer l'église pendant la semaine sainte, on vient critiquer l'église Monsieur le Président. Mais si quelqu'un critique l'église.

The Chief Commissioner: Point of order Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it seems that all the speeches of the Members of the minority are based on what have been said, *critiquer l'église dans quel domaine, en quel circonstance nous avons critiquer l'église? Donc il faudrait venir Monsieur le Président, avec des faits bien précis, on ne peut pas s'inventer, oui, vous voulez savoir ce que j'ai dit, je savais ce que j'ai dit, j'ai parlé justement de REDCO.*

The Minority Leader: M. le Président, point of order.

The Chief Commissioner: ... de cette eglise ...

Mr. Chairperson:... a point of order, you are right to say this but if the Members do not themselves

The Minority Leader: It's a point of order then he is going in an explanation, which is which. Either he raises a point of order and let the Chair decides

The Chief Commissioner: Point being raised here

Mr. Chairperson: Please allow the Chief Commissioner to..., don't disturb.

The Chief Commissioner: what has been said really, there've been a criticize or a suggestion made to the church regarding the admission of pupils in the secondary school. This is the question concerning what have been said. No, you said that are criticizing. I was not criticizing, I was speaking to the parents concerning the mission, exactly the mission. What is the mission? The mission is to look after people who are poor and who are not very intelligent, give them the occasion to frequent, to be admitted to these colleges because these colleges will show whether who are good, the teachers or the students. I will say that all the teachers they all the same, they are of good quality

Mr. Chairperson: Order, Order, please.

The Minority Leader: This is not a point of order Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner is playing with *les nerfs de l'Opposition, il veut pas*

parler mais il veut prendre le temps pour parler soit il parle, ne soyez pas aussi capon. Monsieur le Président, the point of order is not a point of order to explain. You are being criticized you say you criticized the church, we have our point for it, talk after, just talk, *pas bizin fine faire boufon la.*

Mr. Grandcourt: Je continue

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait. The Minority is using words which normally

The Minority Leader: Boufon is a french word Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: But it has no place here

The Minority Leader: Boufon means comic.

Mr. Chairperson: It has no place here what I tell you.

The Minority Leader: Boufon means comic, it's a French word.

Mr. Chairperson: Whatever be your explanation to, I say it has no place here.

Mr. Grandcourt: Thank you Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: But there is a point of order. You understood the point of order.

Mr. Grandcourt: Yes, mais je maintiens M. le Président. Non, j'ai compris et je maintiens M. le Président on a critiqué l'église. Sinon M. le Président, on aurait pas le Révérend Ernest et l'Evêque de Rodrigues, je crois la semaine dernière, on a réfuté ce que le Chef Commissaire a dit dans les journaux, il a critiqué l'église et ça c'est grave M. le Président, ça c'est grave, on ne touche pas à l'église, on ne touche pas à la religion, on ne peut pas se permettre de

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, point of order. The difference between

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait. Yes, Chief Commissioner. If you raised on a point of order, of course you are allowed to do so but try to be clear so that I can understand the point but reframe from making any statement and on the other hand the Chief Commissioner just raised a few minutes ago on a point of order nearly finished and then we hear some interruptions from the Members

from this side but what do you want him to do. If you allow him to make his point of order of course he will finish. Yes, you should not prompt him to enter into asight the point of order.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what I would like to say since

Mr. Chairperson: Point of order.

The Chief Commissioner: My point of order is that are we going to allow in this Assembly what have been said in a meeting, what has been written and what has been replied. This is my point of order. Well, what have been said here is that I criticized is it exact version I've criticized in that meeting, that's why I say Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I see that very often here we have learned something, insinuations, allegations making, using reports just to base the debate on that report. Well, I should like Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether we are going to listen what have been said in a meeting and report here incorrectly or other way.

Mr. Chairperson: I don't want to give long ruling but of course what I can say from what I can understand from the Chief Commissioner's point of view is that normally arguments on this motion should refer to facts, this is the adeal to solution but certain point differs, some person would prefer to introduce the argument as they wish, I will not be able to direct Members on how to debate but of course I will stop any Member who goes to unfounded allegations because this is not allowed or misrepresentations this is not allowed or to use words which are not allowed in this Assembly. Try to get yourself guided by these principles so that I will not have to intervene and the other Members from the other side of the House will not have to raise each time on point of order. Yes, you have understood my ruling.

Mr. Grandcourt: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, mais ce que j'ai dit, j'ai dit on ne peut pas, il y a pas a citer les noms, j'ai dit qu'on ne peut pas critiquer l'église, c'est ça ce que j'ai dit. Monsieur le Président, pendant tous ce qu'on a vu, ça me fait penser à quelque chose, à une phrase qui a été repris par le Pape Benoit XVI dans son Cette phrase qui a été dit par Saint Augustin Monsieur le Président, qui a été repris par le Pape disant Monsieur le Président, je cite « un état qui ne serait pas diriger comme il faut se réduirait a une grande bande de vauriens » fin de citation. Monsieur le Président, je ne veux pas que demain nos jeunes de Rodrigues disent que l'exécutif, la première Assemblée Régionale de Rodrigues a été semblable, je dis bien semblable, à ce que je viens de dire Monsieur le Président.

The Chief Commissioner: Point of order Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Yes.

Mr. Grandcourt: *Ki mo ine dire la.*

Mr. Chairperson: It's a point of order.

The Chief Commissioner: You are using, he's using to make insinuations, using a citation by *Saint Augustin* saying that *bandes de vauriens* this means that we are here *une bande de vauriens*.

(Interruptions)

This is at least when you cite this, you make the to here. I think what I said Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is the beginning of this motion, it seems that we have been a tribunal, tribunal surging Members of this Assembly here on the other side even using what has said meeting relations associating this citation again us saying that supposedly insinuation that we

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: The point of order followed by explanation is simple that no insinuations can be made against a Member but of course this is a motion against of "No confidence" and it goes in deep to the competency of the Commissioners but of course you should reframe from making some imputations which are not allowed. Some imputations are not allowed, I'm sure you agree with me. Yes, proceed.

Mr. Grandcourt: J'allais terminer M. le Président, justement il m'arrête et j'espère pouvoir terminer. M. le Président, je veux dire dans cette auguste assemblée que si nous voulions, il y a certains qui disent que la faiblesse des gens fait la force des autres. On fait de la politique, c'est normal, on fait de la politique, c'est la politique. Qu'est-ce qui se passe aujourd'hui, on ne peut pas parler de l'autre côté, c'est une faiblesse, nous on peut parler tant mieux M. le Président, c'est la politique. Mais je dirais à M. le Président, si on avait voulu vraiment comme certain disait on voulait prendre le pouvoir. Si on avait voulu on aurait pu le faire

(Applause)

On aurait pu le faire M. le Président, je dis haut et fort on aurait pu le faire mais on ne l'a pas fait. On dit comme l'a dit le Minority Leader et les autres membres on veut aller vers les élections pour que le peuple juge. On parle ici qu'on juge les autres, on veut que le peuple, on donne la chance au peuple, une nouvelle chance pour dire 'Non' à ces personnes. Peut-être qu'il y a des Commissaires,

peut-être qu'ils auraient voulu voter pour, je comprends pour des raisons qu'a été avancer par mon collègue Mons. AGATHE *'pas capave, pourquoi'*. On sait très bien les raisons, tout le monde sait, on ne peut pas venir nous berner ici mais M. le Président, j'inviterai la population si ça ne passe pas, on sait comme on a toujours fait d'ailleurs. Les motions of 'No confidence' auparavant n'ont pas passé, si ça passe tant mieux mais ça ne passe pas M. le Président, on demande de donner la chance au peuple de Rodrigues pour que ça passe parce que nous pensons M. le Président, que ça va se passer bientôt avec les prochaines élections, ces gens qui se trouvent devant nous ils ne seront pas là et nous je peux vous dire M. le Président, la stabilité se trouve ici de ce côté de cette Assemblée. Et nous avons la vision et nous allons porter ce pays vers une réussite. Merci M. le Président.

(Applause)

Mr. Chairperson: Once again I want to appeal to the Members. We are probably one and half hours left before seven o'clock, I would like to stress who are the persons who would now intervene. Two persons and then Mr. ROUSSETY will make a summing up if the Chief Commissioner addressing before Mr. ROUSSETY then we've got four persons to share the time one and three quarter hours. I will not limit the time a person will be intervening but consider that the last person to intervene will be Mr. ROUSSETY.

