

QUESTIONS - ORAL

LOW COST HOUSING UNIT

B/87 **The second Island Region Member for Baie aux Huitres (Mr. P. Francois)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Housing, with regards to low cost housing units built in Rodrigues under the supervision of the National Housing Development Co. Ltd (NHDC), we will state;-

- (a) the selling price of a unit to beneficiaries;
- (b) whether any unit has been given free of charge to any person;
- (c) if yes, the number thereof, the names of the beneficiaries, the criteria adopted for and the reasons thereof; and
- (d) whether the same policy will be applied to all those falling under the same criteria?

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson Sir,

- (a) I would like to inform the House that are two categories of NHDC housing units in Rodrigues and the selling price is as follows:
 - (i) The first category: a house with a septic tank at a cost of Rs 53,200
 - (ii) Category 2: a house without a septic tank at a cost of Rs 43,200
- (b) As regards to part (b) & (c), two units have been allocated free of charge to two persons on a purely humanitarian ground for a limited period. As a matter of privacy, the names of the beneficiaries will not be disclosed to the House. The two applications were considered as extreme hardship cases in view of their present lodging situation, emotional state and security of their children.
- (d) With regards to part (d), my Commission will consider any application on a case to case basis subject to a favorable recommendation from Network Support Services and approval of the Executive Council.

Mr. Francois: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask a supplementary question, if you allow me?

Mr. Chairperson: Yes.

Mr. Francois: The Commissioner mentions a limited period. Can he defines this limited period how long?

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Yes, limited period simply because as soon as these two beneficiaries would finalise the procedures for the divorce they would have to pay the cost of the house allocated to them.

Mr. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Commissioner how many units have been reserved for these persons under this category.

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have just explained, there are two beneficiaries, two units have been reserved and I have said, you must listen, I have said that any application will be considered on a case to case basis. If ever there is an application we is going to see and it depends on availability of these housing units.

Mr. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Commissioner, what is his policy concerning the extension of these houses being given that in some region rusted corrugated iron sheet are being adjusted to these housing using causing much deterrent to the environment.

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not aware of this situation, of this case, I am going to look into the matter.

Mr. Chairperson: No supplementary?

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know who referred these two cases to the Commission for housing and where did these persons lived up to then?

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there was a report from the Commission of Social Security, these two beneficiaries came to my office and then they were recommended by the Commission for Social Security and where these people lived as if have said as a matter of privacy, I cannot disclose these information.

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : I am sorry Mr. Chairperson Sir, I don't think that saying where these persons lived until then is a matter of privacy. When you disclose the name of persons and families, I may understand but saying which part of the island these persons lived you cannot say? No, it is not a matter of privacy, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and I want the Commissioner to disclose where these persons lived Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, these persons live in Rodrigues of course but one thing is that my policy is that I won't disclose any information. If you want to have more information, just come in my office you will have more information.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, What I can see is that the Commissioner is refusing scrutiny, as regard to the port folio that the respected Commissioner is holding and I think Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is very bad for this House and I think that..

Mr. Chairperson: This is question time, what do you think does not matter here. You put your question on facts.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: That is why I insist, that the person, I know that the person.. Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

Mr. Chairperson: You cannot insist on something. The Commissioner says this is privilege information, now you want to turn this House into a Court of Law so that I have to judge whether he is right or not. This is his answer, you know the Standing Order, you've been a Commissioner, if he has this privilege what can I do? You cannot engage in a matter of debate or not controversy on a question, you have other places to voice out. I agree with you, but these are the rule of the Assembly.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: On a point of Order, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Against me

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: : No, sorry but you have to wait, you have to wait on my point of Order, you cannot say that. This is not good the way you start this very first question.

Mr. Chairperson: We call it humour, yes proceed.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: If it is humour, I accept. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, What I want to know from you as a point of order, is what is disclosing a place somewhere in this country is privileged information according to the regulations.

Mr. Chairperson: This is a very good point. You know if you look information at the Hansard, you will see that the Ministers who introduced the Bill in the House in Mauritius stated that there is included in the Standing Orders provisions where the Commissioner can refuse to answer question on a matter of privilege and this privilege is his privilege. We cannot argue with the Commissioner when he says it is a matter of privilege. I do not have this power and nobody else in this House has this power. But you can comment on it, not in this House.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: One last supplementary question on my part on this issue Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know whether these two Commissions were involved in these two opaque cases whereby...

Chief Commissioner: Point of Order, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, opaque is a very grave accusation towards the Commissioner because opaque means “corrupted”, opaque means “under cover”, I won’t allow such words being used against Members of my Executive Council.

Mr. Chairperson: You want a ruling on this. Yes, I won’t give a ruling. I only draw the attention of all the Members that Standing Order 36 says that you can’t impute motives, improper.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have changed my word, but I am saying that for these obscure cases Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whereby information are not being given to the opposition, who have the right to question. I would like to know whether these two Commissions have made thorough enquiry and who made these enquiry in these cases to give this right to the Commissioner to take the responsibility to reserve these houses to persons supposedly for whom names cannot be disclosed in this House.

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would ask the Members to listen to the answers. I have said the policy will be adopted to any applicant on a case to case basis subject to a favorable recommendation from the Network Support Services, this means that we have the recommendation from the Network Support Services from the Commission for Social Security.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, last question

Mr. Francois: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Commissioner, he mentioned two mentioned two beneficiaries of extreme cases, I understand that these two beneficiaries can’t afford to pay the price of the housing unit. I should like to know from him whether any facilities have been offered to the other beneficiaries in term of loans from banking or any other institutions.

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is far from the main question. If the Member comes with a substantive question, I would answer.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question.

OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING AT LA FERME

B/88 **The Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres (Mr. P. Francois)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, with regards to the old post office building at La Ferme, will he state:-

- (a) the number of old iron sheets removed from the building;
- (b) whether the iron sheets have been disposed of, in the affirmative, by whom and how;
- (c) the names of the beneficiaries; and
- (d) table the acknowledgement receipt form signed by each beneficiary?

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (a) as regards to part (a) of the question, I am informed that sixty (60) old corrugated iron sheets of different length were removed from the old Post Office at La Ferme.
- (b) with regards to part (b), following request from the public, forty (40) sheets were disposed by two applicants under the supervision of Acting Chief Inspector.
- (c) with regards to part (c & d), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as a matter of privacy the name of the beneficiaries will not be disclosed to the House, and I am of the opinion that tabling the acknowledgement receipt form signed by each beneficiary is not ethical.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, public owner, public things, public goods are being given to the people in this country and this is taken as confidential. I would like to ask the Commissioner whenever these iron sheets are being given at La Ferme was the Acting Inspector in this?

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, of course. I am informed that the Acting Inspector was granted to the two applicant under the supervision of the Acting Chief Inspector and I would like to remind the respected Member that he is the Chairman of Public Accounts Committee if he wants to have these receipt, when the times comes he can ask for these receipts.

Mrs. Perrine-Begue: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are procedures which are established in the Government as regard to the disposal of goods especially old elderly. There are procedures for writing off; there are procedures which are being set for the executive to respect as a matter of transparency. How can the Commissioner come here Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on his behalf when there are already laws, just for the sake of being of a Commissioner, can he have the right to dispose of things disregarding the (FMM) procedures.

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the respected Member is wrong. She is completely wrong. As I have said all the procedures have been followed and the two applicants were granted these old iron sheets under the supervision of not a foreman, or Assistant Inspector, it is the Acting Chief Inspector.

Mr. N. Lisette: I would like to ask the Commissioner whether there was a public notice or a public communiqué to invite people for applying for these iron sheets.

Mr. Chairperson: Order please.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that the Commissioner is flouting the law of this country, I want him to tell me..

Mr. Chairperson: You cannot say that.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: I am sorry but this is what I deduct..

Mr. Chairperson: You cannot cast accusation like this unless you are prepared to substantiate and deposit document here.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, out of the way that the answer is being given you would agree with me that there scope for questions. There are scopes for a certain number of very deep and thorough investigations and that's why I want to know because the Commissioner has said everything has been done according to law and established regulations. I want him to tell me what does the (FMM) says as regard to the writing off of store procedures.

Chief Commissioner: This is a point of order. The Commissioner first has been a Commissioner, second she don't know the Standing Orders (FMM) is available at the Library everywhere, if you want to know what is the (FMM) you have just to consult it. It is in the Standing Orders that matters which are readily available, question can't be put what is in the (FMM). She expects the Commissioner to know what is the (FMM). If you want to know, you go out to the library and read. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, She is continuing to disrupt the proper proceeding of this House, they are insisting contrary to Standing Order 21(4) on questions that are being refused by the Commissioner. It is Standing Order 21 (4) you look and answer to a question cannot be insisted upon if an answer is refused by the Commissioner. This is power, privilege given to this side of the House. Please call these Members to order.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, there is a Point of Order, exceptionally I allow you to answer to this Point of Order. Only to this Point of Order, there is a Point of Order. If you want to respond to this Point of Order, o.k, it has become a basic in this House and of course the Standing Order says this clearly that for all matters that you can easily have for matters containing official documents, for matter which you have publications can't be a subject of a question. If you want me to really draw your attention, this will be Standing Order 19, sub section 2(c) which says that "*no question shall be asked seeking for information set forth in official publications statute books or accessible works of reference*" and in this case what the Chief Commissioner in his Point of Order says that the FMM, I mean the booklet, is an official book which is available. This is what he meant and on this point questions seeking for, provisions contains in this book cannot be allowed in this provision but of course if the Commissioner wishes to respond to it, he knows it by heart he can. But, I cannot allow this question because it is against the Standing Order.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Yes, as a matter of explanation, I just want to say Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wonder how the opposition was here such question as H51(i) was asked here and allowed. Such questions as to the meaning of *Chikungunya* was asked and allowed here in the House thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait. There is a point that I have to remind all Members. I didn't object to this question. But, there was a Point of Order whom I was called to rule and I stated earlier that if the Commissioner would wish to response to it then he or she can. What the imputation the Member wants to impute on me is that when she was a Commissioner, she agreed to respond and answer then in a sort of way. I had to intervene from and objecting that she answer the question. This I can't do. If you wilfully want to react or to respond to a question, what you want me to do. You should be fair in you reasoning and in your conclusion. You cannot cast aspersion on people like this. Yes, next question.

Mr. N. Lisette: I would like to know from the Commissioner the number of applications received by his Commission and the criteria set up for disposal of these iron sheets.

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have only brought only two for the time being, I take note, I will look for the information because I don't have these information right now.

Mr. Chairperson: Same Member next question please.

NAVIGATIONAL AIDS

B/89 **The Second Local Region Member of Baie aux Huitres (Mr. P. Francois)**
asked the Chief Commissioner, with respect to navigational aids installed at different places in Rodrigues, will he for the benefit of the House state:-

- (a) whether he is aware that some of these navigational aids are not functioning;
- (b) what measures have been taken to remedy this situation?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (a) The answer in the question part (a) is, yes. However, it has been reported that there have been several cases of vandalism on navigational aids and same have been repaired and reported to the Police. According to the Officer in charge, Marine Services all the navigational aids are in good condition except for the Barachois Channel. However, as a sea going person regularly, I have noticed that this is not the case and that more lights are not functioning. I have personally talked to the responsible person of the port and he has assured me that the replacement lights are arrived in Rodrigues and same has already been repaired.
- (b) As regards to part (b), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the House that navigational lights are regularly maintained by the staff of the Marine Services and Fisheries Protection Service and that we are considering the possibilities of replacing the solar system by electric ones where possible.

Mr. P. Francois: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner agreed that in fact some of these navigational aids are not functioning. I would like to know from him, since when?

Chief Commissioner: I don't have this information Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. P. Francois: I will take one case, the one which is found at Grand Pointe which is not functioning since mid February and the sad *épisode* of accident happened there..

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order please! Allow the Member to ask at least the question.

Mr. P. Francois: Since February 2007, during the visit of a series of cyclones. The one at Grand Pointe is not functioning since mid February and the sad episode happened there where two National Coast Guard were found lost. They were navigating in the dark approximately and found themselves at that point I mean Grand Pointe. And according to

my investigation, one told me that in his own language, Creole language "*difé Grand Pointe pa ti allimé*". I should like to know from the Chief Commissioner if he would take this as a matter of urgency.

Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I thank this Member for his interest in the security of persons at sea which I myself have put as a priority and officers at the Fisheries Protection Service are regularly questioned by myself about navigational aids. But allow me Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to enlighten the ignorance of the Members regarding the accidents which arrived at Grand Pointe. There is no co-relation Mr. Chairperson, Sir, officially between the accident which happened and the absence of navigational aids. The navigational aids are absent since long. Long before August 2006 Mr. Chairperson, Sir and may be the Member had never been on a modern rescue boat. The two rescue boats which were capsized Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can navigate in complete dark by themselves because they have what the Members perhaps they don't know GPS (Global Positioning System), a small screen where the path where they must follow is already traced Mr. Chairperson, Sir. So, there is no co-relation and it is false and malicious to say that because the lights at Grand Pointe were off this is what caused the accident because they had GPS and they have already traced the path to come back, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. What caused the accident?

Chief Commissioner: Were violent and exceptional tidal waves as we all know so it's very cheap to associate the absence of these lights to these accidents and I pray God that the families of these persons do not come aware of such malicious allegations Mr. Chairperson, Sir. They are laughing Mr. Chairperson, Sir but I can assure the House that we will ensure that all these lights function. But, I repeat the problem is that actually I have been told by the Fisheries Protection Service that it is quite impossible to carry out the work to repair them because of the rough sea.

Mr. Chairperson: Last supplementary.

Mr. Speville: I would like to know from the Chief Commissioner concerning the new light to be installed, what provision has been made concerning the colour of the illuminated light so that they differ from the colour of light outside houses, because sometimes fishermen get confused with the light of these illuminated lamps and those of houses.

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't know whether the Member has a recommendation for a type of light but I believe that these lights are guided by international standards Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have listened very carefully to the Chief Commissioner as I considered as always, I consider it as very serious and even dangerous Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when he says that before August 2006, there is no navigational aids in these strategic areas and he says that he is taking its time to convert these from solar to electric light. I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner if he knew about it. Why didn't he take a sort of temporary measures since life of people is in danger as we know as regard to

these navigational aids? Was he aware and why didn't he take the right decision quickly and how many time and for how long, will this process of conversion from solar to electric light will take? How many lives will we lose there Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The question if there have given some fault, if she don't know where is *Grand Pointe*, the distance at Grand Pointe is from the shore to take an electric cable to there. It is about 5 - 6 kilometres out offshore. It will not be proper according to me to take certification that has electric cable going there. For electric cable, we are speaking of the channel Mr. Chairperson, Sir. If my sea experience is good, *Grand Pointe* is not a "*passe*", *Grand Pointe* is just for indicating the reef it is Grand Basin which is the "*passe*" to enter at sea. The allegation comes again false. The allegation from the respected member from the local region number 4 is false because if he believes that *Grand Pointe* is a "*passe*" he is wrong. Grand Pointe is not a "*passe*". What I can say that this is a priority but very often Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it depends on many conditions as I told you for the port necessary measures had already taken to ensure that the refund are made as regards the other areas the ex-members of the Executive Council are fully aware that these we have recurrent problem with these and that there are act of vandalism and very often these are damaged by bad weather conditions, very strong winds and very strong waves. So, we will have to repair it and we are giving priority to the reparation of these navigational aids and I don't think that question of putting different light arise because it is not me who decide, it is international standard who says what type of light, so what colour, what size, what type of flash we have to put, thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, same Member.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNIT

B/90 **The local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres (Mr. P. Francois)** asked the Commissioner responsible for the Environment, with regards to the Solid Waste Management Unit operating under the Environment Unit, will he state for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) the policy of the Regional Government in relation to Solid Waste Management Unit; and
- (b) the number and names of officers of the Solid Waste Management Unit and their respective grades?

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, further to the swearing in of the new Executive Council and the assignment of the subject of Environment to me, one of the priorities was to carry out an audit on the strengths and weaknesses of the Environment

Unit. One of the major weaknesses of the Environment Unit was the poor output of the Solid Waste Management Unit. There was an urgency to create an Environment Unit that works and not one with so many units that in the end become uncontrollable. Therefore, with the approval of the Executive Council, the unit was dismantled and the works reorganized.

In that respect, the works supposed to be carried out by the Enforcement Officers were split among the officers of *Police de l'Environnement*, the Technical Officer and the Inspector of Works.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a team has been set up under the supervision of the Inspector of Works to clean areas not covered by *La Voirie Ltee*, so as to ensure their proper cleaning. All enforcement duties have been taken care of by the *Police de l'Environnement*. The waste collection component is being supervised by the Technical Officer.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, presently there is only one Environment Unit with one Officer in Charge under whom falls several officers with each their schedule of duties. The Technical Officer has been assigned the schedule of overlooking the solid waste component including the supervision of the staff falling under him.

The role of the Solid Waste Management Section is to:-

- supervise and monitor waste contractors;
- to ensure regular waste collection programme in remote villages by government services;
- ensure regular cleaning of public beaches and places;
- deal with application for Waste Carrier's Licences.

As far as waste management is concerned my Commission also deals with the issuing of permits to private individuals for the collection of scraps metal for recycling purposes. We strongly believe that mass sensitization programmes through the media and involvement of school children will create more awareness on environmental cleaning and in this respect more frequent cleaning campaigns are being organized with the collaboration of different stakeholders and even Members of the minority groups.

- (b) As regards to part (b) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, presently, the Solid Waste Management Unit is being headed by the Technical Officer and five Gangmen as regard to immediate supervision.

The responsibilities are listed below:-

- (i) Three Gangmen for supervision of workers posted at beaches/public places for cleaning purposes.
- (ii) 1 Gangman responsible for a mobile team for cleaning of beaches/public places and other urgent matters related to solid waste.
- (iii) 1 Gangman for supervision of waste collection by government vehicles.

Mr. Chairperson: next question.

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : Sorry one supplementary question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. According to the Regulations of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly "*Waste Carriers and Dumping Regulations 2005*" provides for Enforcement Officer to carry out measurement of lorries applying for waste carrier licence and this previous processing, process Enforcement Officers by local government before the coming into force of this actual Regional Government. Now that there are no more Enforcement Officers posted at the unit who are supposed to process these applications, are there any application for Lorries to carry waste?

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: We, the new Government we have a new policy, but according to the Regulation, the Member is referring to, as per the Regulation the authorised officer means the Enforcement Officer, or any officer any public officer designated by the Commissioner. So, the work which was previously carried out by the Enforcement Officers is now carried out by the public officer who is rather the Technical Officer from the Environment Unit.

Mr. N. Lisette: If I refer to the contract given to *La Voirie*, the supervision of the work was supposed to be done by Enforcement Officers and now we have got dismantlement whereby there is only one ...

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a hypothetical question where is referring to *La Voirie* which is far from the original question. You can't come here and make hypothetical question make hypothesis.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, you've understood the point.

Mr. N. Lisette: He did mention *La Voirie* in his speech, in his answer. This is why I am talking on it to come to my main question.

Mr. Chairperson: May be you can ask your question straight forward, but I am explain just how to support your question..

Mr. N. Lisette: Yes just to support the question intelligently I would like to make a sentence or two. I was saying that according to the contract given to *La Voirie*, the supervision of collection of waste is to be done by Enforcement Officers. There has been dismantlement and now we have only one Technical Officer who is supervising the job and I believe that it is being done only during weekend against payment of overtime. Is it the case Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer is no.

Mr. N. Lisette: Then, I would like to ask the Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is he satisfied with the way supervision is being done as regard to the collection of waste.

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as far as the supervision, yes I am satisfied. But as far as the contract is concerned, I am not satisfied because it is the previous Government who gave the contract. I am not satisfied with that.

Mr. P. Francois: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have a question.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, last question time is up

Mr. P. Francois: I would like to know from the Commissioner who is responsible to certify payment to private contractors in respect of the collection of waste and cleaning.

Mr. Chairperson: No, this is not allowed. Yes, next question.

FACILITIES OFFERED TO COMMISSIONERS

B/91 The First Local Region Member for Grande Montagne (Mrs. F. G. Pierrelouis) asked the Chief Commissioner with regards to facilities offered to Commissioners will he state:-

- (a) the number of portable computers (laptops) purchased by each Commissioner for their own use and the cost of each;
- (b) the number of mobile phones purchased for each Commissioner and the cost of each;
- (c) the number of subscriptions taken by each Commissioner for the provision of satellite TV in their office?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I am submitting a list showing the number of Laptop, Computers and Mobile Phones and cost of these items of equipment purchased by each Commissioner for their own use. (APPENDIX I)

Chief Commissioner: As regard to part (c) of the question, I am proud to inform the House that my office is the only office, one to have taken a subscription for the provision of satellite TV has been taken.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know first of all if you would allow me to ask the Clerk to submit these information very quickly so that we may react, thank you. I would like to ask to Chief Commissioner whether it is in order, that satellite dishes are being bought with public funds for the pleasure and the own use of the Chief Commissioner?

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: For what purpose is it used?

Mr. Chairperson: No, you cannot say that. You can ask for what use! Yes the last part of it has not been allowed. The Commissioner has to rephrase it, but you want to respond.

Chief Commissioner: I am prepared to answer to such ridiculous question. First of all Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have not purchased the dish and any other thing. The office has not purchased the dish, when you subscribe to satellite TV, you subscribe don't buy the dish itself, this is one thing, the Government has not bought the dish, the Government has subscribed at my request for this.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am a person personally, person as a Chief Commissioner who wants to be aware of what is going on in the world, what is going on in the national level, what is going on at the local level and information is *something sacré pour moi Monsieur le Président*, and I want to be informed of what is going on. Imagine Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a *Tsunami*, should I rush to the neighbour at Port Mathurin to put on the information to see what is going on! Imagine the Prime Minister goes on a private radio to make a Statement regarding Rodrigues. Would I rush to Mr. X in Port Mathurin to listen to this? This is very pitiful Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at the time of the information age where internet, where ADSL is present in all officers and where all ministerial officers in Mauritius have a satellite tv. It is not a question of pleasure Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't waste my time sitting at my office watching this. I have to answer Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because it is very ridiculous, such ridiculous accusation on me saying that I am spending my time watching it. This is not the case, I put on the satellite TV to watch information and whenever there is need to know what is going on in the world because I am a politician, I am in Government, information is important for me and for us and I have given instruction that unless I approve, no other Commissioner will have access to this service.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what I see is ridiculous.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, you cannot respond to that well.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: o.k. I rephrase my question. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, does the Chief Commissioner consider this as ridiculous that people are living the country for not having a job here and at the same time these people..

Mr. Chairperson: No, he did not say that. Please wait, please wait. He did not say with regard to the word he use as "**ridiculous**", it is a word which you use, which I unfortunately hadn't time to stop you, this what he is response and he was warned for that, this is the end of the matter. We will not go on like this chasing each other for un-parliamentary words. This is what I say, if you want to respond and then he is going to respond and then! Let's go forward and ask the question, if you can rephrase of course. Last one.

Mrs. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Chief Commissioner, whether for the acquisition of the Laptops there has been tendering procedures?

Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question same member.

Mrs. F. G.Pierre Louis: B/92

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, there is a question. Order, please! Well, there is a question coming from here, there should be an answer.

AUCTION SALES

B/92 The First Local Region Member for Grande Montagne (Mrs. F. G.PIERRE LOUIS) asked the Chief Commissioner, as regard to the auction sale carried out by the Central Administration on or around the 22nd May 2007, will he

- (a) state the time at which the auction sale was scheduled to start;
- (b) state whether the auction sale actually started earlier than the time published. In the affirmative, why and who gave the instruction for same;
- (c) table a copy of the press notice of the sale; and
- (d) table a list of items sold together with their "prix de reserve", the actual price sold and the names of the buyers?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to the auction sale carried out by the Central Administration on or around the 22 May 2007. The auction sale regarded unserviceable items and I confirmed it was held on 23 May and it started at 10.00 hours as specified in the communiqué.

Chief Commissioner: I am tabling a copy of the communiqué and a list with the particulars asked for at part (d) of the question. **(APPENDIX II)**

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, circulate.

Mr. S. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I assist the auction sale and it started at 9.30.

Mr. Chairperson: Question to Chief Commissioner.

