

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Members this is to inform you rather not a good news, that our Clerk, Mr. Richard Toulouse has deposited his resignation letter and he will be with us one month more. We seize this occasion on behalf of the Secretariat, all the staffs, to wish him good luck in his new career. I understand that he has just taken his professional exams in Mauritius and as a consequence to that, he will have to complete eighteen months' articleship with professional lawyers in Mauritius. I do understand that he has accepted an offer of employment from the European Commission under the Decentralised Cooperation Scheme. You will now see on his left a gentlemen, his name is Navin Gopall. He comes from the Attorney General's Office and the DPP's office. He was a Senior Legal Assistant there having completed a career of thirteen years. I do remember when I was at the AG's Office, he was one of my colleagues. He has accepted to come here to assist his first sitting of the Assembly together with the Clerk. I now wish him good luck and wish him all our best wishes in his new career.

Thank you.

(Applause)

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on behalf of the majority side, in my own name, allow me to thank the Clerk, Mr. Toulouse for the good work he has undertaken so far, since his tenure of office here and to wish him good luck in his new career and at the same time to welcome the new Clerk and wish him good luck in his new career here.

Thank you.

(Applause)

Minority Leader: Monsieur le Président, je tiens à remercier Monsieur Richard Toulouse de la part des Membres de la Minorité, pour ces quelques mois passé parmi nous. Nous avons pu apprécier son travail et surtout un travail qui n'a pas été aussi facile. Nous lui souhaitons un bon retour à l'île Maurice et ainsi qu'à sa famille et à ces deux enfants. Nous lui souhaitons aussi bon courage dans son nouvelle entreprise et qu'il aille beaucoup plus loin vu que nous avons pu découvrir durant ces quelques mois tous ce qu'il a pu réaliser au sein de l'assemblée régionale. Nous accueillons aussi, Monsieur Navin Gopall et nous lui souhaitons bon courage, espérons que nous allons pouvoir travaillé ensemble pour le bien de cette Assemblée Régionale afin que cette Assemblée Regionale puisse hausser son niveau, au niveau des débats et de l'administration. Merci beaucoup.

QUESTIONS - ORAL

GITES, CHAMBRES ET TABLE D'HOTES

B/177 The Minority Leader (Mr. L.S. CLAIR) asked the Chief Commissioner whether in regard to Gites, Chambres et Tables d'Hotes, he will state the number, names and addresses of any successful applicant who has received an industrial lease or a letter of approval for the operation of the *Gites, Chambres et Tables d'Hotes* and where matters stand?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with the passing of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Tourism Regulation 2007, the norms and standards to be met by *Gites, Chambres et Tables d'Hotes* have now been established. My office is presently considering two categories of application for *Gites, Chambres et Tables d'Hotes*. First, applications for lessees already holding a residential lease and who want to operate as a *Gites, Chambres et Tables d'Hotes*. Secondly, applications from new promoters applying for plot of lands to set up new *Gites, Chambres et Tables d'Hotes*. For new promoters applying for plot of land to set up new *Gites, Chambres et Tables d'Hotes* the promoters are requested to make an application at the office of Invest Rodrigues and to submit their business plan or feasibility report. If the projects are viable and in the interest of Rodrigues, the Cadastral office is called to identify a suitable site for the project after which a letter of reservation is issued to the promoter. And if the latter satisfies all the conditions, the lease agreement is signed with him based on the Chief Government Valuers assessment. Within the conditions set out for the project, these promoters are required to comply with the norms and standards set by the RRA Tourism Regulation 2007.

I am informed that since August 2006 to date seven applications for *Gites, Chambres et Tables d'Hotes* and boarding house have been approved. Letters of reservation have been issued to six of them while lease agreement has been signed with one promoter. The names and addresses of these applicants are as follows:-

- (i) Mr. Jean Meunier, of Baie Aux Huitres.
- (ii) Mr. Ange Laval Meunier, of Citronelle.
- (iii) Mr. Benoit Pasnin, of Corail Petite Butte.
- (iv) Mr. Wahab Oodaye Abdool, of Pointe L'herbe.
- (v) Mr. Fock John Ho Tu Nam, of Contour Oblas.
- (vi) Mr. Phillipe Nairack, of Pointe Diable.
- (vii) Mr. Ramdoo Luchmaya, of Gravier.

With regards to applicants who are lessees already holding a residential lease and who want to operate a *Gites, Chambres et Tables d'Hotes*, my office has set up a technical team comprising of the Town and Country Planning Officer, the Technical Officer of Environment, Public Infrastructure and Health. They will visit all these accommodations and assess whether they meet the norms and standards set by the RRA Tourism Regulation 2007. Once these cases are favorably recommended by the Technical team, the residential leases would be amended to industrial leases accordingly.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that in November 2005 a State Land Committee had approved the request of nine applicants holding residential leases to be granted industrial commercial lease for the running *Gites, Chambres et Tables d'Hotes*. These applicants were informed of the approval and were informed that their applications have been referred to the Cadastral Office for amendment of their residential lease. However, their leases have not been amended up to now, given that the RRA Tourism Regulation 2007 had come up with new norms and standards of *Gites, Chambres et Tables d'Hotes*. With the passing of these Regulations these accommodation needs to be revisited and reassessed according to the new norms. This exercise will be done by the technical team which I mentioned earlier.

Further, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my office will be also organising a workshop at the end of November 2007 to explain all the stakeholders the provision of the RRA Tourism Regulation 2007 and the procedures they need to follow to obtain their commercial/industrial lease and tourist enterprise license, accordingly.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is a fact that many operators who are in business are still operating under a residential lease. My office is well aware that these operators have all the difficulties in securing financial support for the development of their enterprises and the recognition and promotion of their businesses. RRA Tourism Regulation 2007 has been passed to resolve this issue. As I have stated before, a technical committee would be visiting these enterprises and make recommendations to my office. If the enterprise meets the required norms and standards, the enterprise would not only be given a tourism license but would also be given commercial/industrial lease as appropriate. This measure will lighten the sufferings of many in this industry who for years have strived to earn a living for their family and were waiting since time immemorial to regularise their situation and develop their enterprises

Mrs. A. Perrine- Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner as regard to the RRA Tourism Regulation 2007, I understand it is going to be effective as from January and what about those who have already made their applications but who still have not got their permit, their required licenses. Would those persons be required to do the necessary amelioration so that they may get their licenses? I mean for those who are already operating, is there a difference in consideration, being given that they are already in operation or should they already upgrade themselves to have access to this license?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for the time being, these operators they are allowed to operate as they have always been doing? But, since the coming into operation of this new Regulations, all operators will have to comply with the provisions of the Regulation.

Mrs. A. Perrine- Begué: It means that for them to have the licenses, the permit, it would be necessary for them even if they are operating. To comply with the law to be able to have those licenses.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, *il n'y aura pas une politique de deux poids deux mesures*. But we will give them time in order to bring the necessary improvements in their infrastructure and so on, so that they eventually comply with all the specific norms of the Regulations.

Mrs. A. Perrine- Begué: Is there a specific or some appropriate measures that are being taken to allow them? Because my subsidiary question has to do with your answer, being given that as you know, for people to have access to finance, they must primarily have their permits in their hands. So, what are the measures you are taking for those persons who naturally would not make the necessary profits during the limited number of years for them to have by themselves the required money to up to the standards and to get the permits? Because, otherwise, it will be a vicious circle. They will continue go on working with small profits and they will not be able to have access to their licenses being given that they won't be able to get access to the necessary cash to be able to do the necessary improvement.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I remind the respected Member that earlier I stated, I repeat, that my office is well aware that these operators have all the difficulties for securing financing support for the development of their enterprises and the recognition and promotion of their business. RRA Tourism Regulation 2007 have been passed to resolve the issue. As I stated before, a technical committee will be visiting these enterprises and make recommendations to my office. If the enterprise meets the required norms and standards the enterprise will not be only given a tourist enterprise license but will also be given commercial /industrial lease as appropriate. This measure intends to lighten the sufferings of many industry who for years has strive to earn a living for their family and were waiting since timely immemorial to regularise their situation and develop their enterprise. And Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if the respected Member needs more information, I don't have them at hand I would like her to wait for the Chief Commissioner who is responsible for such Commission to give her more information.

Mrs. A. Perrine- Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I see that the Member being the Deputy Chief Commissioner, I see that the Member has given me the answer I was searching for. He has given two different answers in the sense that of course they have to upgrade themselves to get the license and, otherwise, you say that the technical team even that they do not have the required standards might be having the license. So, which is which? This is very difficult for me to understand. Anyway I would like to ask a further question, with regard the viability of the projects. You

said that for the second category, the new promoters to submit their application at Invest Rodrigues and the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, talked about them studying the viability of the project for them to be able to have a license. I would like to know whether Invest Rodrigues is already invested into the required technical and professional abilities to be able to look into the same matter as regards to what the Deputy Chief Commissioner said.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I need notice of that question.

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait. Standing Order 22 says that a supplementary question must not introduce matters not included in the original question. I am sure that the Member who asked the question, who was a former Commissioner of this House, is perfectly versant with that provision. But of course if Commissioners would like to further enlighten the House, then of course, I will agree.

Mrs. A. Perrine- Begué: On a point of Order Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in fact the Deputy Chief Commissioner talked about.

(Interruption)

Mrs. A. Perrine- Begué: I would like to have an explanation.

Mr. Chairperson: If it is not a Point of Order, then you want to explain something but you cannot explain something which is subject to a ruling. This is question time.

Mr. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am aware that we are in a transition phase. Are we made to understand in this House that since the passing of the Tourism Regulation, there has been no consideration of application for licenses at the Chief Commissioner's Office for such activities?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Member repeat.

Mr. Chairperson: I have not understood the question. You rise up, I thought you understood.

Mr. Lisette: The Tourism Regulation will be coming into force as from January 2008.

Mr. Chairperson: 1st January, yes.

Mr. Lisette: And it was passed since the Assembly may be I think two or three months back. My question to the Chief Commissioner is as from passing of the Regulation in the Assembly two months back, has there been any consideration of licenses application at his office?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I said this in my reply that since August to date seven applications for these activities have been approved and I even stated the names and addresses of these applicants.

Mr. Lisette: May I ask for more information from the Chief Commissioner why for the case of those six persons who have applied for conversion of the residential to industrial/commercial lease, why for these cases it has been freezed pending the coming into operation of the Regulation?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the technical committee will have to assess whether these applicants meet the required norms and after that upon recommendations, of course, they will be considered. But up to now Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't have the information that the respected Member is asking. I would advise him to come again later and ask this question to the Commissioner responsible.

Mr. Lisette: I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether he is aware as regard to those six applications which have been freeze, there have been previous visit by technical committee for these cases?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not aware of the information being given by the respected Member.

Minority Leader: The Deputy Chief Commissioner stated that seven applications have already been approved.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Order, please, on both sides.

Minority Leader: Seven applications have been approved before you came to power and you said that those applications have been sent to the Cadastral office. But you have given, this means that there was a technical committee which approved, what you say the technical committee which you are setting up. There was a technical committee which approved seven applications. What we say here, if those persons are going to renovate to set themselves according to the Tourism Regulation.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order! Allow the Member to ask the question. May be you are right but I have to rule. Allow the Member to at least finish.

Minority Leader: What my colleague was saying is that, are permit going to be delivered for those who already have been approved? They should delivered a lease and a permit to go to the bank for a loan. Those seven applications is o.k, it has already been approved. But you did not give the names of the new application. You give the names of those who have already been approved. This lacks in your reply. The seven applications you already said they should be given their permit and their

lease and so on but, what about the new? Are they going to be given a permit and a lease so that they can go to the bank for a loan? We need the names not only of the new applications but also those seven applications who have already been approved. That's what we say to clear the matter, we need that from you.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: o.k Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since I don't have these informations available I will come later with the required information.

Mr. Chairperson: Next.

CANDORADO FISHING PROJECT

B/178 The Minority Leader (Mr. L.S. Clair) asked the Chief Commissioner whether in regard to the Candorado Fishing Project within the Boat Yard at Pointe Monnier, he will state where matters stand?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in year 2005, Candorado Mauritius Company Limited in partnership with, the alpha group of Uganda approached the RRA to invest in the Fisheries sector. More precisely in deep sea fishing and fish processing. According to the promoters, the project involves deep sea fishing with some ten big vessels and the participation of twenty small vessels of local fishermen and it was expected that employment for about fifty Rodriguans will be created in the department ranging from fishing, fish processing, storage, packing and so on. A letter of intent for the reservation of a plot of state land of three thousand five hundred and forty seven square metres at Pointe Monier, including the Rodrigues Boat Yard, was issued in July 2006 to Candorado Mauritius Limited for setting up of a seafood processing plant. A Lease of agreement was signed in October 2006. According to the terms and conditions of the lease, the promoter had to complete all the installation of its plants and machinery within a period of six months, that is in April 2007. Given that the promoter had not yet started its project, the promoter was invited to give an urgent status of his project prior to any decision of the RRA. In its reply, the promoter reassured that they have not abandoned the project. They stated that they were tide up in the completion of the setting up of a new fish processing plant in the freeport zone in Mauritius these last months and that they will be in a position to start the implementation of the project in Rodrigues in early November this year. In this connection the promoter has been given up to this month to implement its project. My office is following up the progress of the project. In case no development in notice up within this month, my office will consider cancelling the lease and resuming possession of the site.

Mr. Chaiperson: Next question. No supplementary.

Mr. S. Roussety: A supplementary Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House who are the persons occupying the boat yard at the time being and for whom is the boat being constructed and repaired there?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't think that this question has a direct link with the initial question and I won't reply to this?

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, I am sure he is a new Member to this House. I just cited the Standing Order, not paraphrase, but I do cited it verbatim. But of course you have to conform to the rules otherwise you will get all sort of curious answers.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Chief Commissioner, as regard to the lease agreement signed by Candorado and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, whether there is condition for other parties to use that lease?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: I am not aware of this Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't have the information.

Mr. D. Speville: *Mr. Chairperson, Sir, comme il y a des compagnies qui viennent avec des fort idées pour investir et puis après avoir appris nos conditions locaux, il s'en vont et utilise le lease agreement comme juste un passeport pour soutirer auprès des bailleurs de fond. Qu'elles conditions spéciaux expliquent dans le lease agreement pour que les compagnies qui viennent respectent leur engagements ?*

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as far as I know there is no specific conditions. The conditions because the respected Member has been Commissioner himself he know quite well what were the conditions. In my reply I have said that we have given this promoter up to this month to go ahead. If all the conditions are not respected we will consider canceling the lease. That is everything concerning the general conditions of any promoter is included in the agreement. I don't think there need to be special conditions for any promoter.

Mr. D. Speville : Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais demander au *Deputy Chief Commissioner* s'il y aurait des intérêts moratoires que le Candorado devra payer.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: I need notice of this question.