Mr. Chairperson: No, there will only one person intervening before the Chief Commissioner. Yes, but the Chief Commissioner will be the last person to intervene. I would appeal to Mrs. Marie Therese MEUNIER, Mr. Allan Ladd EMILIEN. I would not intervene to stop you but bear in mind we've got only one and a half hour left for four interventions.

Mrs. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we will have a summing up afterwards. What will happen if the third intervener talks and talks. This means that I want to bear this in this mind.

Mr. Chairperson: This is what I want you to think about because if you want me to distribute the time of course I can allocate a fixed time for you each. Ok, proceed then.

Mrs. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is my pleasure to intervene, to have the opportunity to talk about this motion laid on the order paper by the Minority Leader and I want to congratulate him as well as the other Members who intervene, who had the courage indeed we must say on this side of the House we have had courage to pass motions even if we know that we are the

minority and that the chance that the motion would be voted is very little. But still Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I highly congratulate the Minority Leader and the whole minority group for this attempt. *Cette motion Monsieur le Président, comme mes collègues avant moi ont dit vient à point. Il a pris son temps parcequ'on l'a voulu, on a pas voulu aller vite parce qu'il y eu des problèmes et ces problèmes comme ils ont dit avant moi, mes collègues ont dit Monsieur le Président, on fait suite a une histoire de presse, je ne sais pas si ce sont des allégations, des vérités, des véracités mais comme on dit en anglais 'Silence is golden', le silence des Commissaires de l'autre cote de cette Chambre speaks for itself.*

(Applause)

S'ils n'ont pas voulu intervenir, s'ils sont restes tranquille c'est parce que les raisons sont évidentes, ce que le Chef Commissaire a pu dire ou a pu ne pas dire dans ces déclarations a la presse ont fait mouche et ont fait beaucoup de mal et pour nous c'est pas une question de parti, c'est pas une question de majorité, c'est pas une question de gouvernement régionale parce que les déclarations qui ont été faite dans la presse n'ont pas ete faite à Rodrigues, ont ete faite à Maurice et on peut dire que maintenant on n'est plus dans un pays Monsieur le Président, ni dans une île on n'est pas isolé et tout ce qui se dit, tout ce qui se fait politiquement parlant se répercute partout dans le monde. Même en Australie on a reçu des e-mails, des lettres, beaucoup de choses, des gens qui sont inquiets, on a voulu défendre, d'ailleurs tout à l'heure je crois que c'est Mons. JABEEMISSAR qui a dit que les acquis de Rodrigues, cette Assemblée Régionale est quelque chose d'acquis et on a à la tête le Chef Commissaire qui est supposé représenter comme lui-même et les autres Commissaires ont dit tant de fois, la sagesse, la vision, la jeunesse d'esprit et lui-même il a dit dans beaucoup de fonction aux jeunes '*nou capave*' mais '*si nou capave*', le nous c'est pas lui le Chef Commissaire, le nous c'est son gouvernement, ce sont ces personnes qu'il a choisi, c'est lui-même qui a fait ce choix, c'est pas nous et le peuple a sanctionné son choix en leur mettant dans le fauteuil qu'ils ont maintenant. Comment maintenant on peut venir dire le Chef Commissaire tout à l'heure a essayé de défendre la véracité en disant la presse peut dire n'importe quoi mais on a aussi entendu, Mons AGATHE a entendu de ces propres oreilles la déclaration qui a été faite aux journalistes à la radio le jeudi. *Tout à l'heure on a beaucoup de point of orders when the Minority Leader was speaking* Mr. Chairperson, Sir, questioning the admissibility of these declarations in this House. La déclaration elle-même, n'attaque pas la personne en tant qu'individu mais attaque leur fonction. Le Chef Commissaire a dit dans ces déclarations '*nous avons des Commissaires indisciplinés*'. But these people if I refer to the Regional Assembly Act '*have sworn an oath to serve the people*' whatever happen, whatever their lifestyle, however how they behave outside, their job is to serve the people and have sown and I would quote "that each Commissioner

with us together when we first join this Assembly, we have sworn the same oath where we have said we will conscientiously, impartially and to the best of our knowledge, judgment and ability, discharge the duties and responsibilities that we are now about to assume and do right to all manner of people without fear or favor affection or ill will and the Chief Commissioner Mr. Chairperson, Sir, has tried 'défendre l'indéfendable'. C'est une mauvaise volonté de sa part, il n'est pas la pour m'entendre malheureusement, il est parti, c'est une mauvaise volonté, s'il y a eu problème au niveau de son parti c'est pas quelque chose qu'il faut s'étendre dans la fonction des Commissaires et ça c'est une honte pour quelqu'un qui a eu vingt ans de mandat, vingt ans de carrière en politique qui vient défendre maintenant l'intégrité de sa fonction mais sa fonction elle-même, est-ce que vous avez entendu, beaucoup de personnes ont dit ça, beaucoup de personnes dans la minorité ont dit est-ce que'on a jamais entendu d'un chef de gouvernement comme un chef d'état qui vient faire des déclarations a la presse, a n'importe qui sur la fonction de ces Commissaires et d'ailleurs quand il y a un problème, je pense que le mieux serait de rappeler les Commissaires a l'ordre en privé et non pas aller dans la presse étendre, faire étalage de quelque problème, quelque manquements s'il y a eu. Et maintenant on vient nous dire que tout est dans l'ordre, que tout marche bien, qu'on est dans la grande famille etc et qu'on doit recoller les morceaux pour travailler mais pendant une semaine, I and my colleague Mr. JABEEMISSAR, we were in Port Mathurin seeing the state of mind of people in Rodrigues questioning, even we were invited to come at the chapiteau in Port Mathurin to attend the 'Journée de Theatre' and a Commissioner, the Commissioner for Arts and Culture was not there, people mandates Mr. Chairperson, Sir, who use to come to the office of these Commissioners during these period from the 12 to 17 April have been left down with their problems they had to go home because the Commissioners were not in office. We understand because they have been harmed, they have been humiliated Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are not without heart here even if we have different ideas we are here the opposition but we understand them and when the Commissioner has come, the Chief Commissioner has talked about this indiscipline on part of Commissioners. But he is not here Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because there is a motion against a Commissioner and he is not here. I think, does he think surely that these Commissioners deserve this kind of treatment. *'ene motion contre li, li pas la, pas normal'*.

Mr. Chairperson: I am contemplating to have a little break of course for coffee and in 5 minutes probably. Proceed then.

Mrs. Meunier: So as I was saying, does he think that his Commissioners after working for nearly four years with this government highly deserve this kind of treatment and we can't come here and say this is not true because so many organs of the press have reported this matter. There are facts

/UNREVISED/

(GAPS ON CASSETTE)

.....come back to office and they have not done so. This means Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as the Minority Leader was saying this collective responsibility. Just here in the minority group they have seen different times when people say that we should not have done it but we think that we should do it when the need be when we have walked out it has been a collective decision because we feel that we should do it. But here on the other side of the House it is a collective responsibility to hold the Executive Council Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to be there in office, to attend to the people's demand and it is the Chief Commissioner whose is responsible of making sure that his Commissioners be there, be in office and be holding their function just like they have sworn and if they are not there, if they have not attended their offices what has happened, what if in this country on that day there were only I think Mr. SOOPRAYEN, Commissioner for Health in office and the Chief Commissioner who was in Mauritius and then came back, what if everybody wanted to block this country up, what if there was nobody to take decision because the Executive Council could not call a meeting to say who was going to take that decision in that particular moment if somebody decided to block this country up like we have seen on the 11 September in the United States. Where were the decision makers, where were the people who were supposed to be caring for our country Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This is why we think that the Chief Commissioner deserves, highly deserves this motion of 'No confidence'

(Applause)