Mr. S. Roussety: The auction sale started at the marine services car park. The Chief Commissioner stated that it started at 10.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairperson: You have understood the question.

Chief Commissioner: Yes, I think I understand but his English is not very good he is very new to this House.

Mr. Chairperson: No, you should not use offensive language against him, please no use, it is offensive.

Chief Commissioner: It is a fact.

Mr. Chairperson: No, even then it is not in this House to say that.

Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know may be I can ask a question **(gaps on cassette)**

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether he is aware that there are a very large public perception that there is a sort of mafia behind this unserviceable...

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait, you stop I stop you. You know why I stop you so proceed. You want me to react to this. This is not allowed this question. This is not the proper object of the question. See your Standing Order, if you ask a question it should be a matter of fact. But can't ask question about public perception. You can't ask question about mafia whatever, these are offensive, imputation, allegation you know that. Please wait she is going to reframe her question.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: I would ask the Chief Commissioner if he doesn't have the information now.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: If he can give it to the House the names of those persons who successfully bought these unserviceable item because it seems that it is always the same persons and there are perceptions like I've said that there may be favours or favoritisms which is on the way of these procedures.

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have submitted the information to this House, it has been tabled and circulated, may be the Member have not yet found it, but I can give the information. The name of the persons you will see the different items he have bought there is one, Mr. Rommel Meunier, one Ricardo Ah keng, one Jean Claude Roussety, one Premier Wesley, Jean Marc Ithier, Luc Tan Wee, Patrick Guillaume, Rommel Meunier, Narex Perrine all these people are in the mafia *n'est ce pas*, Narrex Perrine again, Jocelyn Roussety, Dickclair Auguste, Moostapha Jeetoo, Richarno Ah Keng, John Wayne Parmasse, Christian Casimir, Réo Tan Wee, Desiré Madanamootoo, Antonio Jolicoeur, Bruno Capdor, Jean Claude Roussety, Jocelyn Roussety, France C.V. Pierre Louis.

Mr. Chairperson: My name as well.

Chief Commissioner: I don't know Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I don't think your name. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if the Member thinks that all these persons who have bought these forms a mafia; I would invite her to go to the police.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes the question about mafia has not been asked.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether as these names which have been spelt out, he considers that the majority of these persons are not all of them on the list ex-campaign persons, *gros bras* and agents of the actual Government in front of us.

Chairperson: Please do not respond to this. This is not allowed next question, please.

MEDICAL SPECIALIST POSTED IN RODRIGUES

B/93 The First Local Region Member for Grande Montagne (Mrs. F. G. Pierre Louis) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health, with regards to Medical specialists posted in Rodrigues, could he

- (a) state the number of Medical specialists posted and to be posted on full time basis for the period January 2007 to December 2007;

- (b) state the number of Medical specialists posted and to be posted on a monthly basis for the same period; and
- (c) table a breakdown of the expenditures for those on monthly basis for the period January 2007 to June 2007?

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer to part (a) of the question is two (2) and for part (b) the answer is 50 and part (c) is being tabled. (APPENDIX III)

Mrs. F. G. Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, given that the cost for those Medical Specialist posted on a monthly basis is very high. Can the Commissioner for Health inform the House what are the measures he is going to take to remedy this situation.

Commissioner EMILIEN: No measures are going to be taken Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because I was waiting for this question. In fact the increase in the amount spent for these specialist is being explained by the fact that there was only two specialists posted to Rodrigues prior to the coming into operation I must said, into the power of *Movement Rodriguais*, the Regional Government. As from July 2006, two additional Specialists have been posted to Rodrigues and we insisted on that they had only two Specialist posted to Rodrigues prior to July 2006 namely in the field of Pediatric and General Surgeon. So, this increase in the expenditure is explained by the increase in the number of specialist. Gynaecologist aids on and off, not on a regular basis, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that why there is an increase in the amount of money spent for these specialist.

Mr. Chairperson: Next Question, please.

AGRICULTURAL PROJECT AT MONTAGNE CHERI

B/94 The First Local Region Member for Grande Montagne (Mrs. F. G. Pierre Louis) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, with regards to Agricultural projects in the village of Montagne Cheri will he

- (a) inform the House whether there has been any request for the rearing of goats in the same village;
- (b) in the affirmative, could he state whether his Commission gave its approval;
- (c) state the name(s) of the promoter(s), the date the relevant permit was granted;
- (d) state the area to be occupied by the same project; and
- (e) whether the views of the Forestry Division were sought?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (a) With regards to part (a) the answer is yes.
- (b) As for (b) my Commission has not yet approved any project concerning goats rearing in the village of Montagne Cheri.
- (c) For (c) no permit has up to now been granted.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards (d) I wish to inform the House that the area to be allocated for any agricultural project is determined and approved by Project Committee which has been set up by my Commission.

Furthermore, a representative of the Forestry Services forms part of the Agricultural Project Committee.

Mrs. F. G. Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, actually there are people occupying a very large area in Montagne Cheri rearing goats. *Est ce que le Commissaire est au courant que dans ce fence area there are endemic plants.*

Je suis pas au courant d'aucune information concernant des endémiques plantes dans un fence area. However, I would like to inform the House that I have been informed that one Mrs. Rosemay POTIRON has fenced an area of 3562 square metre at Montagne Cheri, Tammes. A concrete set has already been erected within the fence area and some goats are being reared using the cut and carry system farming. The case has been referred to the appropriate authority for necessary actions.

Mr. Chairperson: Next Question

PROCESSING OF OCTOPUS

B/95 **The fifth Island Region Member (Mr. Roussety)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Environment, as regard the processing of octopus activity carried out by Yan Sea Marketing Ltd at Pointe Monier, could he state

- (a) whether complaints were made by the inhabitants of Pointe Monier to his Commission; and
- (b) whether any visit was effected there, by whom and the report thereon?

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson Sir, as regard to part (a) of the question the answer is no and since the first part of the answer is no the second part of the answer also is no.

Mr. Chairperson: And the third part is it (a) (b) (c) No, sorry it is alright.

Mr. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson Sir, is the Commissioner aware that there is pollution at the said place at Pointe Monier.

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I am not aware first of all. The respected Member has to be precise and tell me about the pollution and he as a Rodriguan, he has the right to go and complaint but since there has been no complaint I don't know why he is asking this question.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson Sir, the point raised by the Commissioner here saying that he is not aware is a direct consequence of the dismantlement of the Enforcement Unit. This is a direct consequent Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: So, this is a debate.

(Interruptions)

Mr. N. Lisette: Being given Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the question is being raised here will the Commissioner cause or invite his officers to go there for inspection.

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if there is any complaint, I think it is the duty to go and attend the complaint of course. They are going to attend.

Mr. N. Lisette: There is an activity going on over there, whenever there is an activity going on over there should be a licence that has been given. When giving a licence there should be inspection of sanitary officers. Has it been the case Mr. Chairperson.

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer is yes of course but according to the question. The question talks about complaints made by inhabitants of Pointe Monier, there has been no complaint why are you talking about sanitary officers, of course they go there.

Mr. N. Lisette: So the Commissioner admits Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that there have been visits by the sanitary officers. I would like to know what has been the report?

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, first of all sanitary officers do not fall under my Commission. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is very far from the main question. You have been talking about complaints made by inhabitants, of course the officer they do go there. It is their job, they have to go there and if you come later with supplementary questions I am going to answer.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question.

Mr. S. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, another supplementary question, please

Mr. Chairperson: Last one, please.

Mr. S. Roussety: Is the Commissioner aware that there is a processing food plant there about octopus.

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I know, he knows, everybody knows that it is a processing company, of course.

Mr. S. Roussety: Is the preliminary environment report obtained for that.

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: The answer is yes

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, next question.

Mr. S. Roussety: To submit my point I am producing a photo informing the House that there is waste water going to the sea without the processing of this water.

Mr. Chairperson: So, this is question time, you agree. Question time is that you should ask a question and obtain an answer. And you agree as well that it is not a debate and you cannot sustain any point. You have to ask question, get answers, so you cannot answer or give any part of the answer to the question. Yes, ask a question. It is only through questions. I agree with you they may have a point. You cannot table papers like this. Next question.

UPGRADING OF ROAD OF POINTE LA GUELE

B/96 **The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr. Roussety)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, as regard to the upgrading of the road project from Pointe La Gueule to Baie Malgache will he state

- (a) the estimated amount of basaltic rocks and earth that is being excavated during the implementation of the project;
- (b) where the excavated basaltic rocks and excavated earth have been disposed of; and
- (c) whether there has been an Environmental Impact Assessment for this project?

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I am informed that with regards to the upgrading of road project from Pointe La Gueule to Baie Malgache that:-

- (a) the amount of basaltic rocks and earth that has been excavated is about 3500 m³
- (b) the excavated basaltic rocks and earth were temporarily stacked at Pointe La Gueule and has been used as follows:-
 - (i) for the consolidation and the foundation of *radiers* along the coastal road from Pointe La Gueule to Baie du Nord.
 - (ii) The construction of an access road at Fond La Bonté leading to the Gros Maman dam.
 - (iii) levelling of reclaimed area at Baie du Nord and consolidation of existing retaining wall of the area.
- (c) As regard to part (b), part (c) rather of this question, as per part (b) of the first schedule of the Environment Protection Act (EPA) 2002, upgrading of road is not an undertaking requiring an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA). Therefore the question of carrying an EIA does not arise.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, any supplementary.

Mr. S. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a supplementary question, according to Regulation made of the Environment Protection Act 2002, upgrading of roads needs an Environment Impact Assessment. Modification of the existing coastal line such as which beach profiling coastal protection work and removal of basaltic rock.

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Mr. Chairperson Sir..

Mr. Chairperson: You have understood the question first.

Commissioner GRANDCOURT: Yes, I am talking about the EPA, I would like to invite the Member as per part (b) of the first schedule of the (EPA) Environment Protection Act, there is a list and among the list there is upgrading of road doesn't require an EIA.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, next question.

VEHICLE 4X4 DOUBLE CAB 8 RRA

B/97 **The fifth Island Region Member (Mr. Roussety)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, with regards to vehicle 4x4 Double Cab 8 RRA 04 attached to the Chief Commissioner, will he

- (a) state whether the above mentioned vehicle met with an accident on or about 12 May 2007;
- (b) state whether the vehicle was reported for repairs at the Mechanical Workshop;
- (c) table a copy of the Proforma Accident Form and explain the circumstances of the accident;
- (d) state who was driving the vehicle at the time of accident;
- (e) state whether there was any passenger in the vehicle at the time of accident;
- (e) state the date and time on which the accident was reported to the police; and
- (f) table the cost of repairs of the vehicle?

Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson Sir, with your permission I would answer this question because the vehicle falls under my office and this is the responsibility of my office to answer:-

- (a) According to available record it is confirmed that vehicle 8 RRA 04 which is used by myself was damaged on 12 May 2007. The vehicle was not involved in an accident as per the Road Traffic Act.
- (b) The vehicle was sent to the Mechanical Workshop for repairs on 14 May 2007, the repair was completed on 18 May 2007 and the front bumper, fender arc, Halogen lamp and over-ride bumper were replaced.

Regarding paragraph (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) driver Jean Claude PLAICHE explained that while he was entering my yard at Accacia his vehicle collided with a wall while he attempted to avoid my dog whose name is Alpha, Mr. PLAICHE was alone in the vehicle when the accident happened.

According to the Road Traffic Act it is not required to report the incident to the Police and it has not been reported on my advice. However, the driver did report the incident to the Transport Superintendent on the following Monday. I am tabling copies of the Proforma Accident Form and details on cost of the repairs. **(APPENDIX IV)**

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what does the Chief Commissioner mean, when he says that effectively the vehicle was damaged but that it was not according to the Traffic Act? Can he be more precise on this issue?

Chief Commissioner: The Road Traffic Act states that accidents which must be reported to the police are road accidents Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and as far as I know my yard at Accacia is not a road.

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, does the Chief Commissioner mean if there is an accident and somebody happens to die somewhere in a place which is not under his understanding of the road, this road accident must not be recorded, must not be brought to the police and the person going death must not be stopped at civil status.

Chief Commissioner: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I mean damage to vehicle. I never said that whenever there is death of persons, everybody knows that whenever there is death, be it damage to vehicle, a person in a vehicle, it is damaged when it is not on the road and it should not be reported. This is a misinterpretation Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner said that his driver or one Driver, Mr. PLAICHE, made his report to the Transport Supervisor only some days afterwards. Why didn't he do it before that and what was this critical element which made this Driver to finally come back to reason and abide to procedures in the Government?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is first of all the Transport Superintendent. Secondly, the accident happened on a Saturday night, therefore we could not go and wake up the Transport Superintendent and the Driver had to wait for the following Monday, if my memory is good for declaring this accident to his supervisor.

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : Is it not true Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the ICAC came to interview the same driver on the same issue, and that he refused to make a statement or to accept to take this responsibility?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is the constitutional right of a person to refuse to make statement to the ICAC or any law enforcement body, where is the problem?

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is it not true that it is in fact the Chief Commissioner himself who was drunk who finally damaged personally that vehicle and coerced the Transport Supervisor to a sort, makes a particular arrangement with this driver, who at first instance was not agreeable to accept to take this responsibility.

Commissioner EMILIEN: May I answer Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait no need to make a Point of Order. Well, it is cardinal in this House that the Standing Order has to be applied. You've been a Commissioner, you know all these Standing Order I believe. You have taken a tendance till this morning, I have given to you a lot of flexibility, you kept on saying things that are unparliamentary, allegations, accusations, now as if you can say whatever you wish in the Assembly! It cannot be a question, how can you say it is a question. If is willing to answers so there is no need for me to be here, then. You cannot accuse a person there was under cover, the Chief Commissioner was drunk what is this? I am not going to accept this any longer and by all means if you have a pertinent question to make with conformity to the rules, please do so.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my first because I have a number of small subsidiary questions to be able to arrive to what I said and in another terms I would like to know if it was really Mr. PLAICHE, the driver who damaged that vehicle?

Mr. Chairperson: Please one question at a time and I will give you the opportunity. The first question, you've got it?

Chief Commissioner: Yes, may I repeat Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The Member is not here, driver Jean Paul PLAICHE explained that while he was entering the yard of the Chief Commissioner at Accacia, the vehicle collided with a wall while he attempted to avoid a dog passed in front of him.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, so is it true that the driver has been coerced to give and to make such a Statement?

Mr. Chairperson: There is no need to respond to that type of question, yes rephrase again

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Did the driver give that statement by his own will Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

Chief Commissioner: I don't know Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the person to answer is the driver.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: I am coming to interpretation because the Chief Commissioner has been under legal interpretation of "Road Traffic Act", can the Chief Commissioner said whether the "Traffic Act" caters for other types of consideration for classifications of accidents on different types of road.

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait we are not a Court of Law so that the type interpretation. But through my experience as lawyer the "Road Traffic Act" covers accident on a road and I don't want to subside to the view of the Chief Commissioner but a private yard is not a road under the law.

Next question, the Member please.

RENOVATION OF QUARTERS

B/98 **The fifth Island Region Member (Mr. Roussety)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, whether as regard to the renovation of quarters A2, A35, A36, 5A and 5B at Creve Coeur would he for the benefit of the House state

- (a) whether any tender has been launched for the renovation of same;
- (b) the names of the tenderers and the amount quoted;
- (c) the name of the successful bidder; and
- (d) the scope of works to be carried out?

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir..

Mr. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Point of Order. This question has been addressed to the Commissioner for Public Infrastructure.

Mr. Chairperson: Pease wait, please wait. The transfer of questions rests with Commissioners. This is the role ..

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order, please, Chief Commissioner. It can't be o.k, this is word which should be used. This is word that should not be used, please.

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with your permission I will answer this question. These Quarters namely A2, A35, A36, 5A and 5B found around the premises of Queen Elizabeth Hospital have been entrusted to the Commission for Health for use by visiting medical specialists.

As refer to part (a) of the question, no tender has been launched for the renovation of the abovementioned quarters and consequently, the replies to (b) (c) and (d) do not arise.

However, I have to inform the House that three small contracts for less than Rs 20,000 each and totalling Rs 55,000 have been awarded for the upgrading and renovation of those quarters for use as guest houses for visiting specialists.

The works included of:

- Removal of vinyl and laying of tiles;
- Painting of buildings (interior and exterior);
- Repairs to water supply network and electrical installations;
- Fencing and cleaning of premises;
- Disposal of waste; and
- Upgrading of toilets.

The works had to be carried out urgently to accommodate two visiting medical specialists who were expected on 14 July 2007 and I must inform the House that these two medical specialists are in fact in Rodrigues and they have been posted in these guest houses.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as per the information given by the Commissioner for Health, this is a direct split tendering, the Tender has been so arranged so that the different prices are below Rs 20, 000. This is a direct case of split. May I know from the Commissioner, who are those persons who obtained these contracts?

Commissioner EMILIEN: Of course Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I can give the respected Member the names of those persons. Before giving the names of those persons, I must inform the House that my Commission contacted one Joseph Abraham BERNARD, a registered contractor with the Commission for Public Infrastructure who has been carrying out jobs for works of the Government for the past fifteen years. As Mr. BERNARD was in Mauritius, he advised us to contact the supervisors of his company to do petty things at these guest houses and the name of these three persons are: I will not only give you the names of the persons, I will give you also the works assigned to each of them.

- (a) Mr. Louice CASIMIR was awarded the contract for the removal of vinyl and laying of tiles for Rs 18,000;
- (b) Mr. Jean Ricardo LERASSE, Rs 19, 0000 for cleaning of premises, fencing and waste disposal; and
- (c) Mr. Aurel CASIMIR Rs 18,500 for painting, electrical and water network repairs.

Mr. N. Lisette: I would like to know Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to the different quarters as the Commissioner rightly put it, there has been small contracts sent for doing the work. May I know, how many of these small contracts being sent to the contractors? I mean the small tenders are being sent, to how many contractors which are registered to the Commission for Public Infrastructure?

Commissioner EMILIEN: of course Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't have this information ready but if the Member would come later with a question I can answer the question.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know whether departmental quotations were sent? May be we don't know how many but according to procedures if there are no tender, there are departmental quotations which should be issued to registered and well established people. So, I would like to know if these procedures have been followed?

Commissioner EMILIEN: As far as my information is concerned Mr. Chairperson, Sir, normal procedures have been followed because these people have already performed some minor works for different Commissions before doing these works.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, This is not in order! I would like the Commissioner to state here whether or no, the procedures according to the (FMM).. He cannot come here and said that he doesn't know about it, because Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I was listening very carefully and the person said that his Commission contacted one contractor, one person who usually work. This is not the way that things should be done nowadays. Things should be done in a way of transparency and according to Regulations.

That's why Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that contacting a contractor is not in order, this is one thing and like it has been spelt out by the Commissioner and secondly he must say because he has his related advisers here, departmental quotations ..

Mr. Chairperson: If he doesn't want to say, what can I do? Yes, but put a question.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: I have put a question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: You put the question again.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: I think he has understood the question, he was ready to.

Mr. Chairperson: No, you cannot make a speech and then you want him to react? This is debate.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Yes, I am rephrasing my question. I was reacting on something which is gross misconduct. But then, I am saying that misconduct in the duties of the Government but I excuse myself if I have extended myself.

Mr. Chairperson: Proceed

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Just as you said thing should be said in a certain way that when the question is put the people understand it clearly. As I said contacting is not correct, if it is not a tender there should be departmental quotations. Somebody asks how many you don't

know! But at least can you say whether it has been done properly, that is departmental quotations issued?

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, It would seem to me that the respected Member doesn't listen to the answer. I just said according to information I have these procedures have been followed. You have to listen.

Mr. Chairperson: Order please.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to raise a point.

Mr. Chairperson: There is a point what a Point of Order? Be careful you always make a speech. You don't want to make a debate yet? Put your question.

Mr. N. Lisette: There are persons who are not Members of this House, who are somehow disrupting the good functioning of ...

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait, please wait.. The Sergeant at Arm I have not noticed anything the Sergeant at Arm will keep a watch. Are you satisfied? Yes, proceed! Any question?

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know who advised the Commissioner on Mr. BERNARD and whether the engineer was contacted concerning the issuing of departmental warrant to the other contractors who have more than fifteen years experience registered at the Commission of the Public Infrastructure?

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order please! Answer

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I said earlier, the work had to be carried out urgently to accommodate two visiting Medical Specialists who were expected on 14 July 2007. I must inform the House that Medical Specialist have complained about the fact that they would no longer be accommodated in hotels. Their Trade Union has met officials of the Ministry of Health in Mauritius and agreements have been reached on the following:-

"The Medical Specialist would henceforth be accommodated in guest houses. The guest houses have to be provided with all facilities e.g telephone, refrigerator, washing machine etc and other facilities"

So, although the fact that recently your colleague the Local Region of Grande Montagne just said that according to her the amount spent on board and lodging is too high. This is one of the measures I have taken to decrease the amount of money spent on board and lodging.

So, henceforth all visiting Specialist would be accommodated in these quarters. As the two Specialist as I said Dr. Abdoolatif and Dr. OOGARAH, arrived on Saturday last 14 July so we had to do the work quickly. So, if we have to take time to launch tender, to wait for... we have been requested to put these Doctors in hotels and these cost us Rs 60, 000 per month, per Doctor. So, we can't afford this Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that why we have granted these small contracts totaling Rs 55, 000. May be you've heard 55 millions it is Rs 55, 000, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Commissioner why the other contractors registered, as a matter of transparency why the other contractors registered to the Commission of Public Infrastructure were not contacted.

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, not only one people have been contacted. May be the respected Member has not listen carefully to the answer, three persons have been contacted. Three persons for small contracts of Rs 18, 000 because we had an urgent job to do. I don't see where there is a problem.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, like we agreed that procedures must be followed for whatever sum up to Rs 20, 000, there are procedures which are set. So, I would like to know Mr. Chairperson, Sir, among those persons who have received these privileged small contracts, there are people who are living in concubine or who are spouses of people here in this House, Members?

Commissioner EMILIEN: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as far as I know I am not aware of this. May be she could enlighten us, with whom these people ...

Mr. Chairperson: No, no. this is not the time. Please you don't do that.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: In the light of these questions set out, I would like to ask the Commissioner to submit, he say that he doesn't have the information, he has given the name of those who have successfully won those contracts which are not according to procedures, he said however he doesn't know about the procedures that was carried out, but he said that it has been done according to procedures. So, I would like him to submit to the House the names of those Companies or those contractors, companies to which or contractors to whom these departmental quotations were issued, please.

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Member is insisting that I informed the House that no procedures has been followed. But in fact this is not true; I informed the House that all procedures have been followed. I don't know why the Member is insisting on the fact that I have said that no procedures have been followed. I said earlier that three contractors have been allocated these three small contracts if you need some further information; you just come with a substantive question, I will be glad to give you the related information.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please

BUDGET ALLOCATED FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/2007

B/99 **The First Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mrs. A. Perrine-Begue)** asked the Chief Commissioner, as regard the budget allocated to Rodrigues for the financial year 2006/2007, can the Chief Commissioner inform the House of

- (a) the revised expenditure under both the Recurrent and Capital provisions at the closure of the financial year in June last; and
- (b) table the actual expenditure Commission-wise under each individual item as at June 2007?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would make a statement on the Budget out turn for financial year 2006/2007 later today.

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not agree. I want the Chief Commissioner to answer to the question, because we have substantive question to ask to him and he well knows that statements will not allow us to ask questions.

Chief Commissioner: With your permission Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I shall make the statement now if you allow me.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, we cannot disrupt the question time for this.

Chief Commissioner: It is not long Mr. Chairperson Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Even if you make a statement, there can't be any supplementary question. Please wait, let me response to it. What I feel is that the Commissioner has refused to answer the question being given that he is going to make a statement at a later time on the issue, but this is a coalient to what the Standing Order says that you cannot insist if the answer is refused. I agree with you but what can we do? These are the rules.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order, please. Next question. Please wait the Member seems to forget that when she was Commissioner this has been invariably the case when question has been refused and then statement made. No it is not a question of agreed, even you don't agree what can we do? Next question, the same Member.

UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN RODRIGUES

B/100 **The First Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mrs. A. Perrine-Begu  )** asked the Commissioner responsible for Employment, as regards the employment situation in Rodrigues, can the Commissioner inform the House of

- (a) the number of unemployed registered at the Employment Office in July 2006, specifying therein those who were still registered as unemployed while holding a job for which they were not satisfied;
- (b) the unemployment rate in June 2007 as compared to June 2006; and
- (c) whether the Regional Government has offered or acted as mediator to offer any job or training to Rodriguans to be performed outside Rodrigues, if yes, where, in which sectors and on which conditions?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (a) monthly figures including that of July 2006 concerning the number of unemployment are not available. I am informed that the Computer System at the Employment Office, which is linked with that of Mauritius, has been designed in such a way to generate statistical information at the end of every four months, normally covering the periods January to April, May to August and September to December. The data are generated and published by the Employment Service in Mauritius.

As at end of August 2006, 2,976 unemployed were registered and 415 persons who were already in employment were maintaining their registration with a view to securing a better job.

- (b) As regard to unemployment rate, I am informed that this is normally calculated on an annual basis by the Central Statistics Office in Mauritius for the whole Republic, separate figures for Rodrigues are not available.
- (c) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are conscious that the unemployment situation in Rodrigues as shown above has reached an alarming state. The majority of these unemployed people fall in the age category of 18 to 30 years indicating that this is a problem which is affecting our youth population.

Unfortunately it is a situation which we have inherited and as a caring Regional Government, we do not intend to let it persist. As the Commissioner responsible for Youth and Employment, the priority objective of my commission is to focus efforts and resources to empower the youth and to offer

them job opportunities. The aim is to enable them to participate actively in our socio-economic development programmes while securing a job to enable them to earn their living decently. To achieve this objective, particularly in this difficult world economic situation, we have to give away with routine and static works and give way to new policies and innovations.

In this context, my Commission has undertaken many contacts in Mauritius with entrepreneurs, in the field of Agriculture, textiles, BPO's, agro-industries and others who wish to establish businesses in Rodrigues to recruit our unemployed. It is to be noted here Mr. Chairperson Sir that we have acted more as a facilitator rather than a mediator *"to intervene in a dispute and to bring about an agreement"*.

During my last visit to Mauritius, I contacted the Chairman of the Infinity BPO, who has responded positively to offer placement as Tele-Agents to a first batch of 60 young SC/HSC holders in his call centre at the Cyber city in Mauritius. He has subsequently visited Rodrigues to materialize the project and together, we undertook an explanation *campaign* both on radio and through meetings with the youth. Mr. Chairperson Sir, this Assembly will take note that more than 600 youth did attend the briefing session which we have organized at the Malabar Gymnasium. Consequently, two representatives from the firm were in Rodrigues last week for the selection exercise. Out of the 600, more than 200 candidates from the unemployed registration list were interviewed and have shown their great interest in the project.

Out of the 60 candidates who will be selected, two batches of 30 will undergo a one month training to be organized by the firm jointly with the University of Mauritius. At the end of their training, they will be offered employment as Tele-Agent in the firm in Mauritius and later, in Rodrigues when the cabling connection system that is SAFE or EASY will become a reality. This is essential for the setting up of call centers. I understand that the Chief Commissioner's Office has already initiated procedures and contacts with the Minister for Telecommunications and the different agencies to that effect.

In the mean time, the contribution of parties concerned including the Empowerment Programme through the Human Resource Development Council, the Infinity BPO and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is being finalized as regards expenses and financial assistance to be involved. It is expected that the first batch will proceed to Mauritius to start their training at the beginning of the forthcoming September.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in addition to call centre, my Commission is also liaising with the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment with a view to encourage our unemployed people from Rodrigues to take employment abroad in line with government policy to promote international circular migration.

Commissioner AGATHE: In this context, a world reputed pork processing industry in Canada namely; Maple Leaf Fresh Foods has signified its intention to recruit 50 persons from the Republic of Mauritius including Rodrigues to work in its "Pork Processing Plant. A communiqué is being finalized at the Employment Office in Mauritius in that respect.

In the mean time, my Commission has requested that the recruitment is focused on Rodrigues with a view to addressing our problem of unemployment and also to support the development of our Pork Industry when these people will come back with acquired skills.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner:-

- (i) since when informations on unemployment have been centralized in Mauritius and not available to Rodrigues; and
- (ii) if the Commissioner try out of respect to this House searched for information out of the related services in Mauritius?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said that the employment office, we have a computerised system at the Employment Office which is linked with that of Mauritius and the data are generated and published by the employment service in Mauritius.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner, I'll go small because you cannot gross that much, so I am going to go slowly.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait

Chief Commissioner: This is repetitive taking wasting the time of this House. I would invite you to call this Member one last time to order, because she has asked a question, the Commissioner was trying to answer; she put another question, repetition of what she just asked. This is the case Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have to show respect in this House. We have to work and to show intelligence and not be ridiculous, being....

Mr. Chairperson: You cannot have a chain of supplementary questions. You have asked one, even two you can't, one at a time, please.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: I am sorry to say but this is what happened and we happened to grasp an answer

Mr. Chairperson: You did not realize that if you ask two questions, then you may certainly have no answer at all.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: I was saving this House's time, anyway. So, my question Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is since when informations on unemployment, since when these informations are centralised at the national level.

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, *c'est comme ça depuis tous le temps*.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: This is not true we happened to have these information's.

Chief Commissioner: Point of Order. Again Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Member is insisting. The Commissioner had given information to this House. The Member is saying this is not true. On which ground can she challenge?

(Interruptions)

Chief Commissioner: The Commissioner has given the information prepared by his services. The member come here and says that it's false. We are not here to challenge. Give information, if you know it is false, give the information or table a publication where it has been produced monthly, daily or weekly.

Mr. Chairperson: You don't want me to even give a ruling on this. I understood the point, you agree with it. So, it's right then.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, statistics as regard to unemployment is done in Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait, take your seat. If you go to the questions, you will see what it is. We should not extract the question and make a controversy out of one point which has been raised in the answer. If you want to insist, I will allow only one question on this issue but not a speech. Please do so.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the question is as follows, statistics as regards to unemployment is compiled in Rodrigues "*sur terrain comme on dit*". My question is what the need for taking this data to centralize it in the national level and the Commission is not aware?

Commissioner AGATHE: If we refer to part (b) of the question Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is about unemployment rate. The rate it is national level because it is calculated on the basis of overall active labour force at national level.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a very critical question whereby I see at all the information that I were seeking for.

Mr. Chairperson: So we cancel all the questions then.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: No this is not what I am saying.

Mr. Chairperson: I allow you only one question, not two questions in one, but one question please do so.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: It is not true Mr. Chairperson, Sir, saying that information's are not available in Rodrigues is to hide the fact.

Mr. Chairperson: This is not allowed,

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order please; let me at least talk to her. You know the cardinal, you cannot ask leading question, you cannot ask question where you suggest an answer, you cannot put a hypothetical thing in your question. At least you can ask

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, unfortunately we are not having the information required to scrutinise this Government on unemployment which we are sure have increased during the last year. That's why they don't want to give comparative figures but the Commissioner stated that he has to done to get away with static practices. I would like to ask him whether static procedures means to cause a brain drain from Rodrigues, whether elected to give jobs to people outside Rodrigues?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't know whether the Member is ..

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, give your answer please. You have an answer, you do so?

Next question please. Next question please, order please. If you don't want to move your question I move to the next member.

PROJET D'ACCOMPAGNEMENT PROFESSIONNEL DE 200 STAGIAIRES

B/101 The First Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mrs. A. Perrine-Begue) asked the Chief Commissioner regarding the Regional Government "*projet d'accompagnement professionnel de 200 stagiaires*" can he inform the House

- (a) of the mode of selection which will apply;
- (b) has any officer, office or adviser been assigned any duty to recruit, shortlist or interview any eventual beneficiary of the project in the different electoral regions of Rodrigues?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to inform the Assembly..

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can you ask the Member on the other side of the House to stop talking when the Commissioner is on his foot.

Mr. Chairperson: The interruption has been since the morning on both sides. I don't have to rule on this. From both side you need to respect.

Chief Commissioner: Thank you. I am pleased to inform the Assembly that after discussion which I had with representatives of the Human Resource Development Council during their visit in Rodrigues. The Council has confirmed that the Training and Placement of Unemployed Committee of the Empowerment Programme has approved the project which my office submitted for the placement of 200 registered unemployed under the Natural Resources Rehabilitation Programme and the re-skilling of the unemployed programme. This project is in line with the announcement made in my Budget Speech to provide vocational training to 200 unemployed persons. Selected candidates will be placed mainly in the Commission for Agriculture over a period of one year during which they will receive a monthly stipend of Rs 3500 of which Rs 1500 will be contributed by the Empowerment Programme.

A communiqué has been issued to invite the unemployed interested to join the programme to apply on prescribed application form which are available from Invest Rodrigues, Grande Montagne Youth Centre, La Ferme Youth Centre, Human Resource Centre and Riviere Coco Community Centre. Applications should be submitted at the office of Invest Rodrigues, at my office, at latest by Monday 23 July 2007.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, as for part (b) of the question, a board of selection will be set up for the recruitment exercise. The names of selected unemployed persons will be submitted to the HRDC for clearance prior to their placement.

Thank you.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner, if he is aware that there are meeting "*nocturne*" which are being held in different electoral regions regarding these projects for prior selection on a political basis?

Chief Commissioner: I am not aware Mr. Chairperson, Sir and I don't want to be aware also.

Mr. P. Francois: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I should like to know from the Chief Commissioner, whether the age of any beneficiary of the project will be an element to be considered during the selection exercise and what would be the limit?

Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, the Selection Committee will be given general guidelines as to age, social condition, poverty level, many criteria to be taken into account. What we want to achieve is to help people who are really poor, who really need this stipend and who really want to have a training. So, I think that the criteria that should apply, the direction that my office will give will be up to the age of 40.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if I refer to the budget speech of the Chief Commissioner, I think he stated a sum of Rs 4000 will be given to the *stagiaire* and now this has downgraded to Rs 3500, may we know the reason, why?

Chief Commissioner: I never said Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that a sum of Rs 4000 in my budget speech, I have said a sum around Rs 4000.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the mode of selection, it was stated in the budget speech that consideration will be taken to those who are already unemployed and who have been registered and now we see that the application is being opened. Can the Chief Commissioner tell us why he has changed this project?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the budget speech we did say that we will take people on the unemployed list. Unfortunately, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the unemployment information which is submitted there does not state in our opinion enough information about the background of applicant, I mean the social background of the applicant, what is his income, how many children he has, what is his type of housing, whether he possesses land, whether he is engaged in business, what sectors of activity he is interested in and what training he has got. All these are not available at the level of the declarant at the unemployment office. This is why we said that we have to open it and put the application to all. It is simply an administrative measure to better assess the needs and the qualifications of applicants.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that these very consequent number of persons who are awaiting, even if as we know that promises were for a full fledge jobs, people are awaiting nevertheless and they are looking at this project. I would like to know what were the criteria set, if they have already been set, or they will be set as regards to this board of selection, what are the criteria of those persons who will sit, are the integrity of these persons guaranteed?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have directed the Island Chief Executive to nominate a Board to constitute the selection exercise and I do trust him and I trust all at my office and all persons in the Government service and I believe in their integrity and I do think that integrity of these persons should not be put in doubt thank you.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: As a former Commissioner of Family Mr. Chairperson, Sir, just a little advice if you would allow me. It's because Mr. Chairperson, Sir, during my experience, I have seen that there are a number of persons who are on employment list for a long time and

they have reached nearly the age for not getting a job, at least in the Government aged to 35-40. I know that when you are talking about training, you think more or less about young people. But nevertheless, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would advise that such a criteria's be taken into consideration to give the chance to those person who are of a certain age who have lost hope in being recruited in the public sector at least, to be taken careof.

Mr. Chairperson: I suspend the Assembly for 45 minutes.

(At 12.25 a.m the sitting was suspended for 45 minutes)

(Resumption at 13.18 p.m with the Chairperson in the chair)

Mr. Chairperson: Can we resume where we stopped.

The Clerk: Questions, please.

Mr. Chairperson: Question B/102?

MONEY ALLOCATED FOR PAYMENT OF OVERTIME

B/102 **The First Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mrs. A. Perrine-Begue)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources:-

- (a) state the amount of money allocated for payment of overtime to employees of the Water Sector since July 2006;
- (b) when were they paid the overtime, state the amount paid per employee and their names and confirm whether there is any arrears of overtime payment in relation of the employees of this sector, if yes, to give the reason thereof?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my answer is as follows:-

- (a) An amount of Rs 500,000 was allocated under Vote Item 03-103-012 in the budget 2006-2007 for payment of overtime to employees of the Water Resources Unit.
- (b) I am informed that all claims concerning overtime which have been received so far have been paid in June 2007.

As regards the names and amount paid per employee the information is being compiled and will be tabled later.

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether the Rs 500, 000 is the effective amount that is found in the budget that was allocated or was it the revised expenditure in term of overtime?

Commissioner PERRINE: This is the sum allocated in July 2006. I am informed that before, the Commission for Water Resource formed part of the Commission for Public Infrastructure and this has been separated in August 2006 and an amount of Rs 500, 000 has been earmarked for overtime for Water Resources Unit.

Mr. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Commissioner aware that there are Foreman who used to work on Sunday's without the company of other workers, the Pipe Fitter for e.g just as a matter of obtaining overtime?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the old sector water sector, I mean the Commission, I am going to put order to re-organise and I agreed with this Member that overtime bill should be curtail and out of the 1st July this year, Valve Operators and other workers will work on roster so that to curtail down overtime.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has said that Rs 500, 000 was used in July, this is a bit confusing.

Mr. Chairperson: Allocated in July you said to the budget 2006-2007.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Point of Order, I am disturbed all the time by this Commissioner Mr. Franceau and I would ask you to ask him to stop talking to me because what he is saying is not interesting at all.

Mr. Chairperson: Ask you question, please. Order, please.

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I repeat that the Rs 500,000 has been allocated in the budget 2006-2007 for the whole financial year.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, What I would like to know Mr. Chairperson, Sir, from July 2006 to the end of this financial year what is the actual amount that have been dedicated to overtime payment?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that for the last payment a sum of Rs 773, 000 has been in July for the whole year.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, the second local region Member for Grande Montagne, please.

PROJECT OF ROCHE BON DIEU STADIUM

B/103 **The Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne (Mr. Baptiste)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports, whether in regard to the construction project of the stadium of Roche Bon Dieu, he will state whether tenders were launched for that project, what was the closing date for the submission of bids and where matters stand?

Commissioner Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that according to our records, the construction of a stadium at Roche Bon Dieu is a project which dates as far back as July 2003. Following a confirmation from the Employees Welfare Fund to contribute financially to the project to the tune of Rs 10 millions.

Initially, the then Executive Council decided to construct a sport complex at Grande Montagne instead of Roche Bon Dieu. In this respect, tenders were floated three times in December 2003, February and November 2005, respectively, for Grande Montagne. These exercises were not successful and again for unknown reason, decision was taken to shift the project back to Roche Bon Dieu instead of Grande Montagne. Tender was floated for the fourth time on 11 July 2006 and the closing date was fixed for Wednesday 23 August 2006.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is to be noted that there has not been a firm decision by the then Executive Council as regard to the site of the project. This has had a negative bearing in its implementation which as a result has led to the withdrawal of the financial contribution by the Employees Welfare Fund as informed by its Chairman during a meeting which I had with him recently in Mauritius. Consequently, the project has been kept in abeyance for the time being due to financial constraint.

In the meantime, my Commission is defining an overall strategy for the improvement of sports Infrastructure in Rodrigues and in the Local Region No. 6.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that the information given by the Commissioner is somehow misleading being given that I myself did work on that dossier. I think there is some confusion in the project of that of Grande Montagne and that of Roche Bon Dieu. That's true! There were two separate projects one at Grande Montagne and one at Roche Bon Dieu and I can confirm to this House that the employees..

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is question time. The Member is trying to give explanations for things he did and did not do while he was the Commissioner, this I believe should not be allowed. The Member should ask the question and not make a speech or gave explanations.

Mr. N. Lisette: Being given in budget 2005/2006/2007, a sum of Rs 23, 000 was voted specifically for that project 2006/2007. May I ask the Commissioner what has happened to this fund?

Commissioner Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the project for the construction of the stadium at Roche Bon Dieu was estimated at Rs 22.3 million rupees. The Employee Welfare Fund would contribute Rs 10 million records and the rest will be met by Rodrigues Regional Assembly. So, when the Employees Welfare Fund have retrieved their money Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what can we do with 12 million rupees Mr. Chairperson, Sir, where are we going obtain the 10 million rupees left.

Mr. N. Lisette: If we refer to the document that has been given in this House, there was a provision of Rs 23 million in the financial year 2006/2007. This can be confirmed with respect to recurrent budget and capital estimate ...

Chief Commissioner: Point of Order, please. The Member is again engaging in explanation, commenting and refuting the argument of the Commissioner because this is question time I repeat and it is supplementary question! The Member should ask your question and not make statement.

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : Can the Commissioner states what was the budget allocated for this project at Roche Bon Dieu in the 2006/2007 budget? Confirm please.

Commissioner Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as far as the records obtained it is Rs 22.3 million . If he said it is 23 million rupees, I don't know but it is Rs 22.3 million.

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : What was the actual estimated cost of this project?

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

Mr. N. Lisette: It is clear Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that projects in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly cannot be tendered without having the proper sum of money in the budget. This is a particular procedure that has to be followed here. So, if the procedure has been followed, this means that the proper global budget has been voted here. Being given that the closing date for submitting tenders was on think on the 23 August 2006, may I know from the Commissioner where does matter stands as regard to this or can he explain why the tender has been cancelled?

Commissioner Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as from August 2006, there has been a new Executive Council and there has been a new policy and Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have herited lot of things from the ex Executive Council. We have to pay for the Leisure Centre, Women Centre Mr. Chairperson, Sir, roads.

Mr. Baptiste: As regards to the new regionalization what is your new policy on football?

Commissioner Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the Roche Bon Dieu Stadium, the budget perhaps latter the Chief Commissioner will come with what is the status of the budget that we have for capital for sports and we will have the answer. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is according to a list and it will come.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please time is up. Same Member.

CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS OF SCHOOL

B/104 **The Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne (Mr. Baptiste)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Education, as regards the Construction and rehabilitation projects of schools in Rodrigues, could he inform the House

- (a) whether tender documents have been prepared by his Commission relating to:-
 - (i) Mangues Government School toilet block;
 - (ii) Basile Allas Government School toilet block;
 - (iii) Preprimary Unit at Terre Rouge;
 - (iv) Extension of Grande Montagne College;
- (b) If yes, since when, and where matters stand now?

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

- (a) The answer is no and therefore;
- (b) The question does not apply.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, the same member.

MISSION IN EUROPE

B/105 **The Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne (Mr. Baptiste)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources, with respect to the mission he effected in Europe in May 2007, will he state

- (a) the countries visited, the purpose of each visit and their outcomes;
- (b) the number of persons accompanying him and in what capacity;
- (c) the breakdown of costs of the mission?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (a), from 20-25 May 2007, I headed a mission in Europe, in Malta and England accompanied by my Acting Departmental Head. We left Mauritius on 20 May 2007 on board of Air Mauritius and landed in Rome the same day and was welcomed by Mr. Denis CANGY, the Consul of the Republic of Mauritius in Rome.

On the 21st May 2007, our departure to Malta was annulled due to a general strike of cabin crew of ALITALIA at Fumicino Airport in Rome. We were therefore forced to stay one whole day in Rome where Mr. Denis CANGY managed to arrange a fruitful working session for my delegation with a representative of FAO, Water Resources Officer for Land and Water Division.

On the 22nd May 2007, we managed to flight to Malta where we were greeted by Mr. Michael FALZON, Chairman of Water Services Corporation, Mr. Marc MUSCAT, Chief Executive Officer of the same company and Mr. Stephen ZERAFA, Head of Public Relations.

After completion of our mission in Malta, we transited through London where the Mauritian High Commission arranged working session with the Royal Botanic Garden (Kew) and the Botanic Garden Conservation International (BGCI). The reason why we transited through Italy and England was simply because there is no direct flight to Malta.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the main outcomes of the mission are as follows: -

- (i) The FAO agreed to give special attention to my request for technical assistance to Rodrigues in the field of Agriculture and Water Resources under the FAO Technical Corporation Programme (TCP). It is to be noted that Malta has been assisted under the similar programme for the formulation of a National Water Policy.
- (ii) As regards to my mission in Malta, the Water Services Corporation of the Archipelagos has agreed to transfer their expertise and to share their experience and lessons learnt in the field of water Resources Management. A Technical Corporation Agreement between the Rodrigues Water Agency and Malta Water Services Corporation has been agreed upon.
- (iii) In England, the Royal Botanic Garden (Kew) has considered my request to reserve some seats on their International Training Programme on forest management and conservation strategy for Rodriguans. It is to be noted that the admission to these courses are highly competitive and without my negotiation the reservation of seats for Rodriguan would not have been materialised.

Our forestry sector needs to be revitalised and the upgrading of staff is determinant. In line with our National Forest Action Programme and the National Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2007-2011, the forestry sector will be called upon to play an important role. Consequently, the staff should be well trained and motivated.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my delegation also had a working session with the Managing Team of Botanic Garden Conservation International (BGCI) in London where we were informed that the BGCI organisation requested some vital information regarding the Mourouck Botanical Garden in 2005 but same was not attended. It is a pity to note that non adhesion to BGCI Global Network has deprived Rodrigues from valuable assistance which would have greatly helped to materialise the Mourouck Botanical Garden. One has to note that this project was initiated by the then Minister for Rodrigues in 1984 and was subsequently not given due attention.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, I have the pleasure to inform the House that my Commission "*a retiré du fond du tiroir*" the Mourouck Botanical Garden project document with the firm commitment to complete it within the mandate of this Regional Government.

Mr. Chairperson Sir,

- (b) As regards to part (b) I was accompanied by the acting Departmental Head Mr. Chang Siow Joseph Ah-Leong.
- (c) As regards to part (c) the breakdown of costs of the mission are as follows:-
 - (i) Air Ticket – was paid by UNDP
 - (ii) Stipend for expenses such as hotel accommodation, inland transport, meals, breakfast and others for five days of mission was paid according to PRB report 2003.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner as regard the outcome of his discussion with the FAO and Malta Government and the subsequent outcome that he has said will be positive for Rodrigues that he has said, who will bear the cost of these technical, know how that will he share to Rodrigues? Will the two counterparts go dutch on the funds or will there be only one party who will cater for all expenses?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson Sir, the main challenge faced the Rodrigues water resources today are the meetings the demand of water here in Rodrigues.

- (i) The demand is higher than the collection; and
- (iii) to protect the resource base of water, to improve the water governance that is effective management for the water resources and also to improve the water infrastructure that we have.

So, I think if you have to invest money it is in this sector, following the guidelines that we have to invest. Any technical cooperation that we are going to do it will be done through an MOU 05, an agreement and the cost of financing will of course be discussed.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, the Commissioner said that he successfully negotiated to obtain from this International Organisation technical help and he has said this is the outcome of the visit. Is he telling the House that as at now he is not aware of how this agreement will be spelt out and what about the effective of the projected cost and is not aware. I am asking him the question as to whether it is going to be paid by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly or by these persons?

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: You asked a question and then you don't want an answer.

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for instance let me take the case of Rodriguan that will be admitted at KEW Garden for training purposes. First the Rodriguan must submit their admission form, be admitted but what I have discussed successfully is that KEW garden has agreed to reserve 2 seats for Rodrigues. Secondly, what I have discussed with the FAO they have agreed to reserves a project "a shot" they call it for Rodrigues for the TCP Cooperation. Under this agreement we can submit project for technical assistance. But I am not in a position now to say who will bear the cost. I have explained that I am waiting for the agreement.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I have no question as regards to the KEW Garden. Is it true that when you went there you talked about technical assistance and help. Is it true that as regard to conservation purposes in Rodrigues, is it true that the official there told you that in Rodrigues you already have expertise in this matter, which have been rejected by this Regional Government, is it true?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer is of course no. I would not discuss about the competence in Rodrigues but we were shown what can be done and how through conservation and forest management we can attain what has said. What has been written in our National Forest Action Programme and the National Biodiversity, Strategic Plan it is very important for the forest which has just started and will last till 2011.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I cannot understand that's why I want to insist on this question. What was the promise of the discussion and the promise in the first instance to go to England to ask for seats for capacity building there, then you say that you have not discuss about competency. What was the object of the discussion then?