Minority Leader: I would like to know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether Candorado is operating a certain activity concerning fibre boat construction on the site of the Candorado fishing project?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: I am not aware Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: I would like to know if the boat yard has been leased, as you considering may be cancelling, if the promoter doesn't go forward with his project, is actually leased to Candorad? Is there any parties who are using the boat yard actually?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have explained the reason why Candorado is not operating, o.k. If you want to know whether there are other operators on the site, I would advise you to come up with other questions.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in case that the Chief Commissioner is made aware that there is a second party making use of this lease, what action will he deems to take?

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait, these sorts of allegation that unless to be admissible even you come up with a main question, you have to submit proof that there is other parties and then it will be admissible. He has answered before I rule, then if you come with proof then of course he has to answer but you have to come with notice.

(Interruptions)

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: I have one last supplementary question for the Deputy Chief Commissioner. I would like to ask him because Members, the Chairperson has just being said, thought we do not have photographs. We Members we have being there, we are respected Members, we have seen that there are some activities on the boat yard. Is it responsible all the majority not to know about these activities? Is it responsible on behalf of the Rodriguan people not to know that there are activities since a number of months going on, on this site?

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait! Question has to conform to rules and one of the rule is that the Assembly should be competent. The Assembly should have jurisdictions and what I understand the answer given that the lease has been given to Candorado Fishing project promoters and we should not go as far as questioning their activities. This will fall within the private domain and outside the purview of this Assembly. I do understand the question but this is not a place where Commissioners have to answer on activities carried out by private companies. We won't be doing the work of our Assembly if we are to do all these sort of things.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner would agree that until now even if a lease has been signed, the site has not been taking over by the Candorado yet.

Mr. Chairperson: Did he say so? Let us wait for the first answer.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: The respected Member requested a last supplementary question and yet she is coming again with another supplementary question.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: You require the ruling of the Chair on this point? What I understand is that, what she said is a last supplementary question. I don't know why she said that because what is the last of one before the last falls within my purview. She may say that this is last but she may be wrong when she said that. If she agrees that she was wrong when she said that. But of course, can you realize that we are now ten past eleven, we have not yet exhausted two questions. Time is off for this question. Let us move to the next one.

**OFFICIAL RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY PARTICIPATION
IN THE TOP RESA TOURISM FAIR AT DEAUVILLE**

B/179 The Minority Leader (Mr. L.S. Clair) asked the Chief Commissioner whether in regard to the official Rodrigues Regional Assembly participation in the Top Resa Tourism Fair at Deauville, France in September 2007, he will

- (a) state the composition of the delegation and in what capacity;
- (b) give a breakdown of expenditure incurred in respect of each member of the delegation in terms of airfares and subsistence allowances; and
- (c) state the total expenditure incurred?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (a) The Commission of Tourism participated in the Top Resa Tourism Fair 2007 in France from 26 to 28 September, 2007. Miss. M. Meunier, Trainee Tourism Information Officer of the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority posted at the Rodrigues Tourism Office represented Rodrigues in the fair. She participated in her capacity as Trainee Tourism Information Officer of the MTPA posted at the Rodrigues Tourism Office. I would like to inform the House that given the importance of this fair for the French tourism market the RRA was planning to send a bigger delegation to the fair. However, the Prime Minister's approval was not obtained for the participation of Mr. R. Mercure, Adviser on Communication Matters and Mrs. R. Juste Meunier, Officer in Charge of the Tourism Office.
- (b) The breakdown of cost incurred for the participation of Miss Meunier is as follows:-
 - Air Fares – Rs 37, 757
 - Accommodation and inland transport – Rs 48, 771
 - Travel insurance - Rs 780

The House will note that no subsistence allowance is payable to Miss Meunier. The RRA has met the cost of her accommodation and inland transport.

- (d) The total expenditure incurred by the RRA in the participation in the Top Resa Tourism Fair is Rs 111, 089.69 and includes cost of promotional materials and the carriage of same.

VEHICLE USED BY COMMISSION FOR FIRE SERVICES

B/180 The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr. S. Roussety) asked the Commissioner responsible for fire services as regard to the vehicles used by the Commission of Fire Services at Camp Du Roi Fire Station in order to combat fire,

- (a) will he state whether his Commission has hired a private lorry for the period September, 2007 to November 2007;
- (b) in the affirmative, whether tender procedures were launched and to whom the contract has been awarded; and to
- (c) table a copy of the contract signed between the owner of the lorry and the Commission; and
- (d) will he state whether the driver of the private lorry is authorised to remain on the site of the restricted area?

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (a) With regard to part (a) of the question, the reply is in the affirmative for period beginning 21 September, 2007 to date.
- (b) For part (b) quotations were sought from 3 suppliers and the offer of Mr. Jocelyn Roussety was accepted.
- (c) I am tabling the answer for part (c) of the question. **(APPENDIX I)**
- (d) For part (d) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, presently we have a very dry season and the Fire Services at Camp du Roi Station, firemen are out several times a day, at times. And for the information of the House water has to be fetched at Mourouk to combat fire whenever and wherever need be. For these reasons, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the driver of the lorry is authorized to stay on site.

Mr. S. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner confirm whether the hired lorry has the norms to be used by the fire services combat fire?

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this lorry is not used to combat fire, it is use to supply water to the fire services. That's the only role of the lorry.

Mr. S. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the lorry accompanies the firemen when there is a fire....

(Interruptions)

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't understand the idea behind the question of the respected Member, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. But it is logical that the lorry has to accompany the fire team to supply the water whenever and wherever need be.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Commissioner for Fire Services whether he consider it as normal for a private individual to remain on a public property?

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I said earlier we are presently in a very dry season and everybody in Rodrigues knows that during this season we have many fires which breaks everywhere in Rodrigues. At times, the firemen are out several times a day and water is being fetched from Mourouck. The water unit, they had a request to ask for the supply of a lorry to supply water to the fire station. Unfortunately, due to the scarcity of water during this drought period, this has not been, possible for the water unit to provide us with the lorry. So, it is normal according me, according to everybody that the driver has to stay on site whenever we need water to combat a fire anywhere in Rodrigues. We can't ask firemen to drive a private lorry. In case of accident, there is question of insurance and things like that. So, we authorise him to stay on site.

Mr. Speville: I would like to ask the Commissioner responsible for Fire Services, in case there is a fire crisis, can another lorry which have the proper equipment as per established norms, accompany the water tanker?

Mr. Chairperson: No, this is not allowed. This question is hypothetical based. You can reformulate if you wish.

Mr. Speville: Can the Commissioner state to the House the sum paid for hiring that lorry monthly?

Commissioner EMILIEN: The sum. Yes, I have tabled the answer concerning the contract signed.

Mr. Chairperson: Can you circulate the contract where it is? Of course in the meantime yes.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I had a look at the contract which has been signed between RRA and the successful bidder but recent departmental quotation. Being given that the rate is going high, I would like to ask the respected Commissioner to inform us about the other bidders, how much did they quote?

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House_and the respected Member that quotations were sought from:

- (a) Mr. Jocelyn Roussety of La Ferme;
- (b) Mr. Jean Tay Allas of Mt. Charlot; and
- (c) Mr. Ben Remy of La Ferme.

Mr. Ben Remy could not supply the service in view of his previous commitments. Mr. Jean Tay Allas lorry was out of order and was, therefore, unable to provide the service and so, the offer of Mr. Jocelyn Roussety was, then, accepted.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Being given Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to insist, being given that it is Rs 4000 per day for a lorry to stand by and may not be necessarily moving everyday. I would like to ask the Commissioner whether the authorities could not consider asking for new quotations, being given that those persons who were asked by the Commissioner to submit were not in a position to furnish their service. And in fact what we see is that the Commission has been giving to anyone, the first one, the first comer. There are other lorry owners in Rodrigues. Could this exercise be cancelled and done again so that maximum money could be used in the interest of the Rodriguan people?

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let me put the respected Member to the picture of the real situation in Rodrigues. For us the lives of people have no price. If Rs 4000 for her is too much, an amount of money to spent to combat fire in Rodrigues. Your life cost Rs 4000? I'm sure not. I'm sure it is worth more! Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the respected Member seems not to be aware of the urgency of the situation. What we have to know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is that four fire fighting equipment, specially as far as the airport is concerned Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have a sort of categorization. According to international norms and Rodrigues airport falls under the category 5. What does this mean? This categorisation refers to the length of the air strip, the type of aircraft that can land and take off at the airport. The number of passengers that can be accommodated by the airport and the capacity of the fuel tank of the aircraft. All these are taken into consideration for the categorisation of an airport.

According to every.....

(gaps on cassette)

Commissioner EMILIEN: Tender from Mauritius which has been in operation in Mauritius for eight years Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Eight years it has been utilised in Mauritius and here in Rodrigues it has been utilised for another period of eight years, whereas the lifespan of the lorry is about ten years. When the lorry has a break down Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we try to repair, to import spare parts from Mauritius. But, unfortunately, the repair took longer. Presently, technicians are working on it and it will be hopefully ready by this Friday.

So, the respected Member of the other side of the House is saying that Rs 4000, is according to her a big, a very huge amount of money. But when I said in my reply earlier is that the firemen at Camp Du Roi are out several times a day, what would have happened if we cancelled this tender exercise and to seek for other suppliers, what would have happened if there is a fire which broke somewhere and people

happened to die? They will be the first person to come in this House and to say “scandal”. They have not been doing anything in this country. So, it is fair to spend Rs 4000 per day for this lorry Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Minority Leader: Could the Commissioner come with a statement. It is too long for a reply.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: I am surprised by this reaction. Well I can’t control the answer. I cannot direct the Commissioner how to answer questions.

Mr. N. Lisette: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

Mr. Chairperson: You finished Commissioner? You finished.

Mr. N. Lisette: The Commissioner is speaking lengthily about the value. It is not the value that matters us, it is the procedure, be careful. It is the procedure that we are aiming at. And if I refer to the document that has been tabled by the Commissioner, there has been in the first instance, a contract from Friday 31st to 23rd September and this has been extended for an unlimited period of time. This is the question. Can I ask the Commissioner to explain why from 23rd September 2007 to date there has been no new tender launched so as to get a new fair price as regards to this activity?

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I said earlier, the repair of the lorry was expected to last on a shorter period than that. But being given the age of the lorry, which I repeat is now 16 years in operation; eight in Mauritius and eight in Rodrigues.

I would like to draw the attention of the House Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that at the request of the Head Officer of the Fire Services, Mr. Windsor Baptiste accompanied by Mr. Jerry Francois contacted the suppliers personally on the 20th of September in view of the urgency of the matter. On the 20th and the contract started on the 21st. These officers of the fire services contacted these three persons mentioned earlier, that is Mr. Jocelin Roussety, Mr. Jean Tay Allas and Mr. Ben Remy due to the urgency of the matter. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we had only two alternatives either to close the airport and not allow any aircraft to land with all its implications of the carriage of passengers and air cargo or the fire services of RRA to provide a backup with its fire engine and the firemen attached thereto. That’s what we had to do, either the first one or the other. So, we opted for the second one. As I said earlier once more Mr. Chairperson, Sir, repairs had started, it was expected to last for about one week but unfortunately it lasted longer. We had to order spare parts from Mauritius and from abroad because this 1986 type of lorry needs specific spare parts which are not available on the local market both in Rodrigues and in Mauritius. That’s why Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are still in need of this private lorry.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué : Monsieur le Président, je voudrais poser une question, demandant au Membre, comme quoi la vie, j'ai dit Rs 4000 etc c'est pas le cas. J'aimerais demander toujours par rapport aux procédures, the *urgency of the matter*, l'urgence de la chose voulait qu'on prenne le camion du jour qui est de Rs 4000. Pourquoi, pour les quotations on prend sept jours ou dix jours quelque chose comme ça, pourquoi n'avoir pas lancer une deuxième quotations à d'autres propriétaires de camions autour de Rodrigues en attendant que ce contrat ayant été donné pour un *short delay* et revoir la somme qui est donnée, si c'est équilibrer etc. pourquoi ? Sa c'est ma première question et la deuxième question.

Mr. Chairperson: One at a time! You confuse people here.

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I informed the House earlier that as you are aware in the contract document, the first document refers to a contract from the 21st to 23rd September. Everybody in Rodrigues knows that we have at least two flights everyday at the airport. It is closely related...

(Interruptions)

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Everyday we have at least two flights...

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order please, both sides

Commissioner EMILIEN: In relation to those flights we have to make sure that we have necessary fire fighting equipments for any accident that may happen. And the authorities at the airport would not allow any plane to land if all the conditions are not present according to the category 5 to have relevant fire fighting equipment. So, how can we stop and wait for new tenders to be floated..

Mr. Chairperson: The question is while a contract was in progress, why you didn't deem it necessary to launch a new tender procedure, this is what I understand?

Commissioner EMILIEN: The question does not arise Mr. Chairperson, Sir, owing to the fact that nobody could know how long the repair would take. When the spare parts were ordered Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we were waiting for the spare parts...

(Interruptions)

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: One more question. One last as regard..

Mr. Chairperson: Don't say that!

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: One question as regard to the last undefinable answer. I would like to ask the Commissioner being given that in the contract for Rs 4000 per

day, no conditions are attached as regard to the timing and the Commissioner here in the House is proudly, now mixing the repair and this contract. Does it mean that if this old lorry of sixteen years operation repairs continuing *sine die*, the contract Rs 4000 per day will stand *sine die*?

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this decision relies on me and not on the respected Member *sine die* or not.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order please! And then you ask.

Mr. D. Speville: The Commissioners have talked about judicial use of public funds in this Assembly and being given that the annual cost for hiring this lorry is about Rs 1.4 m. Does the Commission for Fire Services envisage to buy a new lorry?

Commissioner EMILIEN: The proposal will be taken into consideration Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

DISTRIBUTION OF WATER BY THE RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY LORRY TANKERS

B/181 The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr. S. Roussety) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources with regards to the distribution of water by the Regional Government's lorry tankers, within the region of Port Mathurin, will he state the policy of his Commission in relation to distribution of water in this region?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the question of the respected Member is not clear. Anyway I would like to inform the House that there is only one old water truck which has been fixed, as a result of galvanization of two old trucks, by the Mechanical workshop and which is being utilised in connection with water supply in the northern region of Rodrigues which include Port Mathurin. Being given the condition of the vehicle I wish to point out that the driver has been instructed to carry out only two trips daily from Mourouck pumping station during normal working hours and during week days and one trip on Saturday. The water truck is being used mainly to supply water to government buildings and other institutions and in some rare cases to attend to request from individual household where distribution cannot be effected via network. The weekly distribution on roster is as follows:-

Monday

- (i) 1st trip Queen Elizabeth Hospital for dialysis purposes.
- (ii) 2nd trip to SMF headquarters.

Tuesday

- (i) Rodrigues Prisons.
- (ii) 2nd trip for Port Mathurin public market and the MMA building.

Wednesday

- (i) Queen Elizabeth Hospital again for dialysis purpose.
- (ii) 2nd trip for public toilet in the region of Port Mathurin.

Thursday

- (i) Religious institutions.
- (ii) 2nd trip for police headquarters and mechanical workshop.