Because you cannot expect in a house a father who has no authority over his children, over his family, who cannot cater for them, who cannot care for them and who cannot make them obey him so what is going to happen to this house Mr. Chairperson, Sir, you will delinquent, you will have children doing what they want, they will not go to school and everything will be upside down but here it's not a house, it's a country and during these days the people of Rodrigues were like you know *comme on dit en francais sur les charbons ardents, c'est comme si un* pressure cooker who was on the point of exploding Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because the people were wandering what is going to happen, is the Prime Minister, the President not going to say well things are going like this so let cancel this thing because we have proved, I say we because we are the people of this country too and we formed part of this Regional Assembly, the Executive Council has proved that they cannot govern, they cannot agree at least on governing matters, they cannot take a collective responsibility Mr. Chairperson, Sir, they cannot decide just if the Chief Commissioner is defending that these are allegations, these are not true. So how come his people have taken these allegations and sit back home and not come to their office, this is serious Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it's something unbelievable, it

has happened and now we have these people sitting back on the same seat again and coming here silently without being able to give us a reason why they have come back here again, why they are sitting next to that same person to whom they turned their back a few days ago. Some people have talked about their feelings, their dignity, their family being harmed but we questioned ourselves what has happened *et en plus Monsieur le Président, c'est pas seulement le nom, la fonction de ces personnes qui ont été salis, c'est l'Ile Rodrigues en entier, c'est notre pays. Le Chef Commissaire a l'habitude de dire la spécificité rodriguaise, c'est notre spécificité qui a fait que nous avons maintenant une Assemblée Régionale avec des membres élus, des Commissaires, un Chef Commissaire. C'est notre île Rodrigues même qui a été salie sur la scène internationale, à Maurice et partout et tout le monde même maintenant, à l'instant même là il y a des gens qui veulent savoir qu'est-ce qui se passe, comment ça va se passer aujourd'hui à cette Assemblée, est-ce que ces personnes là vont être là, est-ce qu'ils vont venir défendre l'indéfendable. Oui, nous savons que c'est pas facile comme le membre Christian AGATHE a dit, il y a des problèmes, il y a des difficultés financières qui font que some people have been tied with a knot* Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and can't get out of the pot but if you are men, if you are women and if you are men of courage, if you are people who have dared to come into election in 2002 and to take like Mrs. PERRINE-BEGUE likely says *'la manche poilon ki oune trappé la mais kan li chaud ou bizin capave largue li mo camarade'*. This Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is what make dignity of a man, a woman to be able to step down and to say I am in the wrong or to say that here I am guided in the wrong way, not to follow the trend, we are not sheep *'nou pas pé suivre l'accacia la'* Mr. Chairperson, Sir. It is the future of our country, our own future that are putting at stay by being guided by only one man who is making a one man show and you know what is going to happen next year and this is the practice, this has been the practice for some people Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and it's just like they are going to a party, each election they have to use a new gown, a new pair of trousers, a new tie so this is what is going to happen and next year we are going to see that he's going to cut down his team, he's going to change the trousers, the tie, *la lampe, parrain*, everything is going to go Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

And how are we educating our people? We are talking about democracy Mr. Chairperson, Sir. *Comment est-ce qu'on éduque notre peuple? Est-ce que c'est ça cette politique en tant que Commissaire, en tant que Chef Commissaire on est là dans un gouvernement, est-ce que c'est là éducation qu'on veut donner à nos enfants qui voudront plus tard reprendre ce fauteuil même ou nous asseyons aujourd'hui comme Franceau GRANDCOURT a dit tout à l'heure, le membre Franceau GRANDCOURT a dit il ne peut pas voir, il a cité du Pape, je ne veux pas répéter parce que ça cause à des personnes des tourments, à des personnes, la susceptibilité mais il faut savoir dire des choses, il faut savoir faire des choses quand il le faut, il ne faut pas se*

cacher derrière une façade parce que l'hypocrisie Monsieur le Président, c'est le plus mauvais mal qui peut exister, ça ronge l'âme, ça vous rongera jusqu'à la fin de vos jours. We should be hypocrite Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we should be able to stand and say what we think and today I expected these people because they have sat back with the Chief Commissioner to come and say why. Why can't you say why you have come back here Mr. Chairperson, Sir, why? Because if you feel that this have been allegations, these things were untrue, you could speak, you could come here, make the people of Rodrigues know but if you have hidden yourself in a kind of balloon, in a dark room and you don't want to speak but silence is golden Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and we are sorry that things have turned out this way because we on this side of the House we are doing our job and here on the other side they are supposed to do their job and we have all grown up, may be we are not as verse as having so much experience as the Chief Commissioner said but we think that we would have never done such a thing neither our leader nor our Minority Leader none of the members here to be able to go and say such things about our own Commissioners but does the Chief Commissioner not know that when he is blaming his Commissioners, he is blaming himself and he has no confidence in his Commissioners Mr. Chairperson, Sir. If he considers them as indiscipline so he is not the right person to be there because he is blaming himself, they are in a group, they have collective responsibility, they are taking decisions for this country and if ever some of them are not doing their job correctly this means that he has not trained them well, he has not been able to make them do the jobs like he wishes to do and he should blame himself. This is why we should have any confidence in him *et c'est dommage Monsieur le Président, parceque comme le membre Gaetan JABEEMISSAR a dit cette motion ne vient pas suite à ces articles de presse, il a énumérait tellement de problèmes, il a énuméré l'eau, le Chef Commissaire lui-même a pris une liste, je pense qu'il a jugé sur son expérience, il a pris une liste de fonction,* the areas of responsibility under his Commission and now we have taken education again et on a vu, nous prenons le tourisme, l'environnement, le membre Gaetan JABEEMISSAR vient de dire tout à l'heure les problèmes de toilettes, j'en ait parlé, moi-meme j'ai

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait

Mrs. Meunier: j'ai posé la question tout à l'heure.

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait, take your seat please. If we are to finish by seven, of course you have been speaking for more than 25 minutes, we won't be able to finish today. If we are to finish today then I will have to fix the time for each Member who would be intervening so I will probably taking 15 minutes for a little break, having only 1 hour, 60 minutes for three interveners then this will restrict the time for each Member to 20 minutes. No, adjournment depends on the Chief Commissioner. Yes, finish and then we

Mrs. Meunier: So Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have seen, we have witnessed a government at least part of it collectively as far as we know four Commissioners going on strike Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because not going to work from Thursday to Tuesday is going on strike and as I said earlier these Commissioners, these people have been chosen to represent the people by the Commissioner himself and he has so said about maturity, about their vision and about all that they possess. And just yesterday I was

Mr. Chairperson: Would you be long.

Mrs. Meunier: No,

Mr. Chairperson: You nearly finished otherwise I will break.

Mrs. Meunier: I will nearly finish then you can. Thank you Mr. Chairperson, Sir. We have seen that there was an Indian actress coming and praising Mauritius for being a clean island, for the people being so kind, so welcoming and here what we see? If ever we have to house people like that and we look at our environment, we look at the problems of water. Mr. Gaetan JABEEMISSAR was talking about the tools and equipment used by the people who clean the drains and the roads, I have seen myself two hoes for twenty men, twenty men using two hoes and what kind of work do we expect to do with that Mr. Chairperson, Sir. If we enumerate the reasons, if we list the number of shortcomings to say that this motion stands and that the Chief Commissioner highly deserve the motion of 'No confidence'. Like time is running up we can speak tonight, tomorrow morning and come back again and speak for a week and then we will hold this House in hostage. But Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what I would like to say is that it's not the first time, it's the second time and if the motion is not voted and doesn't pass today we will come again and we have the reason to come and I deeply because I have on the other side we might be politically different but I have worked with some people of the other side of the House, I have known them personally and I feel sorry, some have been my school friends that today *ils sont tombés aussi bas, ils ne peuvent pas se mettre debout et dire ce qu'ils pensent, qu'ils sont tenus par l'épée de Damoclès sur leur têtes et qu'ils doivent suivre, ne soyez pas des suiveurs soyez des hommes et faite comme nous de l'autre cote de cette chambre, ayez le courage, ne soyez des hommelettes comme a dit le Frère Remi ou des femmelettes mais soyez des hommes et des femmes debout* and Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think this motion stands and that it should be voted and I appeal to those people who have been harmed in their dignity to vote for this motion. Thank you Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

(Applause)

Mr. Chairperson: I now break for suspend the Assembly for 15 minutes.