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, under the previous Government I must tell it Frankly, the forest sector has been neglected. These officers over there were just doing Policemen work, arrest people, cutting root etc. But what conservation, forest management, biodiversity was not being done. What I did in England was to ask assistance to train our staff that we will be in line of what has been written in the National Biodiversity Strategic Plan for 2007-2008.

(Applause)

Mr. Chairperson: Next question.

LICENCE FOR A NIGHT CLUB

B/106 The Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne (Mr. Baptiste) asked the Chief Commissioner if he Could he obtain information for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) whether a licence for operating a night club has been delivered in the village of Grande Montagne on the road leading to Coromandel;
- (b) if yes, to state the date on which same was issued; and
- (c) the name and address of the owner of the licence?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (a) the answer is No, therefore the other part does not arise.

Mr. Baptiste: is the Chief Commissioner aware that a night club running at Grande Montagne.

Chief Commissioner: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: For the next four questions the Minority Leader has intimated to me that he is sick and cannot be present here. Any objection that all of his four questions be converted into question requiring written answer? Yes, the four questions, all the four questions?

Mr. Chairperson: The next set of questions. Yes, first local region Member of Baie aux Huitres.

INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND GAMES

B/111 **The First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres (Mr. N. Lisette)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports, whether with regards to the Indian Ocean Island Games to be held in Madagascar in August he would

- (a) table the names of all selected athletes per discipline to form part of the National Teams from Rodrigues; and
- (b) state additional facilities and assistance which are being provided to the athletes per discipline by the Commission apart from usual ones such as air tickets, transport facilities and infrastructural facilities?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as at to date, 32 athletes from Rodrigues have been selected to form part of the National Team to proceed to Madagascar for the 7th Indian Ocean Island Games scheduled for August 2007. The list containing details is being tabled. **(APPENDIX V)**

In addition, five pre-selected Boxers from Rodrigues are actually under training camp in Mauritius and will be subjected to a selection competition scheduled for 4 August 2007. We hope that they will be selected to form part of the National Team for the Games.

- (a) The athletes have been issued with equipments as follows:

Athletics: Training shoes, spikes, Tracksuits, singlets & T-shirts and sport bags.

Judo: Training shoes, kimono, Tracksuits and sport bags

Wrestling: Training shoes, wrestling shoes, Tracksuits, colants, T-shirts and sports bags

I wish to point out that the selected athletes are being taken care of by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and their respective Federations in Mauritius which are providing the necessary facilities in terms of transport, accommodation and catering to enable them to get prepared in good conditions for the games, as the case is normally.

In addition, my Commission is providing a daily stipend of Rs 200/ to all the selected athletes who are under training in Mauritius to enable them to cope with additional expenses.

Mr. N. Lisette: I think that as regard to the stipend that are being provided to those who are training in Mauritius, I would like to ask the Commissioner, for how long have this stipend been given e.g I mean for the *judo* as well as for the *La Boxe*.

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, some athletes have had to go to Mauritius before pre-selection and those athlete who have gone to Mauritius for e.g boxe they have been given a stipend of Rs 200 but for the case of *judo* the stipend is being compiled at my office and they will get their stipend perhaps today or this week.

Mr. N. Lisette: That is Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for the time that we are speaking it is not sure that the *judokas* have obtained their stipends and they are training in Mauritius. I think since two weeks back or may be more than two weeks in fact. I would like to know as regard to *La Boxe* are the athlete obtaining their stipend on time?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to FMM, we can't give someone stipend before they have gone for training, they have to train first before we gave them their stipend.

Mr. N. Lisette: I know Chairperson, Sir, that these persons are in Mauritius and they have been pre-selected. They are in Mauritius may be for two to three month as regards to *La Boxe*. There is a problem that they are facing. They are not receiving stipend on time and they are meeting with a lot of difficulties as regard to this. So I am asking the Commissioner for Sports to look into the matter because it is a matter of urgency as regard to those who are going to represent Rodrigues in the *Jeux des Iles de l'Ocean Indien* and I think it is of utmost importance that they are given the maximum facility to do the maximum performance.

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that the Member has got the wrong answer because I have been to Mauritius to meet the pre-selected boxers Mr. Chairperson, Sir they confirmed that they has received their stipend.

Mr. N. Lisette: I do confirm also Mr. Chairperson, Sir, last week the boxers did not received their money.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question same Member.

SPORT ETUDE PROJECT

B/112 **The First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres (Mr. N. Lisette)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth and Sports, as regard to the "*Sport Etude*" project which was launched in 2006, could he

- (a) give a brief performance of the athletes discipline-wise who were benefited from the project both in local and national competitions;
- (b) state if the project has been launched for the present academic year and if yes, when?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Sport Etude Project is funded by the State Bank of Mauritius Sports Fund and has been initiated in Rodrigues in February 2006 on a pilot basis. The objective of the project is to produce elite athletes while giving them the appropriate facilities to achieve excellence in their academic studies. I am informed that the project started in Rodrigues with three sports disciplines namely *Judo* at Le Chou College, Athletic at Rodrigues College and Football at Marechal College.

It is to be noted that the project is implemented by the SBM Sports Fund. The Commission for Youth and Sports has only played a facilitating role since it's started in February 2006.

As at to date, four football players aged 12 years formed part of a football team from Rodrigues who participated in the football tournament "*Trophée International de Port Louis*" in April 2006 in Mauritius and won the bronze medals. In the same tournament, player Christopher Hypolite who is a beneficiary of the *Sport Etude Project* ranked first in the joggling competition. A second beneficiary of the project namely Mr. Frederico GASPARD ranked first in the physical and technical test during a football competition entitled "**promo foot**" which was organized by my Commission in April 2007.

As regards to *Judo*, nine beneficiaries have participated in the National Judo Championships held in Mauritius on 18 and 19 November 2006 and obtained 7 Gold medals (3 boys and 4 girls) and 2 silver medals (1 boy and 1 girl).

The beneficiaries of *Sport Etudes* in athletics participated in various competitions both in Rodrigues and in Mauritius namely:-

- (i) the National Colt Benjamin Championship 2007 at the Camp du Roi Stadium whereby Caroline Louis was awarded best female athlete and André Casimir, second best male athlete;
 - (ii) the National Cross Country Championship on 3 March 2007 at Gymkhana Vacoas whereby André Casimir won the gold medal in his category; and
 - (iii) The Milo National championship on 17 March 2007 at Maryse Justin stadium whereby two athletes, namely Caroline Louis and André Casimir obtained outstanding results in their respective discipline. I am informed that two evaluation test in April and May 2006 concerning the performance of the beneficiaries athletes, the results have shown that there is a net progress in their performance.
- (b) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed by the SBM Sports Fund that the project was temporarily frozen pending a study on last year's achievements. The project has already been launched on 25 June 2007 for this academic year and concerns only football. The football players are presently participating in the Ecole de Football League which is being organized by my Commission. According to the Chairman,

Mr. Michael Glover, athletics and judo name not be considered as the Form 1 students do not have the appropriate morphology for these two disciplines.

I have also been informed that a *Pole Espoire* Project will be launched in two years time. Last year beneficiaries in judo and athletics will integrate the *Pole Espoire*. In the meantime, an appropriate scheme is being worked out to enable them to continue their training. This will be further discussed during the forthcoming visit of Mr. Michael Glover scheduled for 23 to 24 July 2007.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that as regards to the answer of the Commissioner the performance of the athletes speaks for itself. There is at least a controversy in the answers of the Commissioner. He said that as regard to the performance he has given a list of good performances by the athletes and he told that the SBM on the basis.

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, he is engaging a statement and this time he is repeating that the Commissioner has said. He says the Commissioner "says this", "he told this". We have heard what the Commissioner has said so they should ask the question straight and forward. I think he is not mastering this technique. You should master, if you can't master you can come to see me I would show you.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think he said there has been a good performance.

Mr. Chairperson: You should not think, ask your question please.

Mr. N. Lisette: The SBM is considering the achievement before launching for judo and athletics. Being given that the performance is good Mr. Chairperson, Sir, why has there been a need because it was a pilot project. Why has there been a need to suspend the discipline for judo and for athletics?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, our Commission act as a facilitator to that project because the project is funded by the SBM fund. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to me we have had meeting with the Chairman, Michael Glover and he said that a project known as *pole Espoire* will be launched in two years time because we cant specialize someone between the age of 14 to 16 because there is a problem of morphology.

In the meantime Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Committee is working out a project, so as to help the athletes who formed part of the *Sport d'Etude*

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, now that I go to the question of morphology. It is said that the students who are from 11 to 12 is not morphologically, how to say ready for these disciplines. *Grave sa hein*. I would like to ask the Commissioner if these children are not prepare morphologically why is it not those student of 13-14 or 15 why the Commission did not start the project for those students who are already 14-15?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to morphology, this is very technical and this is the answer that I have with the Chairman.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the question is not yet answered, why the project has not been launched for those students who are 13-14 years old and we will have to wait for two years time?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have said earlier that this is a pilot project.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question same Member.

LAND LEASE FOR AQUATIC BUSINESS

B/113 **The First Local Region Member of Baie aux Huitres (Mr. N. Lisette)** asked the Chief Commissioner, as regards to the granting of land lease/s for aquatic business activities in Rodrigues, could he state

- (a) if any lease/s has been/will be granted to any company or person and, if yes, to give their name/s;
- (b) the experience of these company/persons in the chosen field of activities;
- (c) the extent of lease/s and their locations; and
- (d) the conditions attached/to be attached to the lease/s?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (a) with regards to part (a) my Regional Government wants to develop the fisheries sector into one of the main pillar of the island's economy. My Government strongly believes that our Fisheries sector can be a major sector of employment creation in the coming years. However, we are also aware that our lagoon is over-exploited and need to be given time to regenerate itself. In that respect, my Government is encouraging the development of aquaculture and alternate seafood production methods on the island.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the seafood and aquaculture sector on mainland Mauritius is booming and we believe that our small island Rodrigues also has a similar potential in that sector. We strongly believe that the development of the aquaculture and seafood sector will not only create numerous employments and relieve our lagoon but also enable us to reorient our traditional fishermen and fisherwomen into this new sector.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to inform the House that my office is presently processing four applications from promoters who are willing to invest in the aquaculture sector. These promoters are namely:-

- (i) La Licorne Co Ltd;
 - (ii) The Indian Ocean Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd;
 - (iii) Rodrigues Marine Products Co Ltd; and
 - (iv) Ocean Fresh Limited.
- (APPENDIX VI)**

No lease has yet been granted to any of the above promoters as at date.

In the case of La Licorne Co Ltd; a letter of intent has been issued to the promoter on 7 December 2006. However, the promoter has made representation to my office that the extent of state land allocated to them is not sufficient for the implementation of the project and consequently they are requesting for a revision of the extent to 25 acres. The request is still being considered by the cadastral office.

In the case of the Indian Ocean Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd, a letter of intent has been issued to the promoter on 19 March 2007. However, the promoter has made representation for a reduction of the rental which he perceives as being unaffordable. The request is still being considered by my office.

In the case of Rodrigues Marine Products Co Ltd and Ocean Fresh Limited, my office is agreeable to the concept of the project. We are actually in the process of identifying suitable sites for these projects. Once these sites are identified, the promoters will be issued with letter of intents.

- (b) With regards to part (b), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that all the four promoters are well established business promoters in varied fields of business. Within their project, the promoters have informed that they would be enlisting the services of professionals in the aquaculture business.

The promoters of La Licorne Co. Ltd have informed that they would be resorting to the expertise of one Mr. Get who has wide experience in the farming of Berri Rouge.

The promoters of Ocean Fresh Ltd are resorting to the services of one Dr Beni Birapsy, a rare scientist who has succeeded in the breeding process of the sea cucumber.

The promoters of Ocean Fresh Ltd have informed that they would be resorting to expertise and foreign partners from China and South East Africa.

(c) With regards to (c), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the extent of land that has been earmarked for the projects of La Licorne Co Ltd and the Indian Ocean Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd is as follows:-

- La Licorne Co Ltd – An extent of 16,500 m² at Plaine Mao;
- Indian Ocean Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd – An extent of 11,634 m² at Baie Diamant.

For the projects of Rodrigues Marine Products Co Ltd and Ocean Fresh Limited, the definite sites have not yet been finalized. The following proposed sites are being looked into:

- Rodrigues Marine Products Co Ltd – 1.2 hectares of state land and 1.2 hectares in the lagoon at Pointe Vingt Tour;
- Ocean Fresh Limited – 0.4 hectares of state land and 7 hectares in the lagoon at Baie Topaze.

(d) With regards to (d), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I informed earlier, no lease has yet been finalized. I am tabling a copy of the letter of intents issued to La Licorne Co Ltd and the Indian Ocean Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd which describes the conditions that would be attached to the leases.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, I think right now, there is a bill under preparation in Mauritius The Business Activities Bill it is yet to be voted in the National Assembly. And we see here in Rodrigues there is already a letter of intent that has been given to a promoter for business activities in the sea. I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner as regard to these projects which are going to be done part on sea and land whether the Rodriguans, the local people will have access to these parts of the site?

Chief Commissioner: First Mr. Chairperson, Sir, why the respected Member thinks it is not important to me, second the answer is “Yes”.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that activities which are done in the sea is quite sensitive as regard to the environment. This is why I consider this as a very important aspect because what happened may be irreversible, may be in two hundreds or one hundred years time. Something has to be very careful on that. Given the environmental aspect of such activities ...

Commissioner JABEEMISSAR: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a Point of Order. Once again, it is noticed that the Member is making a statement rather than asking questions.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, can you be briefer please. I am telling you what the Standing Order says, what should be and then you are going to maintain your wrong interpretation. I think more of four or five times the Commissioner has stopped you. Rightly, you want to make a

speech? You can wait at adjournment time and then you can sum up all you want to speak. If you can collect it during question time and then you make a Statement. You cannot do that at question time.

Mr. N. Lisette: May the Chief Commissioner state possible environmental impacts on such activities on the marine ecology?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner wants me to state what are the environmental risks associated to this project. I must state that first of all before granting the leases, depending on the extent of the project and the expected environmental effect they will be required either to submit a PER Preliminary Environmental Report or a full EIA before granting the leases. I would not poke my nose into this procedure, they will wait for the different PER or EIA to see what is the impact on the environment.

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my colleague for Baie Aux Huitres rightly stated a question and I think it is critical to, given the importance..

Mr. Chairperson: Please do not comment on others questions.

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : I am just putting the ambit of the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am sorry but..

Mr. Chairperson: You may lay a foundation to your question but should not refer.

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : Right Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to that question the Chief Commissioner has said that he is not interested to know whether there is a main law that has been drafted and will be introduced in the International Assembly

Mr. Chairperson: You want to repeat what you said.

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : What I want to know Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether as regard to fisheries activities or whatever their main laws at National Level have no bearing on the local situation.

Mr. Chairperson: We are not a Court and he is not a judge to judge whether it is not applicable. We are in a House of transparency and democratically. This is not allowed. Yes, move to the next.

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know also whether these promoters before receiving a letter of intent have submitted a business plan and if so if these business plans could be submitted to this House for scrutiny.

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the first part of the question is "Yes", the second part is "No".

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to the promoter, we are going to receive these lists apart from the employment that they are going to bring to the island, is there going to be any special conditions, I mean social condition attached to these leases?

Chief Commissioner: The answer is "No" Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Next, Deputy Chairperson.

IC3 COURSES

B/114 The Second Island Region Member (Mrs. L. Chan Meunier) asked the Commissioner responsible for Education, with regard to "IC3" courses launched in Rodrigues in February 2007 to state:-

- (a) when did courses start;
- (b) how many beneficiaries to date; and
- (c) what are the aims of IC3 for Rodrigues?

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

- (a) The courses started on 3 March 2007 instant just after the launching of the programme by the Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunications.
- (b) To date, the IC3 programme has benefited 120 participants. Two additional batches of 20 participants each will benefit the same programme during the week 16-20 July.
- (c) The implementation of the Universal ICT Education Programme (IC3) in Rodrigues aims at empowering the local population by providing them with basic IT Literacy including internet skills. It is expected that this programme will enhance the employability of job seekers thereby facilitating their integration in the local labour market.

Mr. Chairperson: Next

Mr. ALEX NANCY EX-GRADE A SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER

B/115 **The Second Island Region Member (Mrs. L. Chan Meunier)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Education as regards the case of Mr. Alex Nancy, ex-Grade A Secondary School Teacher at REDCO College, Marechal, would the Commissioner enquire where the matter stands?

Deputy Chief Commissioner JABEEMISSAR: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the information is as follows, the Director of Private Secondary School Authority (PSSA) has reported that...

Mr. N. Lisette: Point of Order, please as regards to this question

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this cannot be a Point of Order before the question, where is the Point of Order? Are you challenging the Chairperson to put this question on the order Paper?

Mr. Chairperson: May be!

Chief Commissioner: This is what he is trying to do.

Mr. N. Lisette: I refer to the Chairperson to the question B/26 of 13 February 2007 where...

Mr. Chairperson: what are you about?

Mr. N. Lisette: Where..

Mr. Chairperson: Are you challenging what are you about? Are you challenging the rationale of this Order Paper? Are you challenging that it is appearing a second time?

Mr. N. Lisette: No. basing on the answer given to a question by the Deputy Chief Commissioner when he relates..

Mr. Chairperson: Have you understood the question properly? The question is where matter stand! Even if the question was put yesterday now it is a new question where matter stands? Within one day there can be developments. Well, I am not stopping you. I am drawing your attention. You cannot raise a point without further ado on the rationale of the question, it is on the Order Paper. He may be right but at least he has to complete one sentence. We cannot take part of a sentence. Yes, if you do have a pertinent point, you may do so.

Mr. N. Lisette: The point is as follows:- the Deputy Chief Commissioner on the 13 February 2007 in this House said that he is not going to answer questions as regards to REDCO which is a private company, that was the point that was raised in the Assembly on the 13 February

2007. This is why I would like to say if in the future the Deputy Chief Commissioner will agree to answer questions related to REDCO?

Mr. Chairperson: But there is nothing as a Point of Order.

Deputy Chief Commissioner JABEEMISSAR: With your permission I would like to reply to the respected Member. The question at that time was related to an internal matter of the REDCO concerning transfers and so on. And such is not the case.

Deputy Chief Commissioner JABEEMISSAR: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the information is as follows, the Director of Private Secondary School Authority (PSSA) has reported that he has not been informed of the outcome of the investigation of the case which has been referred to the Commissioner of Police for enquiry by the former Manager of Marechal College.

By now Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have obtained the information from the Commissioner of Police it is informal that all the matter lays with the DPP who has freezed the matter but in fact Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is clear when I stated in a reply in September 2006:-

“En réponse a votre demande du 30 août 2000 j’ai l’honneur de vous informer que Monsieur NANCY Jean Alex a été déclarer ajourner au différente session d’examens de la séance en 1991 et 1992 et en conséquence n’a pas obtenu de licence de Biochimie dans notre établissement”

Ça vient du doyen de la faculté des sciences.

VISIT OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER TO THE MT LUBIN HEALTH CENTRE

B/116 **The Second Island Region Member (Mrs. L. Chan Meunier)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Health, whether the Chief Commissioner visited the Mont Lubin Health Centre in the night of Sunday 8 July, the reason thereof and whether any incident occurred and if yes to state the nature of the incident?

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that on Sunday 08 July 2007, the Chief Commissioner called at Mont Lubin Health Centre to see whether everything was going on smoothly.

While the Chief Commissioner was knocking at the door to attract the attention of an employee inside a ward, an attendant addressed the Chief Commissioner in a very aggressive tone saying “*Eh pas dimandé narien nek rentrer*”. The Chief Commissioner asked the attendant’s name but the latter refused to do so and declared that he did not know the Chief

Commissioner. Two Nursing Officers on duty then came and confirmed that they knew the Chief Commissioner but refused to tell the attendant's name.

The attitude, behaviour and body language and tone of the Hospital Attendant Mr. Chairperson Sir, were most disrespectful toward the Chief Commissioner.

Mr. N. Lisette: I would like to ask the Commissioner for Health if during his visit in the Health Centre on that particular day.

Mr. Chairperson: When you say his, I can't follow, you mean the Commissioner for Health or the Chief Commissioner.

Mr. N. Lisette: I've ask in the question, the visit of the Chief Commissioner, I would like to ask the Commissioner for Health whether the Chief Commissioner consulted the Officer in Charge of the Centre before proceeding at the knocking of the door of the office.

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't think that a Chief Commissioner attending a government premise to see whether things are going on has to. I am not saying that he didn't do it, but I don't think he has to call on the officer in Charge. If you have a surprise check, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I strongly believe that the Chief Commissioner has the right to go directly on the spot to see whether things are going on.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner for Health, whether he could confirm in what types of clothes the Chief Commissioner went officially to visit and also I would like to know initially when he knocked at that door of this public building, whether the Commissioner was initially accompanied by any public officer as it is required when a politician whatever his status is visiting a public building?

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it seems to me that the respected Member is very interested in the way the Chief Commissioner dressed. I am answering you. You have put a question. Unfortunately, I can't say in what type of cloth the Chief Commissioner was at that time. I can't say Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether he was accompanied by any public officer.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know whether subsequently to this event any employees have been transferred if so, where please?

Commissioner JABEEMISSAR: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wonder whether, I would request the Clerk to see to it whether the question time is not over? Not yet.

Mr. Chairperson: We stopped at 12.25 we had one hour so we have 7 minutes. Before you answer to this question I cannot see the relations neither the co-relations between transfer and this. If you want to respond it, it depends on you if you want to respond it.

Commissioner EMILIEN: Transfer exercise Mr. Chairperson, Sir is the normal practice of the government departments, in all Commissions. Every now and then officers are being transferred for administrative convenience according to abilities, according to competency. But as far this incident is concerned Mr. Chairperson, Sir there has not been to my knowledge any transfer in the wake of this incident.

Mr. Chairperson: Not on transfer.

Mr. N. Lisette: I would like to ask the Commissioner for Health whether he considers this as proper to have a visit either in the maternity or the female ward at that particular time of the day.

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if the respected Member was not listening to my reply but at any time the maternity or the female ward has been mentioned, and what has been mentioned is that the Chief Commissioner was knocking at the door to attract the attention of an employee. If somebody was there to see that I don't know or in what cloth the Chief Commissioner was dressed I don't know.

Mr. Chairperson: No more question on this we have got seven minutes so many question. Next one the second local Region Member for St Gabriel

CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

B/117 The Second Local Region Member of St Gabriel (Mr. J. D. Speville) asked the Commissioner responsible for Education, whether as regard the construction of community schools at Araucaria and Montagne Charlot he will give a description of progress to date, a breakdown of costs and those costs which will be necessary to complete the works in the contractual specified time frame?

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

- (a) As regards the construction of Community Schools at Araucaria and Mt. Charlot, the progress of work is listed below:-

Araucaria Site

Progress to date

Préau (first floor)	Rendering - 95%
	Gutter to roof - 80 %

Staff Room	Rendering ground floor - 100% Rendering first floor - 95 %
Boundary wall	Excavation - 85% Casting of base and strip footing - 75% Block work - 75 % Bracing and post - 60 % Rendering - 60 %
Classrooms	Gargoyle to roof - 100 % Painting - 30 %
Volley ball pitch	No progress
Access Road	Retaining wall - 75 %

Mt. Charlot site

Preau	Steel to first floor column - 80 % Block work to 1 st floor - 100 % Concrete to columns - 95% Reinforcement to roof beams - 30 % Rendering ground floor - 35%
Staff room	Steel roof beam - 100% Concrete to roof slab - 100% Rendering - 90 %
Classrooms (1 to 8)	Painting (internal and external) - 30 % Floor tiles - 100 %
Toilet A	Rendering - 90 %
Toilet B	Rendering - 90 %
Boundary wall	Foundation concrete - 60%

Mr. Chairperson, an amount of Rs 31, 125, 930.30 million will be needed to complete the works.