Friday

- (i) Queen Elizabeth Hospital again.
- (ii) 2nd trip for Port Mathurin market and North Coombes Building.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to ensure that the driver comply with the established schedule a Senior Gangmen is responsible for the monitoring of the distribution programme.

YOUTH PROFILE SURVEY

B/182 The First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres (Mr.N. Lisette) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports whether as regard to the Youth Profile Survey carried out by his Commission, he would

- (a) state when same was carried out;
- (b) explain briefly the objectives/aims of the survey; and
- (c) table a copy of the outcome/report of the survey?

Commissioner AGATHE:

- (a) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when I assumed office as Commissioner responsible for Youth, Sports and Employment in December 2006, there was absolutely no reliable and updated detailed information available at the Commission regarding youth in Rodrigues. This information gap has negatively impacted on the formulation of appropriate policies which would enable my Commission meeting its priority objectives concerning youth development and empowerment.

In view of addressing this problem, my Commission has found it essential as a priority action to undertake a Youth Profile Survey throughout Rodrigues. The survey was started on the 3rd March and completed on 14th April 2007.

- (b) The survey was undertaken on a region wise basis with the following aims and objectives:
- (i) to describe the academic, professional and social profile of the youth population in Rodrigues;
 - (ii) to determine the job preferences among the youth;
 - (iii) to provide baseline information which will guide our future actions;
 - (iv) to identify the needs of the youth and to enable my Commission to depart from routine activities and effectively respond to these needs.
- (c) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, 2733 youth were interviewed during the survey. The results have already been compiled at the level of my Commission and are being subject to rigorous analysis and interpretation to enable the finalisation of the report, which will be tabled to the Assembly once ready and after having the approval of the Executive Council. I am pleased to inform the house that the Empowerment Programme in Mauritius has agreed to contribute in this exercise.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to the survey that has been carried out and that is being compiled, may I asked the Commissioner, who assessed and compiled all the collected data?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the survey have been compiled by the youth officers of my Commission and Youth Animators at different youth centers throughout Rodrigues.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Commissioner whether there has been any private individual which has been paid for the assessment and analysis of these data?

Commissioner AGATHE: No.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to the profile survey carried by his Commission, may I ask the Commissioner, whether there has been any training that was promised to the youth and that has been cancel for the month of October? I would like to know from the Commissioner as regard to the survey that has been carried out by his Commission whether there has been training promised to the youth and that has been cancelled during the month of October? And if yes; to give the reason, why?

Commissioner AGATHE: I am not aware, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as respected Member of this Assembly, it has been brought to my notice that two trainings region wise, namely on 16 October and 17 October has been cancelled. I think that the Commissioner is well aware of it, in certain regions. I would like to ask the Commissioner now as regard to those youth who opted for enterprise training, was there any specific policy by his Commission to these youths as regard to this survey?

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait. What I understand is that you completely disagree when the Commissioner says that he is not aware. And then you based yourself to ask a question on what he disagrees? Well, I am at own. How to allow this question, unless you give some more light to me.

Mr. N. Lisette: I want to give some more lights Mr. Chairperson, Sir. There has been...

Mr. Chairperson: You have proof. Some papers that you can, just to allow the Assembly to rule properly. You don't have! You may proceed.

Mr. N. Lisette: The proof Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is that there has been some youth which has been contacted for...

Mr. Chairperson: You mention.....

Mr. N. Lisette: And afterward which has not been called for and the Commissioner is telling me that he is not aware of that situation. Now, I would like to ask the Commissioner as regard to the survey carried out by his Commission, whether there was a specific policy as regard to those youths who are interested in entrepreneurship?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are many objectives that are attached to such survey as I have said, the academic, professional and social profile of the youth population in Rodrigues to determine the job preferences among the youth. To provide baseline information which will guide our future actions and to identify the needs of the youth and to enable my Commission to depart from routine activities and effectively respond to these needs.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to those youths who are interested in entrepreneurial activities, what the Commissioner intends to do for the functioning of these youth?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the survey has already been carried out, the data has already been collected. And now we need someone to interpret the data's and then afterwards we are going to look into the matter of the entrepreneurship of the youth because this is found in our policy also.

Mr. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am a little bit astonished. That data are being collected and then, other people will be hired for analysis of those data. Normally it is the way round that is being done. That is the person is selected, choose the way that the data has been collected to be able to. It is not a question, it is a scientific system! I would like to ask the Commissioner for Youth and Sports whether it is normal that data are collected, then somebody else will come and analyse those data?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, same is being done for statistical office. We collect all the data and then we send all the data to the Central Statistic Office in order to be interpreted. This is what we are doing here.

SWIMMING DISCIPLINE IN RODRIGUES

B/183 The First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres (Mr.N. Lisette) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports as regard to the swimming discipline in Rodrigues, would he state

- (a) whether any training and/or competition has been organised by his Commission since July 2007;
- (b) whether there is any *centre de formation/école de natation* functioning actually and if yes, the number of stagiaires attending same; and
- (c) what has been done by his Commission since July this year to make maximum use of the swimming pool?

Commissioner AGATHE:

- (a) Monsieur le Président, la natation figure parmi les disciplines prioritaires que ma commission voudrait développer et promouvoir en vue des Jeux des îles qui auront lieu aux Seychelles en 2011. Cette discipline sera une des composantes majeures pour ces jeux car l'emphasis sera mise sur les sports nautiques.

Monsieur Le Président, ma Commission a organisé en Mars 2007 une compétition d'envergure à l'occasion de la fête de la République. Cette compétition était en effet une grande première et nous a démontré les potentiels qui existent à Rodrigues. Cette potentialité fut par la suite confirmée par la bonne performance de nos nageurs lors de leur participation dans la Journée des 100m Nage, compétition organisée à Maurice en Avril 2007.

Je voudrais cependant, Monsieur le Président, avec votre permission, profiter de l'opportunité qui m'est donnée à travers cette question pour informer cette Assemblée les grandes difficultés que nous faisons face actuellement concernant la gestion de la piscine de Maréchal, maintenant reconnue comme étant la meilleure dans la région de l'Océan Indien.

Cette piscine a été construite en 2004 et a coûté à l'Assemblée Régionale la colossale somme de près de Rs 80 million. Contrairement à d'autre projet de cette envergure, malheureusement il n'y a pas eu des études préalable pour déterminer la faisabilité de ce projet, prenant en considération les réalités et les particularités de Rodrigues.

Pire encore, malgré en présence d'une demande du consultant pour alimenter la piscine avec 30 m³ d'eau quotidiennement, le précédent Conseil Exécutif n'a pas cru nécessaire de revoir le projet vu le problème d'eau qui persiste surtout dans la région de Rodrigues. Monsieur le Président, j'ai une copie du rapport du consultant qui fait mention *du daily toping up of water. Which I am tabling. (APPENDIX II).*

Monsieur, le Président, je me souviens, en tant que ex-membre de la minorité, avoir posé une question dans ce sens à l'ex-Commissaire de La Jeunesse et des Sports qui est aujourd'hui membre de la minorité et qui est l'auteur de cette question. Celui-ci avait affirmé que l'alimentation de la piscine de Maréchal allait se faire tous les 6 mois. Je suis maintenant en mesure de dire que l'ex-Commissaire a induit cette Assemblée en erreur.

Actuellement, nous sommes en pleine période de sécheresse. La piscine est alimentée en eau à partir du puit d'à coté sur une fréquence d'une fois par semaine. Ceci est largement insuffisant pour optimiser l'utilisation de la piscine, pendant que la population de la localité est approvisionnée en eau potable une fois par mois ! N'est-ce pas là, un réel conflit, Monsieur Le Président ? Voilà ce qu'on a hérité aujourd'hui, une belle piscine au norme olympique, une première dans l'Océan Indien, mais pas suffisamment d'eau pour pouvoir l'utiliser au maximum.

Deuxièmement Monsieur le Président, la gestion d'une piscine de cet envergure coûte énormément. Il nous faut un budget d'au moins de Rs 3 million par an. Afin de permettre une gestion adéquate alors que notre budget actuel est largement insuffisant. Le tarif de l'électricité est arrivé a

Rs 75, 000 par mois, c'est-à-dire près d'un million de roupie par an. Ajouté à cela le coût du maintien et du traitement d'eau.

C'est pour cette raison, Monsieur Le Président et pour répondre à la partie (a) de la question, nous avons dû cesser les opérations de la piscine pendant la récente période hivernale. Pas de cours de natation et pas de compétition pour pouvoir réduire le coût surtout par rapport à l'électricité. Les cours de natation ont repris dans un bassin sur le à partir du 29 octobre dernier pour l'Ecole de Natation Niveau I.

- (b) Actuellement, nous avons en opération une école de natation comprenant 12 stagiaires de Niveau I et un Centre de Formation avec 20 stagiaires.
- (c) Concernant la partie (c) de la question Monsieur, Le Président, j'aimerais faire ressortir que ma commission a eu plusieurs réunions avec les parents pour expliquer les problèmes mentionnés plus haut et pour réfléchir sur des options possible. Il y a consensus de rentabiliser la piscine. On est entrain de réfléchir à une formule appropriée et acceptable par tous. Nous allons ensuite entamer des consultations et les distingués membres de cette Assemblée seront appelés à donner leurs opinions afin de permettre une décision finale sur l'option à adopter concernant la gestion de la piscine.

Entre-temps, malgré les difficultés rencontrées, ma Commission facilite en ce moment la création d'un deuxième club de natation et la mise en place d'un Comité Régional de Natation afin de promouvoir d'avantage cette discipline.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think there are many contradictory views as spell out by the Commissioner. On the one hand, he is telling the House that he is making a priority in the *natation* for 2011 and at the same time he is criticizing largely the setting up of the swimming pool. There is a contradiction between the two. This is why I would like to ask the Commissioner how far..

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait there is a point of order. The microphone is working? It is?

Commissioner Mrs. CLAIR: On a point of Order Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't think it is the time for the respected Member to comment on the answer of the Commissioner but to ask question.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, this point is well taken. You cannot comment on an answer. But you can ask for more. What is rational on the answer by way substance cannot be commented here. You can ask for more questions. But of course this does not preclude you from making a basis for your question. You understood that?

Mr. N. Lisette: This is why on this basis on what I've just said on the contradictory views of the Commissioner, I wanted to ask him how much does he value the youth as regard to swimming in Rodrigues?

Commissionner AGATHE : Monsieur le Président, comme je viens de dire, la *natation* surtout le sport nautique, fait parti de notre objectif pour les Jeux des Iles 2011 aux Seychelles. C'est important de faire la natation parce que les Seychellois sont très fort en natation. Mais quand même Monsieur le Président en parlant de natation, je pense que l'ex-Commissaire de la Jeunesse et des Sport fait mention à la piscine de Maréchal. Premièrement il faut avoir l'eau. Il faut avoir l'eau, Monsieur le Président, le 30 m³ d'eau aurait du venir d'Anse Raffin Dam. Aujourd'hui Anse Raffin Dam est a sec Monsieur le Président.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order, please!

Commissionner AGATHE : Et puis, Monsieur le Président, dans le même rapport on nous dit que voilà le rapport est écrit ici Monsieur le Président noir sur blanc. L'évaporation a Maréchal ce chiffrait au alentour de 15 m³ par jour Monsieur le Président. 15 m³ par jour d'évaporation Monsieur le Président. On veut que les jeunes fasse du sport mais quand même il y a un problème avec la piscine et puis il y a la rotation de l'eau Monsieur le Président. On aurait du *replenish le swimming pool* une fois tous les six mois, mais malheureusement c'était pas le cas. La aujourd'hui la Monsieur le Président le *balastank* est a sec. Où est l'eau ?

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Commission for Youth and Sports making use of a cover to avoid evaporation of the swimming pool?

Commissionner AGATHE : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, he is saying about the 'cover'. What's the need Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because the water in the swimming pool itself, according to information that I have received the water does not leak in the swimming pool itself but it leaks somewhere else. But the water goes away.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner spoke also about the high cost of maintenance and I think on this side of the House we are proud that we have been able to give the youth of this country a swimming pool which is the best of the region. *Sa forme partie de la patrimoine sportif aujourd'hui Monsieur le Président et tous le monde sont fiers. Seulement peut etre un Commissaire qui fait du sport* and is not proud that Rodrigues has get a swimming pool of such *an envergure*..

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, please wait. You are probably saying what is the main argument but you cannot impute some motives that he has not said. This is a motive. What I understand is not what he says. You cannot impute motives.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to the high cost that have been mentioned by the Commissioner. I would like to ask him how does he intend to render the swimming pool, somehow, financially autonomous?

Commissionner AGATHE: This is why as I have said in my reply that I will seek the advise of all stakeholders. Everybody who wants to come with a proposal, with a suggestions, in order, to run the swimming pool, I will open it again.

Mrs. A. Perrine- Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner if he is aware that in the file already of this swimming pool project there is already a project already designed for the automatic progressively rendering this swimming pool financially autonomous. Is he aware of this file? What has he made of this project?

Commissionner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is not only the problem of finance, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is the problem of water. Water! Where are we going to have water?

Mrs. A. Perrine- Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I repeat my question I would like to know whether I would get an answer, as regard to what the Commissioner for Youth and Sports has done with the projection that has been done by the former Executive Council to render this swimming pool autonomous financially and progressively. What has been done because you know this continuity of government and this project has already been filed, has already been set and now is it not a waste of time to go and seek for other advices while this exercise has already been done by the former Executive Council? What will he answer to that?

Commissionner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said again, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we can have a lot of money that we want, thousand of million rupees but the real problem Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is water. Where are we going to get the water? In that region Mr. Chairperson, Sir, people are receiving water once per month, only once per month.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are in presence of the same Commissioner, former Commissioner for Water Resources who said that in very few period of time we would be having water 24 hour upon 24 hour. Is Having financial means does not give the opportunity for authorities to cater water for in terms of storage, infrastructures etc?

Commissionner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have said there is a problem of water where the swimming pool is situated. Before starting the swimming pool Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the swimming pool ought to be in Port Mathurin. If ever the swimming pool was in Port Mathurin Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we could have used the desalination plant to supply the water. But, there, we don't have water there.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner talked about 30 m³ of loss due to evaporation. But in the report it is said a daily topping up due to evaporation and back wash. Does the Commissioner have specific figures for evaporation and backwash differently?

Commissionner AGATHE: He has already received the same report of the consultant, as I have said daily topping up of water..

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Please, wait! You ask a question allow the Member to answer.

Commissionner AGATHE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the daily topping up of water due to evaporation of backwash 30 m³. Then the daily consumption also, 10 + 5 because we do have report on.. there is another report here again Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Which answer this question you mean?

Commissionner AGATHE: It's better for me to table it. **(APPENDIX III)**

Mr. Chairperson: Yes we circulate. Yes, the second Member for Petit Gabriel. You have more questions to ask.

Mr. D. Speville: I would like to have the specific figure of water that is lost for evaporation and backwash separately.

Mr. Chairperson: I understand that you submit a copy of a report. This is your answer? Yes, circulate the report!