Suspension of the Assembly for 15 minutes

Mr. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I congratulate my friend, the Minority Leader, who has come up with this motion of 'No confidence' in the Chief Commissioner. In fact, if I am right, it is the second motion of no confidence against him, if I am not wrong. This gives a state of the affairs of the island if within less than 4 years we have two motions of no confidence in the Chief Commissioner.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would recall part of history of democracy, democracy which originates in England where it has Unfortunately, when the Professor D. SMITH prepared our constitutional laws which was prior to independence, we all know that we had an order in chamber for the Mauritius Independence order giving Mauritius the status of independent nation, Mauritius which includes also the island of Rodrigues, St. Brandon, Agalega and all the others that we know. Unfortunately, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the laws, the constitutional laws which were brought to Mauritius but the culture of democracy was not brought in, only the laws, written laws on paper were brought. All the staffs that would be used for the culture of democracy to prosper in the Republic of Mauritius it was not then the Republic of Mauritius, wasn't brought in so that's why we have inherited the Westminster type of government but we haven't inherited from this type of democracy that we see in England. Why I am saying all this Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is that in England if such a case happened, case on which we are debating today tonight. If this case happened in England it's obvious, I'm sure that everybody, I'm sure that the concern would have stepped down. We've got some examples where a parliamentary almost less than this. A parliamentarian who had supposedly taken 10£ from somebody to put a question in parliament when this brought to the public that guy had to step down only for this. On the other side we have the Minister, may be some of you know what we call the profumo case where a Minister had to step down because it has been proved that she had *une liaison avec un mannequin du nom de Charline Killer je crois quelque chose comme ça, un Ministre du Parlement Britannique qui a du démissionner parce qu'on a découvert qu'il avait une liaison avec un mannequin et que cette dernière avait elle une liaison avec un espion russe*. What we called the profumo standard in United Kingdom, in England. Nearer to us Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we had in Nepal where the King of Nepal who was a dictator, he didn't want to have democracy in his country, the people was urging to restore democracy he didn't want. What happen later? Hundred or thousand of people have to go in the streets and to ask for democracy to be restored. With the pressure exerted by the people of this country, that dictator King had to restore democracy. Is this what we are waiting for in Rodrigues that is the

people of Rodrigues go in the streets and ask the actual Regional Government to step down because the people has no confidence in the Chief Commissioner in the first instance but as being the chief of the Regional Government, no confidence in him means no confidence in the Regional Government. We have many examples Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that I could have sighted here, in Australia, in other parts of the world, we have people who have got to step down for much less than that but here let's take some examples to sustain this motion of 'No confidence' in the Chief Commissioner. The Chief Commissioner is also responsible for the affairs of finance since the inception of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in 2002 with a budget of around Rs 1 billion, the revenue of the island was around Rs 50 million. With a budget of Rs 1.1 billion the year after, the revenue stood around Rs 32 million and with Rs 1.3 billion the revenue of the island at Rs 16.5 million, this decrease Mr. Chairperson, Sir, shows that the Commissioner for Finance is not doing his job properly and if this trend is to continue Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Rs 1.2 billion budget that they have this will result a revenue less than the amount of money needed to buy pajeros that is less than Rs 10 million. Let's come to tourism, my friend Gaetan JABEEMISSAR has talked about tourism sector, the Ministry of Tourism has launched a vast tourism campaign for mainland in Mauritius and it seems that the Commission for Tourism in Rodrigues had also been invited to join in and the money, the budget input of the tourism sector in Rodrigues is only Rs 2 million where the Ministry of Tourism in Mauritius contributes also Rs 2 million Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Rs 4 million to promote the destination of Rodrigues is not enough. In Mauritius we just saw on t.v and in newspapers that the incoming number of tourists in Mauritius has increased by a very considerable percentage whereas in Rodrigues the situation is not the same. Here the tourist arrival decreased and people are loosing their job in this sector. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a lot has been said this morning on what we call *responsabilité collective, beaucoup a été dit mais si on travail comme une équipe, si un gouvernement pour moi à mon humble avis est une équipe soudée, qui prend des décisions aux Conseil Exécutif et qui même si certain, c'est qui est tout à fait normale n'est pas d'accord avec une decision qui a été prise doit en dehors du Conseil se montrer solidaire de la decision prise en Conseil. Donc, ce qui a été dit, ce qui a été rapporté démontre clairement que cette esprit d'équipe, de solidarité, cette soudure est cassée Monsieur le Président, l'équipe n'est plus une équipe mais c'est plutôt un one man show, quelqu'un qui vient dire dans un fonction officiel que je n'ai pas besoin des autres, je peux faire le travail tout seul. Je vais maintenant me référer Monsieur le Président, au discours, à cette époque, c'était l'honorable Serge CLAIR, fait à l'Assemblée Nationale le 20 Novembre 2001 quand le projet de loi 'le Rodrigues Regional Assembly Bill' est passé ce jour là. Je cite Monsieur le Président, "Monsieur le Président, j'ai été la personne très impliquée depuis 1982, j'ai encore les grands souvenirs de Sir Aneerood JUGNAUTH quand j'ai été nommé comme l'a dit le Ministre LESJONGARD, le premier rodriguais à*

occuper le poste de Ministre de Rodrigues. Ce fut un grand honneur pour ce peuple de Rodrigues et nous avons pris cela surtout comme une reconnaissance, une reconnaissance d'un peuple à l'intérieur de la nation mauricienne qui existe quelque part dans une île de 104 km² ou il faut apprendre à se débrouiller pour survivre et aujourd'hui Monsieur le Président, en 2006 le rodriguais doit encore apprendre à se débrouiller pour survivre parce que nos revenus d'année en année baissent, l'économie est stagnante, pour ne pas dire l'économie régresse''.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would lay emphasis, I would stress on one thing, on one aspect of what has been said since this morning concerning the disagreement of some Commissioners with the Chief Commissioner because it seems that there has been a clear instance of disagreement with the Chief Commissioner when the Commissioners do not attend the Executive Council, not attending the office, alright we can accept, we can understand but not attending the Executive Council Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is a very serious matter. Because Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when the Commissioners, between the time, did not attend the Executive Council and the issue of a communiqué there has been a moment at this very precise point in time, the Chief Commissioner was not in command of a majority, I repeat Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at this very precise point in time the Chief Commissioner was not in command of a majority, he had only the Commissioner for Health with him, Mr. ROUSSETY was in Mauritius but four of their colleagues were here in Rodrigues and they did not attend so there were no medical certificate as it has been stated here for Miss CASTEL and this reflects the disagreement, it shows, it proves the disagreement between these Commissioners and the Chief Commissioner.

This morning Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner has talked about des pontons et d'autres équipements qu'on a pas pour la fouille des passes, ceci également Monsieur le Président, démontre l'incapacité du Chef Commissaire en tant que Commissaire responsable des finances à pourvoir Rodrigues des équipements nécessaires pour faire à des problèmes qui touchent le secteur économique, la pêche étant un de nos piliers de l'économie, la pêche étant d'ailleurs nous le prenons tous avec le projet seafood hub à Rodrigues de faire développer notre industrie de la pêche donc ça démontre clairement l'incapacité du Commissaire responsable des finances à faire fonctionner vraiment la machine que Rodrigues puisse décoller économiquement et faire remonter la chaudière en ce qui concerne l'état des finances, des revenus de Rodrigues qui d'année en année descends par au moins 50%.

M. le Président, les officiers du secteur publique qui arrivent plusieurs fois en retard sur leur lieu de travail reçoivent des lettres pour expliquer leur retard, des fois même il y a des déductions de leur salaires, ça c'est bon pour la discipline parce qu'on ne peut encourager les gens à arriver en retard

régulièrement mais des gens haut placé qui ne viennent pas à leurs bureaux pendant environ une semaine n'ont pas de compte à rendre, n'ont rien comme si ils n'ont pas de compte à rendre, ils n'ont rien à se reprocher. Everything has come back as usual, business as usual mais rien à dire donc tout ça démontre que ce gouvernement régional, M. le président, n'a plus ce qu'on appelle la légitimité de continuer à être *'in the driving seat of the affairs of Rodrigues'*. C'est pourquoi je dis haut et fort M. le président que les élections régionales anticipées sont les solutions dans ces conditions, dans cette situation chaotique, cette situation où Rodrigues se trouve actuellement.

Nous avons vécu des moments historiques, historiques du fait que jamais au grand jamais il y a eu dans le passé de tels actes, de tels faits que se soit au sein de la République de Maurice, que ce soit ailleurs dans le monde où un chef de Gouvernement, un chef d'état, un chef d'une collectivité régionale soit venu critiquer les membres de son propre équipe et pour dire des choses vraiment désobligeante. Ce fait sans précédent, M. le président, démontre dans quel état d'esprit travaille cette équipe dirigeante du gouvernement régionale de Rodrigues et aussi cela nous donne une indication claire et net de la manière dont les choses se font à Rodrigues, la manière dont les affaires de Rodrigues sont expédiées.