Mr. J. D. Speville: I would like to remove the rest of my questions.

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait. You want to remove?

Mr. J. D. Speville: For the next sitting, withdraw for the next sitting.

Mr. Chairperson: If you withdraw it can't be conditional and then in the next sitting you come again with this still pertinent but you cannot withdraw and you condition it, you can withdraw simple and you come again. So, what do you wish to withdraw all the questions?

Mr. D. Speville: Yes.

Mr. Chairperson: So, question 118, 119, and 120 is withdrawn. What about question 121?

Mrs. J. Prosper: Mr. Chairperson, I want to withdraw the questions in my name.

Mr. Chairperson: So, we are left with only one question. Clerk time is over.

The Clerk: One minute.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, Clerk one item.

The Clerk: We have one Statement

STATEMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with your permission I wish to inform the House about the budget outturn for the budget 2006-2007 for the recurrent estimate and capital estimates respectively.

RECURRENT ESTIMATES

As regard the recurrent estimates the actual estimates as at 30 June 2007 is 881, 933 531.70 million rupees. This expenditure was met by one contribution of the Central Government 828, 750 million rupees. Advance of the contingency's funds - 36, 250 million rupees and partly from the recurrent revenue collected by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

With regards to the Capital Estimates the actual expenditure reached 273, 999 330.71 millions rupees out of the voted provision of 274 million rupees.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the following aspects of public financial management of my Regional Government. The voted provision in the Capital

Estimates was used up to 99.9 % and this can be attributed to judicious management of public funds as you may be aware during past financial years.

Chief Commissioner: the absorption rate was much lower for instant for financial year 2005-2006 it was near 75% incompetency.

The recurrent revenue collected by Rodrigues Regional Assembly stood at Rs 18, 926 237.74 million at the end of financial year 2006-2007 as compared to initial estimates of Rs 6, 500 000 million representing an increase of 14 % Mr. Chairperson, Sir, again this is the very first year since the existence of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly the revenue collected has exceed the estimates. I wish to remind the Assembly that a Revenue Management Unit is being set up further in the performance of that scope.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is false to say in the press that we have not spent 25 millions rupees, Rs 40 million, I repeat for the information of my Commissioners and all Members of this House:

“Voted expenditure for Capital Estimates were 274 million rupees actual expenditure is 273, 999 230.71 millions rupees and outturn of 99.9 %”.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a Statement showing the actual expenditure Commission wise under each item is being provided for circulation Thank you Mr. Chairperson Sir.

(APPENDIX VII)

Chief Commissioner: With your permission I will make a second Statement regarding the budgetary provision approved by the National Assembly for both our recurrent and capital expenditure for financial year 2007-2008. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, you will recall that the draft recurrent and capital estimates of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for 2007-2008 were approved by this House on 23 March 2007 and transmitted to the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister for Rodrigues for consideration by Cabinet in accordance with section 44 subsection (iii) of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001. Thereafter on 14 May we were informed that the budget allocation for Rodrigues has been approved by the Cabinet as follows:-

Draft Recurrent Budget for 2007-2008	-	Rs 890 million
Contribution from Central Government	-	Rs 890 million

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the following adjustment has been made in our recurrent estimates within the approved allocation Rs 890 million.

- (a) The provision under item 02-101.002 wages 7,008 is being read 50,000 instead of 10 million

- (b) Training Programme for unemployed is integrated to the provision of 9, 950 000 million to meet the cost of training and placement of 200 unemployed and that is our contribution in the programme.

Chief Commissioner: According to the scheme for empowerment programme. The empowerment programme will contribute 1500 rupees of the monthly stipend of 3500 which will be paid to trainees and lasted initially for a period of one year.

As regard Draft Capital Estimate for budget 2007-2008 we submitted estimates for Rs 325 millions, the Government has approved Rs 275 million and adjustment is required for Rs 50 million Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House that the Appropriation Bill 2007-2008 has been voted by the National Assembly on the 29 June 2007 with the above allocation and that despite appeals that I personally made to the Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and to the Prime Minister himself during his visit here, it is unfortunate to note that no consideration has been given on a specific basis as Rodrigues is backward in its development.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, It is quite revertible that our original application of Rs 325 million in respect of the Capital Budget has not been retained by the Central Government. In fact the quantum of Rs 325 million was self initially trimmed down by my office as the bids submitted by the different Commissions amounted Rs 450 millions. Consequently, we had to prone down but not without difficulty the Capital Budget for 2007-2008 so as to be line with the National Budget **(Gaps on Casette)**

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, first Rodrigues has not been mentioned in the budget speech, second Mr. Chairperson, Sir, our Capital Budget has been increased from Rs 274 million to Rs 275 million making an increase of one million rupees a decimal increase. Whereas Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for mainland in Mauritius the Capital Budget has increased from 8.2 billion to 10 billion, 50 millions making an increase of 850 million rupees meaning that for the increase in the Capital Budget as compared for the people of Mauritius and Rodrigues, the Capital Budget for mainland Mauritius has increased 850 times compared to that of Rodrigues Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I consider this as being unfair.

Chief Commissioner: Following the recent potential investors in the fishing development sector of Rodrigues as a result to my promotion campaign in the Island of Mauritius, I am increasing the provision under item 31-101-017 Port development from 1 million to Rs 25 million. This provision is required to apply a partnership with the Mauritius Port Authority, dredging equipment for the development of Pointe Monier Fishing Port and the setting up of a Marina at Oyster Bay for medium size boats.

Our cross economic analysis indicates very high socio economic benefits that will derive from the project, specially in term of increase value added and employment relation. This new project is more judicious option compared to the previous one of contracting the works for an estimated cost of Rs 25 million which was to met by the MPA alone. The project which is

estimated to cost Rs 50 million will be equally shared between the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the MPA. Negotiations have already started with the MPA and the Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism and Minister responsible for the Port is agreeable to the proposal. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am providing copies of the adjusted recurrent and Capital Estimates along with a table highlighting the adjustment made under the various votes item. Thank you Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

(APPENDIX VIII)

Commissioner JABEEMISSAR: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have the following Statement to make in connection with the implementation of the IC3 Programmes in Rodrigues. The increasing use of technology in every day life requires familiarity with computers and the internet. In Rodrigues the ICT sector is still in its infancy and thus a large proportion of this population is still computer illiterate. It is high time that Rodrigues participate in the digital revolution and therefore the universal ICT Education Programme have been introduced since it represents the ideal starting point as regards IT Literacy. Besides, the programme offers participants efficient computing and internet skills to enter current job market and begin higher education programmes.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is planned to dispense the training to 1300 participants each year in three centres namely:-

- (i) Human Resource Centre;
- (ii) Rodrigues College;
- (iii) Marechal College; and
- (iv) Mont Lubin College.

The programme is currently offered to four specific target groups.

- (i) Pre-Primary and Primary Teachers for both Government and RCA schools;
- (ii) HSC holders who wish to pursue studies at tertiary level;
- (iii) Unemployed youths whose names are provided by the Commission of for Employment; and
- (iv) Officers of the Commission for Education irrespective of grades.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have just replied earlier so far 120 persons have been benefited from the IC3 Programme. Three batches of trainees have already completed the programme and three other batches are currently been trained.

Commissioner JABEEMISSAR: On 3 March 2007 the programme was officially launched by the Minister of IT and Telecommunication and the Deputy Chief Commissioner that is myself. The IC3 training software has been installed on the Computers of HRC and a group of trainers has been trained by the National Computer Board. Batches of 20 participants each are trained by three trainers. Trainings are of 24 hours duration and is being delivered in batches of 20 participants during an average period of 8 weeks per batch.

The steps leading toward implementation are as follows:-

- (i) before training, briefing session with IC3 Trainers;
- (ii) preparation of training schedule for different batches;
- (iii) identification of beneficiaries through education services, that is primary and pre-primary and the employment office;
- (iv) invite participants; and
- (v) deliver training.

After the training ensure that attendance of trainers and trainees are properly recorded, send attendance record to NCB, settle training fees to NCB, settle trainers fees that is Rs 6000 for each training of 45 hours. Modalities for implementing of the programme are stipulated in a Memorandum of Understanding, set to this Commission for views and comments. After each batch completes training, attendance record are sent to the National Computer Board for the latter to prepare attendance certificate. The NCB will also do necessary arrangements as regard conduct of examination for those willing to have a recognise certificate. The IC3 Courses are delivered everyday as from 15 hrs and on Saturday during the whole day.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are three trainers dispensing the courses, namely:

- (i) Mr. BRASSE who is also benefiting from the Empowerment Programme for Diploma Holders;
- (ii) Mr. FELICITE, an ICT Teacher; and
- (iii) Mrs. CLAIR, Computer Support Officer of my Commission.

The Project Supervisor has not yet been recruited and therefore implementation is restricted in the Computer Lab of the HRC whereas the programme was initially meant to be offered in three other Labs namely Rodrigues College, Mont Lubin College and Marechal College.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the programme is already meeting its qualitative target that is providing target groups with basic IT Literacy knowledge and skill. As regard the quantitative target it would only be possible for 1300 to be trained provided the Project Supervisor is recruited by allowing courses in three schools as originally planned.

Following a request from my Commission, the National Computer Board has agreed to do needful as regard recruitment of the above Project Coordinator. We have been informed that an official correspondence will be sent this week to our Commission in connection with the advertisement of the post and signature of an MOU and in the meantime Mr. Chairperson, Sir, courses are being conducted only in the Computer Lab of the Human Resource Centre. Thank You.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, Commissioner for Sports

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to make a Statement to inform the Assembly of the activities which my Commission has been undertaking during the last six months to promote the development of youth and sports and employment in Rodrigues. At the very outset Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have had a brainstorming session early January this year with all the staff of my Commission during which we have define our policy objective as being to empower the youth to enhance their access to job and to inculcate an entrepreneurial spirit among them by promoting the development of the “sport de masse” throughout the island. Our strategies to achieve this objective were as follows:-

- (i) we have reorganized the Commission by merging the Youth and Sport division together to enable a better coordination of activities and enhance the synergies of activities organised in the youth and sports sector.
- (ii) We have adopted a regional approach to decentralise sport and youth activities. A youth advisory bureau has been set up in each of the six local regions of Rodrigues. Each bureau is staffed with a Youth Officer and Sport Coach and is aimed at bringing a service of proximity to our customers.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the youth is the motto of our economic development. They represent our main resource and no stone should be left unturned to protect them from social evils and to accompany them in their quest for a decent and sustainable means of earning their living.

My Commission has embarked on the following programme. First, we have organised a *balade de la Jeunesse programme* which has taken place at strategic places throughout the island from March to June 2007. This programme was essentially a cultural and musical show aiming at offering an appropriate platform to our youth so that they can express themselves, their feelings and demonstrate their talents. The aim was to give them a value and keep them away from social evils such as alcohol, drugs and sexually transmitted diseases. This programme has been very successful in attracting around 4000 youths. I have been personally very amazed and impressed by the high number of hidden talent which has come out. To further encourage these talents my Commission has organised three regional concerts at La Ferme, Grande Montagne and Malabar to select artists based on performance to participate in a Jump Around Youth Concert which will be organised on the 4 August 2007 to celebrate the International Youth Day. The theme for this year is “*be seen, be heard the youth in the development*”.

Commissioner AGATHE: The present Executive Council is very conscious of the problem of unemployment which is affecting a majority of our Young People. As a responsible Regional Government, we cannot afford to let this situation persist anymore and we have to plan ahead through appropriate policies and strategies to offer employment opportunities to offer our youth. In this perspective my Commission with the collaboration of Invest Rodrigues of the Chief Commissioner's Office has initiated a programme which aims at stimulating the youth to use existing facilities and to set up and start their enterprises. In this context, a two day training sessions has been organised during five consecutive weeks with each of the five groups of beneficiaries of the atelier de savoir. About 300 youth has benefited from this programme during which they have been trained on the preparation of a business plan and management of enterprises including marketing. The same programme has also been extended to other unemployed youth who are out of the *atelier de savoir stream*.

A series of talk on *entrepreneuriat* was launched at Riviere Coco last week and will be extended to other villages. This will be immediately followed by a seminar targeting some 50 youth of the region. The ultimate objective of the seminar will be to set up a youth enterprise project on a pilot basis. The project will be identified by the youth themselves and will be facilitated by my Commission with the collaboration of Invest Rodrigues through a system of mentorship which will be set up. This programme will be extended to the other local regions of the island. We are expecting that at least one youth enterprise project will be set up by the end of June 2008.

In addition, my Commission has identified call centre operation to represent a good sector which can absorb our SC, HSC school leavers provided our telecommunication system is improved to enable the installation of call centers in Rodrigues. Inevitably this will have to happen by being pro-active my Commission with the collaboration of the Human Resource Development Council is encouraging the placement of SC, HSC holders from Rodrigues to call centers in Mauritius for training and working to acquire the appropriate skills in view of the future installation of call centers in Rodrigues.

A selection exercise has just been carried out last week by two representatives of the BPO infinity which is the leading firm in call centre operation in Mauritius. *Quels sont les avantages Monsieur le Président que Rodrigues aura avec les centres d'appels? Si Rodrigues aspire à se décoller économiquement, les Rodriguais doivent revoir leurs heures de travaux de cette habitude de dormir à 18 heures. C'est plutôt en relation avec les temps dont Rodrigues ne bénéficier pas de l'électricité. Aujourd'hui ce n'est pas le cas, mais la façon de vivre reste le même. Le centre d'appel va venir corriger cette tendance et donnera une révolution économique dans l'île. Rodrigues va pouvoir vendre tous ses produits du terroir c'est-à-dire Bio sur les marchés européen à travers les centres d'appels.*

I made an appeal to the Rodriguan's family not to be afraid of migration as it is said by the opposing party. Migration is normal and a continuous process which take place in every country particularly those at the early stage of the economic development. According to figures published by the Central Statistic Office there have been a total of 4680 persons leaving Rodrigues the period 1994 to 2005. This figure represents more than 75% of the

natural increase in our population which is estimated at 7119 for the same period. *Qui dit "Autonomy" dit aussi disponibilité des mains d'oeuvres qualifiées également.*

Commissioner AGATHE: The vision of the new Regional Government is to achieve economic development of Rodrigues. This can only be possible if we have skilled labour force which can be achieved to the external world. This new Executive Council has a new vision and aims at achieving economic independence of Rodrigues. We have already identified the following sectors as the main providers of jobs to our youths; call centers, agro industry, agriculture and fisheries. It is with this vision that we are encouraging migration of our labour force with placement opportunities with the objective that they will acquire skills while working and come back to support the development of our economic sector in terms of skills labour.

My Commission is also liaising with the Ministry responsible for employment in Mauritius and will encourage unemployed persons in Rodrigues to take employment abroad under the circular migration scheme in line with the policy of the Central Government. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are convinced that sports can play a very important role in promoting Rodrigues abroad and also to keep our population healthy. Our objectives are to improve performance of our athletes to reach high level and at the same time to promote the practice of sports by old age groups. Particularly, the children and the youth to provide a nursery of high level athletes for national and international competitions.

In this context, my Commission has embarked on a programme in organising a series of sports festival at the level of each region aiming at promotion *sport de masse*. Up to now, this programme has been organised at Grand Baie, Port Sud Est and Baie Topaze for local region 4, 3 and 1, respectively.

It will continue with the other three local regions during the forthcoming weeks. In this programme the various sports disciplines are brought to the proximity of the community for demonstration in view of stimulating them to practice a sport discipline of their choice. The response has been more than expected particularly among the children. My Commission in collaboration with the Regional Sport Committee will ensure appropriate follow-up action in view of taping those interested and providing them with the appropriate framework for the practice of the respective sports discipline. In this perspective we are presently providing lightning facilities to 23 sports infrastructure throughout Rodrigues including Region No. 6 to enable the practice of sports in the evening and thereby optimizing the use of these infrastructures.

I thank you for your attention.

Mr. Chairperson: No other Statement, next item.

The Clerk: Motions, please.

Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move the Motions standing in my name which reads as follows:-

"That this Assembly is of opinion that, by virtue of section 31 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001, there is passed the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Tourism) Regulations 2007"

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded the Motion.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as the Commissioner responsible for the sector of Tourism, next month it will be one year since I took the race of this very important sector. I am pleased to inform the House that I have left no stone unturned to develop this sector which unfortunately, has long been mismanaged by our predecessors who are now on the other side of the House.

We all know that the Tourism Industry has not been well oriented during the passed years. The statistics show a clear cut, showing a decline in Tourist arrival since 2004 from 60, 355 passengers arrival in 2002 same had reached 53,534 in 2005 that is 11.3% decrease over four years. However, earlier this year, I announced that the MR Government has given tourism a fresh lease of life and successfully managed to deviate the downward trend and recorded and increasing arrival of 55, 378 that is 3.4 % increase in year 2006. Within the first six month of this year now completed I am again please to announce that during the first six month of the 2007, our Tourism has recorded an average increase arrival of 17 % as compared to the same period last year.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is a fact for Rodrigues, the Tourism sector is presently the most important sector for our economy as rightly pointed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Honorable Xavier Luc Duval last Saturday during the opening of the Francois Leguat Tortoise and Caves Reserve, we can unfortunately only look in our Tourism Sector for an immediate and quick development of our island. Our effort in this industry should therefore be continuous and more aggressive if we want to raise the standard of living of our people.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, our Tourism Industry is presently undergoing various transformational changes namely:

- (i) Development of various tourist attractions such as the Port Mathurin Esplanade project, The Trou D'argent Nature Trail Project, the development of Caverne Patate, and Ile aux Coco
- (ii) The repositioning of an orientation of our island through new promotion campaigns, in that respect a new series of photos were recently launched by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism Honorable Xavier Luc Duval.

- (iii) The presence of Rodrigues in the major tourism promotion fairs in addition to the various *voyage de presse* and visits of travel trade professionals.

Chief Commissioner: While huge efforts are being made in the promotion of our island as a tourist destination it is also important to put some order in our industry locally. It is useless if we invest millions plus hard work in the promotion of the island internationally and in return tourists coming to our island are not provided with quality services and products. An unsatisfied tourists can give much negative advertisement to our island. In that respect, promotion of our island also begins from our own hope.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, during our regional government programme in December last and in our budget this year, I announced that much emphasis will be given by my Government on the development of small typical family tourist enterprises, *gites et maison d'hotels* with a view to bring tourist to the home of the Rodriguans. In that respect I had announced that I will become soon with new Regulations in this House to cater for the appropriate operation of tourist businesses. I also announced that a complete classification in grading of the different types of tourist businesses will also be included in these Regulations. I am pleased to present these Regulations to this House and as such fulfill the promise which I have made before this House and also to our stakeholders in that industry during the various meetings which I have had with them.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Rodriguan's hospitality and authenticity is unique. Many professionals in the Tourism sector had advised us to preserve that authenticity and specificity as it represents our main asset in the tourism market. The Regulation aims at preserving this Rodriguan's authenticity. The House will note that within the Regulation provision has been made for typical Rodriguan accommodation such as *Gites, Chambre d'hotels et table d'hotels*.

However, we are also aware that there is a need to ensure quality services in that sector. We should end up with the complaints that are received at our office du tourism regarding poor sanitary conditions, lack of building facilities etc. The same request has also been received from the different stakeholders of the Tourism industry during the several consultative meeting that I had with them.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the objectives of this Tourism Regulations are as follows:-

- (i) to promote an appropriate legal framework for the proper management and tourism development in Rodrigues;
- (ii) to Regulate and control the licensing and operation of tourist enterprises in our island and to ensure quality standards;

- (iii) to ensure proper enforcement of tourism laws with respect to our island

Chief Commissioner: In that respect Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the proposed Regulations purport to:-

- (i) Introducing grading and classification of tourist enterprises into hotels, *gites*, *chambre d'hotes*, *table d'hotes* and guest house and tourism residence
- (ii) Introduce new concept of tourist accommodation, structures specific to Rodrigues such as *chambre d'hotes*, *gites* and *table d'hotes*
- (iii) Establishing licensing procedures, fees and standards for the operation of the tourist accommodation enterprises in Mauritius.

The second part of the Regulation proposes the establishment of the Tourism Advisory Committee which would comprise of the major stakeholders of the Tourism industry and who would be advising my office on the formulation of policies and standards for the sustainable development of tourism on our island and general matters relating to tourism promotion and development. The Committee will also take over the function of the ex- Rodrigues Tourism Committee.

Part (iii) of the Regulation provides for the licensing of tourist enterprises, the procedures, fees and standards for the operation of Tourist accommodation enterprises in Rodrigues. The House will note that at the second schedule the norms and standards that are being set for the tourism industry with regards to the fees that would be applicable I would like to point out that the fees are being kept at the same level as it is presently, in spite of the fact that much higher fees are being claimed for the same licenses on the mainland Mauritius for e.g pleasure craft boat.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is proposed that this Regulation shall come into operation as from the first of January 2008. The delay will allow the different operators in the industry to accustom themselves to the Regulations and the norms and standards being set. It will also give them sufficient time to bring the changes on improvement that would be required for their enterprises. It should be noted that those who are already holding a valid licence under the Rodrigues Regional Assembly licences Regulations would have the option for applying for the Tourist Enterprise Licence up to the renewal of licence that is June 2008. With the implementation of this Regulation, my office will maintain a register of tourist enterprises. This register would be the official reference of all tourist enterprises in Rodrigues and will be used by the *Office du Tourisme* in its promotional campaign.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, times are gone where only selected and favoured enterprises under opaque criteria were promoted. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is a fact for our tourism industry that there are many operators who have a business and are still operating under residential lease,

this represents a potential loss of revenue to the Government in terms of hire lease and tax and loss of licence fees while these operators have all the difficulties in securing financial support for the development of their enterprises and the recognition and promotion of their businesses. These Regulations Mr. Chairperson, Sir, will resolve the issue. Once these Regulations are implemented, my office would proceed with the regularization of these residential leases into appropriate commercial leases. A Technical Committee will be visiting these enterprises on making recommendations to my office. The enterprise will make the required norms on standards and the enterprise will not only be given a tourist enterprise licence but will also be given commercial and industrial lease, as the case may be. This measure will lighten the suffering of many in this industry which through many years have tried to earn a living for their family and were awaiting the time to regularize their situation and develop their enterprise.

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the House would note that at Regulation 26 provision is being made for the collection of more accurate and precise tourism statistic for our Island. It will resolve the problem that is being encountered with the present system where it is difficult to differentiate between tourists coming from various destinations, specially France and Reunion Island. With the introduction of these Regulations, tourists visiting our Islands would be required to fill in a passenger information sheet.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with our vision of developing tourism as a major pillar of our economy, it is undoubted that the integration of these Regulations in Rodrigues will put much awaited order in the tourism industry and will ensure more professionalism and quality product and services for our tourist. With these words Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I command the Motion to Assembly.

Thank You.

Mr. Chairperson: Any Member from this side? How many Members do we have to intervene? Only three. Yes, how many Members on this side? So, three we have one here.

Mr. D. Speville: *Monsieur le Président*, it gives me great pleasure to address this House on an issue and a subject that have a determined role and a strong impact on our economy. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the world today is no longer the one we were living just a few years ago. In today's world, the global economy presents us with new difficulties and yet also with new attractions. There is different reality demanding different responses. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the presentation of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Tourism Regulations 2007, demonstrate that the Chief Commissioner does not have a long time planned for tourist development in Rodrigues like other tourist destinations. Development process worldwide is becoming more and more competitive and need to be sustainable and certainly that the case for the local tourism industry. Rodrigues does need to compete with a well define tourism label and branch. The Commission for Tourism in presenting that piece of Regulation other than a law specifically for Rodrigues in the matter of tourism shows that the Regional Government has failed in strategic planning, market research and sound registration for the tourist sector.

Mr. D. Speville: Monsieur le President, the constant *retomber* of the tourist industry at the time being is the harvest of the work of the former Government who laid les bases solide *pour rendre cette industrie dynamique*. Monsieur le President, I will come later to innumerate some of these realisations laid by the OPR Government in the tourist sector and which has been inherited by the majority of today. Even the general and operational guidelines of these Regulations were already prepared by the former Executive Council and I can say that those presented today is a copy conforme of same translated in English.