ATELIERS DE SAVOIR IN RODRIGUES

B/184 The First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres (Mr.N. Lisette) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports whether as regard to the different Ateliers de Savoir in Rodrigues, he would

- (a) state the number of stagiaires, who are attending and who have attended these ateliers as from July 2006 to date;
- (b) table a copy of the latest statement of accounts for each atelier; and
- (c) state whether any of these ateliers will be closed down and in the affirmative, the reason thereof?

Commissioner AGATHE:

- (a) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the *Ateliers de Savoir* project has as implementing Agency, the Rodrigues Regional Youth Council. The project was officially launched in June 2003 and aims at providing vocational training to 200 out of school youth aged above 16 years old left out of the main stream. Thus allowing them to become employable or be able to create their own enterprises. The project Life Cycle was initially scheduled to last for three years but I am informed again that following a consultative workshop held on 22 March 2006 at Pointe Venus Hotel with all stakeholders of the project and also the mover of the question. It was recommended to extend the project for further two additional years.

As from July 2006 to date, 131 *stagiaires* have attended these *ateliers* including those presently attending those *ateliers*.

- (b) The six *Ateliers de Savoir* have their own fund which is being managed by an independent Managing Committee and I consider that it would not be ethical for me to disclose the statement of their Account.
- (c) Up to date, the implementing agency, that is, the Rodrigues Youth Council has not submitted any proposal to close any of the six *ateliers*. On the contrary, we are working in close collaboration with the Youth Council to empower the different *ateliers* by facilitating their access to small contracts and to funding organizations such as the Decentralised Corporation Programme. We have even facilitated the opening of a snack at the Bus Terminal at Baie Lascar by 10 ex-beneficiaries of the programme. I am pleased to note that they are doing well.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the Commissioner does not feel like tabling the statement of accounts of the different *ateliers*, I would like to ask him how does he view the sustainability of the project?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said the project is implemented by the Rodrigues Youth Council. So, it's the Youth Council to manage the *ateliers* and all the six *ateliers* that we have.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to the project the Commission act as a facilitator and the Commission provides a Project Manager which helps the Rodrigues Youth Council to manage that project. How does the Commission relates to the Rodrigues Youth Council through the Project Coordinator?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a Senior Youth Officer who acts as facilitator and whenever there is a problem she has to report to the Principal Youth Officer. And then, if need be there is a problem therefore, we are going to implement.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, does that means then that the Project Manager who is Senior Youth Officer does not submit any report to the Commission?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will come with a Statement on that matter.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to the question of finance, I think in the 2007-2008 budget there is a sum Rs. 250, 000 which is budgeted for payment to *animateurs* and for *responsable d'ateliers*. Is there any statement Mr. Chairperson, Sir, submitted by the Rodrigues Youth Council as regard to the use of this sum which is disbursed by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly?

Commissioner AGATHE: I know that in the recurrent budget under my Commission there is a sum Rs 250, 000 which is meant for the running of the *Atelier de Savoir*. This sum is being used by the Youth Council but as far as I know I have not come with the appropriate statement that the Rodrigues Youth Council have sent to the Commission. But I will look into the matter.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I come back of the financial matter of these *ateliers*. If I remember well by September 2004, there were two other *ateliers* who were started to pay their *formateurs* as well as their *responsable d'atelier*. May I ask the Commissioner as up to now where matter stands?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as far as I know the Rodrigues Youth Council has send a project to DCP so as to pay the *animateur*.

Mr. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has said that there are six *ateliers*. Is he aware that one of them is not operational for about five months now?

Commissioner AGATHE: I am not aware Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Commissioner aware that the Citron Donis *atelier* is not operational?

(Interruptions)

EMPLOYEES OF THE FREE PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

B/185 The Second Local Region Member of Baie Aux Huitres (Mr. P. Francois) asked the **Commissioner for Education** whether he will state for the benefit of the House, the policy of the Regional Government in respect of management, the recruitment, promotion of the employees of the free Primary Schools in Rodrigues.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the information is as follows; in line with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act the policy for education whether pre-primary, primary or secondary rests with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources.

I would like to point out that pre-primary school is not free in Rodrigues. In fact, a per capita grant of Rs 200 is paid by my Commission to all pupils who are at their last year schooling in line with the general policy of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources.

Mr. P. Francois: Thank you Mr. Deputy Chief Commissioner for your reply. I would like to know from you whether this per capita grant Rs. 1.8 million in the budget paid to children over four years. Are you aware that those children who go to pre-primary, under 4 years they have to pay a fee? Many parents cannot even afford to pay that sometimes Rs 300 or Rs 400. Is the Commission prepared to paid for those children who attend pre-primary school under the age of 4?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I know quite well what the respected Member is saying because ...

(gaps on cassette)

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Regarding what has Commission intends to do because all this will be a question of whether we will have money in order to be able to meet these demands. And before that I will have to undertake a survey to see how many in fact of those kids who cannot attend schools and then upon that I will decide what will be the course of action.

Mr. P. Francois: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in Rodrigues we have 33 pre-primary schools and 30 of them I think are being managed by Association des Ecoles Maternelles de Rodrigues. In some cases the teachers, the “ti miss” as we said, in some cases they are paid according to what they get from parents and the per-capita grant. In some cases the teachers they are getting discourage, in one case I know “ti miss” is getting Rs 500 per month as salary. What your Commission is envisaging to do to remedy that kind of situation?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I understand, I know quite well the hardship of these “ti miss” as the respected Member said. These schools they are private schools. My Commission is not bound to give them any assistance

right now but considering that they are doing a good job and that all our kids need to be in the pre-primary school as from the age of 3 Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I will undertake a survey to see how many parents cannot send their kids to school and what are the different problems that they face, that forbid them to send their kids to school. And then Mr. Chairperson, Sir, after that I will see whether my Commission can provide them with some assistance and for the time being I can't say exactly what I will do. But my intention Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is to see what will be in our means in order to help these schools, not the teachers but the school and the kids.

Mr. P. Francois: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner if a correspondence have come to his office from the Association des Ecoles Maternelles to have a sort of meeting with Commission for Education as regard this matter?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Not yet Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AT MONTAGNE CHARLOT AND ARAUCARIA

B/186 The Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres (Mr. P. Francois) asked the Commissioner for Education with regards to the construction of community schools at Montagne Charlot and Araucaria, will he state

- (a) whether there is any delay in the completion of the project; if yes
- (b) to explain the reasons for the delay for the completion of the project;
- (c) whether the consultant has made any recommendations regarding the course of action, if so, and since when;
- (d) what actions his Commission has taken in the light of the recommendations; and
- (e) the arrangements made for the accommodation of pupils for the January 2008 intake?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (a) For part (a) the answer is, yes.
- (b) As for part (b) the reasons for the delay for the completion of the project are:-

According to the contractor, the project was delayed because of:-

- (i) ashortage of materials such as cement and steel;
- (ii) rainy periods and unaccessibility of sites after rainfalls; and
- (iii) no reinforcement on local markets.

Moreover, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the works at Mt. Charlot site were delayed as the handing over of site to contractor was done at a later stage because the community center thereon had to be re-located.

- (c) For part (c) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is yes, since 31 July 2007.
- (d) My Commission is still studying the financial implications that will be involved, thereof.
- (e) The same arrangements have been made as in previous years for the registration of pupils in primary schools within their present catchment area.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner state to the House the specified contractual completion time for this project?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: The contractual completion date Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is 22nd May 2007.

Mr. D. Speville : *Mr. Chairperson, Sir, ce projet qui été prévue pour la rentrée 2008 et on voit que le travaux a accumuler des retards considerable. A Montagne Charlot ont a même pas terminer avec le crépisage de la toiture. Je voudrais demander au Deputy Chief Commissioner si sa Commission est à la merci contracteur et si' n'est pas fort temps pour qu'on entreprend des actions légaux envers le contracteur et deuxieme question if his Commission under the advise of the Consultant has envisaged to shed contract of the project?*

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have just stated the different reasons which have caused the delays in the project. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have got the consultants' views and report on the project where I had two alternatives, first whether to terminate the contract or let the contractor continue with the project. One first remark Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is that the respected Member stated that these schools were to be opened in January 2008. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am fully aware of all the implications that such delay is causing. And in the very near future Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will take a final decision because up to now the

consultant has applied for an extension of 243 days. The consultant is studying the request and will advise my Commission, accordingly.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the Deputy Chief Commissioner is speaking of extension of 243 days. I would like the Deputy Chief Commissioner to state the House whether the conditions of work of the contractor has changed and what is the total work force deployed by the contractor on both sites at Montagne Charlot and Araucaria?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I need notice of that question.

Mr. D. Speville: *Mr. Chairperson, Sir, avec le prix des matériaux et des main d'oeuvres qui augmentent chaque jour je voudrais demander aux Chef Commissaire adjoint si sa Commission a fait un forecast du budget supplémentaire pour terminer le projet ?*

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Justement Monsieur le Président c'est parce que si je termine ce contrat, le Membre respecté lui même vient dire que avec l'augmentation des coûts, est-ce que ma Commission pourra envisager de terminer le contrat actuellement et relancer le contrat, combien sa me coûtera ? Alors tous sa Monsieur le Président est a l'étude. C'est le contracteur qui va me guider, j'attend ces recommandations, le consultant excusez moi, j'attend ces recommandations en vu de prendre des mesures qui s'imposent. Parce que il faut savoir si on termine un contrat et que sa va nous coûter énormément est ce que sa vaut la peine? Parce que *for the time being everything is being done as I just said for the admission in 2008 and even though these two schools are not completed by January there will no problem with the admission in the other schools concerned.*

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House whether the contractor is paying penalty at the time being?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as per the contract the contractor is bound to pay the liquidation damage. Even though he give reasons because he has applied for extension and then we will have to apply all the penalties that are specified in the contract.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner tell the House how much has been spent on this two projects up to date?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: How much has been spent? Mr. Chairperson, Sir, an amount of Rs 22, 831, 869.38 million has been paid to date.

Mr. D. Speville: *Mr. Chairperson, Sir, je voudrais savoir du Chef Commissaire Adjoint si les matérielles ; les tables, les chaises forment partis du contrat global de Rs 50 million.*

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask to the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether his Commission intends to build a new Montagne Charlot Community Centre to replace the old one which has been pulled down during the construction of this school?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, yes because has been part of the contract since the beginning.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner when construction of the center is likely to start?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't have the exact information but it would be considered as soon as possible.

ROD CLEAN LIMITED

B/187 The Second Local region Member for Baie aux Huitres (Mr. P Francois) asked the Commissioner for Environment as regard the newly created Company Rodclean Limited, could he for the benefit of the House

- (a) state since when the Company has started its operations;
- (b) give the composition of its Board of Directors;
- (c) give the names of the Chairman, the Manager and supervisors;
and
- (d) state amount of allowance, fees or salary being paid to them?

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (a) As regard to part (a) of the question I wish to inform the house that the company Rod Clean Company Ltd has started its operation as from 1st November 2007.
- (b) As regards to part (b), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the composition of its Board of Director comprises of Mr. Chandrasingh Matadeen my Departmental Head and Mr. Moostoopha Jeetoo Adviser at the Chief Commissioner's Office.

- (c) As regards to part (c), the Chairman of the board is Mr. Matadeen, the Manager is Mrs. Marie Annecie Larose and the two supervisors are Mr. Joseph Clarence Perrine and Mr. Charles Bruno Grandcourt.
- (d) As regards to part (d), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the flat salary of the Manager is Rs 15,000 monthly and the flat salary of the supervisors is Rs 6,600 monthly. It should also be noted that the supervisor should be provide with petrol allowance at a flat rate which is to be fixed in the next board meeting. The allowance payable to the member of the Board has not yet been fixed.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begu : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask to the Commissioner for Public Infrastructure, Environment whether he could enlighten us on the recruitment that has been made as regard to those who are being employed in this company?

Commissioner Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is far from the main question I will ask the respected Member to come with a substantive question.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner for environment as regard to the start of operation of the company, can he enlighten us on the effective equipment of the company?

Commissioner Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am coming with a statement at the end of question time I will ask the Member to listen to the statement or if you want I can make the statement right now.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner for Environment if he is satisfied with the work? And second I would like to ask the Commissioner for Environment if he is aware that in some villages dustbin are remaining of the road for at least seven days and are becoming the shelter of stray dogs with the rubbishes scattered on the road. I will like to know what his action his Commission envisaged to do?

Commissioner Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't see any link with this question. Where is the link with this question?

(Interruptions)

Commissioner Grandcourt: He stated since the date it is referring to the date. You have to be very careful. If you want to have answers you come with substantive question in the next sitting.

Mr. P. Francois: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to the post of Manager and Supervisors. I would like to ask the Commissioner if these posts were advertised to the public?

Commissioner Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer is yes.

Mr. D. Speville: *Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that government vehicles are being used by Rod Clean, je voudrais demander aux Commissaires responsable de l'environnement qu'elle condition a été stipulé dans le contrat concernant l'assurance de vie des travailleurs ?*

Commissioner Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is up to the board to see all these aspects, implicatio of the insurance and so on, of these workers.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is providing his transport means to the Company and the Commissioner is telling us that the Rodrigues Regional Assembly have nothing to do with issues of insurances. Is that right?

Commissioner Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the company is 100% owned by the RRA. It is normal, we have the right. It is my policy, I have decided to give these ..

(Interruptions)

Commissioner Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, how can I answer the question when the minority leader himself is not behaving as he should be in this House.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that these workers are travelling on these government vehicle, I would like to know from the Commissioner who is responsible for these workers when they travelling on these vehicles? *C'est pourquoi j'ai demandé s'il y a des conditions qui a été stipulé dans le contrat concernant l'assurance des vies de ces travailleurs.*

Commissioner Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am coming with a statement at the end of question time, all these points will be answered.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask a last supplementary question to the Commissioner. Will the cost of fuel used by the government vehicle be recouped from the item vote refuse collection payable to RodClean?

Commissioner Grandcourt: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. For the time being it will be taken by my Commission.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Being given that the Commissioner just admitted that it is his policy...

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: You don't want to ask the question?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Yes but I am being disturbed.

Mr. Chairperson: Tell the Minority to stop with this.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Yes but the other side also.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, you should understand who started the whole thing. Ask your question now. We move to the next question.

NEW COMPANY ROD CLEAN LIMITED

B/188 The Second Local region Member for Baie aux Huitres (Mr. P Francois) asked the Commissioner for Environment with regards to the creation of the new Company Rodclean Limited, will he

- (a) state the number of posts advertised and the basic qualifications and experience required in relation to each post;
- (b) table the qualifications and experience of all those who were convened for the interview from the list of the Labour Office; and
- (c) state whether all selected candidates possess the required qualifications and experience?

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (a) As regard to part (a) I wish to inform the House that four posts were advertised and I am tabling the qualifications and experience required for each post. **(APPENDIX IV)**
- (b) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (b) the qualification and experience of all those convened for interview will not be disclosed to this House for privacy reasons, as decided by the board of directors.
- (c) As regards to part (c), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, all the selected candidates possess the required qualifications and experience. The selected candidates have undergone an interview effected by the Board of the company.