Malheureusement, M. le président, cette motion de blâme contre le Chef Commissaire me paraît à mon avis un peu fade dans le sens où les gens qui sont vis à vis de nous regardent passivement et n'attendent que le moment pour montrer leur obéissance au moment du vote, pour montrer leur appartenance à cette esprit d'équipe qui a été sérieusement mal mené, chamboulé et donc nous voyons désormais comme a dit tout à l'heure mon collègue Christian Agathe, le ver est dans le fruit, n'attendons pas que le peuple descende dans la rue comme au Népal, n'attendons pas que le fruit est complètement détruit à l'intérieur pour prendre les décisions qu'il faut.

M. le président, le temps fait défaut, j'ai beaucoup de choses à dire, certains ont été dites par mes collègues, et ne me sentant pas très bien me paraît-il parce que j'ai attrapé paraît-il le Chikungunia, il me semble, je vais conclure dans quelques petites secondes, M. le président, en disant que Rodrigues est une jeune démocratie, au sein de la République de Maurice, on est dans une instance démocratique, bien sur depuis 1968. Mais Rodrigues en tant qu'entité avec ses spécificités que certains ont toujours eu l'habitude de clamer sur tous les toits. Rodrigues est une jeune démocratie, c'est vilain, M. le président, que ce genre de choses arrive à Rodrigues parce qu'on aurait pu laver son linge sale entre famille et non pas aller cracher ça au visages de 1.2 million de personnes à l'île Maurice, M. le président. On aurait du rappeler à l'ordre s'il y a lieu, on aurait du prendre des sanctions, s'il y a lieu mais que Rodrigues sorte grandi, Rodrigues sorte gagnante de cette situation et non pas Rodrigues sort la tête

baissé avec la queue entre les jambes. Quelque part, M. le président, le ressort est cassé et quand le ressort est cassé le fonctionnement de la machinerie aura des ratés, n'attendons pas l'irréparable, faisons ce qu'il faut maintenant, prenons les actions courageuses qu'il faut prendre mais prenons les au moment opportun.

M. le président, sur ces mots je lance un appel au gens responsable, au gens d'intelligence, de bonne foi, de comprendre la portée de cette motion et de ne pas laisser Rodrigues s'engouffrer dans une spirale où elle ne pourra pas s'en sortir.

Merci, M. le président.

(Applause)

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, Chief Commissioner, there is no other person to intervene.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je vais être très court. Je voudrais quand même aborder encore une fois ces questions de « collective responsibility ». Il semblerait que dans tout ce qu'on a entendu, qu'on a mélangé « party discipline » à « collective responsibility of the Executive Council ».

Party discipline is not collective responsibility. Si nous lisons les procédures des Conseils des Ministres, on ne voit que la solidarité par apport aux décisions prises au Conseils des Ministres, même quand un Ministre, qui n'est plus Ministre, il doit en dehors garder le secret et non pas trahir et non pas dire ce qui a été dit dans le Conseils des Ministres.

Le « collective responsibility » par apport à ce qu'on appelle les décisions prises et les politiques prises à l'intérieur du Conseil Exécutif qui n'a rien à faire avec le « party discipline », qui n'a rien à faire avec le comportement de quelqu'un mais qui a à faire aux responsabilités attribués par le Président de la République à ce Commissaire. Donc le « collective responsibility » il ne faudrait pas essayer de mélanger les issues. Le « party discipline » c'est bien différent. Le « party discipline » n'a rien à faire donc, avec le Conseil Executif.

Any citation in the press has no relation with collective responsibility. Aucune citation d'Executive Council, aucune citation dans la presse dont a mentionné la minorité n'a rien à faire avec la responsabilité collective but of political party.

Je voudrais dire aussi que ce qu'on a entendu c'est bon, ce qu'on a entendu faisant appel au sens professionnel des politiciens, leur responsabilités et ainsi de suite. M. le président, ce qu'on a aussi c'est que l'Assemblée s'est transformée en un tribunal de jugement. Je ne voudrais pas m'attarder dessus mais en dehors des quelques points qui ont été soulevés concernant l'eau, l'environnement, la pêche, le sport et autres, je pense qu'il y a des réponses que peut être dans une prochaine Assemblée les Commissaires pourront apporter des réponses à partir des déclarations dans l'Assemblée. Je pense qu'il y a des éclaircissements à apporter, ils n'ont pas voulu ici que nous prenions la parole sinon ça va aller trop loin. Mais je souhaiterais que les Commissaires apportent des précisions concernant exactement ce qui a été dit sur les Commissaires et leurs responsabilités. Nous voudrions rester dans cette optique, dans ce contexte et non pas aller en dehors de ce qu'on a entendu aujourd'hui, nous voudrions respecter cette Assemblée et ceux qui sont là, ont aussi leurs responsabilités même s'il y a eu «party discipline in the newspaper ».

Je voudrais aussi terminer dessus, M. le président, en disant, M. le président que cette Assemblée elle a aussi de l'autre côté de la Chambre, on parle de respect, de ceci, cela mais ce que j'ai entendu dans certains aspects où on a passé son temps à rapporter ce qu'un journaliste a dit et que jamais dans une Assemblée Nationale on avait entendu ce genre de chose. On avait entendu aussi des on dits, des ceci et des cela des rapports par apport à certaines quelque choses qui ont et que si on avait vraiment à se mettre debout pour apporter des explications, on ne serait plus là aujourd'hui. Donc, ça aussi, M. le président, on est venu à travers cette motion donner une certaine mentalité à savoir venir dire ce qu'on entend. Venir dire ce qu'on a lu parce qu'un journaliste peut aussi écrire son article à sa manière. Tout le monde peut dire des choses à leurs manières et ce qu'on entend, est ce qu'on était là au moment où cela a été dit ? Mais c'est cela justement que cette Assemblée doit pouvoir justement être le lieu qu'on a entendu soi-même, qu'on a écrit soi-même. Des personnes qui ont dit des choses concernant les lois, les règlements, la discipline et ainsi de suite.

M. le président, nous du côté de cette Chambre, évidemment on a reçu des coups de massues, on a même entendu des insinuations de corruptions. J'ai toujours dit que ceux qui savent qu'il y a la corruption, il y a la police, il y a l'ICAC. Qu'ils aient le courage d'écrire à l'ICAC, qu'ils aient le courage d'aller à la police, ça aussi c'est un courage, Ne pas passer son temps à mentionner ici la corruption cela. J'ai dit qu'à Rodrigues il y a la corruption mais je n'ai pas dit un tel est corrompu, la corruption existe partout. Donc dans ce cas, M. le président, si on veut dénoncer quelqu'un, si on sait qu'il y a la corruption que un tel est corrompu, il a été corrompu par quelqu'un d'autre, donc il faut avoir le courage d'aller à l'ICAC et de faire face à une enquête de l'ICAC comme moi j'ai fait je fais face à une enquête de l'ICAC sur des allégations à mon égard.

Je voudrais M. le président, terminer ici et disant que nous de ce coté de la Chambre évidemment, nous sommes là pour travailler. Il y a une équipe comme nous avons travailler avant nous allons continuer à travailler. Il y a eu des dialogues à l'intérieure de nous, des dialogues vont continuer, des progrès peut être probablement vont être fait au niveau du dialogues et de la communication mais simplement je voudrais dire que nous sommes toujours là au service de la population. Et que la population aussi voit ce que nous sommes en train de faire. Même avec le peu de moyens que nous avons, même avec les difficultés que nous avons ce n'est pas en trois ans ou en quatre ans qu'on peut mettre en place les bases d'une autonomie réussie, d'un gouvernement régionale, d'une île Rodrigues avec toutes ses lois et ses règlements, avec l'éducation qu'il faut, la discipline qu'il faut au niveau de la population concernant l'environnement. L'environnement ce n'est pas seulement le Chef Commissaire et ses officiers, c'est aussi toute la population qui prend conscience. On a dit que Rodrigues est propre mais Rodrigues est sale, on a vu avec les grosses pluies d'où sont sortis des déchets qui étaient là. C'est ce qu'on jette derrière les murs, c'est ce qu'on jette dans le bois, c'est ce qu'on jette ici, c'est ce qu'on jette là-bas. Alors donc c'est une habitude qu'il faudrait éviter à l'avenir que chacun soit responsable de son environnement. Et aujourd'hui quand nous distribuons les bails, c'est ça que nous disons à ceux qui ont reçu un bail. Le gouvernement passe un contrat avec vous, il vous donne un morceau de terrain et qu'il vous faudra prendre soin de ce morceau de terrain, qu'il faudra prendre soin des drains autour de vous, de tous ce qu'il y a dans votre cours que vraiment il ne faudrait pas qu'il ait de la saleté, qu'il faudrait tout cela et ça c'est toujours dans le bail. Le bail contient une indication extraordinaire concernant ce contrat entre le gouvernement et le receveur de bail.