(Applause)

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we certainly cannot compete with only an exotic and authentic destination labels as tourism is a dynamic activity. Tourism is one of the largest and most competitive industries with major growth potential. Tourism will present wealth in many regards and is an important generator of employment. There is no doubt about that.

Monsieur le Président, si par la présentation de ce règlement, on voit que cette industrie va être négligée, ce n'est pas que nous n'ayons pas un inventaire extraordinaire, un patrimoine d'accueil de premier ordre Monsieur le Président. Nous avons des gens bien former pour recevoir les visiteurs, d'ailleurs c'est une qualité naturelle. Notre culture, nos paysages font la joix de toutes les personnes qui y viennent. La qualité de notre terre Rodriguaise et ces saisons sont un attrait réelle et une source de satisfaction pour les touristes qui nous visitent.

Ce qui nous manquent à Rodrigues, ce n'est pas un inventaire d'accueil, un patrimoine accueillant, ce qui manque à Rodrigues, c'est un gouvernement qui veut protéger cette île avec un cacher d'une île autrement, île nature et île écologique. Mais qu'est ce qu'on voit aujourd'hui Monsieur le Président? *Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have various examples of places where unbridled development is putting such a strain on the natural environment that even the entire landscape is being destroyed.* Aujourd'hui, Monsieur le Président, les paysages de Rodrigues est défiguré.

Mr Chairperson: Please wait. Can you realise that we are not in a budget speech, we are only debating on a Motion to approve a Regulations and one of the cardinal principle, and you have not mention the Regulations for one time since the beginning. But you need to, all the time. I am not interrupting you for just the same, you can comment on the tourist industry. But it is not so easy to say you will "*mentioner encore*" and that is it.

Mr. D. Speville: Aujourd'hui Monsieur le Président...

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, I am talking please. Take your seat and listen! It is not a sort of policy in tourism that we are up to. It is not budget speech; it is a Regulation and you got to conform to it. Most of all you have said have no relevance in this, if you continue on this type, I've got to stop you.

Mr. D. Speville: Est défiguré l'environnement devienne de plus en plus insalubre et le tissu sociale se modifie énormément. We have common example Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the continual land use without planning the improper land sub division. Monsieur le Président si on perd ses atouts, l'industrie touristique sera en décline. C'est pourquoi la réglementation démontre que la politique du gouvernement régionale actuelle *will jeopardize this sector by granting tourist entreprise licences by an adhoc case by case basis rather than in the context of an overall tourist development strategy*. La crise économique qui perdure exiger que le gouvernement régionale pose des gestes d'eclats afin de permettre la relance économique. La seule façon que ce gouvernement a trouvé concrètement pour relancer l'économie a été la création d'un casino à Port Mathurin Monsieur le Président. Les personnes a petit revenue sont attirées a des jeux de hasard dans....

Mr. Chairperson: This is not allowed, can't you understand that we are to deal with Motion for Regulation which is to cap the tourist industry with framework comme une gites. You cannot rise up and say whatever you wish on ever sector, every activity. Deputy Chairperson, take the chair please.

Mr. D. Speville: C'est pourquoi je dis qu'il faut conserver ce pays et cesser de faire croire à la population que tous va bien dans le domaine touristique à Rodrigues car c'est archi faux. Beaucoup de propriétaire d'auberge et gîtes sont laissés a eux-mêmes. From information gather from the stakeholders, most of them, not to say all of them are not aware of the provisions of this Regulation. *Est-ce qu'il y a eu des consultations Madame la Présidente avec tous les concernés?* This is why there is need for opting for a sustainable approach to tourism in Rodrigues by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly which entails institutional leadership, coordination with the private sector and social involvement.

Madame la Présidente avec la faiblesse qui gagne notre tissu sociale le monde touristique rentrera dans un marasme. Madame la Présidente, *tourism can offer a great opportunity for development in villages, rural areas. It implies enormous investment in infrastructure and it improves the living conditions of local residents and of course those of the tourists.*

Madame la Présidente, the former Executive Council decision to have invested thoughtfully in development infrastructure will contribute considerably to the tourist industry. Public Infrastructure such as good road, airport, port development, essential water supply, good health centres and Hospital were set up as basic requirement for larger tourist development. This trend should continue. Now it seems that this has stopped.

Madame la Présidente, there is a question of appropriate design of the tourist mobility system. Tourism and transport are too closely connected sectors. This is why for the former Executive Council, management of tourist mobility in the island was considered as an issue of paramount importance. *Madame la Présidente,* the wealth generated by tourism is not purely economic. The Regional OPR Government put emphasis on environment and local culture by favoring private/public partnership in the tourism sector. The recent opening of the giant tortoise project at Anse Quitor and the approval of the Pointe Source project emanate from

the former Regional Government's vision to increase environmental, social awareness and their integration. This is why Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the approval of such projects were done in a vision to create opportunities for economic development.

Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Chairperson, the respected Member is again flowing in the wrong direction in the debates and speaking about development of tourism, approval of projects by the former Executive instead of dealing with what is under consideration, that is, the Regulations. Up to now we have not dealt with any matter specific to the Regulation. He is embarking this Assembly into his history and his criticism instead of concentrating on the main matter. This should not be allowed.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson: The respected Member would you please go to the matter.

Mr. D. Speville: Madame la Présidente, on a entendu parler des îles du Sud, *des discovery Rodrigues the initiative may be good but what is the way forward in developing modern concept such as ecotourism, cultural tourism and agricultural tourism*. Par exemple, dans les règlements on a parlé des gîtes. Quel type de gîtes Madame la Présidente? Gîtes rurales ou Gîte de Pêche ? Ou est ce concept d'agricultural tourism ou ont peut pratiquer des activités agricoles ou d'élevage pour les Tables D'ôtes Madame la Présidente, ou est le concept d'encourager les propriétaires ou ces voisins a avoir son propre jardin pour produire des légumes bio et frais, pour valoriser les produits du terroir. On ne voit pas cela dans les guidelines de ce règlement Madame la Présidente ?

Madame la Présidente, the local tourist industry is challenged by many aspects putting strength on it and it is observed that nowadays the main constraint to tourism development in Rodrigues at present is the lack of standards, discipline, regulation and policies in land use and planning an environment conservation.

(Applause)

Mr. D. Speville: Rodrigues is mainly marked for its ecotourism types as being witnessed in many promotion campaigns decided by the Tourist Advisory Committee set up by the OPR Regional Government under the Chairmanship of the then Chief Commissioner. This implies that all the activities which have to be carried out within the framework of the environmental and tourism policies, this is why the OPR former Executive Council in its endeavor for a sustainable tourism development initiated the necessity for an adapted tourism legal framework for Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Tourism Act 2006 is new and at present no proper legal framework do exist specifically for Rodrigues and effective legal framework that establishes local standard for land use in Tourism Development, operation fees, licensing facilities, management and investment in Tourism.

Mr. D. Speville: This shall be supported by strengthening, legislations, standardisations, regulations and structures to improve clarity and remove inconsistencies to promote shared responsibility to make tourism sustainable. To do so, a number of pressing issues have to be tackled right from now. The questions to be answered are:

- (i) What are the desirable optimum physical carrying capacity that the country can sustain and that can preserve the profitability and viability of industry?
- (ii) Will the existing five hotels, nine *Auberge, cinquante et un Gites Chambre et table d'hotes, huit restaurants*, one kite surfing and wind surfing agencies, four *club de plongée*, five companies *de peche au gros* and the ten tour operators headed by the *office du tourism* be increased to more at the expense of degrading the natural environment, the quality of our coastal environment and the acceptability of local residents?
- (iii) Finally what will the capacity be in relation to the limited size and physical development capacity of the country, will it be one hundred thousand, two hundred thousand?

Chief Commissioner: Point of Order, again Mrs. Deputy Chairperson. I will cite Standing Order 36 (1) to the Member with permission to the chair. It said:-

"A member shall confine content of speeches; a Member shall confine his observation to the subject under discussions and shall not introduce matter not relevant thereto"

The Member has been speaking about physical development, tourism development plan, future development of tourism, this is not the purpose of the Regulations I have mentioned in my speech that the objectives of these Regulations are to provide appropriate legal framework, regulate and control licensing, ensure proper enforcement of tourism laws. This is again a breach Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, of Standing Order 36 (1) and I will invite you again to call this Member and to speak only about the relevant matter. Not to go outside because you will be taking unnecessarily the precious time of this Assembly to satisfy his different motives. You have debated but you have rules also and you have to abide to the rules, unfortunately for you. Thank you.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson: O.k, So. Mr. Speville for the end time please go straight to your point. Yes. I am talking to this Member? Yes, of course when I have finished you can speak and would you please go to the matter that we are talking about and do not divert to other things, thank you.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: As a Point of Order, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, as regards to the subject matter today is about *"Tourism"*. It is about a piece of legislation, so it is about policy and as far as I see that everything that is being pertained here in the House is about Tourism. So, I don't see what is it? The subject matter doesn't mean that the Executive should guide the

opposition under which subject of Tourism we should speak. The legislation has catered for a number of things which have to do with classification and which has to do with legislation, go and see at the National Assembly when there are debates because here we are debating on a legislation, that is what I am saying people are speaking for three hours there. Why can't we speak, this is a legislation these are debates ...

(Interruptions)

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson: Order, please!

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson: Let her speak please Chief Commissioner!

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : Whatever we speak on Tourism, as regard to the formulation of your policy concerns the matter. The matter is about Tourism the whole classification. You have been given the right....**(Gaps on cassette)**.

(Interruptions)

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson: Chief Commissioner, please take your seat please. Order! Mr. Speville you can resume your speech if you want to. Order please so that we can continue.

Mr. D. Speville: The next question is how do we maximize the capita tourist expenditure and increase the size of the tourism multiplier. Actually, about how much of the receipt from tourism leaks out of the economy in form of export and other economic parameters. How do we control and reduce exposure to the ill effect of cheap low class tourism and of the background development. Finally, how do we reconcile the needs of local residents with the tourism development?

Madame la Pr sidente, obviously the answer to these questions resides in the maintenance of our country as a high tourist destination as selective and quality tourism is the only viable option for Rodrigues. This can be done by ensuring continued investment in Tourism related infrastructures, strengthen institutional support to the sector, investing in information technology, upgrading of skills through better training and information in the tourist industry, protecting the lagoon and the eco-system, establishing necessary regulatory framework to control backyard development and special development, ensuring continued security to the tourist and ensuring a sound tourism development strategy. Will this piece of Regulation caters for that *Madame la Pr sidente*?

Mr. D. Speville: The present provision of certain tourist accommodation is a classical example of informal market not following any Regulation which is leading to spoil and the low quality of accommodation that directly undermines the desired image of the formal tourism sector. The tourist needs value for money with a high standards and tourism brand for Rodrigues. This is why it has always been imperative to regularize the tourism sector.

This is why on this side of the House we think that a master plan for tourism development in Rodrigues which caters for the establishment of an authority or body which will be responsible for planning research, control and regulation of tourism sector while at the same time determining hotel classification and acting as a licensing authority fits better for Rodrigues.

Madame la Présidente, I will now turn to some realization made before the coming of this Regional Government...

Chief Commissioner: Again Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, I will insist on the Point of Order and I will insist that Standing Order 36 (1) be confined to. Is the Member allowed to come to say what is the realisation of his...

(Interruptions)

Chief Commissioner: No, no.. This should not be allowed. Turn yourself to the Regulations and speak about the Regulation and do not come to speak about your realizations. This is not the subject matter of consideration. No. No... Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, I wish that this point be made clear. Standing Order is clear;

"Confined his observation through the subject under consideration"

It is Regulation of the Tourist Enterprises in the Tourism Industry. We are not making an Act on Tourism Development. If we were making an Act on Tourism Development or an Act or Regulation on tourism policy in general, they would be allowed to talk on whatever they want. This is not the case, we are talking about Regulations and I wish that they stick to the Standing Orders. You think you know everything; in fact you are very....

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson: Please! *Donc, je demanderai aux Membres de ne pas aller...* what you've achieved early on this does not really concerned, you should have included it in your debate as you go, but you don't make it a chapter when you are debating, so please. You should have included it earlier on and not now making a chapter, your achievement.

Mr. D. Speville: Madame la Présidente, *après the settlement of the Regional OPR Government in 2002*, un Comité de Touriste a été mise sur pied pour la promotion touristique de Rodrigues...

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson: Can I stop you! this is what I have just said, you should have included all your achievements may be while you have been talking, and while you were making your point on the Regulation and not now making a chapter itself because it is not relevant to the

(Interruptions)

Mr. D. Speville: Tous ces salons, ces *websites*, la construction de la nouvelle salle de l'office du tourisme été *policies of the Rodrigues OPR Régional Government*. Tous ces salons a La Réunion, en Europe, a Londres, en France, a Lion, Top Résa D'eauville, Italie, Milan tous ces salons ont été des programmes initiés, des calendriers des activités des promotions touristiques initiées par le Gouvernement Régionale OPR. SETIL a Maurice, tous ce et puis ont a même fait des activités écologiques pour donner un cachet éco-touristique a Rodrigues, ont eue la protection des îlots, la foret endémique a Grande Montagne, la réintroduction des tortues et dans l'Est on a eue un partenariat avec le secteur privé pour les foret endémiques et introduction des animaux disparus.

Madame la Présidente, I shall now turn to a flash back of the Regulation. Regulation (iii) establishment of a Tourism Advisory Committee. Madame la Présidente, as the Tourism Industry tends to develop rapidly, there is always the need to keep ourselves up to date, with new trends in development and technology. It would therefore be advisable that provision be made so that the Member shall hold office for a certain period of time in order to allow new blood to be injected in the Committee and to avoid conflict of interest in this sector. In the first schedule Madame la Présidente, section (b) it would be advisable to categorise the pleasure craft as per the carrying capacity of boats so that the owners of the lower carrying facility boats can have a better benefits.

Moreover, *Madame la Présidente* it would have be advisable that a special unit in the public infrastructure to monitor the building of *Gites, Chambres d'hotels et autres* be set up. *Parce que en ce moment on est en train de donner des permis de construction, mais il n'y a pas de visites qui sont faits sur le terrain pour voir si le approve plan corresponde réellement aux plans de la maison qui est en train de construire. Il n'y a pas de visite par les officiers.* This is why being given that the Tourism Regulation caters for the specific guidelines concerning the different features annex to the construction, must emphasis has to be laid on their implementation and to see whether the real plan of *gites, Chambres d'hotels* and trends, location correspond to the approved one. It is understood that other Members that the Minority sides will give their opinions to the Regulations and we will raise for some amendments and if so is not taken into account we will not vote in favour of this Regulation which is a straight copy, paste of the Tourism Authority of 2006. To conclude Madame la Présidente, from the outset of these Regulation presented it seems to be a poor cut and paste exercise, the present Executive Council have failed in exercising their duties and they missed the golden opportunity to present a better piece of Regulation.

Thank you.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson: I suspend the Assembly for ten minutes.

(At 15.27 the Assembly was suspended for 10 minutes)

(Resumption at 15.38 hours with the Chairperson in the Chair)

/UNREVISED/

Debate No. 9 of 17.07.2007

Mr. Chairperson: I regret to say that two Members came to see me, I was not in a position due to my health to see them, but now it's ok can we proceed.

MOTION - CHIEF COMMISSIONER

Chief Commissioner: With your permission Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to make a Motion under Standing Order 9 (5).

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, please.

Chief Commissioner: I move that the remaining business on the Order Paper today be exempted from the provision of paragraph 3 of the Order 9 Thank you.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, seconded. Question – that the remainder of business of today's on the Order Paper be exempted from paragraph 3 of Standing Order 9. Those in favour say "Ayes", those against say "No".

Members: Ayes.

Mr. Chairperson: The ayes have it so let us proceed. Can we have one person from this side?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is a pleasure for me to share my contribution to this Motion which is being presented by the Chief Commissioner on Rodrigues Regional Assembly Tourism Regulation 2007 which I first of all congratulate the Chief Commissioner for coming with such a Motion and secondly to praise the Chief Commissioner for his courage at this point in time due to the importance of the tourism sector as one of the main pillar of our economy. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the tourism is such that if nothing is done right now, that is if a legal regulatory framework is not set right now in order to have a better control in that sector, I think it would be too late if we act later because Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since the coming in power of the previous Government we have seen that hotels have been constructed, which falls under certain regulation as businesses, but nothing has been done as regards the *Gites, Chambres d'hotes* and so on. Other tourist operating businesses, everybody had the right to operate as he wants and therefore this can put at stake Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that sector which is of very great importance for our economy. Therefore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I welcome first of all the setting up of the Tourism Advisory Committee which provides guidelines for a better management of the Tourism sector, where decisions are taken in democratic way and where also it shows transparency in the way the tourism sector will be operated in Rodrigues.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the present situation shows that the previous Government had no plan for the development of tourism in Rodrigues contrary to what I have just been said by the Member of the other side because Mr. Chairperson, Sir, how is it that now we are expecting that although we have seen that there are difficulties in air flights, how is it that now we are witnessing a very great increase in tourist arrival? This is the proof Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that under our Government people are more confident that this sector is however, a bright future under our governance Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this one of the reasons why this sector is showing fruitful future.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, licensing of any enterprise is of utmost importance in the sense that it gives the government an eye and an overview of how that sector operates by seeing to it that all the parameters are being respected, namely; the standards, the security, the keeping of records and so on and all these are being provided under that Regulation Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Therefore, we cannot say as were the case of the respected Member that such a Regulation has not been properly made, that such a Regulation will not be able to meet the objectives, Mr. Chairperson, Sir because everything has been carefully put in that Regulation to see to it that this sector works like it should be. Therefore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am of the opinion that by coming with such a Regulation we are starting with a new era of the tourism industry in Rodrigues. Tourist coming to Rodrigues now Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have the choice of the type of lodging they want, *Gites, Chambres d'hotes*, hotel of how many stars it is, they will know well in advance that when they come in such a country there are tourist enterprises which cater for their needs, therefore tourist of all level will feel free to come to come to Rodrigues because they know that in our island this sector has a legal framework.

Therefore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, one of the *crainte du membre de l'opposition Monsieur le Président, c'est que les entreprises touristiques ne respectent pas l'environnement Monsieur le Président. Mais c'est totalement faux, même si le tourisme en générale n'est pas incluse dans cette loi, mais il parle du respect de l'environnement, le respect des architectures, des bâtiments, des différentes catégories qui tombent sous cette loi qui doivent, je refere le membre Monsieur le Président, a la section (16) qui dit :-*

"which gives general guidelines of the tourist enterprises falling this Regulation that is one which agree architecture must be fully integrated in its surrounding environment"

Therefore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, somebody asking a permit, a licence to operate a tourist enterprise must observe that that piece of the law and regulation, otherwise it is clearly said that such enterprise wont get its licence. Therefore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wonder why the respected member is putting so many adverse reports on that regulation.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, *le Membre de la minorité tout à l'heure nous donnés des conseils Ààpolitique dont nous devrions suivre, maintenant que nous sommes au pouvoir afin de faire en sorte que le secteur touristique aille dans la bonne direction.*

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Monsieur le Président, je me pose la question comment se fait-il et pourquoi ce Membre quand il était au pouvoir il n'a pas donné ces bons conseils à ce Gouvernement d'alors pour pouvoir faire en ce sorte que le secteur du tourisme se porte bien. Mais à mon avis tel n'a pas été le cas vu la situation que nous avons hérité. Monsieur le Président, je vais pas être long, je voudrais tout simplement dire que venir avec ces règlements, ça tombe à pique parce que pendant quatre ans et demi que le précédent Gouvernement était là, il n'ont pas eu le courage de venir de l'avant avec ça, il ont laissé la situation pourrir, Monsieur le Président, il est temps qu'ont vienne avec ces règlements pour pouvoir mettre un frein, pour pouvoir réglementer, contrôler la situation afin que le secteur touristique aille dans une bonne direction.

Monsieur le Président, pour terminer je voudrais dire tout simplement que le Chef Commissaire responsable du Tourisme a eu le courage de venir avec une loi, bien sûr si au départ on voit que cette loi comporte des lacunes au fil des jours, des mois, des années qui viennent on peut venir avec des amendements pour adapter avec le temps et la situation, mais valeur du jour Monsieur le Président, c'est la meilleure solution qu'ont eue, venir avec des règlements qui donnent le droit légal aux opérateurs touristiques d'opérer, de contrôler, de maintenir et d'assurer qu'il y ait de la qualité pour que les touristes quand ils viennent chez nous, ils se sentent en sécurité et que le secteur touristique aille dans une bonne direction Monsieur le Président Merci.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Regulation presented by the Chief Commissioner to this House today deals with an important aspect of our economy and I believe that those persons who are engaged in the tourism sector are expecting much of it. I should point out from the very beginning itself that when we mentioned the word "Tourism" it cannot be taken in isolation. It is associated with so many sectors, environment Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and when we are discussing about the Tourism, we cannot help ourselves from mentioning the word "environment". In fact Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the regulations aim principally at setting a legal framework for those operators who have been acting may be informally for sometime. When we have a look, we have a glance at this piece of regulation, it appears that it is going to bring a major change in the tourism industry in Rodrigues.

However, after careful perusal of the latter, we come into the conclusion that not much will be achieved if a real mechanism and adjustment for control is not set. This is the major point. I would like to highlight from the very beginning that there are a large number of discrepancies that have been noted and that if it is not considered seriously it may cause more harm than good. I am going to elaborate on this point later on my speech.

As I have said Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the regulation aims at regulating the tourist enterprises but will in no way give a boost to the sector since you see there has been no provision for the backing of operators who are already in the sector. We are telling them to regularize that right. We are giving a mandatory period up to January 2008 but what are the facilities, what is the back up that is being given to those who are not going to be in concordance with this regulation, what are the backing that are being given to these. Nowhere it is mentioned,

Mr. Chairperson, Sir. What do we see since the taking of power of the present Government, there has been a complete dismantlement of all structures which has previously set and there is a feeling that I will term as *"bouge fix"*. Which is I should say based on mainly voyage, whose principal aim is to reward *"les petits copains"*. I am of the view that this state of affairs when we look at the present regulation is due to a lack of consultation and a lack of participatory approach with the stakeholders. In fact today we are presenting something which is very important in this House about regulating the aspect of the informal sector of Tourism; we see we don't have even someone who deals with this sector here in this Assembly. So, this is a clear indication Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that there has been no participatory approach for the setting up for the preparation of this regulation.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there has been an attempt made by the Chief Commissioner to give a bad view of tourism during our tenure of office. We all know in this House that the drop in tourism occurs in 2005 due to factors I may say are sometimes beyond control, *"tous comme l'augmentation des prix petroliers, c'est pas sous nos control meme aux niveaux de Maurice"*. So, likewise the decrease of arrival of tourism in 2005 is directly linked not because there were no proper promotion but due to external factors which are beyond control. I mentioned it last time when I debated on the budget, the two main factors were Chikungunya effect couple with an increase in price of air tickets between Mauritius and Rodrigues that were the two main factors Mr. Chairperson, Sir. If we have an analysis of the factors, analysis of the statistic, what does it reveal? We may say that there has been a decrease but when we have a close analysis of statistics as revealed by the Central Bureau of Statistics, tourist arrival from Mauritius decreases by 19.5% from 2003 to 2005. Whilst the drop in tourism from other countries decreased only by 8%? This can be checked from available data from the Central Statistic Office. So, what do we conclude? We conclude the decrease in tourist arrival is mainly due to a decrease in the number of our fellow citizens from Mauritius which can be accounted on the fact that there has been an increase in the price of air tickets. So, if the Chief Commissioner is coming to say that we fail to prevent a rise in the increase of air tickets which should consequently leads to a decrease in the number of arrival from Mauritius, then he should admit that he failed to prevent the closure of Catovair which I believed Mr. Chairperson, Sir, will have negative consequence on the number of tourist arrival in coming years.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner has given a bright view of the tourist arising from his massive promotion abroad for the year 2006. I am told that in Statistics when we analyze it, one may somehow manipulate figures to arrive to a particular conclusion that one wants to. I do agree that there has been an increase, it is facts that there has been an increase with the uprising number of tourism, but a closer look at the figures reveal the following; increase number is due to once again Mauritian tourism. I can reveal the figures. This means Mr. Chairperson, Sir that the increase as regards to tourism from other countries is not directly proportional to the large amount of sum, large sum of money spent for promotion industries whether in France, Italy and Germany. It is not directly proportional because the figures speak for itself for 2006 as rightly put it by the Chief Commissioner, the number of arrival is 55, 378 out of these there are some I think may be 40, 000 citizens from Mauritius

and some 10,000 from abroad. So, what do we see? We see again Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when we look at the statistics there is a decrease in the number of tourist arrival from abroad which moves from 11,421 in 2005 especially from France and Reunion and comes down to 10, 000 for 2006. This is a very important aspect to see. The Chief Commissioner stated that the increase is due to massive campaign in France, Italy and Germany the figures did not reveal so. Tourism arrival from France decreases by 11% 2005-2006 and for Italy by 4 %. However, it is worth noting that there has been an increase of 10% from Germany for the same period but on some market there has been decrease though massive campaign, massive promotion.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is right that the Regional Government wants to set a regulatory framework, legal framework for the operation of tourism enterprises in Rodrigues. However, as I have mentioned in the very essence of my speech, the first concern of the Regional Government should have been the environment. The state of our environment is worsening day by day. Yes, that's a truth. What is the first thing that a tourist observes when he enters in Rodrigues before getting in his *Chambre d'hotes*, *Table d'hotes*, *Gites* or Hotel? The first thing that we see is the nature, the environment and this is on this that he is going to base a conclusion about how the country is being managed.