DISTRIBUTION OF POLYPIPES AND FITTINGS

B/189 The First local Region Member for St Gabriel (Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture and Water Resources whether his Commission has embarked on any programme of distribution of polypipes and fittings to individuals in Rodrigues and if yes to state:-

- (a) the scope of the programme;
- (b) the cost of the programme;
- (c) the criteria for an individual to be eligible for the polypipes and fittings;
- (d) how many rolls of polypipes have been distributed since the beginning of the programme; and
- (e) to table the name of successful beneficiaries and their addresses?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission has not embarked on any new programme of distribution of polypipes and fittings to individuals in Rodrigues. However, I wish to inform the House that granting of ½inch polypipes to vulnerable groups of persons has been common practice since October 2002. My Commission believes that this practice should continue. Therefore, we have been granting polypipes by my predecessors on a case to case basis to vulnerable groups. However, compared to what has been done previously and for transparency and making more fairness, my Commission has reviewed the practice by referring each case for investigation to the Trust Fund of Vulnerable groups. Only upon recommendation of the Trust Fund that approval is conveyed for granting of polypipes and necessary fittings.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would also like to stress the whenever the Water Resources Unit carries out works in regard to upgrading of un-existing network, that is replacing galvanized pipe by HDP pipes. It has been considered fair that my Commission replace the existing water prises of already connected consumers falling to the vulnerable groups. This has been the case of Mont Charlot, La Fouche Castor and Montagne Fanal following the upgrading of the network in December 2006 and January 2007.

As regard to part (b) since I came in office 23 beneficiaries has been granted polypipes and fittings for a total cost of Rs 23, 000.

As for part (c) request is being considered on a case to case basis. Each application is investigated into by an Inspector of the respective section who subsequently makes the necessary recommendations. In parallel the case is referred to the Trust Fund of Vulnerable groups to ascertain the status of the beneficiary. Only upon being recommended by the Trust Fund that the Water Resources Unit is requested by my office to provide the beneficiary with a roll of polypipes and fittings.

As for (d), as explained earlier, this is not any programme. However, I wish to report that among the 23 beneficiaries, since I came into office, 33 rolls of polypipes have been issued as a result of upgrading work being carried out, ten rolls for hardship cases after being recommended by the Trust Fund of Vulnerable groups. I am please to table the list of those beneficiaries. **(APPENDIX V)**

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: I would like to ask the Commissioner to confirm whether the pipes are being for only domestic purposes or also for other activities to vulnerable persons?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, you know in Rodrigues nearly all the families is doing agriculture. In some cases there are many women, these women are engage in livestock, in poultry production, in agro industry and it is also for income joint activities, not only for domestic purposes.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner state to the House or inform the House on the dimension of the pipes that are being granted to these vulnerable groups as per category of activities?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer if ½ inch polypipes.

STALLS AT THE ALFRED NORTH COOMBES BUILDINGS

B/190 The First Local Region Member for St Gabriel (Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué) asked the Chief Commissioner as regard the stalls situated at the Alfred North Coombes Building in Port Mathurin allocated to the local entrepreneurs' organisations namely; the forum des Femmes Entrepreneurs, the Rodrigues Entreprendre au Feminin and the Craftsmen and women registered with the Small Enterprises and Handicraft Development Authority (SEHDA), to ask the Commissioner whether

- (a) the contracts signed between the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and these organisations for the use of the stalls have been renewed and if not, to state why;
- (b) he is aware of any application made by these entrepreneurs organisations to obtain the appropriate licence from his Commission for the sale of their locally made products at these stalls; and
- (c) where matter stands?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (a) I am informed that the contracts signed with associations occupying the eight kiosks expired on 30 June 2007 have not been renewed.
- (b) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as for part (b) two associations namely "*forum des femmes Entrepreneurs de Rodrigues*" and "*Rodrigues Entreprendre au Féminin*" have submitted application for licences to operate at the Alfred North Coombes Kiosk. However, as the applications are incomplete, these two applicants will be advised to re apply.
- (c) As for part (c) the contract will be renewed in cases of associations who are still operating and who are interested to operate in these kiosks.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, are any of these associations not working actually, since according to your answer the renewal of the contract will be tantamount to the interest of the persons?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: The answer is yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Can you inform who among these, which one among these associations are not operating actually in those kiosks?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: I need notice Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner as regards to part (b) of the question. He said that one federation because the forum is a federation of six branches, five branches of geographical associations, one federation of Women Entrepreneurs and one association Women Entrepreneurs. I would like to ask if his Commission or the Chief Commissioner's Commission already informed those applicants that their applications were not complete? And if yes, when?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said earlier since these applications were incomplete they will be advised to reapply.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner if he is aware that those associations, those federations are awaiting an answer since they went on site to do the applications, since more than one year and that they have not been made aware that their applications which was done with the help of officers were not complete.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have to inform the respected Member that I don't have at hand the reason that she is stating for how long these associations has been asking for permits and so on. I don't know. But I can assure the House that this government policy, this Regional Government has in heart the development of the SME's and the handicraft office Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The reason is Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that at each sitting of 19 October this year, the Council has

decided to approve that all the 16 stalls at the bus terminal at Port Mathurin be put at the disposal of associations and cooperative societies against payment Mr. Chairperson, Sir, of a reduced price of Rs 2500 each. This will provide a permanent exhibition cum sales point for associations, cooperative societies engaging production in the Rodriguan handicraft product Mr. Chairperson, Sir. And these associations Mr. Chairperson, Sir, are composed mainly of women. So, it is not our intention to *boycotte* any women associations.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to assure the Deputy Chief Commissioner that I am not making allegation of *boycotting*, what I am saying Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is that it has been more than one year, being give that the averred motto of the majority is economic development, will he not agree that since one year the application has been made on site with the supposedly technically qualified persons, that the application is not, is there not in the new sector that is being made by the new majority a loop hole in the work, that there is no coordination, so that those persons are awaiting an answer and are not feeling well. They are feeling that they are not being considered, they do not know where they stand. Do you think that this is an appropriate atmosphere to say that they are backing the SMEs specially the women?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will look into the matter and take appropriate action shortly.

REQUEST FORM A GROUP OF FAMILIES OF LATANIERS

B/191 The First Local Region Member for St Gabriel Gabriel (Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure if his Commission has received any request from a group of families of Lataniers, living just behind the Antoinette Prudence Roman Catholic Education Authority (RCEA) School for the construction of a small bridge to have access their home situated by the riverside, and if yes, where does matter stand?

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in fact, my Commission received a request from a group of families of Lataniers asking for pipes to construct a bridge across a river at Lataniers on 3rd November 2006.

A site visit was carried out by the Inspector of my Commission and it was decided to supply 10 units concrete pipe of 600 mm to Mr. Judex GASPARD on the 19th October 2006 for the construction of the bridge.

Mr. Judex GASPARD and the other villagers agreed to collect the pipes and construct the bridge on a voluntary basis.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as at to date 5 pipes out of the 10 unit pipes have been collected and the 5 pipes collected are found in the location where the bridge is to be constructed.

It has been noted that, as at to date, the bridge has not been constructed by the villagers. Subsequently, a meeting will be convened with the group of families to discuss about the construction of the bridge.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, has there any follow-up being made? And is the Commissioner in presence actually of a letter and that the content of that letter that is there are two pieces of bridges, in the sense that there are two groups of families. Even that the letter was sent for only one group and actually there is only one group which have received and the other one is still frustrated of not having received that. Is the Commissioner aware of that?

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not aware but I will look into the matter. If there are two groups this means that only group has taken the pipes. So, the other group needs to come to have the pipes. So, I will look into the matter.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2007 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

B/192 The Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne (Mr. D. Baptiste) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth and Sport with regards to the November/December 2007 school holidays, will he state whether his Commission will organise any activity locally for the youth during the November/December 2007 holidays and if yes, will he give details of the proposed activities?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in view of the forthcoming November/December holidays, various activities have been planned under the *special vacances* programme to providing a health, leisure and recreational vacation to our youth, particularly those of the student community.

This year my Commission is innovating with the organisation of a series of 12 karaoke sessions for the youths in each of the six local regions. This programme has already started on 28 October 2007 at English Bay and will last up to 5 December 2007 at Grand La Fouche Mangles. We are expecting to reach at least 1200 youths. From 3 to 9 December, 15 to 20 youths from Rodrigues will be visiting Mauritius on a Youth Exchange Programme.

A carnival on the theme of the Festival Creole 2007 "*Fierté ek diversité kiltirel kreol dan ban zil*" will also be organised by my Commission on the occasion of the Festival Creole 2007. Some 300 youths coming from youth clubs of the six local regions of Rodrigues are expected to participate in the carnival.

Other activities which are annually organized under the Programme *Special Vacances* such as hiking and *randonnée, découverte*, caves exploration, etc... will be organized in the three different local regions by their respective youth region committees. The first one, a hiking and *randonnée découverte* for the youths of local region 3 will be organized on 30 November 2007 from Petit Gabriel to Mourouk via Citron Donis and Riviere Coco.

Finally for end of year, my Commission is planning to organize a Youth Rally in mid December for both the youths and sports community. Various recreational activities such as beach games, and a *radio crochet* will be organised during this rallye.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner as regards to the type of activities we can realise that the number of activities which you have enumerated has to do with Sport, more like sports and leisure. Will he consider organising activities for better social approach in youth, for example small training on how to look after the old aged or more comprehension between the generations or on the aids? During this period it is high time that the youths be put across the situation around the country and sports and leisure, will he not agree that sports and leisure are not only, cannot be the only, preoccupation of the youth even if they are on holidays?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, normally after school days period, after examination; we do practice only leisure. But in organising such activities we bear in mind that we have lots of ideas that the youth community are based and we are looking into, such programme are being carried out by the Senior Youth Officer who cater these problems.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: So, can you inform the House of the types of programmes that these Youth Officers are carrying over but all what you have said will be included in that programme.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are some activities which were being provided to the youth formerly in previous years and I notice as regards to the question, to the answer of the Commissioner that has been cancelled. Has there been a consultation of such activities, for example visit on the Islets and so on?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, perhaps he has not listened to part of the question. Other activities such as annually organised, I said annually organized that is all year round, that is *special vacances*. During such activities we have hiking, *randoné, découverte*, visits on the Islets. All sort of activities are carried out.

REORIENTATION OF THE SUBSIDIES ON THE SCHOOL AND HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

B/193 The Second Local Region Member for St Gabriel (Mr. J.D. Speville) asked the **Commissioner for Education** whether following the decision of the Central Government for the reorientation of the subsidies on the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate examination fees, will he state if he has met the representatives of the Student Councils and Parent Teachers Associations to explain the reason thereof and if so, to state the number of such meetings, indicating the names of the Councils and Associations?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the information is as follows; following Government's decision to redirect the subsidies on the School Certificate and the Higher School Certificate examinations, a self explanatory letter was distributed through the Rector of each institution to the parents of all the students of Form IV and Lower VI 2007 who will be sitting for these examinations in 2008.

As such Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it was considered not necessary to meet representatives of Students Councils and Parents Teachers Associations to explain the policy of the Government.

However, last year, when Government decided to re-orient the subsidies, I made several interventions on the radio to explain to parents the policy and the reasons thereof.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House by what means the parent's response and showed the agreement with respect to the re-orientation of the subsidies by the Central Government?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since it is governments decision it's a government policy; we know that all policies don't get the approval of everybody. So, once the parents' consent has been apprised of the government decision they have to abide by it, that's all. Because, as I have just state, those parents' concern they have been given a letter to inform them of the government's decision and that the policy that will be applied as from 2008.

So, if ever these parents' consent they don't agree or whether agree they will have to abide to the decision just as have been the case last year.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner since a form has been give to student so that they go at home and give this form to their parent, what is then the use of the acknowledgement form which is present on the form itself and which should be written to the same Rector, to the Rector of all colleges?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: The use of the acknowledgement form Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is first of all to certify that these parents have been informed of such decision, so that nobody then later will say they were not aware of that situation. And I have to inform the House that most parents in fact returned the acknowledgement form.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as per the question of my colleague, it is possible that if the student have not returned the acknowledgement form back to the respective schools this means that they are not in a position to pay. Or as you have said they are not agreeable to pay. Has the Commission through the different school, the different colleges make a survey of the number of student who have not returned their acknowledgement letter so far?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as at now I have made no survey at all because I cant say exactly how many students have returned the acknowledgement forms or not, but the fact Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that government has decided regarding student who will take part in the SC, HSC, GCE, "O" or "A" level examination of 2008, the student will have to make necessary arrangements for meeting the full cost of this examination fees Mr. Chairperson, Sir, government will meet only through the Ministry of Social Security the full cost of examination fees of school-going-students whose parents monthly income fall under certain category, that's all.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner if one of the top promises; that is, as we are aware one of the top promises of the MR team during the electoral period was full subsidy to anybody who are taking exams SC and HSC. Is that not a problem today? Is this not a breach of contract with the Rodriguan people as far being given that we know one of the promise on which this new team has been elected is that it was offering jobs and was offering on top of that full subsidy for examinations to anybody irrespective of their number?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir...

Mr. Chairperson: This is not allowed.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, I have a point of order, that's what I was asking. The respected Member is imputing motives saying that we were elected on the base that we had such and such promise. Mr. Chairperson, Sir....

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: DCC... yes, order please! I have ruled out the question is not allowed. Yes, this is the end of the matter unless we have more supplementary, we move to the next question.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Point of order.

Mr. Chairperson: You cannot make a point of order out of my point of order.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: I would like to have more explanations from you as to why it is not allowed.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: She is perfectly entitled to ask for explanations. May be she cannot follow what the standing order says and what is admissible. But I am not pleased to tell her.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: It is not that I cannot follow I would like to ask for that.

Mr. Chairperson: If you followed you would not have, you would never have asked this question. What is contained is manifoës. What is being averred in public meetings cannot be questioned in this Assembly. What can be questioned is what the laws allow the Commissioners to say. You have been Commissioners for five years your colleagues...

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Which standing order?

Mr Chairperson: I'm not saying the Standing order, I am saying the Law.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Tell us which section of the law it includes?

(Interruptions)

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: We have the right to question, why not!

Mr. Chairperson: She can.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: We have the right to ask him. This is his job.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: You utterly showed a

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Order please! You utterly showed an absolute ignorance of the law but I will show you if you still insist. Yes, if you want me to enlight, you remain silent.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Why did you say me ignorant?

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Well....

(gaps on cassette)

Mr. Chairperson: in this House and I am agreeable to give you. If you feel that I am bound, it is my duty. This is why I have to intervene. This is why I have to intervene. It is not my duty because you see in the Standing Order, my decisions are final and I am not bound. Let me read it to you.

(Interruptions)

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Since we do not know all this.

Mr. Chairperson: *"The Chairperson shall not be bound to give any reason in support of any of his decisions".*

Commissioner Mrs. CLAIR: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me on a point of order...