M. le président, l'équipe au gouvernement est là. Nous travaillons, nous continuons à travailler, nous progressons avec les moyens que nous avons et nous progressons

(Gap in cassette)

The Minority Leader: ...qui ont intervenus sur cette motion qui a été présenter à mon nom aujourd'hui. Je voudrais spécialement remercier les Membres de la Minorité, qui m'ont soutenus avec je dois dire avec beaucoup d'arguments solides, beaucoup de recherches et de travaux personnels et je voudrais aussi les féliciter pour ce travail d'appui, ce travail d'équipe.

Il y a eu aujourd'hui dans cette Assemblée, M. le président, à part le débat sur cette motion et la brève défense que nous avons eue de la part du Chef Commissaire. Il y a eu aujourd'hui ce qu'on appelle une attaque systématique. Il y a eu une attaque systématique sur la presse et le rôle de la presse, M. le président, et si vous étudiez les régimes en décadence, les gouvernements en

perte de vitesse vous verrez qu'un des symptômes les plus communs c'est qu'ils attaquent la presse, M. le président ; qu'ils refusent les vérités émissent dans la presse, dans les livres, dans les films, dans les informations. Et moi M. le président, j'étais fier pendant toute cette semaine, non pas parce que des gens avaient des problèmes entre eux, des problèmes relationnels, je suis dans l'Opposition je dois normalement m'en réjouir mais j'étais fier de cette machine nationale que nous avons qui est cette presse libre et je voudrais féliciter ces journalistes qui n'ont pas eu peur de dévoiler les propos tels qu'ils avaient été présenter, les journalistes de la presse écrites et les journalistes de la presse parler, M. le président. Et c'est ça qui tient cette démocratie debout, c'est ça qui fait que les dirigeants, les gouvernants doivent se comporter comme ils se doivent et faire attention à ce qu'ils disent dans la presse, ce qu'ils fassent pour que demain ils ne se retrouvent pas dans les colonnes des journaux nationaux en train de débiter des insanités, des critiques acerbes sur leur principal collaborateurs.

Il y a sans aucun doute, M. le président, des « breche of this convention of collective responsibility » parce que ce n'est pas uniquement une matière qui se résumant au décision du Cabinet, au décision du Conseil Exécutif. Comme je vous l'ai expliqué moi je me réfère à mes textes et mes textes me disent : « collective responsibility, the need for government to present a united front to the parliament and to the public in order to maintain confidence ». Voilà ce que je dis aux autorités, les livres que moi j'ai en ma possession. C'est à dire un gouvernement doit montrer en tout occasion montrer un front uni même devant l'adversité, M. le président, même devant les catastrophes naturels, même devant ce qui est mal fait, un Commissaire doit respecter son Chef Commissaire et son Chef Commissaire doit respecter l'intégrité personnel de ses membres et c'est cela qui a été incapable d'être préserver. Et comme a dit le Membre Emilien on ne sait pas ce qui nous attend, on ne sait pas comment, M. le président, les dossiers de Rodrigues ont été traiter. On se demandait pourquoi les routes ne sont pas nettoyées, les drains ne sont pas nettoyés, si c'est incompetence de tous cela ne résultent pas d'un blocage au sein de cette équipe. Un blocage émanant du style de direction au sein du Conseil Exécutif, le style de direction autocratique, dictatoriale, imposant une seule main s'impliquant dans toutes les affaires publiques de Rodrigues.

En tout cas, M. le président, nous n'avons pas eu droit ici au défense. On a dit c'est un tribunal, une motion de « no confidence ». Quand on est politicien il faut s'attendre à ce qu'on attaque vos politiques et oui, l'Assemblée a peut être été transformé en un tribunal mais un tribunal du peuple, M. le président, pas un tribunal d'inquisition, parce que le peuple doit avoir des comptes et le peuple nous sommes ici les prosecutors au nom du peuple. Les prosecutors pour mettre à jour, mettre en lumière ce que nos dirigeants font avec l'argent publique, se qu'ils se disent et leur comportement au sein de la nation. Et c'est

pour ça que moi j'ai été fier de faire partie de cette équipe de procureurs. Appelez le tribunal si vous voulez mais moi je sais que nous sommes ici pour débattre une motion et si la motion au nom du peuple, si les procédures ont été vue comme étant les procédures d'un tribunal, moi je dis que c'est pas si grave que ça parce qu'on on a accusé personne. On a accusé la conduite, le comportement public de certaines personnes, des déclarations qui ont été faites de par et d'autres dans la presse. Mais on n'est pas venu accuser la personne de quelqu'un, de quelconque et d'une personne spécifique.

Et ce M. le président, comme je dis même un enfant de cinq ans en écoutant les arguments qui ont été présentés ici comprendrait pourquoi ce gouvernement régional n'a plus de légitimité pour diriger le pays parce que nous avons en face de nous aujourd'hui un assemblage hétéroclite, un assemblage de gens qui se sont disputer publiquement et ont décidé de recoller les morceaux pour les raisons que l'ont sait, M. le président. Et le recollage a été douloureux, M. le président, un accouchement très difficile. Nous avons entendu dire dans la friction, dans des bagarres, M. le président. Il y a certaines personnes qui ont tout fait pour recoller les morceaux et on ne sait pas aujourd'hui à quoi on en serait arriver. Il y a certaines personnes qui nous ont approché M. le président, qui nous ont dit de nous préparer, que peut être ils pourront venir avec nous. Mais nous avons fait attention, M. le président, comme je le dis toujours, je ne suis pas de ceux qui sont de la race de ces politiciens qui vont s'associer à n'importe qui dans la soif du pouvoir. Le pouvoir viendra, M. le président, quand le pouvoir viendra du côté de ceux qui sont de ce côté de la Chambre, ce sera une victoire éclatante et c'est cela que nous attendons, M. le président. Parce que le peuple aujourd'hui a compris où est la discipline, ceux qui proposaient *for the proponents of discipline*, qui avaient qu'ils étaient disciplinés, que leurs partis sont des partis disciplinés, que leurs partisans sont des partisans disciplinés, que ceux qu'ils ont recrutés pour être Commissaires, pour être candidats sont des gens disciplinés ; on a vu aujourd'hui quel est le résultat. Et moi je vous dis que c'est cela qui a ajouté beaucoup de honte, non seulement sur ces gens la mais sur la classe politique rodriguaise en général. Et il faudra beaucoup de temps maintenant pour faire comprendre que Rodrigues c'est pas seulement cette catégorie de politiciens. Et je voudrais être critique. M. le président, je suis un jeune politicien et je voudrais être critique vis à vis du Chef Commissaire sur un point. C'est ce point d'être humble, M. le président. Il faut être humble, essayer d'être humble, c'est un conseil que j'ai à donner à notre ami qui est en fin de carrière politique je pense, c'est cette humilité, M. le président. Chaque politicien, je me souviens, Sir Aneerod Jugnuath avait dit en 1995 quand il avait perdu les élections, chaque politicien a son moment de gloire et son moment de faiblesse et de détresse. Il ne faudrait pas M. le président, qu'à cause de la détresse de certaines personnes, le pays soit pris en otage. Moi je dis, il faut savoir partir et il faut savoir partir la tête haute, M. le président. Partir tant qu'il est encore temps,

partir dans l'honneur au lieu d'être mis dehors dans le déshonneur, dans le désordre et c'est ce qui a failli nous arriver, M. le président. Mais je dois dire aussi, M. le président, que nous avons suivi avec beaucoup d'attention. Nous étions au téléphone nous aussi, entre nous les membres de la Minorité étaient en communication avec d'autres gens à Maurice qui nous conseillaient, qui nous disaient « si jamais il y a un problème tenez vous prêts ». Et nous étions prêts, M. le président, pas prêts pour nous accaparer du pouvoir mais prêts si jamais la nécessité pour nous de prendre en mains les affaires publiques de Rodrigues. *This side of the House was ready to take it over and to show the world that people here work, we have dignity and we are ready whenever there is a problem to take over the public affairs of our country. I will not say that we wanted it.* Moi je ne l'ai pas désiré personnellement mais j'ai dit dans la presse, s'il faut travailler pour l'intérêt de mon pays pour lequel j'ai été élu, nous étions prêts et nous étions prêts pour travailler, pour prendre en place les affaires publiques de Rodrigues mais M. le président pas jusqu'à l'année prochaine et c'est cela qu'il faut comprendre. *There is no legitimacy on the other side.* Il n'y a plus de légitimité politique pour diriger le pays et c'est pour cela que je demande publiquement au sein de cette Assemblée, nous allons écrire au Président de la République, nous allons écrire au Premier Ministre pour leur demander de dissoudre l'Assemblée Régionale avant l'expiration de son mandat c'est à dire Septembre 2007. Parce que Rodrigues ne peut pas continuer à être divisé par le gouvernement régional, « *I would say illegitimate* », qui a perdu la confiance du peuple et qui aujourd'hui n'arrivent pas à produire des résultats, les autres membres ont longuement expliqués l'absence de résultats dans les différents domaines, non seulement il y a un problème politique ; c'est à dire ils n'arrivent pas à travailler ensemble mais en plus il y a un absence de résultats.