So, this is why I day there is a failure on the protection and embellishment of the environment when we look especially at the gradual degradation and the state of degradation along the main road such as traffic sign, this is also something which is related to tourism because the tourist is going to base itself on it to give a picture to the country, so these small, small things that may some persons will say that these are of no importance but still it is of importance to the tourist. This is why Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the motto to make Rodrigues an ecological island should not be considered merely by our component only as a slogan by our party but it should be the driving force and taken along side for any promotion for the tourism industry in Rodrigues. This is our authenticity and what visitors are looking for.

I am of the view Mr. Chairperson, Sir that the Regulation as presented by the Chief Commissioner should have set a legal framework to make it compulsory that a person who wants to do to tourist chez l'habitant should not be fully employed in the public or the private sector, I am here referring to the *Chambre d'hotes* to the *Gites*, *Table d'hotes* where personalised relationship with the guests is of utmost importance. I am happy to read in a particular guide concerning '*l'association tourisme vert*' qui exige que ces membres ne soient pas employés dans le secteur privé ou dans le secteur publique. I think this is a very important aspect especially when we are putting emphasis on what is going on personalized contact and I think it is also mentioned in the Regulation. "*Le touriste qui choisi d'aller habiter chez l'habitant s'attend à avoir un accueil chaleureux dans la famille car ce qu'il recherche, c'est la convivialité* ». There should be a consciousness for professionalism and for offering un service de qualité. It is only through this process that we will reach what I will term as "*une fidélisation*" of a large number of visitors of a large number of tourism.

Mr. N. Lisette: If the tourists that come here feel that he is being welcomed warmly "*dans la convivialité*", of course is going to become *fidele* to Rodrigues and this is an important aspect also to consider. Bien sure Monsieur le Président on ne peut parler de qualité sans parler de formation. I also believe that the regulation should have cater and ensure that a person who will operate a *Chambre d'hotes, Gites, Table d'hotes* should have gone through a minimum training *car ces activités demandent de la part du propriétaire une bonne connaissance de la vie rodriguaise, c'est très important*. If we are going to issue license to someone who is not formed as regard to the welcome, pour l'accueil du tourist comme on dit "*on tue l'oiseau dans l'oeuf*".

On doit avoir Monsieur le Président de faire découvrir surtout ceux qui sont engagés dans le secteur des Gites et Table d'hôtes de faire découvrir et de valoriser les meilleurs facettes de la vie du pays et pour le faire il doit être disponible, formé et aussi pour valoriser la qualité de l'accueil. *This is why I think the two points that have been mentioned here as regard to training, and as regard employment with respect to disponibility when these persons are going to Chambre d'hotes, Gites; this is an aspect of utmost importance.*

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will now highlight some discrepancies noted in the present regulations which is should say contain no less than twenty five, I am not going to highlight it now, all of them, but still at the time we are going to come up with these amendments.

Premiere chose Monsieur le President Regulation 3, establishment of the Tourism Advisory Committee. It allows under Regulation 3 sub section 1(b); it allows that Commissioner to appoint six other persons in the tourism industry and related matters. There is no provision for other tourism industry stakeholders and public officers, only the Chairperson, who is going to be the Departmental Head, is mentioned in this Committee. I think somewhere there is something lacking here, when there are second persons.

The second thing that is noted Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when we come to Regulation 5 subsection (ii), the tourism advisory Committee which is going to comprise of the Chairperson, the DH and six other members to be appointed by the Chief Commissioner. The quorum stated is three, when we see that there is going to be a Committee of seven persons, but normally it should be half the members plus one. Other members plus one which is not the case here, as regard to the quorum Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Another point to raise Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are a lot of omissions, which I am going to deal later, but what is of utmost importance also is Regulation 10. "*Suspension of Tourism Enterprise License*". Under this Regulation Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this Regulation provides for the suspension of Tourism Enterprise License by the Commission but it fails to make any provision in the case that the licensee himself sits for temporary suspension and in fact when we have a look at the whole regulation it is nowhere specified as regard to cessation of business what is the procedure to be followed and I think this regulation should have catered for this aspect also "*Cessation of business*".

Mr. N. Lisette: Another point that is to be raised that is very important Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have regulations 12, 13 and 14 as regard to the contraventions; it is stated short that in case the licensee or any person who have committed offences they have to pay a sum of Rs 10,000 , Rs 5000 something like that, I think that in these cases there should be addition to that a consideration for imprisonment for a term of not exceeding one year for Regulation 12 (iii), 13 (iii) and 14 (iii) as regard to offence fining.

Another point Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it relates to Regulation 18, restriction on *"Tourist Enterprise Description"*, I believe that in this Regulation there should be in addition to the word *"description"* the word *"promotion"* and the word *"advertising"*, because a person may promote and advertise a non license tourist enterprise without knowing and I think it is also important that when advertising or when promoting or when describing, I think it is also important that the license number be stated. So these are the main points as regard to amendment that I feel is important and as I have stated that there not the less than twenty five that we are going to come on this side of the House, to come with amendments at the right time during the debate of this Motion.

So, what do we see Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there has been an attempt to provide or to introduce a Regulation in this House which has not been given its due consideration during the preparatory phase and it shows a lack of seriousness as regard to the sector. I feel myself that it is a lack of seriousness when we can see that as regard to a sector which is a pillar of the economy as has rightly put it by the Deputy Chief Commissioner that we are presenting a Regulation of utmost importance and such importance with so many discrepancies and so many lacking. So, what do we see Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with these words on this side of the House, we will come later with the amendments that I have just stated and on the basis of amendment that we are going to propose, we are going to decide what to do as regard to the voting of this Regulation. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Commissionner GRANDCOURT: D'abord je dois féliciter le Chef Commissaire de venir aujourd'hui avec ce règlement sur le tourisme. Après les campagnes de promotion, on voit qu'il y des retombés positives, dans l'augmentation des arrivés du tourisme à Rodrigues. D'abord je pense que ce règlement est une suite logique dans l'industrie touristique à Rodrigues. Monsieur le Président, avant de continuer j'aimerais commenter sur ce qu'a *the second local Member for number three for Saint Gabriel*, il a dit au départ que ce règlement il n'y aura pas *de long term plan, no long term plan for the Tourism Industry in Rodrigues*. Mais Monsieur le Président ce n'est pas le cas du tous. Pour faire suite a ce règlement il y aura bien sure l'aspect environnement dont a su parler les autre membres de l'autre coté de la chambre ; l'environnement est très important. Moi aussi je vais venir avec des règlement d'environnement après, mais il faut qu'on soit d'accord Monsieur le Président qu'ils ont beaucoup parler mais pendant trois ans et demie ils ont étaient la mais ils n'ont pas pu venir avec ce genre de règlement concernant l'environnement, concernant le touriste. Mais nous après même pas un an nous avons pu venir avec le règlement et nous allons venir encore.

Monsieur le Président, l'ex Commissaire de L'infrastructure Publique a parlé de *landscaping* d'après lui les projets défigurent complètement Rodrigues. Mais Monsieur le Président, je dois lui rappeler qu'il a refusé un projet touristique sur Anse Alie. Le EIA est venu devant nous **(Gaps on cassette)**

Commissionner GRANDCOURT: Que les *Sand dunes*, comment peut-on venir parler on défigure l'environnement à Rodrigues mais on aller approuver un projet sur les Sand dunes, comment peut-on parler comme ça Monsieur le Président ? Et puis, il y a le EIA nous dans ce gouvernement on a des techniciens qui travaillent là-dessus, nous prenons en compte chaque étape de la construction des hôtels. *Construction permit*, on regarde aussi le *waste water*. On parle Monsieur le Président, des signes qui frappent un touriste, mais si on va à Saint François Monsieur le Président, qu'est-ce qu'on peut voir ? Si on va à Saint François, c'est ce qu'on a hérité de ce Gouvernement. On a hérité des blocs de bétons, des bollards soi-disant pour faire je ne sais quoi, des dépôts là-dessus pour faire je sais quoi ? Des structures lourdes sur la plage et tous le monde Monsieur le Président, tous les touristes critiques c'est ce qu'on a hérité de ce Gouvernement Monsieur le Président. Et la Chef Commissaire vient avec les guidelines concernant l'environnement, les bâtiments, *location building, the entrance all these*, on parle aussi *des bedrooms* pour uniformiser, mettre de l'ordre dans ce secteur. Ce secteur nous tient à cœur et comme je dis encore une fois l'environnement et le tourisme marchent de pair et je le plaisir d'annoncer qu'il a fait beaucoup de campagne de nettoyage même l'opposition vous avez été sensibiliser, vous avez participé.

(Interruptions)

Commissionner GRANDCOURT: Et la autre chose Monsieur le Président, on a parlé de *Solide Waste*. Nous avons hérité un contrat du Gouvernement sortant Monsieur le Président, sur ce contrat on ne mentionne pas l'heure qu'on doit collecter les déchets chez l'habitant et puis on vient parler de tourisme. Je comprend pourquoi il n'a pas pu faire ce règlement parce qu'ils étaient pas en ordre avec ce concept de l'environnement. On encourage le tri Monsieur le Président, on a été dans les hôtels on a été dire aux promoteurs touristiques de faire le tri, à ce moment là ils auront différents déchets à valeurs commerciales. Ils vont pouvoir recycler, envoyer sur Maurice. Ils y a des gens qui ramassent ça et qui partent vers Maurice. On dit qu'il y a des déchets à Rodrigues. Qu'est-ce qu'ils ont fait dans le passé pour retirer tous ces plastiques, qu'est-ce que vous avez fait ? Nous avons hérité d'une île écologique c'est facile à dire Monsieur le Président, mais qu'est-ce qu'ils ont fait ? Mais là c'est une preuve tangible qu'on commence, c'est une suite. Il y a bien sûr l'environnement qu'on va venir avec des règlements.

Il y aura les autres *Regulations* qui vont venir. Donc Monsieur le Président, je trouve que les commentaires des autres Membres de l'Assemblée sont non fondés et avec ces règlements, je pense que nous allons augmenter l'arrivée des touristes à Rodrigues parce- qu'ils auront une meilleure service et puis le concept, l'authenticité de Rodrigues va être respecté parce qu'on est en partie sur tous ce qui est la construction des bâtiments types créoles, on pense là-dessus, on va venir avec une *Regulation* sur tous les aspects de constructions des bâtiments

touristiques à Rodrigues. On va venir la dessus, on a le courage Monsieur le Président, de prendre des décisions dans ce pays parce que nous sommes la, nous sommes mandatés par le peuple, nous sommes fières et nous savons que nous allons réussir. Monsieur le Président, encore une fois, je dois féliciter le Chef Commissaire et je vous remercie.

(Applause)

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I must smile to myself when I listen to the respected Chief Commissioner about his supposed is subjective. I have the right to feel that I am..... I often smile to myself when I listen to the respected Chief Commissioner about his supposed revolutionary measures to revamp the tourism sector in Rodrigues since his being in office and today with the introduction of this piece of legislation, because it is not less than a legislation, it is a delegated one but it is a legislation and thus open scope for debates on his policy because his actions constitute of formulation of a policy. Today the introduction of this legislation in this House, opportunity is thus given to the whole House to open questions his move, he is moving a legislation instead of may be some of the legislative actions that he could have taken and he is thus giving an opportunity to all of us to question to scrutinize these measures that he is putting forward, that is put the whole sector under the magnifying glass and give our comments, our sentiment as to whether he should have come up with such a piece of legislation and not a novel initiative. Before commenting on the specific of these Regulations, first of all Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I must say that as a young politician expecting the change as promised by this Regional Government, I am very upset with this move of the Chief Commissioner and Commissioner for Tourism. While presenting himself an economic messiah with a vibrant mission to provoke an economic revolution in Rodrigues, he has never until now; for me in my opinion, walked the talk in any of his measures and this legislative initiative of the Chief Commissioner today shows his lassitude and his mediocrity. He is unable to think big, to think and act beyond conventional boundaries to harness the awesome from the Rodriguans. All his measures for me as a young politician, putting into the limelight what he proposed, all his measures show no passion and I do not like things that do not show passion. No passion, no ingenuity and he clearly is not going against..

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Yes proceed with your speech, please, order!

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I was saying all his measures here in this piece of legislation show no passion, no ingenuity and he clearly is not going against the tide to generate powerful ideas, powerful measures and powerful results. So, this is the first initiative to officially regulate and classify this tremendously important pillar of our economy and tourism embraces everybody and every sector in this country and in every country where tourism is considered as a pillar of the economy. It is expected that this Government which proclaimed itself as agent of change to bring forward radically new concepts, new ideas and new projects to shape a new tourism industry. That is what the people is

expecting? Me also I expected a revolution, I expected a change of approach, a change of mindset, something different "*pas du déjà vu*", something new, something pacific, specificity and attractiveness. For it is only Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at this expense that Rodrigues can be on the competitive edge and get its share of the tourism market. *Mais Non*. Instead of coming with a comprehensive bill representing a radical departure from practices to kick the ancient mode and practices, he simply comes forward with cut and paste, copied elements from the National Law, the "Tourism Authority Act 2006" and proposes us local legislators that we are, a piece of delegated legislation which any Permanent Secretary can do any time at a stroke of the pen in Mauritius. I am very sad and very upset today Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for as you know the law, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001, section 30 allows us to propose and adopt bills in relation to matters for which we are responsible, that is in areas of responsibilities devolved completely to us and if there should be one single infinity decimal area where things should be done differently to trigger development it should be in Tourism. But here we are Mr. Chairperson, Sir, having in front of us a Commissioner for Tourism who takes himself very seriously, having a very high opinion of himself and who has declared here, in the press and in the Assembly too and in meeting elsewhere, that he considers Tourism as the engine of the economy. Having been in office since one year, he comes with some merely laconic initiative, regulations badly copied out as our colleagues have showed of the Mauritian Tourism Regulatory Framework and very timidly adapted to the local reality. By so doing Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are not choosing to do things differently with our own creativity, with our own intelligence, our own genius. He is adopting the Mauritian style of Tourism, the Rodriguan's tourist stick way forward? I don't think so! The Mauritian brands exist and can absolutely not be competed against with the same vision, with the same products and with no money. No, because if it is so, the tourist will stop over Mauritius and remain there. There is no reason for them to come down here for one a half hour, they won't come. No, Rodrigues should import, of course, Mauritian experience in term of service delivery in the tourist sector, but must try to propose a product and some measure which are different; original and specific, that is why I think that a Bill instead of these Regulations would have spelt out the Rodriguan's touristique vision in clearer term.

A Bill would have set the tone, give confidence to investors; local and foreigners and create the required mechanism, directions and atmosphere for the planification and promotion of tourism. In this piece of Regulation, what type of mechanism has been set up and what type of mechanism can be set up in Regulations? We cannot depart from the main law so we will more or less stick to what they are proposing, making some mere, small little changes which may not be adapted to our situation. So, what I was saying is what type of mechanism has been set up? Only the establishment of the Tourism Advisory Committee all members appointed by the Chief Commissioner, which means that all action by the Commissioner whatever you want, this mean that all actions in this highly economic domain will be tantamount to political coloration in the engine of the economy. We are young politicians, we should adopt other moderate and more forward looking way, of looking things with the proper Bill Mr. Chairperson, Sir, wearing a proper and original vision would have been enshrined, there could have been scope for an appropriate body to act as the promotion arm of the tourism sector in Rodrigues. A highly potential and promising economic area,

managed, planned and taking care of by independent qualified professionals. Today, by setting up of the Tourism Advisory Committee when the existence of an already existence of "*l'office du tourisme Rodriguais*" whose job is only to furnish information to visitors, the whole job for the promotion of Rodrigues rest with the Commission for Tourism. However, what do we see, first in term of work load? The Chief Commissioner holds 23 portfolio out of the 27 areas of responsibilities devolved to us and the most challenging, the most prominent of them.

Chief Commissioner: Point of Order, we don't have 27 we have 42 areas of responsibilities.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: 47

Chief Commissioner: You said 27

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: So, I was saying Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in terms of work load, the Chief Commissioner hold 23 out of the 47 areas of responsibilities that have been devolved to us and the most important port folio, I would say, will the required energy I am not going to question his competence, but I am talking about energy, about time to sit down and strategise demanding and dynamic sector as it is.

No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this will not be so, beside what do we see? Is that in almost all countries where tourism is critical to their economy, like in Mauritius itself, the Maldives, Seychelles, Dominicaine Republique etc. Massive investments have been put in the required independent body. This is to allow for transparency and professionalism to prevail this being results oriented only instead of being disturbed by political gimmicks. Destination, competition is intensifying around the world each year Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This is demonstrated by high level of country participating in the major International Trade Fair.

I have enquired and I have heard, I have been given to understand that there are at least two hundreds nations who are participating in these International Trade Fairs like in London. This means that destination marketing and promotion are becoming increasingly difficult in view of the priority being given to tourism by virtually all states around the world. In Mauritius excluding the promotion that are being made directly by hotels, Government direct contribution to Tourism promotion will amount this financial year to Rs 300 million this financial year. In Rodrigues we are catering for some few millions; four millions distributed unfortunately among political agents, Commissions to visit these fairs.

Chief Commissioner: Point of Order, the Member said that the tourism promotion budget is being distributed among political agents, this is a false statement Mr. Chairperson, Sir and of course she is accusing us of corruption and saying that we have given money to political agents, this is completely false and I would request you to invite her to remove and I would request you to invite her to remove this saying and these very grave and cheap allegations against the Executive.

Mr. Chairperson: You want to say something to this point of order. No, you want to rephrase.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: So, what I was saying and I am sorry for the Chief Commissioner not to understand what I was saying. What I was saying is that is during these trips that are being made; promotional trips, there are agents, there are advisers and there are political nominees who are going, following the Chief Commissioner there.

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, all these is false and she is persisting in saying that we send political agents, this is completely false.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Mercure is an Adviser.

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Mercure is an Adviser so what? He is an Adviser first of all for me and after that he is a politician. You are wrong in saying that. You are accusing us of all things. This is very cheap from your part.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes. You now understand why it is wrong to use unparliamentary words, controversial matters, yes proceed.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what I was saying is that an Advisory Committee Mr. Chairperson, Sir, will not be a neutral player, will not be a catalistic mechanism and will certainly not force to develop in the tourism sector. An Advisory Committee will never be able to translate into reality the Rodriguan vision of tourism while a full fledge agency comprise within a comprehensive law would have been able to do it. This is why Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am upset today Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because today *ou ine coze changement*, because today is no big day in this Assembly as far as economic sector is concerned and is no big deal as far as tourism industry is concerned.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am also upset today because with these Regulations there is something very important missing somewhere in the policies since the coming into office of this new Government. A financial component which would really democratize this sector, it is one thing to classify and regulate and I am not against Regulations, I am not against regulating, classifying these tourists businesses but I think that given the ground work has not been done by the former Commissioner for Tourism. Given that the ground work had already been done by the former Commissioner for tourism, any succeeding Commissioner would find it easy to move a step forward.

Yes, it is one thing to classify and regulate but it is another gain to empower the local people to benefit directly from the sector. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, presently the economic sector in Rodrigues is in dire straight. All the sectors have come to full mobility resulting in massive exodus as confirmed by the Commissioner for Employment of skillful youth, if not brain drain, with the blessing and active mediation of this Government. *“Pour la plupart d’entre nous qui sont restés à Rodrigues comme les derniers de mohicans, comme un rempart à l’existence même de*

ce petit peuple de 36,000 personnes". So, for these persons who remain and who are still investing into the economy tourism represents beckons of hope. Rodriguans are attentive to the development in this sector but what do we see? We have a Commissioner for Tourism, that to effectively promote the Rodriguans people to go into these touristique activities even with classification and with regulations.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with these Regulations the Chief Commissioner "*a mis la charue devant le boeuf pour moi*" because look at the requirement for setting up a tourism enterprise; the minimum fund that a promoter should, must invest to start a modest project is according to me 2.25 million, a modest. So, this is my concept knowing that he would introduce his norm to be effective from January 2008, the Chief Commissioner did not find it expedient to cater for to the introduction of the DBM of a specific scheme where the local could have access to finance to either upgrade their premises to fit the criteria set or to create a new business. You did not mention it in your budget and your law starts in January 2008. Don't tell me that the Chief Commissioner judges that the SME Booster Scheme of Rs 200,000 he announced in his budget speech in March last with a project value of the whole program Rs 5 millions for the whole landing scheme is enough to be able to meet the criteria set to obtain a license informal operators who are already operating will need to borrow under the actual DBM Scheme for business development with an interest of 18 percent. This is democracy going mad Mr. Chairperson, Sir. How many of the locals will be able to invest Rs 2 million to create a tourist residence at 18 percent interest rate. These are heavy investment. We are going to get the reverse of what should be happening. The poor becoming poorer and the bourgeois getting richer. This is where the real break is to democratisation of tourism and the whole economy of the island, there is a break. In fact, most of the Rodriguans will remain mere spectators of the bourgeoning sector where their own money is being used for promotion and for other types of development. And they would like to have a chance to operate. Had the Chief Commissioner done things the other way round? With all these national and international missions with all that the Regional Government has made with their proclaimed circles of power full friend of friends? Why could not the Chief Commissioner could not negotiate a line of credit from potential donor to help democratise and develop the tourism sector in Rodrigues? At all cost, this matter should be looked into to allow small and medium people to invest in the industry that is what they have have been doing in Mauritius as from 2006, there has been special scheme that has been introduced. That is why we say that these Regulations has been copied and badly copied.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is consensus that the tourist sector is a flagship and a driving force for the alleviation of poverty, job creation and the quality of life as a whole. By not catering for the financial incentives in his recent budget to accompany his reform that is sending in here, copied from national reforms, the Chief Commissioner is given a serious blow to this economic pillar.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: I wonder now how many among these, I heard that there are around one hundred operators, people who are waiting already informally operating, how many will let their business die without having to means to bring in corrective measures to obtain their licences. In my opinion there will be many more tourism businesses which will die than will stay into play. This brings to me the concept of consultation. In all representative democracy Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Government Members only have the power to represent the people's interests and today "*c'est dans l'air du temps*" to obtain consensus from all stakeholders before a major change is brought in a particular environment. Voters today Mr. Chairperson, Sir, "*dans le troisième millénaire*", they don't just want to vote and to let their representatives do whatever they want. Voters want to play a regular and active role in major decision making. Did the Regional Government seek prevent questions from the public in order to fine tune and tailor its reforms. Did the Government engage itself in an open and fair public debate in this issue? We are talking about the most important sector in which hope rested in Rodrigues. A hope of solution can be found what the real problem of the stakeholders are, instead this Regional Government acts as a "*comme tous*" and only invites stakeholders when a Minister comes on official missions, this is what I have been told by operators themselves and again it is a handicapped to true and modern democracy and thus to development.