Mr. Chairperson: But you cannot interpret, I agree. But even then we have the Standing Order. I repeat the Chairperson shall not be bound to give any reasons in support to any of his decisions and my decisions are final. If I am elected to give some clarifications this does not mean I have a duty. This is what I wanted to clear out. If somebody is making insinuation that I have, it is my duty also to tell her that this is not what the law provides. And if she does not know what the laws provide this means that she is not ignorance of the regulations. This is a sort of thing that I am bound to say but otherwise people may have some different kind of interpretation and feelings about my duty here. I have to explain things very clearly.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: No. You are imputing motives to us. Why in Mauritius people are very kind to the Chair.

(Interruptions)

Commissioner Mrs. CLAIR: Mr. Chairperson, Sir...

Mr. Chairperson: First of all, you do not pay any respect here. You yourself you seem to know very much. You raise from your seat, you go out from this Assembly, you not even show any respect to the Chair. When the Chair comes you don't show any respect and then you are the first person to teach us what respect means. Yes, we move to the next question.

Mr. D. Speville: Can you allow me a last supplementary question?

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, you can.

Mr. D. Speville: *Mr. Chairperson, Sir,* la minorité de ce côté de la chambre ont à coeur l'intérêt et l'éducation des enfants. En ce moment Monsieur le Président il y a un flou total dans la tête des parents. Il y a des collégiens qui n'habitent pas chez leurs parents. Il y a des collégiens donc leurs parents ce trouve à Maurice. L'année dernière, cette année en 2007 il y eu beaucoup de confusion autour du paiement de frais d'examens pour la SC et HSC.

A Maurice même le Premier Ministre a eu des réunions avec le PTA et *les Councils, Parent Teachers Association and Council of student to explain on his policy. This is why i am telling the Deputy Chief Commissioner that for the time being there is a total contradiction in the head of some parents and it will be better that meetings be organised,* faire des causeries dans la radio pour expliquer aux parents ce qui leurs attendant en Mars l'année prochaine, parce qu'il y a des étudiants qui ne tombent pas dans les *authorised case for subsidy* qui doivent payés, mais leurs parents ne se trouvent pas a Rodrigues. Ils habitent chez quelqu'un d'autre, chez leurs grand-mères. Ils ne tombent pas in the area of subsidy. C'est pourquoi comme ont a fait a Maurice, ici a Rodrigues les Recteurs on a *high type schedule*. C'est pourquoi je demande a la Commission qu'ils éclaircissent la population sur le nouveau mode de paiement concernant les frais d'examens de la SC et la HSC.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: *Oui Monsieur le Président. Quand le Membre dit que a Maurice le Premier Ministre a eu des réunions avec les parents, mais c'est vrai parce que c'est un Government policy, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Who will have to explain to the whole population of this policy? It's the Prime Minister itself and Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to this policy Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it all apply to Mauritius and Rodrigues. And last year Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we were prepared to meet the cost of what the Member was saying right. Had it not been the decision of the government...*

(Interruptions)

Deputy Chief Commissioner: It's because the government has decided that what has been decided would apply to the whole of the Republic be it Mauritius and Rodrigues. And I agree with the Member, if ever needs be, I will look into the opportunity of informing them. I did it last year, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, why can't I do it again? I may do it but I am not bound to do it right now.

AFRICAN SWINE DESEASE

B/194 The Second Local Region Member for St Gabriel (Mr. J.D. Speville) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture whether in regard to the prevailing African swine epidemic, will he state the measures taken so far to prevent its spreading from Mauritius to Rodrigues?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, African Swine Fever (ASF) is a serious viral disease of pigs which is highly contagious and can spread very rapidly in pig populations by direct or indirect contact. The virus which is highly resistant to environmental conditions can persist for long periods in pig products and can also become endemic. The deadly disease which has no vaccine or cure has affected the pig population in Mauritius and a considerable number of pigs have died or have been disposed of.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission was officially informed of the outbreak of the swine fever in Mauritius on 12 October 2007 on the same day, I chaired a task force. And after an assessment of the situation a protocol was adopted and the following special measures initiated:-

1. Ensure at arrival points, Airport and seaport, use of disinfectants on mats.
2. Ban the importation of all port of pork productions from Mauritius.
3. All passengers from Mauritius be checked, no consumables of animal origin (sausages etc) allowed, they should be incinerated.
4. Disinfections of Mauritius Pride and Mauritius Trochetia before disembarkation takes place.
5. Strengthen the Quarantine Unit in Rodrigues.

Moreover for vigilance and immediate implementation of all preventive measures, two committees have been set up, namely the Crisis Committee which I chair myself and which comprises the following members:-

- 1) The Departmental Head
- 2) The Senior Agricultural Officer
- 3) The Veterinary Officer
- 4) The Chief Inspector of Police
- 5) The Officer in Charge, MRA
- 6) The Principal Health Inspector
- 7) The Officer in Charge, Air Mauritius
- 8) The Manager, Airport of Rodrigues
- 9) The President, FACER
- 10) The President, Butcher's Association
- 11) The Officer in Charge, Livestock and Production Unit

The Crisis Committee is holding a weekly meeting in order to leave no stone unturned to eliminate all possible means of entrance of the disease to Rodrigues. There is also a Technical Committee which is chaired by the Veterinary Officer and comprises technician and officers of the Livestock and Quarantine Unit. The Technical Committee is holding daily meeting in order not to preserve the bio-security and safety of pig production in Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, pig breeders and the public at large has been sensitized on the African swine fever. Meetings with pig breeders have been organised:

- (1) to show them symptoms of the disease;
- (2) to explain all bio-safety measures to be adopted to prevent the entrance of the disease on their farm; and
- (3) to provide them with disinfectant as an incentive to assist them in protecting their farm.

Moreover, posters and pamphlets are distributed to the breeders Associations, several radio talks have been held. It has to be underlined that the Ministry of Agro-Industry has been very cooperative and helpful in our effort to prevent the ASF from reaching Rodrigues. Dr. Jaumally, officer in charge, Animal Health Laboratory of Réduit visited Rodrigues in mid-October and a delegation headed by Dr. Beeharry, Adviser to the Minister of Agro-Industry is arriving in Rodrigues today to further strengthen preventive measures already taken.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner tell the House, *quand est-ce que sa Commission a pris connaissance de l'épidémie de la fièvre porcine à Maurice?*

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said, we have been informed officially by letter from the Ministry of Agro-Industry of the outbreak of swine fever in Mauritius on 12 October 2007.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House the date 21 pigs were imported from the Ministry of Agro-Industry to Rodrigues?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is a very serious issue and I will make a full statement on this issue later during this meeting.

Mr. D. Speville: I would like to have the date the 21 pigs were imported from the Ministry of Agro-Industry to Rodrigues, because the epidemic was known since the end of September before October. There has been confirmation during the month of October but the trace of the disease has already been signalled since the end of September. This is why I would like to know the exact date 21 pigs were imported from the Ministry of Agro-Industry to Rodrigues.

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I see that the respected Member is very anxious about the date of importation of pigs to Rodrigues. I would assure him that there has been no importation of pigs to Rodrigues. I would assure him that there has been no importation of pigs to Rodrigues during the outbreak of swine fever in Mauritius. I will come with a full statement later during the day in this House.

Mr. Chairperson: I agree with you, but...

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the outbreak was on the end of September and importation has been made during the month of October. How it's come that the Commissioner comes here to say that importation was not made during that tragic period?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, has Commissioner rely on official document and not rumors? I have been informed officially...

(Applause)

Commissioner PERRINE: By a letter from the Ministry of Agro Industry that the outbreak was on 12th October.

Mr. D. Speville: The outbreak was on the end of September and I would like to ask the Commissioner if he can inform the House how many pigs were originally meant for importation from Mauritius to Rodrigues?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have said I will answer all his queries in a full statement that I am going to make later during the day.

Mr. D. Speville: because normally Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there were 23 pigs that were meant for importation and only 21 reached Rodrigues. This is why I would like to ask from the Commissioner what has been the outcome of the two pigs which has remained in Mauritius?

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: No insinuations, please!

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not aware what the Member is talking about. I am not ware of that.

BASIC NECESSITIES NAMELY “RIZ RATION AND MILK”

B/195 The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mr. J. D. SPEVILLE) asked the Commissioner responsible for Consumer Protection as regards to basis necessities, namely “Riz Ration and milk”, could he state whether there is any shortage of these commodities in Rodrigues and if so what remedial measures he proposes to take?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to the State Trading Corporation ration rice has been supplied to traders as per their request. Furthermore, according to the State Trading Corporation a new consignment of 1600 bags of ration rice has arrived in Rodrigues yesterday on the Mauritius Trochetia.

As regards to milk there is actually a temporary shortage of same. However, I am informed that the main supplier of milk that is Phoenix Ltd has received a new consignment of milk this week and same is as follows:-

- (i) Milk powder Farmland Brand – 400 cartons of 1 kg
- (ii) Milk powder Red Cow Brand – 316 cartons of 1 kg and will be put on sale shortly after the publication of prices in the Government Gazette.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has had consultation with the State Trading Corporation following the shortage of rice on the Rodriguan market?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to the State Trading Corporation rice has been supplied to traders as per their request. So, this means that there has not been any shortage. And furthermore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a new consignment of one thousand six hundred bags that have just arrived. That is actually there is no shortage of such commodity. So, there was no need to have any consultation with the STC because no shortage has been reported so far.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is the first time that there is a shortage of rice in Rodrigues and how it comes during the month of October 2007 there is shortage of rice in Rodrigues. Can the Commissioner state to the House on the total consumption of rice per month in Rodrigues?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't have the required information at hand but I do understand this is a question of demand and supply. It's only upon request of how much rice the traders need that the STC supplies.

(Interruptions)

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Commissioner for Consumer Protection as regard to the Riz Ration, on the very day, pay day, some families were receiving may be 5 or 6 kg of rice which is not usual.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this may be true. The shopkeeper supplied what they have on stock to their clients. Does this means that there is a shortage? Has there been any complaint later on to see that such clients have had only that much for that month? No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. As at to now Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as from yesterday that has been one thousand six hundred more bags on the market, there is no problem.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to the other commodity that is milk. I would like to ask the Commissioner if he is aware that, for that specific commodity, even if some shops have small quantities in their stock, they do not necessarily sell this commodity automatically to all the comers; that is they have preferred customers. What is his Commission doing to ensure that consumer protection and that the milk is being given to people faceness?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are regular visits being undertaken by the officers concerned to ensure that there are no illegal stock, to ensure that what are available be distributed to all consumers. If ever there are specific complaints Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would advise the respected Member to come with specific complaints and to inform my Commission of the problem so that I would find out what sort of remedy to give to that situation.

Mr. Chairperson: one minute! I would like to intervene. The question is right. I myself suffered this problem but I have the BMW and I can go to another shop.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner is talking about enforcement by the Price Control Unit. Is he aware that at the time being in many shop only one brand of milk is present on the shelves and this milk is meant for 51+ aged. Is the Consumer Protection Unit doing his work, avoiding people under 51 years old to consume this type of milk which is meant for *Oesteoporose*? I entered a shop this morning, a guy of fifteen years old was buying this milk to be consumed by all his family and it is meant for 51+. I don't know if you have 50 or 51 years. It is meant for 51+ years old people. Is the Consumer Protection Unit, the Price Fixing Unit doing his work to prevent people from using this milk which is meant for people over 51 years old?

(Interruptions)

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the respected Member has one particular case. Does it mean that this particular shop is selling milk for only 51+? I don't know. The question of shortage of milk Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we all know that is a sensitive issue. We know that even in Mauritius the main suppliers, on the market of Mauritius, it is always a question of shortage and control by the Ministries concerned. But the fact Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that I have just stated that a new consignment of so many cartons exist now and will be on the market shortly

after publication by Government Gazette. So, I expect that such shortage will be rather addressed to.

Mr. D. Speville: Monsieur le Président, parfois il y a des commerçant qui abuse sur l'ignorance des gens, vous savais. C'est pourquoi je demande aux Chef Commissaire Adjoint de voir auprès des *Price Fixing Unit*, de voir s'il y a abus dans la consommation du lait qui n'est pas propice pour tous sortes d'âges de personnes. C,a c'est 51+, je crois pas qu'il y a des commerçant qui vont dire aux gens « si tu n'as pas cinquante et un an tu dois pas boire ce lait ». C'est ça que je demande.

(Interruptions)

Deputy Chief Commissioner : Monsieur le Président je prends bonnes notes de ce que viens de dire le Membre de la minorité. I will see to it that the enforcing unit of my Commission does their work so that all consumers get the required type of milk that they need.

Mr. N. Lisette: As regards to *Riz Ration*, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, how does the Commissioner accounts for the urgency in the delivery of rice yesterday by STC on the port itself here? Is it a normal practice if he says that there was no shortage in the country?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there may have been an urgent situation where the rice had to be disembarked. That may be yesterday, it may have been for yesterday Mr. Chairperson, Sir. As I stated earlier, it all depends on the request of the trader's. If you confirm that there had been a shortage, there is no longer a shortage, that's it.

OVERFLOW OF WATER FROM A RESERVOIR IN THE NORTHERN REGION

B/196 The Second Local Region Member for St Gabriel (Mr. J.D. Speville)
asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resource, whether he could state if there has been any overflow of water from a reservoir in the Northern Region during the month of October 2007 and, if yes, the action his Commission has taken?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that on Sunday 21 October at about 8 p.m, an officer of the Water Resources Unit was made aware that there was an overflow of water from the Reservoir of Hauteur Accacia. The officer immediately rushed on the site and opened all distribution main to evacuate excess water coming to the reservoir.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, after an enquiry it was confirmed that an overflow was due to a defect in the clock timer at Le Chou borehole. In fact, the borehole of a capacity of 10 cubic metre per hour is a quick reason automatic clock timer which operate on a 24 hour basis everyday, that is from 6 a.m to 6 p.m respectively. However, on the 21 October 2007 the timer did not functioned properly and consequently, water which was supposed to be diverted to Malartic reservoir as from 6 p.m on that date was still being supplied to Hauteur Accacia reservoir at 8 p.m.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given the difficult situation that we are facing regarding water supply in Rodrigues, I have requested my Departmental Head to conduct a full enquiry into this matter and to take strong disciplinary action in case it is found that the timer has been tampered with.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the source of water feeding the reservoir is Le Chou borehole, can the Commissioner inform the House if there was a preson present on the site and have turned off the water from Le Chou to Hauteur Accacia during the time frame 6 a.m to p.m?

Commissioner PERRINE: As I have said Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a full enquiry is being carried out and if it is found that there was an officer on duty which has not been doing his work, strong disciplinary action will be taken against him.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the borehole of Le Chou is being found in the school yard of Le Chou College, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether the watchman of the school have a control on the safe keeping of same because the borehole itself is found in the school yard of Le Chou College?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would look into the matter, I am not aware whether the watchman has to look after the borehole also. Anyway if this is an issue, then I think arrangement can be made so that in the future the watchman can also watch over the borehole.

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the reservoir at Hauteur Accacia has a capacity of 350 cubic meter and as it was full then there was no incidence in the region of Port Mathurin. However, I believe that there has been a lack of 20 cubic meter of water in the reservoir at Malartic which is I think slightly insignificant.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Commissioner aware that part of the village of Petit Gabriel qui est alimenté par le reservoir de Malartic, alimenté par le forage de Le Chou is not having water for at least 40 days and what action he envisage to take to remedy the situation?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think it is another question. I will look into the matter and submit the answer in due course.