Donc à partir d'aujourd'hui, M. le président, la seule demande que nous faisons c'est de refaire les élections, c'est de donner la chance au peuple, dans n'importe quel pays comme le membre Emilien a dit, n'importe quel pays démocratique un problème de cette envergure *calls for general election and this is what we want for Rodrigues.*

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: The debate being now over, it is time for me to put the question. Question:

This Assembly resolves that it has no confidence in the Chief Commissioner.

Those in favour say "Ayes", those against say "No". Yes, Clerk can you proceed to record the vote, please. You start from the move of the motion, please.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairperson, from accordance with Standing Order 37 (iii) which requires me to ask each Member to express his vote.

The Minority Leader: Well it seems that we have been misunderstood where we are asking for a secret ballot.

The Clerk: The Chairperson will decide whether the ballot will be secret or in accordance with the Standing Orders.

The Chairperson: Yes, I would have like to have a secret ballot but the Standing Order says otherwise. There is only one procedure. I cannot. How can I conceal the deliberation of this Assembly? Can you direct me under what Standing Order? Because the Standing Order says otherwise.

The Minority Leader: If I understand well, you would like division of vote, you ask me here and you tell me what I want to vote? This is not secret ballot, this is not ok. No, no. If somebody from the other side wants to vote with us he will be bound from it. Publicly everybody will know.

The Chairperson: There is no such thing as secret voting in the Assembly.

The Minority Leader: But we have had it.

The Chairperson: Yes even if we have had it in the past but now being given the Standing Order as it is how can we? We cannot rebound from the Standing Orders. You don't want me to offend myself the Standing Orders to which I am guarding.

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to the Standing Orders you do have a right to say whether we have a secret ballot or...

The Chairperson: Well I have a right, you are correct on this point, where the Standing Orders are silent. But where the Standing Orders specifically provide...

Mr. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at this point of time since this matter is very serious, I will suggest you that we have a very secret ballot.

The Chairperson: Yes, I cannot order something against the Standing Orders, please understand me. It is the Clerk who has drawn our attention to which Standing Orders he is applying. Well, I understand your point, but what

do you want me to do. I can't offend the Standing Orders, please understand. Yes, proceed, Clerk.

The Clerk: As expected by the Standing Order, I shall proceed with asking every Member to vote, the three ways of voting either Ayes, No or decline to vote. So I start with accordance to the Standing Order as it is said there, beginning with the Member who stands last in that order. So I start with the Third Island Region Member, Mr. Desiré Laval Guillaume, how do you vote Sir?

Mr. L. Guillaume: Ayes.

The Clerk: Ayes. Thank you. The Sixth Island Region Member, how do you vote Madam?

Mrs. J. Prosper: Ayes.

The Clerk: Ayes. The First Local Region Member for Marechal, how do you vote, Sir?

Mr. A. Emilien: Ayes.

The Clerk: Ayes. The Second Island Region Member, how you vote, Madam?

Mrs. M. T. Meunier: Ayes.

The Clerk: Ayes. The Second Local Region Member for Marechal, how do you vote, Sir?

Mr. C. Agathe: Ayes.

The Clerk: Ayes. The Second Local Region Member for La Ferme, how do you vote, Sir?

Mr. G. Jabeemissur: Ayes.

The Clerk: Ayes. The First Local Region Member for La Ferme, how do you vote, Sir?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Ayes.

The Clerk: Ayes. Minority Leader, how do you vote Sir?

The Minority Leader: Ayes.

The Clerk: Ayes. Thank you. I will now go to other side and Miss Castel is absent. The First Local Region Member for Baie Aux Huitres, how do you vote Sir?

Mr. P. François: No.

The Clerk: No. The Four Island Region Member, Deputy Chairperson, how do you vote Sir?

Mr. J. Pierre Louis: No.

The Clerk: No. Commissioner Mercure, how do you vote Sir?

Mr. R. Mercure: No.

The Clerk: No. Commissioner Lisette, how do you vote Sir?

Mr. N. Lisette: No.

The Clerk: No. Commissioner Sooprayen, how do you vote Sir?

Mr. S. Sooprayen: No.

The Clerk: No. Commissioner Roussety, how you you vote Sir?

Mr. L. Roussety: No.

The Clerk: No. Commissioner Arlette Perrine Bégué, how do you vote, Madam?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: No.

The Clerk: Deputy Chief Commissioner, how do you vote Sir?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: No.

The Clerk: Chief Commissioner, how do you vote Sir?

The Chief Commissioner: No.

The Clerk: No. So, Mr. Chairperson, the Ayes, eight and the Nos, nine.

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The Chairperson: Yes, the decision is that the Nos have it. I wish to draw the attention of all the Members of this House to something that has been addressed to me to the effect that I stated that a Member was using his phone in this Assembly and this is purposely to be wrong. Probably when the interference was made and then I saw the Member touching his phone which he adamantly he had in his possession, this probably has caused the fact that I linked the call to that Member. But of course everybody knows by now what is supposed for a Member to bring in this House. I may refer to the memorandum to Members which was issued on the 15th November, 2004 which says that personal belongings not allowed inside this House amongst other things there are mobile phones, and these can be kept in the lockers provided for that purpose.

Thank you.

Can we proceed?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I move that the Assembly be adjourned to Tuesday 6th June, 2006 at 10.30 am.

The Chairperson: Question that this Assembly be adjourned till Tuesday 6th of June, 2008 at 10.30 am. Those in favour say Ayes, those against say No. Ayes have it. The Assembly stands adjourned.

WRITTEN ANSWERS

SETTING UP OF AN “OFFICE DU TOURISME”

(No. B/50) Mr. J. Roussety (*The Minority Leader*) asked the Chief Commissioner, as regards the setting up of an *Office du Tourisme* (Tourism Office), whether he would

- (a) give an overview of the mission of that body and the means being put at its disposal;
- (b) state the reasons why Mr. Désiré Kishtoo is being appointed to that office, what are his qualifications and experience in the field of tourism promotion; and
- (c) what role is proposed to tourism operators in the running and strategic orientation of that office?

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Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the House that further to the recommendation of the Tourism Promotion Committee which has been set up at the level of my Commission, the decision has been taken to set up an '*Office du Tourisme*' which will act as the main focal point of the my Commission for the promotion of Rodrigues as a tourism destination.

In this context, the ex-Rodrigues Local Council Building is being renovated to house the *Office du Tourisme*. Pending the completion of the repair, an office has been identified at La Residence which is being equipped with the appropriate furniture, documentation and other office equipment such as computer, fax and telephone facilities to facilitate communication.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the promotion of Rodrigues as a tourist destination is becoming more and more pressing. This will be also one of the primary objectives of the *Office du Tourisme* and requires the creation of the post of 'Tourism Promotion Manager' which is a long procedure.

As a matter of urgency and pending the creation of this post, Mr. Desiré KISHTOO, being already a Public Officer with 20 years of working experience in the Public and Communication sector has been temporarily transferred to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly with the approval of the Public Service Commission to perform advisory duties in view of setting up of the office. He will also focus on tourism promotion activities.

As regards to the running and strategic orientation of the Office du Tourisme, I would like to inform the Assembly that the Tourism Operators already play an important role in this respect as they are represented in the Rodrigues Tourism Committee and the Tourism Promotion Committee. These Committees decide on the overall policies on tourism development and promotion of Rodrigues. The adhesion and participation of the Operators and other stakeholders in the running and functioning of the office will be further discussed and defined at the level of these two Committees.