Mr. D. Speville: I would like the Commissioner to look into the whole matter because in this water system even the water distribution network from Le Chou to Malartic has been broken down for two days and water was lost at a debit of one drum per minute and we are in a drought season. People are being paid overtime, there has been about 250 % in overtime this year and they are not performing their work as it should be. People are complaining there is no water and the workers are not doing their work as it should be. I would like the Commissioner to look into the matter and to assure that there is no loss of water from all the reservoirs because it is not fair that public funds is being lost, is being used at a critical value and water is being loss by overflowing reservoir and broken pipeline for a considerable timeframe.

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this new government is aware this situation and we have inherited same. That's why we are coming very soon with a private company. The company has been incorporated and will be operational as early as from next year to manage properly water distribution in Rodrigues.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether there is a reservoir keeper affected to the reservoir of Hauteur Accacia?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as Commissioner I am involved in policy and micro management level, this is micro management operational issues. I will look into the matter and will inform the respected Member in due course.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is this little micro management which sometimes causes a big micro management. This is why I would like to assure the Commissioner that all the reservoir keeper are on site because if there was a reservoir keeper on site on that day there would be no overflow of reservoir. This is why I would like the Commissioner to look into the matter so that same does not happen another time.

Mr. Chairperson: yes, Mr. Speville, you are right to ask the Commissioner to look because as he rightly pointed out and of course I didn't stop you day-to-day management is not a matter of direct control by Commissioners; there are of course officers for that. Thank you, we move to the next question.

Mr. S. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a typing error in part (b) of the question. It should be "*of the affirmative*" instead "*give the affirmative*".

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, I believe it is a typing error. But does that have a different meaning for your question?

Mr. S. Roussety: I suppose, no.

Mr. Chairperson: I hope the Commissioner had noticed this typing error.

PURCHASE OF FLOODLIGHTS

B/197 **The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr. S. Roussety) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports** whether as regards to the floodlights purchased by the Commission of Youth & Sports, he will state

- (a) whether complaints have been made regarding the purchase of these floodlights?
- (b) give the affirmative, what sort of complaints
- (c) whether any enquiry is underway?

Commissioner AGATHE:

- (a) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with a view to optimise the use of sports infrastructures and enable sports men and women to practice sports in the evening when they are free from work, my Commission has purchased in May 2007, 100 floodlights for installation at the major sports infrastructures throughout Rodrigues. There has been no complaint received by my Commission up to now concerning the purchase of these floodlights. Therefore, question (b) therefore does not arise.
- (c) As regards to part (c) it is in the affirmative.

Mr. Chairperson: Any supplementary?

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that part (c) is in the affirmative, can we know about the nature of the enquiry.

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't know what type of question has been asked in the enquiry.

Mr. N. Lisette: The question is Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since there is an enquiry which is underway; I would like to know from the Commissioner what is at least the purpose of the enquiry?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't know!

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, floodlights has been purchased by the Commission which is under the authority of the Commissioner, an enquiry is underway and the Commissioner is telling the House that he is not water of the purpose of the enquiry. These are very strange, very strange!

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: May be I would like to rephrase, I would like to ask the Commissioner, if he was the one who initiated or caused that enquiry to be undertaken and what is the mission statement of that enquiry? *Qu'elle est le libeler de cette enquete?*

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't know, I am not aware of the enquiry because myself I have not been there.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if he is not ware, how can he then confirm in an affirmative way that there is an enquiry?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, someone has called the officers to come with an enquiry. I don't know the nature of the enquiry but as far as I know there is an enquiry there.

Mr. S.P. Roussety: Can the Commissioner tell the House who call his officers for that enquiry?

Commissioner AGATHE: I am informed Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is the ICAC.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: The First Member for Oyster Bay you want a question?

PUBLIC COMMUNIQUÉ ON RECRUITMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICERS

B/198 The First Local Region Member of Baie aux Huitres (Mr. N. Lisette) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth and Sports with regards to the communiqué broadcasted on the radio in Rodrigues inviting applications from the public for the recruitment of Education Officers in Rodrigues Educational Development Company Limited recently, will he state for what reasons the communiqué emanated from the Rodrigues Regional Assembly; namely his Commission?

Commissioner AGATHE: I am informed that my Commission has not sent any broadcast in relation to REDCO.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a part of explanation as regard to this question, the question relates to education as per my letter that has been sent to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. The question was linked and directed to the Commissioner for Education.

Mr. Chairperson: Is that so? I would have to make an enquiry. Well' is the Commissioner for Education aware that this question is addressed to him, No?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since according to the order paper the question was addressed to the Commissioner for Youth and Sports, however, if the respected Member needs a reply, I would prepare to give it.

Mr. Chairperson: yes, I don't want to cite that I have to make an enquiry but if you have the answer, if your memory can lead you to have an in depth answer, yes? Please do so.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the information as follows, the communiqué emanated from the REDCO - Rodrigues Educational Development Company Limited whose seat is situated care of Commission for Education.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as per the communiqué itself that was broadcasted on the radio, it was clear that it emanated from the Commission for Education. This is the purpose of the question. The communiqué broadcasted on the radio says clearly from the very start "*communiqué de la Commission de l'éducation*" and it deals with the recruitment of Education Officers in the REDCO. This is why I would like to ask the Commissioner why such a communiqué emanated from his Commission when REDCO itself is a private company?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I know that the Communiqué emanated from REDCO and that communiqué stated to send the applications either to the Manager whose seat is at Mont Lubin College or care of the Deputy Chief Commissioner's office, Commission for Education, that's all.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the communiqué emanated from the Adviser of the RRA on behalf of the Commission for Education, has it not been made deliberately to give the impression to the population that RRA is recruiting and is providing jobs to people?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is just an impression.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: It is all public impression.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: But the fact Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that upon government's decision to entrust the control of the management of REDCO colleges to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in July 2006 where the Regional Assembly has the majority shares of 51 %, Government of Mauritius 29%, State Investment Company 20% and since September 2006 a board was set up to manage the affairs of the Company. And one of the directors of the board is at my Commission and is in fact the board secretary. That's why it was requested that the applications may be submitted either to the Manager whose seat is at the REDCO College Mont Lubin or at my Commission.

Mr. N. Lisette: The question is not about where to send the application form but it is with regard to the emanation of the communiqué. Because it leads with the impression that there is a direct *ingérance de la Commission au niveau du REDCO*. This is the question! When REDCO is recruiting Education Officers and it is the

Commission for Education who is issuing communiqué for this recruitment, it seems, it appears also that that there is *ingérance*. In the light of what has been discussed in this Assembly Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Deputy Chief Commissioner who is responsible for Education will look into the matter and if need be clarify publicly the matter with respect to that issue.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will look into the matter.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: I have a further proposal Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Proposal! No, that's question time.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Question, comment, I would like to ask the Commissioner if he would streamline the procedure to make sure that the management of REDCO, because there is a budget for management, there is a full-fledge Manager with a compete administrative staff but this management does it works properly and directly works with MBC or whatever organizations for transparency this country, that procedures is streamlined so that those who speak on behalf of the Commission on the board do their job on terms of advise, on term of voting and that all the management works is done separately so that there is no collusion in the exercise of the different function of the Commission and REDCO.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I take good note and I will look into the matter.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, we have another question, time is off? Can we have, time is up. We move on the next item on the order paper. Next item, which is?

The Clerk: Statements please.

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

ROD CLEAN COMPANY LIMITED

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me to make a statement on a recent initiative taken by the RRA in relation to the organisation and operation set up for solid waste collection and transportation. Solid waste management is a key focus of our environment programme aimed at improving the living conditions of our population. The collection and transportation of solid waste have been contracted out to registered private operators since the early 1990's. The contract has since been awarded to three different companies, on three occasions. In 2004, La Voirie Ltd obtained the two contracts. The first contract was for the cleaning and refuse collection in Port Mathurin, Mont Lubin, La Ferme and Grand La Fouche Corail. The cleaning of public places, premises and buildings and the cleaning of public toilets. The second contract was meant for the removal, transport and

disposal of waste which comprise refuse collection in Port Mathurin and other places, Grand Baie and other places and Malabar and other surrounding places. The contract expired on 31 October 2007 and in addition the scavenging services in remote villages, public beaches and places where new track roads have been constructed were carried out by the Solid Waste Management Unit of my Commission. The annual contract cost for scavenging services which is quite high is becoming a burden on the recurrent. In fact, the bids were worked out on a basis of prices prevailing in 2004. We noted that future bidders will increase their proposed contract price given that:-

- (a) the price of diesel which represent a mahor cost has increased considerably and the cost of materials have also risen
- (b) the labour cost and running cost of vehicles have increased.

In addition, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commission for Environment were proposing to increase the scope and frequency of waste collection. Our projection indicates that the cost of scavenging services would increase over the years sinking a bigger proportion of the recurrent budget of the assembly with adverse impact on other key priorities.

To draw a parallel with other organisation facing similar situation, it is relevant to mention that in Mahebourg the cost of scavenging services has attained twenty million rupees. I repeat Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Rs 20 m for the population of 28,000 establishment. The cost will soon search to attain 28 million. Guided by our wisdom and proactive approach we cannot sit back and watch.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Waste Management is a very critical issue. A reliable system of waste management is essential for prevention of

(Gaps on cassette)

(cassette no. 3)

An investment to the tune of Rs 4.2 million for the acquisition of one compacting lorry and two lorries. The Executive Council therefore decided that the company name the Rod Clean Ltd be set up for the execution of scavenging services. Rod Clean Ltd was incorporated in September 2007 and is managed along with modern principles of management. Its directors are Mr. Matadeen and Mr. Jeetoo, Adviser on Economic Development at the Chief Commissioner's office.

The work to be carried out by Rod Clean will comprise:-

- (a) refuse collection; and
- (b) transportation

The refuse collection will involve the following;

- (i) cleaning and refuse collection in industrial and commercial areas. These works will include daily cleaning and collection refuse from Port Mathurin, Mont Lubin, La Ferme and Oyster Bay and on alternate days from Riviere Coco and Grand La Fouche Corail and once weekly from road sites of the designated localities.
- (ii) cleaning of public building places. This work will include the sweeping, mowing and grass cutting, weeding of public places and premises, looping and pruning in green spaces as described in the scope of work.
- (iii) cleaning of public toilets. This work will consist of cleaning and sanitizing of public toilets. The transportation services will involve the collection of waste along asphalted and non asphalted road from inside and around public bins and garbage collection points in Rodrigues. On the basis of the feasibility the initial investment cost is estimated at Rs. 4.14 million monthly, sorry, the monthly operating cost works are to about half a million.

A cost benefit analysis of the project indicates significant benefits and other spilled of the effect such as first of all, annual savings in the recurrent budget effecting judicious utilisation of public funds. Secondly, better control of the scavenging services. Thirdly, extended areas not previously covered around the island provided with scavenging services, creation of additional jobs. The project will have a multiplier effect on the economy.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to report the House that the board of directors have followed all normal government procedures. The company started scavenging services as from 1 November 2007. Prior to this, the board has acquired some of the basic tools and equipments as regard the Lorries, the tender procedures did not enable a quick procurement. We have to contract supplier of vehicles in Mauritius and Rodrigues. After technical evaluation exercise and an evaluation by the board, an order will be placed shortly.

During the first few days we had to hire vehicles from owners of waste carriers licence. However, in view of the high cost we have reverted to the formula of using government vehicles. The company will operating according to the best management principle to ensure efficient use of resources and in order to get value for money.

After operating for more than one week we have made a quick evaluation of the scavenging services. We have observed that the services have been extended over very large portion of the island. Several trucks of waste have been removed over the island. The following comments have been received from the public, "many jobs have been created", "our street and canals are very clean", "canals which have not been clean over years are being cleaned", "the quality of service is very good", "the workers are hard working". The company is now cleaning the Port Mathurin market on the same day. As a new company we are learning from our mistake but we will

not leave any stone unturned in order to ensure that the quality of the service do not deteriorate.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission will be proposing a new regulation, that is the Collection of Waste Regulation 2007 at the Rodrigues Regional Assembly soon. It has been observed that a great proportion of refuse throughout the island are denoted from trade premises and this subsequently increases the cost related to the solid waste management process which are already high. The objectives of the relations are:-

- (i) to charge a fee for the collection of refuse from trade premises;
- (ii) to encourage the owners of premises to main the cleanliness of their environment; and
- (iii) enable better control on the handling of the refuse from the residential and trade premises prior to collection and transport throughout the use of an appropriate receptacle.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the fees collected will help to meet part of the cost associated with solid waste management in Rodrigues including the running cost of the Rod Clean Ltd. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we did face some difficulties and we are still facing some difficulties prior to starting of the operations of Rod Clean in Rodrigues. But we are going to improve so as to give a better service to the public.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am confident that the company will work to our satisfaction. I wish to take this opportunity to express my heart full thanks to all those who have contributed in the execution of this project. I wish to mention the support of the Chief Commissioner, my colleagues, officers of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the two directors. I wish long life to the company.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

(Applause)

TEST FOR HIV/AIDS AND HEPATITIS B AND C

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with your permission I would like to make a statement.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes.

Commissioner EMILIEN: I wish to inform the House of some actions taken by my commission recently. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the sophisticated equipment for laboratory testing has been installed at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in May, 2007 and test which used to be made in Mauritius are now effected in Rodrigues including HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and C. In my statement on April 24 this year, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I stated that arrangements were being made with the “*Commission de l’Océan Indien*” and the “*Banque Africain de Développement*” for the training of

Medical, Nursing and Laboratory Officers. I have always said that training is one of our priorities at the Commission. And I am now glad to announce, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that a Medical Officer has undergone a two week training in Reunion island in HIV/AIDS and that arrangements are being made for the Laboratory Technician to be trained in the same field in Madagascar in December next. An offer has been received for the training of a Nursing Officer in HIV/AIDS in Canada at the end of November next.

My commission has been informed, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that my request to the Ministry of Health for two additional RMOs (Regional Medical Officers) has been acceded to and those Medical Officers will soon be sent to Rodrigues on tour of service.

Orders have already been placed for 2 new and well equipped ambulances. One of these will be delivered in Rodrigues by the end of this month and the other in early January, 2008. Of the six ambulances which had remained at the Mechanical workshop for more than 6 months awaiting repairs, four have left the workshop and are back in operation.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the evaluation of five offers received for the supply, installation and commissioning of a new X-Ray machine has been completed and the authority of the Central Tender Board is being awaited for the placing of the order on the supplier. In the meantime, one of the two X-Ray machines at Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been repaired and is now working satisfactorily. A mobile X-Ray machine has been installed and the X-Ray Unit is now operating at full capacity. Spares for the second X-Ray machine which is presently out of order have been identified and the equipment will be repaired soon. The X-Ray Unit has, recently, been called upon for the examination of 250 candidates for enlistment as Police Constables. There is no waiting list of patients to be examined at the X-Ray Unit.

Likewise, the autoclave equipment at the Operating Theatre of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, is being repaired by Ducray Lenoir & Co.Ltd pending delivery of a new equipment. One autoclave equipment which is partly operational presently is in operation since 1971, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The stock of drugs, medicines and disposables continue to be closely monitored to prevent any stock out. There is now a closer co-ordination between the pharmacy and visiting specialists so that the latter are aware of the various medicines available and can thus recommend others including newly developed ones.

The Area Health Centres of Mont Lubin and La Ferme are being upgraded to provide better and more friendly environment to patients, visitors and hospital staff. In this context, steps have been taken to renew equipment and furniture. Many items have already been received whilst others will be received and installed in the coming weeks.

The maintenance team of the Commission has been strengthened with the posting of some qualified workers on placement in various fields like carpentry, electricity, masonry, plumbing etc. A well defined programme of work has been devised for that team for a better maintenance of the premises and other assets in use at the hospital and other health centres.

More and more emphasis is being laid on Non-Communicable Diseases including diabetes and its adverse cardio vascular effects. To-morrow, in the context of the celebration, for the first time, of the World Diabetes Day, my Commission is launching a diabetes screening campaign throughout the island. With the collaboration of the Lions Club and the association of parents of children with diabetes, the commission plans to hand over to the NCD Unit and the Community Health Agents an adequate quantity of glucometers and accessories for regular and more frequent tests on children and adults suffering from types I and II Diabetes for a better treatment of the disease.

All these measures, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, are meant to the betterment of the people of the island of Rodrigues so that we live in a healthier environment and that we can better build up the future of the present and future generations.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

(Applause)

AFRICAN SWINE DISEASE

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, following various statements and news in the press regarding the importation of pigs from Mauritius I would like to make a brief factual statement so as to cut short all incorrect information that may be detrimental to pig production in Rodrigues. First of all I would like to table a letter, copy of a letter from the Ministry of Agro Industry informing my Commission of the outbreak of the African Swine Disease in Mauritius on the 12 October 2007. **(APPENDIX VI)**

To recall, I would like to state that my Commission submitted a request to the Ministry of Agro Industry in Mauritius in July 2007 for some importation of animals to upgrade our local stocks. No pigs have been imported from Mauritius during the outbreak of the African Swine Fever. The 21 pigs that my Commission received from Mauritius were examined by the veterinary officer before the embarkation for Rodrigues and on arrival in Rodrigues were kept in quarantine and examined by Dr. Samoisy, our local veterinary officer and found that there were no sign of any clinical disease. I table a certificate from Dr. Samoisy. **(APPENDIX VII)**

Moreover, blood test, blood samples from Palmar Livestock production unit where we imported the 21 pigs were collected on 27 October 2007 and sent to South Africa for analysis against African Swine Fever and anti-bodies. I table the result showing that testing for African Swine Fever Virus and anti-body was negative. This unit was not and is not a contaminated farm. **(APPENDIX VIII)**

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the incubation period for the African Swine Fever is 5 to 19 days after direct contact with the infected pigs. If a pig is infected the disease appears in 5 to 19 days. I am pleased to inform that the 21 pigs imported from Mauritius since one month ago are still alive and show no sign of clinical disease.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like a special appeal to the responsibility of one and all not to make a calamity befalling on the pig breeders a political issue. Yesterday I discussed with the Minister of Agro Industry the possibility of exporting one thousand pigs to Mauritius and the possibility of opening a special corridor to import pigs from Rodrigues is being studied. I will advise my friend on the other side not to make this a political issue and to talk about imported infected pigs from Mauritius as it will be the death of pig industry in Rodrigues.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

(Applause)

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, no more statements. This is all. No more agenda. I have two. No motions. Agenda exhausted, I have to read an announcement. The first one relates to what has happened during question time. There was a Member I think it was Baptiste, rising for a supplementary question but before I could understand him, one office colleague has already asked the main question. So, I couldn't, it is as if a train is passing. And once a question has been asked and it is before this House we cannot go back. This is a first announcement.

The second announcement relates to absence in the Assembly. On the last occasion I received a letter from Mrs. Arlette Perrine-Begu  informing me that she is leaving for abroad but unfortunately I received the letter on the same day. I had to go at the law. The law said that "the seat of a Member shall become vacant where without leave of the Regional Assembly he fails to attend any meetings of the Regional Assembly". At the time I received the letter, she was on the plane and she couldn't be informed that it is not the Chair who gives leaves but it is the Regional Assembly. But of course informing the Chairperson of absences is pertinent in many ways for the scheduling of sittings, ordinary and special sittings and for other ancillary matters such as Committee etc. this will be all by way of my announcement.

Thank you.

So, all items on the agenda have been exhausted. Now we can move for adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move that the Assembly be adjourned to Tuesday 18 December, 2007 at 10.30 a.m

Commissioner Mrs. Clair rose and seconded.

Mr. Chairperson: Question – that this Assembly be adjourned to Tuesday 18 December, 2007 at 10.30. Those in favour say “*ayes*” and those against say “*no*”.

Members: “*ayes*”

Mr. Chairperson: The “*ayes*” have it. No statement on adjournment. The House stands adjourned.

(At 2.05 p.m the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 18 December, 2007 at 10.30 a.m)

Written Answers

MALABAR GYMNASIUM

B/199 The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr. D. L. GUILLAUME) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports as regards the Malabar Gymnasium, could the Commissioner inform the House whether the shower tray, showers-bassins and toilets in the changing room are in good conditions and if not, what are being done to remedy this situation?

REPLY

Commissioner AGATHE:

- (a) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as the House is aware, one of the priority objective of my Commission is to provide and maintain adequate and up to standards sports infrastructures for the welfare of the Sports Committee. In this context, I have personally visited all these infrastructures recently, including the Malabar Gymnasium where I have noticed several shortcomings. At the Malabar Gymnasium, the shower tray, shower basins and toilets have been damaged as a result of their mis-utilisation.

The root of this problem is that there was no appropriate system in place to ensure the proper management of these infrastructures. This is what we have unfortunately inherited and to redress the situation, my Commission has set up a '*Comité de Gestion*' as per provision of section 26 (Part VI) of the Sports Act for the proper management of major sports infrastructure in Rodrigues, including the Camp du Roi stadium and the Malabar Gymnasium.

Priority consideration has first been given to repair damages and improve the conditions at the Camp du Roi stadium in the context of the celebration of Rodrigues Day 2007.

Presently, we are renovating the *Centre d'Accueil* at Malabar. Immediately after the completion of this renovation work, probably by the beginning of next month, we will start with the repair and upgrading of the Malabar Gymnasium with the collaboration of the Commission for Public Infrastructure. Meanwhile, the requirements are being determined to enable procurement procedures.

**CONSTRUCTION OF A REGIONAL AND CULTURAL LEISURE CENTRE
AT MONT PLAISIR**

B/200 **The Second Local Region Member (Mrs. L. Meunier) asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts and Culture** with regards to the construction of the Regional Cultural and Leisure Centre at Mt. Plaisir, could the Commissioner inform the House

- (a) whether the theatre forms part of the whole building, if yes
- (b) give the seating capacity of same; and
- (c) whether the seats are of required norms, if not to give the reasons thereof?

REPLY

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

- (a) Yes, the theatre forms part of the whole building.
- (b) The seating capacity is 220.
- (c) The seats are not of required norms because there is no security passage in the middle of the sitting arrangements. In addition, spaces between the rows of the seats are limited.

The reason, thereof, is due to the fact that there has not been a proper planning by the former Regional Government who initiated the project. Moreover, they have not taken into consideration the security aspect and welfare of the audience during any performance and show.

MARINE PROTECTED AREA

B/201 The Second Local Region Member (Mrs. L.C. MEUNIER) asked the Chief Commissioner with regards to the implementation of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) in the lagoon South of Rodrigues, could he state the outcome of the mission undertaken by a team of experts from 16 September to 02 October, 2007?

REPLY

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the team of experts recruited by the United Nation Development Programme effected their first mission in Rodrigues from 16 September to 02 October 2007.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the team of experts was composed of the following:

- (i) Ursula KALY – International Expert for the Resource Survey
- (ii) Emily HARDMAN – National Expert for Resource Survey
- (iii) Rebecca KLAUS – International Expert for Geographical Information System (GIS)
- (iv) Sharveen PERSAND – National Expert for Geographical Information System (GIS)
- (v) Gary PRESTON – International Fisheries Expert

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the team of expert recruited comprised specialist in Geographic Information System (GIS) in Fisheries, in Resource Survey. The works carried out during their mission are:

1. Identifying habitats present in the lagoon, important as management units because different resources and benefits may be derived from them;
2. Identifying any areas under stress (e.g eroding, damaged habitats, polluted areas) that may require special strategies;
3. Identifying areas of high productivity or of special interest ecologically;
4. Characterising the current fisheries and other benefits being derived from the lagoon and their status. This is important because overall productivity may have become compromised and strategies for generating greater benefits may be needed; and
5. Understanding the ecological and resource-use history of the lagoon.

A GIS map will be proposed for the area for preliminary discussion with the stakeholders in view of zoning and selection of No Take Areas where all activities would be prohibited.

On the other hand, the Fisheries expert will provide information, guidelines and adaptive measures for better management of the fisheries resources within the Marine Protected Area and extrapolated to Rodrigues at large.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the house that during their mission in Rodrigues, the team of experts identified the broad habitat types present in the proposed Marine Protected Areas and resources under stress, ecologically important areas and historical trends. A draft technical report has been tabled to the UNDP and will reach my Commission shortly.

9th EDITION OF FESTIVAL KRÉOL 2007

B/202 The Second Island Region Member (Mrs. J. Prosper) asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts and Culture as regard the 9th Edition of Festival Kréol 2007, could he state

- (a) the date and lieu of the opening and closing ceremony
- (b) the different activities to be organised; and
- (c) the participating countries for different activities?

REPLY

Deputy Chief Commissioner: As regard the 9th Edition of Festival Kreol 2007;-

- (a) The opening and closing ceremony will be performed at Baie Du Nord on 5 and 9 December 2007, respectively.
- (b) In the context of the 9th Edition of Festival Kreol 2007, the following activities will be organised:-

- (i) **Workshop for Artists**

A workshop will be organized from 1 to 4 December on the fabrication of different musical instruments such as local drums, mortars, stone mill – (moulin) and also on fine arts, sculpture and others. The workshop is meant for artists and will be organized at

the Regional Cultural and Leisure Centre as from 9.00 to 15.00 hours.

(ii) **Opening Ceremony**

On 5 December 2007, the Opening ceremony of the 9th Edition of the Festival Kreol 2007 will be held at Baie du Nord as from 13.00 to 21.00 hours. The event will be organized in close collaboration with the villagers of Baie du Nord.

(iii) **La Foire Artistique**

A sales exhibition will be organized on 6 December 2007 as from 9.00 to 16.00 hours at Port Mathurin

(iv) **Creole Gastronomy**

On 7 December 2007, "*une journée de degustation*" to promote la cuisine Creole at Port Mathurin will be held in Port Mathurin followed by a story telling night at l'Alliance Francaise as from 18.00 hours.

(v) **Regatta Competition**

On 8 December, a regatta competition will be held at Pointe L'herbe (Plaine Corail). In the afternoon, public will be invited to the Sega Tambour village at Le Chou as from 15.00 hours.

(vi) **Closing Ceremony**

A concert where artists from several islands will perform will be organized on 9 December 2007 to close the Festival at Baie Du Nord.

- (d) Several islands as Seychelles, Mauritius, Reunion, Comores, Mayottes and Tobago have been invited to participate in the festival.

Two steel drummers from Tobago and other officials of the Tobago House of Assembly will participate in the festival whereas participants from the other islands are still being awaited.

DRUGS CONTROL IN RODRIGUES

B/203 The Sixth Island Region Member (Mrs. J. PROSPER) asked the Commissioner for Health as regard drugs control in Rodrigues, would the Commissioner state

- (a) whether there is any master plan related to drug control in Rodrigues, if yes
- (b) what were the recommendations; and
- (c) where does matter stand?

REPLY

Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (a) The National Drug Control Master Plan for the Republic of Mauritius for 2004-2009 was formulated by a government core team consisting of:
 - (i) the Co-ordinator, Medical and Research Unit of NATReSA;
 - (ii) the President, Dr. Idrice Goomany Treatment Centre;
 - (iii) the consultant, De Chazal du Mée;
 - (iv) the National AIDS Co-ordinator of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life;
 - (v) Representatives of the Prime Minister's Office, Police and Financial Intelligence Unit.

The document which published in September, 2004 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) applied to Rodrigues as well as Mauritius. Many references in the Plan are made to Rodrigues specifically.

- (b) **The Action Plan proposed:-**

- (i) a supply reduction and demand reduction of drugs through:
 - the monitoring of passengers' movements and the entry and exit of drugs

- the combating of drug addiction and proliferation
 - the prevention, detection and repression of drug trafficking
 - a better control of licit drugs in pharmacies
- (ii) the enhancement of capacity building in the field of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS;
- (iii) the increase in the efficiency of the judiciary to deal with drug related cases and property tracking in such cases followed by asset forfeiture;
- (iv) the depenalisation of the possession of syringes;
- (v) the provision of information on licit and illicit drugs and HIV/AIDS to students of primary, secondary schools and the public at large;
- (vi) the promotion of drug-free working environment;
- (vii) the treatment and rehabilitation of victims of drug abuse;
- (viii) the sensitisation of legislators and public bodies on harm associated with injecting drug use.
- (c) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the December 2006 Report of CASR (Centre for Applied Social Research) draws attention to the High prevalence of cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption in Rodrigues and the use of hard drugs which is a relatively new phenomenon.

Steps have been intensified and diversified for a better control over the abuse of cigarette, alcohol and drugs in Rodrigues.

The main actions towards drug demand reduction include:-

- Regular public sensitisation campaigns throughout the island
- Frequent interventions on local radio during programmes on health in general and on the specific issues of alcohol, cigarette smoking and drugs
- Workshops on drug control for targeted groups e.g. students, youth, community leaders, parent teachers associations, women associations representatives

- Meetings with heads of families, teachers, medical and nursing staff
- Interaction with Police, Customs, Port/Airport Authorities and the Postal Services
- Regular meetings and monitoring by community health agents with village associations, families and individuals
- Interactive working sessions with men during special meetings and at their work places
- Frequent raids by Police leading to the destruction of substance, plants and subsequent prosecution in certain cases
- Rehabilitation of alcohol and drug addicts by CRAC Anti Drug Group with the financial assistance of Rodrigues Regional Assembly and NATReSA

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission and NATReSA have organised in July this year a workshop for the benefit of all local stakeholders in the preparation of draft proposals for a new National Drug Control Master Plan for 2008-2012. The recommendations of this workshop have been discussed in a 3 days workshop in Mauritius with other stakeholders and the overall recommendations have been consolidated in the Draft of the National Drug Control Master Plan for 2008-2012 which will be published in due course by the Prime Minister's Office.