CHIKUNGUNYA & FEVER OUTBREAK

(No. B/51) Mr. J. Roussety (*The Minority Leader*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health, as regards the chikungunya and fever outbreak over the island, whether he would give an account of the present situation and the solutions proposed, being given the continuous rise in the number of cases?

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Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to refer to the Minority Leader to my reply to question B/44 in the first instance as some aspects of the issue of Chikungunya have already been dealt with.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform this Assembly that to date the situation in respect of Chikungunya and fever outbreak in the island is as follows:

Number of cases suspected = 702

Number of confirmed cases = 491

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when Chikungunya was diagnosed in Mauritius at the outset of this year, the Health Director issued a circular to all Doctors and the Health Inspectorate Division with a view to increasing our vigilance for better precautions on Public Health and Medical Surveillance point of view.

On 28th February, 2006, the first case of Chikungunya was suspected in Rodrigues. A lady traveled from Reunion via Mauritius to Rodrigues. Preventive measures and actions were immediately taken to curtail the effects of this disease. Larviciding and spraying were carried out. One fogging apparatus was received on 02 March, 2006. A committee comprising different Stakeholders was set up under my Chairmanship.

On 3rd March, 2006 a second case was confirmed positive – A lady who traveled to Rodrigues from Grand Bay, Mauritius. Once again Larviciding/fogging was carried out immediately.

On 4th March, 2006 a national cleaning campaign was launched at Citron Donis with a view to sensitizing the public on the importance of keeping the environment clean as a first measure to contain the disease. This campaign is being sustained as well as has been extended to all regions and it has to date aroused the consciousness of the whole population. Environment Cleaning and discarding of unused items campaign are ongoing nowadays. All this help to contain the spread of the Chikungunya disease in our island.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, unfortunately the number of cases of Chikungunya started to show an upward trend as from March 22, 2006. Fogging operations have been intensified to cover the residences of all infected people and their surroundings. The fogging campaign covers the whole island as spelt out in my reply to Question B/44. As a matter of concern, daily meetings are organised to review the situation and take immediate remedial measures to contain the spread of the Chikungunya disease as well as follow up the health conditions of the infected cases and the population at large. All Stakeholders viz the

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Commissioner, the Departmental Head, the Health Director, the Principal Health Inspector and others form part of the daily monitoring meeting.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to state that on 05th April, 2006, Dr. NUNDLALL, Regional Public Health Superintendent and Mr. D. RAMASAWMY, Principal Health Inspector visited Rodrigues to consolidate our actions. Donation of six additional fogging machines was made and it reinforced our action in the field.

On 20th April, 2006 four more fogging machines were received and we have increased our labour force to make an optimal use of all apparatus. To day, three Health Inspectors are supervising 12 Sprayer men/General Workers for fogging and larviciding.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as far as the precautionary measures are concerned, the following actions have been taken to contain the spread of the Chikungunya:

- (a) All passengers coming from infected area (both by air and by sea) are screened and put under surveillance of Chikungunya and are visited for a period of 12 days following their arrival in the island.
- (b) Incoming aircrafts from Reunion Island were cleared only after it had been ascertained that the plane had been disinfected before taking off from Reunion Island up to 30 March, 2006. As from 1st April, 2006 there is no direct flight from Reunion Island.
- (c) Larviciding of stagnant waters is being strengthened.
- (d) Emphasis is being laid on larviciding of the Port and Airport areas.
- (e) Radio Communiqués are being regularly broadcast with a view to informing the general public on the need of eliminating stagnant on their premises.
- (f) Several Health Education programmes have been launched and same are being broadcast on the radio to sensitize the public on the disease.
- (g) Talks are held in all Health Centres on Chikungunya and the public is advised to take all precautionary measures accordingly.
- (h) Whenever a positive case is detected, spraying with residual insecticide, larviciding and fogging of the areas is carried out immediately.

- (i) With a view to ensuring a close Medical surveillance, Doctors have been requested to notify all suspected cases so that immediately remedial actions could be initiated.

ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE - CAPITAL BUDGET

(No. B/52) Mr. J. Roussety (*The Minority Leader*) asked the Chief Commissioner, as regards items of expenditure falling under the capital budget, whether he will give a breakdown of all payments of more than Rs 50,000 made since 1st January 2006 stating the name of the recipient, the date of the payment and the nature of the service or work performed?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the information asked for is being compiled and will be submitted for circulation.

MICRO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

(No. B/53) Mr. P. Francois (*The First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huîtres*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts and Culture, Women's Affairs, Family Welfare, Community Development, etc, as regards the implementation of the Micro Enterprise Development, a subcomponent of the Rural Diversification Programme funded by the I.F.A.D., whose completion date was 30th June, 2006, whether any arrangement had been made for the taking over of the activities after the completion of the programme?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am happy to announce that the Rural Diversification Programme funded by the IFAD including the Micro Credit component whose completion date was scheduled for 30 June 2006 has been extended for a period of 18 months as from 01 July 2006 and so the question of taken over of the activities by any other institution does not arise for the moment.

HOUSING & CADASTRAL SURVEY

(No. B/54) Mr. P. Francois (*The First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huîtres*) asked the Chief Commissioner, as regards the Housing and Cadastral Survey to be carried out in Rodrigues, proposed by the Regional Government with a view to accelerating the allocation of state Land leases, the Commissioner could inform the House where matters stand so far?

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Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to inform the House that the tender for the Housing and Cadastral Survey in Rodrigues have been awarded to the Joint Venture Jeewa/Roopun/Tupsy after obtaining approval from the Central Tender Board. The contract was signed on the 19th April 2006 and the letter of notice to commence issued on 2nd May 2006.

The project consists of three phases namely:

- (i) A Housing survey of all existing building in Rodrigues with a view to determine the number of houses possessing a lease and those without a lease.
- (ii) The establishment of 350 control points.
- (iii) The survey of 10,000 lots of land.

The whole project will be completed within a period of two years. The first phase of the project has already and will be completed by 11th July 2006. The 2nd phase which consists of the establishment of 350 control points will start next week.

DAMAGE - ROAD NETWORK

(No. B/55) Mr. Pierre Louis (*The Fourth Island Region Member*) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether any damage had been caused to our road network during the recent heavy rain, and, if yes

- (a) what has been the extent of the damage; and
- (b) what action he had already initiated in his commission to remedy same?

Reply: Already answered in B/39.

**DIFFICULTIES ON THE ROAD –
PORT SUD EST / CASCADE VISTOIRE**

(No. B/56) Mr. L. Guillaume (*The Third Island Region Member*) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in view of difficulties faced by vehicle owners and pedestrians to proceed along the road from Port Sud Est to Cascade Victoire, he could state:-

- (a) what was the state of the road at that time; and

- (b) what measures had been taken or envisaged for repairs and also what he envisaged in respect of the drain along the road which had been severely damaged since long?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the information is as follows:-

The total length of the access road from *Port Sud Est* to *Cascade Victoire* Dam is about 950 m.

The first 200 m is a water bound road followed by a track road of 500 m long, then a stretch of 250 m covered with aggregates. The remaining part is covered with vegetation and bushes.

My Commission has already carried out a survey on different roads accesses and the one leading to *Cascade Victoire* is included in the list. Subject to availability of funds my Commission will look into the possibility of completing the trackroad leading to *Cascade Victoire* because there are houses nearby the road access and also because *Cascade Victoire* is a place of interest to visitors.

DIFFICULTIES - INHABITANTS OF CAMP PAUL

(No. B/57) Mr. L. Guillaume (*The Third Island Region Member*) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to difficulties faced by the inhabitants of Camp Paul during heavy rainfall when hundreds of tons of soil invaded the Eau Clair football ground, he could state what action was being taken to stop this erosion and consequential damage to the football ground?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with your permission, I would like to answer to the following question. Following request from the youth of the region, the Commission for Public Infrastructure undergo excavation work at Eau Claire for the construction of a football pitch. The scope of work consisted in the first instance of the leveling of the pitch, the construction of drains on two sides of the ground to prevent erosion and laying down of used tyres for retention of the excavated soil on the lower sides of the pitch. Work for the laying of tyres started but unfortunately was disrupted because of heavy rains.

In order to prevent any further erosion of soil and nuisance to nearby inhabitants, retention of the soil on the lower sides will have to be completed and drains be constructed to prevent water from flowing directly onto the pitch as intended.

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