I have told to many operators, they told me they do not have a place to voice out their views as far as tourism is concerned. In their opinions the incident with the Minister Duval could have been avoided if there were enough debates between the Executive and the governed. Yes, the governed because tourism is a cross sectorial economic ingredient and unless all the population is taken on board, the guarantee not only for its direct economic involvement but also its positive attitude, I means talking about the population, culture, the whole enterprise is doomed to failure. That's why I think the Chief Commissioner has failed with this project to come forward without formal public and people from all quarters for discussions, he has come here with a project, we do not even see the stakeholders here they have not been invited or they did not choose to come. His Commission should have invited stakeholders and the public to express their views and comments long before and in fact this is what is being done on all laws and all legislations that is introduced in any country. The draft regulations should have been posted on the Rodrigues Regional Assembly website and we should have heard press communiqué issued for public consultations. The stakeholders should know by now all the key elements which shall be proposed in their names on their behalf here. The Commission should have received and make sure to receive favorable response from different quarters including a good number of proposals and suggestions originating from the ground; that is the grass root, incorporated in these Regulations and may be if he democratically consulted the people he would have found out that a Bill instead of a delegated legislation was needed to address the whole sector and to give the right signal to all those who are interested to participate.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, another point that is mere regarding these all small *Gites, Chambres, D'notes* et of other Guest Houses which actually consist of the backyard of the tourism industry and where our local people are massively found, are massively investing today. Do

you know, I am speaking that their money has massive weight for them however, small pocket it is? Do you know all the price at which tourist buy for their so drawn in these enterprises? Today small *Gites* with TV, ventilation, comfortable beds and toilets are being sold at Rs100, even at Rs 150, even in Port Mathurin I have made my enquiry, per night. The more the Chief Commissioner is talking about an increasing arrival, the more the price is going down. The four star hotels who use to sell rooms at 1500 and 2000 ruppees a night have brought down their price to Rs 900 and very often to be more attractive, these Hotels are offering all inclusive packages. You know what is the danger of inclusive packages Mr. Chairperson, Sir? When big hotel can cater for promotion and they can cater to give all inclusive services from inside; is that the tourist are not getting out to buy and we well know that one of the indirect sector is the *table d'hotes*. What will happen to these poor locals? When these persons are offering all inclusive packages, they will not be able to sell. Can you see the frustration, the stress that this situation puts on the operators, specially the smaller ones this brings us to the question of the ratio of arrival as regard to the receipt.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: The Chief Commissioner always talked about arrival increasing and my colleagues has tried to go inside and analyse. But what about the receipt? Now that the Chief Commissioner's office will have access to critical information like he said with these Regulations from the Tourism Industry via these Regulations. I would invite him to monitor constantly, not only the tourism arrival but to compare them with the gross tourist receipts. In Mauritius for the first ten months of 2006 according to the Central Statistics Office, tourist arrival grew by 3.6 % and receipt for the same period amounted to Rs 24.6 million representing an increase of 22.8 %. Why do I stress on this point, because it has to do with the quality of tourist who visit us and again questions the efficiency of our marketing and promotion.

Do you know Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that there are many tourist *sac a dos* who more and more are visiting Rodrigues. They pay their air tickets and where do the money go? They does not come into Rodrigues, they pay their air tickets money goes to Mauritius and they buy only, if they are to stay for one week or fifteen days they make reservation for only two days in our small gites and then they stay indoor for these two days and then they spend the rest of the days outdoor, camping at the seaside, in the mountain; this is an issue that has to be look into, "*parceque l'argent n'entre pas*" Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The right policy must be set up to incite people to buy, the good quality tourist to come. These types of tourist put pressure on the market for lowering the price and on our environment. Certainly, Mauritius, I read on the press, has gone on the issue on how the tourists pressurize the environment. They put pressure on local market and our poor little Rodriguans who are down the ladder, who are the one pay really the cost of it and also they put pressure on the environment but they do not spend much in our country either.

Another crucial point concerns the facilities and infrastructure to sustain tourism development in Rodrigues Mr. Chairperson, Sir. When regulating Government is expecting high quality standards, competitiveness and development of the sector on a sustainable manner from the service providers. Likewise the service providers are expecting and

impeccable framing and management of the whole sector. In this respect, I will say that the MR Regional Government has made a number of bad political choices as far as the whole macro economic sector is concerned, *qui aux passage endicappe le secteur touristique également*. First, there is the question of water, this Government did not judge it important to invest in water production and collection, *Le Pavé la bonté* Dam which the OPR Regional Government proposed to construct in the North would have catered for 3 *ans*, three years time an additional 70, 000 metre cube d'eau. This would allow the northern region including Port Mathurin to be self sufficient in water. Thus, liberating the water which is imported from other altitude in all regions today to remain there in other regions of the country for better distribution or what do we see today, many of these small *Gites, Chambres, Table d'hotes* are paralysed because they do not have access to water. You know Tourists consume a lot of water. How are we going to ask operators to pay, to uplift their standard, to respect the respected norms while they are not getting the basic from Government to be able to perform Mr. Chairperson, Sir? In fact what do we see there is not only like we always said Rodrigues does not have that much water but also there is a question of *mal distribution*. Once more villages which normally received water regularly, even in my village we were receiving water regularly. Suddenly, dramatically irrationed. Do you know what they say, « *deux heure de temps de l'eau pour dix jours tous a fait normal bon pou l'usage* ». We are asking ourselves what type of *l'usage* they are doing with two hours of water Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I am saying about those villages which were receiving water correctly. Today « *unilatéralement on a décider que deux heures de temps de l'eau c'est bon pour les gens* ».

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, operators perform normally in an enabling environment created by government whatever economic sector. *Dans n'importe qu'elle secteur économique c'est aux Gouvernement de créer this creates this enabling environment*. Can we say that the major set back in the environment constitutes and enabling ingredient conducive to tourism development. No, now let us look a second point « *on a dit un mauvais choix pour ce qui s'agit de l'eau. L'augmentation de la quantité d'eau qui est nécessaire pour le touriste* ». Let us now look at the physical environment which has been disfigured by mismanagement of land distribution and land management. I went to Eau Claire Mr. Chairperson, Sir, last month. A new parceling of land has been effected with some ten leases granted on very steep slope. The land is visibly sliding down the river and the sea, thus affecting two of the tourism element; the coast and the sea. At Eau Clair go and see, I went there and I saw it with Franchette Gaspard-Pierrelouis. This is only a show case I am giving you but there are so many of them, that what I said there are a number of very bad policies that has been taken and which are causing major impediment to the sector of tourism. The coast and the sea are not being protected.

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait you are going too far.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it has to do with tourism.

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait when we have to do with tourism and so what? Are we discussing of tourism as a whole in this Assembly today at this point in time? Or are we seeking to have an opinion of the House as far as the Regulation is concerned.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Yes, I am giving my opinion...

Mr. Chairperson: It is a little difficult to discern but you have to be frank to yourself. We are not at Budget Speech where you have latitude speech in a sector or cross sectional, this is a Regulation. Your friend on your left, he is being very attentive to the rule. May be he can be reference to you, he did a fair trial, you want to go over this. You tell me you know more than me, but you've got to....

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: I never told you so.

Mr. Chairperson: I don't want to interrupt you but at least you understand me. You understand what we have under question. I hate disturbing people but at least you have a constraint. Yes, proceed please.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I was talking about these bad decisions which has been taken.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, be brief on that.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Yes, I will be brief but I will say the point because for me it is important and that why I am showing to the Chief Commissioner that I do not agree with this type of legislation. So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what is happening to the sign post? If we are to encourage leaving their room, to go out, to buy to visit on their road....

(Gaps on cassette)

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: We don't see that and most of those which we put "*ine fini crasser*" most of them. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I could have spoke a lot on cleanliness and the aesthetic. What I would like to say is the insalubrity and decrepitude that we can see, even in Port Mathurin, I have looked at a drain last time, I was looking at it and it is terrible, the people are looking at that. Look at the embellishment. There is no programme for the embellishment. *Pa joli du tous*. There is greyness, there is dryness. Planning the country, embellishment for me Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is not difficult to do and it did not cost that much and there is one point Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to stretch a little bit is about architectural concept in Rodrigues. Land leases are being given for residential and business use in Rodrigues. Tourist premises are being built without any guidelines, when you look around you the picture is not aesthetic and attractive as far as the housing network is concerned. In fact the landscape with the housing implementation is very gloomy. In these Regulations, the Chief Commissioner and the Commissioner Grandcourt mentioned it. But I would like to draw his attention in these Regulations, the Chief Commissioner merely

stretches the issue in the second schedule whereby it is said; it talks about its architectural concepts designs forms and use of material shall convey a local character and that's all. This does not satisfy me Mr. Chairperson, Sir because when you are talking about the specificity of this country, you are talking about something original that you are offering, you are talking about an authentic destination, you cannot just say things like that. I think that the Commission for Tourism jointly with that of the Commission for Arts and Culture should put heads together to device new architectural backup for the third millennium Rodrigues, a newly autonomous Rodrigues. Many countries have tackled this issue without being « *taxer de communism parce que on va dire tous le monde est en train de faire les memes architectures* ». It can be varied and good work can be done and it is also important to feed the small and medium local investors in tourism project with these architectural projects.

Monsieur le Président un mot sur la question de noise pollution. La vie a Rodrigues et a fort théorie la vie touristique vingt a trente minute avant, il y a un décalage horaire entre Maurice et Rodrigues. Even that we are aligned at Mauritian times "*lor nou banne horologe*", life starts very early and earlier in Rodrigues. Whilst tourists are still resting in their beds radios, stereos are being played at high volume in my vicinity there is somebody who play "*balier OPR*", the whole day Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and you know 500 decibel night and day. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, who cares there is a law for that. Who cares for the babies, who care for students, who cares for the elderly tourists and other unhealthy persons, who cares? Truly they are trying to please the Government of the day but this is not the question. I think it is highly reprehensible in terms of legal, economic and social aspect.

At this juncture Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to Regulation, I would like to stress a point on control. Control is a major issue to create and enabling environment, conducive to a productive and sustainable tourism. Control of the operation standards, quality and norms of the outside macro economic environment and factors which constitute the framework of the tourism and other economic sectors. That is why, I say for example tourist guide, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, everybody is a tourist guide today and there are so many tourists who are complaining because they come today there is something that tourist guide are talking about. Tomorrow they come and Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that it would be good if you could cater for that because when we are speaking about tourism *par "exemple à Maurice quand on parle de huit cent tourists, il y a seulement deux cent cinquantes nouveau tourism par annee"*. Le reste these are repeaters, they come back and unless people appreciate they wont come back again and you will see that your figures will decrease that is why I think that training in this sector is mandatory. Also, about the skippers, I have been told that a flock of all these persons were after the law was sent in Mauritius went in the Commission for training and only a few of them have been trained up to now and they pay Rs 1000 since one year, nearly one year. I think that this has to be looked into. There is also the question of the maps in circulation. Many of them are giving false information and it is a matter of control and when you talk about control we also speak of complaints and here I am mostly interested about complaints that our visitors themselves might have.

In the clause 24 of the Tourism Authority Act 2006, provides for a complaint mechanism for Mauritius which the Chief Commissioner has excluded in these Regulations. I think that this procedure for complaints to the authorities by dissatisfied or an aggrieved visitor is critical and would show that we mean business to ensure sustainability of our sector because being here for generally a short stay, aggrieved visitors would not like to be messed up with police with enquiries which generally will require for them to come back to the country. However, if there are cases like it is said in the law of Mauritius which are being taken care of administratively with these type of complaints mechanism that have been set up, people would be happy that they are being taken care of and so they will have absolute confidence in the authorities and in the system here and they would come back.

Mrs. Perrine-Begu : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to conclude there are some comments to voice out on some major issues like empowerment of the people to benefit not only directly but also indirectly on the emerging tourism sector. Now that the sector is being classified and regulated. I have been in hotels for official functions and also personally with my family, many tourists enterprises especially high flyers, they import almost the totality of their product from outside Rodrigues even their fish, meat, their marmalade etc. I think that while although related Commissions should work hard to put the local producers; agriculture, farming, handicraft and agro-processing even the textile to go on for quality production. The Commission for Tourism should devise ways and means to ensure that tourist operators are buying 100% Rodriguan products and that local producers are able to furnish their needs. I think that a minimum of sensitization would change things already in the first place, so that the local people may benefit fully from the sector.

Another thing, when you go to hotels except for special nights usually we have international music's played on CD's Angel Burt Empadic etc. why not impose or talked with them, negotiate, dialogue, the local production. There are so many of them today and during my mandate 1.5 million was given to support music and other artistic production and today we have enough of them and that's is what tourist buy. So, international stars they don't need these royalties but artists here locally, they do need that money and their envelopes when it come at the end of the year through the Masa would weight more. This is also the question of creating a new positive attitude of the population towards tourism. I think that the population courtesy, hospitality, warmth, welcome are major touristique product today. We need to cast our next larger to cater for all the population to be on board of this new touristique adventure to ensure success, *"parce que si nous faisons dans le fait de mettre tous le monde on board, c'est tous le system touristique qui va faillir"*. When we are classifying and regulating we must have in vision the type of touristique concept we are favoring. That's why I say today is no big deal for the tourist sector and is no big day here. Rodrigues should have a correct master plan, defining clearly its touristique product and concept. You know Mr. Chairperson, Sir, even when I was not a politician I usually wondered when we go the World Travel Market standing next to the powerful Mauritian product which is fantastic and first class. How do we describe our touristique product? Is the Rodriguan's touristique product well defined? How far is it specific? How are these specificities taken care in our actions today, in our legislation, in our policies, in which way are we creative enough to get

our share from the tough competitive and globalise market? That is why I think the Chief Commissioner to conclude after having passed these Regulations should come again with new and more appropriate high *calibre* measures to propose to ask local legislators and bring up positive and real policy changes; pro-investment, pro-innovation policy choices to move forward. Searching, fine tuning, key element for an effective Rodriguan brand today is equivalent to our touristique and economic survival on the competitive market place and understanding the importance of both branding internal and external is important.

Mrs. Perrine-Begué: Finally, we must be able to cast our net as large as possible to get all the population on board and cause them to leave that brand that still remain to be defined. This is another collective challenge for our touristique sector to get a certain visibility and to grow and fly. I don't think that there is place for quarrel, there is place in this House Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on this major issue which concerns all these persons that we represent around Rodrigues. There is scope for proposals, there is scope for discussions, for dialogue among all ourselves, legislators among all ourselves representatives of the people to make sure become at the end of the day we are not serving ourselves, it is serving Rodrigues, serving this country making sure that all those that we represent. If the Chief Commissioner was saying *bye bye* after five years, I don't care I am here, I still represent the people and I think Mr. Chairperson, Sir, so long I am here I will speak in the name of the people, I will say what we have to say and in a moderate way with dialogue and also with intelligence. I think that putting the way forward, young politicians have the duty to make sure that we negotiate, that we govern all together like Mr. Sarkozy is giving the example around the world. Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Chairperson: That will be the last person to intervene on this side with the two persons?

Commissioner AGATHE: Mr. Chairperson, I would like first of all to thank the mover of this Motion for having today entered the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Tourism Regulations. A Regulation Mr. Chairperson, Sir, which the minority side has not been able to pass when they were in power. At a certain point of time Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we can say that there has been a chaotic situation in Tourism in Rodrigues. We can say that tourism is a major component for the economic development of this country. No stone should be left unturned to develop this sector which unfortunately has long been mismanaged. We all know how the tourism industry has not been well oriented during the passed years; the statistic is clear showing a decline in tourism arrival since 2004, from 60,355 passengers arrival in 2002 same had reached 53,534 in 2005, that is 11.3% decrease over the three years. However, earlier the Executive Council under the Chairmanship of the Chief Commissioner, Johnson Rousetty has given tourism a fresh lease of life and has successfully managed to deviate the down fall. Statistics has shown that in 2006, the office of the Commissioner responsible for Tourism managed to deviate this down work trend and recorded an increasing in the arrival of 53, 378 that is 3.4% increase in year 2006.

With the first six months of this year now completed Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have seen that there has been a record, an average increase 17 % in the tourism arrival. I can here Mr. Chairperson, Sir, recall that I can hear the Member Mrs. Arlette Perrine smiling, she is smiling of the increase in tourism. She is proud Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I must say Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to the office of the Honorable Xavier Luc Duval and the office of the Chief Commissioner who has done a lot for the tourism sector. In Mauritius Mr. Chairperson, Sir, some are saying to change Rodrigues into a village touristique. Consequently, it is high time to make a Regulation regarding tourism. Being the Commissioner responsible for Employment and since Rodrigues is facing major unemployment problem, tourism is one component where the youth of this country can invest. While huge effort is being made in the promotion of our island as a tourist destination, it is also important to put some order in the industry locally. It is useless if we invest millions of rupees in the promotion of our island internationally and in return tourism coming to our island are not provided with quality services and products and unsatisfied tourists can bring much damage to our island. In that respect, promotion of our island also begins from our home.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Regulation aims at preserving the Rodriguan's authenticity. The House will note that within the Regulations provision has been made for typical Rodriguan's accommodation such as *Gites, Chambres D'hotes and Tables D'hotes*. However, we are also aware that there is need to ensure quality services in that sector. Many complaints are received regarding poor sanitary conditions, lack of facilities also in the *Gites, Chambres D'hotes and Tables D'hotes*. What is important Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with that Regulation is that it will come into operation as from the 1st January 2008. This will give the opportunity to the operators to accustom themselves to the Regulation and the norms and standards set up in the Regulation. It will also give them sufficient time to bring the changes and improvement that would be required for their enterprise. With the implementation of this Regulation the *Office du Tourisme* will maintain a register of tourism enterprise which would be the official reference to all tourism enterprise in Rodrigues and use in promotion like Top Resa and so on. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is a fact that many operators are operating under residential lease. On the other hand this represents a lost of potential revenue for this Government in order to accelerate more works in terms of infrastructure in Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, while hearing the Member Mrs. Arlette Perrine-Begue Mr. Chairperson, Sir, she mentioned about *'elle sera la comme les derniers des Mohicans'*. *Mais il faut pas se leurrer Monsieur le Président, il y a des gens qui se trouvent de cette coté de la chambre qui a acheté de gros voiture, mais la voiture ce trouve ou Monsieur le President, a Maurice. Il veut non pas amener la voiture a Rodrigues Monsieur le Président.* He wanted the register the vehicle in Rodrigues but to run in Mauritius.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have seen when we have heard the other side of this House, c'est comme si il y a une sorte de jalousie pour le travail abattus par le Chef Commissaire et tous le personnels de son bureau et nous de ce coté de la chambre Monsieur nous soutenons vivement le Chef Commissaire pour avoir présenter cette Motion. Merci.

(Applause)

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at the very outset of my intervention allow me to congratulate the Chief Commissioner for coming up with this Regulation which allows us to debate in this House on this very important piece of Legislation. We all know that the Tourism Sector is a very important pillar of our economy and this Regional Government has a vision like a Member of the other side said earlier. A vision for an economic revolution and this economic revolution *qui déplaît à Madame* is on the way. When it will reach its summits, it will only mean the end of some people in front of me.

Commissioner EMILIEN: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the tourism sector as I said is a very important pillar of our economy and at the same time it is a very sensitive area, it is a very sensitive issue because it depends on a lot of factors to develop. It is very sensitive because it can for many small reasons, many petty reasons which can affect this sector for example; cleanliness, illness, political stability things like that can from one day to another turn a flourishing economic sector into a down grading one. This is why we got to be very careful. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner is compiling these in this piece of Legislation has rightfully taken into account different aspects to classify different types of activities related to the tourism sector. At a point of time, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in Rodrigues anybody claims to be in the tourism activity. Someone having an additional room at his place claims to be a tourist operator and now we are coming with these Regulations and it provides for many activities of this very sensitive sector. Like location of building and entrance and reception area etc there are a lot of parameters Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I have been set down to regulate this very important sector. Rodrigues have always provided a large variety of products for both the local and mainland Mauritian market.

These things have changed due to reasons known to everyone all. With the new trends in the development of the tourism sector Mr. Chairperson, Sir, new policies have to be devised to upgrade this sector and value added products will provide the economy with strong and sustainable tools to face the world wide challenges as the tourism sector is being called upon to become a very important pillar of this Regional Government. All these issues will be addressed to in due course Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

A Member of the minority side has mentioned small projects for bio agricultural products for example. These small things Mr. Chairperson, Sir, such as small garden for bio-agricultural products are private initiatives depending on the demand and this is the law of the market Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The Government may act as a facilitator may it hasn't got to lay down a Regulation these petty things like small gardens for bio-agricultural products. Another thing which was mentioned earlier .

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, quelqu'un qui a dit qu'il n'y a pas eue de concertation, no participatory approach, je crois qu'il n'y a deux personnes qui ont mentionné ceci et d'autre part nous avons quelqu'un qui a été dans le temps Chef Commissaire et Chef Commissaire Adjoint et aujourd'hui numéro 5 dans la minorité pour dire que ce projet de loi est une vérité, quel

bassesse « *ki li pas ti Chef Commissaire li pas in vine second, li pas numero 5 ki bassess* ». He has said ceci est une copie conforme du projet de loi que nous avons préparés. Quand quelqu'un qui a été Chef Commissaire vient dire que ceci est une copie conforme de ce qu'il avait préparé et que d'autre membre du même groupe vient dire qu'il n'y a pas de *participatory approach*, il n'y a pas eu de concertation, il n'y a pas eu de consultation avec les acteurs économiques du secteur touristiques. Donc c'est pas drôle qu'on soit aller dire à Maurice certains adjectif sur certains Commissaire Monsieur le Président.

Commissioner EMILIEN: Someone has talked about the management of the tourist mobility is of utmost importance. It is true Mr. Chairperson, Sir, but what has been done for this in the past. Now we can see recently we have launched *Animation lor Quai*. which is a success, everybody will agree with me that it is a success. This also will help for the mobility of tourism, we have late night shopping and we have public transport operational up to 22.00 hours and later. So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I can't understand why some persons are talking about mobility of tourist is of utmost importance while this issue is being addressed by the ruling Regional Government.

We have also heard about degradation of the environment in the increased of tourism. Whereas this Regulations Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in fact made provision for necessary safeguards to avoid all these shortcomings because whether we like it or not, this Regulation will cater for all weaknesses in the tourism sector. The increase in the number of tourist arrival in Rodrigues as stated by my colleagues earlier, is not the harvest of the actions of the former Government, who has forgotten the very famous sentence "*Rodrigues n'est pas à vendre*". Who has forgotten that? In front of tourist operators, people coming from abroad to say "*Rodrigues n'est pas à vendre*". *Peut-être vous croyez que pour vendre c'est vendre pour avoir de l'argent. Les promotions touristiques sur les différents salons internationaux Monsieur le Président, c'est pour vendre la destination de Rodrigues, donc ceci est très important. Moi quand j'entends une personne dire que le budget allouer à la promotion a été distribué parmi les agents politique cela m'écoeure Monsieur le Président par rapport à ce qu'on voit comme résultat concret sur le terrain. Quand un Chef Commissaire, quelqu'un qui est à la tête du pays vient pour dire "ki promotion pou al faire à l'étranger, Rodriguais même pas comme so pays" faire des campagnes d'affiches pour aller placarder dans des écoles et des bâtiments publiques. C'est ça la promotion touristique de Rodrigues ? Qu'est ce que ça nous apporterait Monsieur le Président d'avoir des photos placardées sur le mur des bâtiments publiques?*

Another thing Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Mrs. Arlette Perrine-Begué talked about at least 2 million or 2.5 millions to start a tourist project in Rodrigues and she was wondering how come that low income people will try to invest or to open a tourist project whereas Rs 2 million is not readily available on the market. She was mentioning also the DBM. But this shows their vision of aiming at big, big project like Art and Leisure building, like Anse Raffin Dam, generating million and million rupees. Our Government Mr. Chairperson, Sir, aims among others low income people with small project, low income people who can either group together or make their business grow up into big projects and this means success. So, if as I said earlier small gardens or bio agricultural products are not mentioned in this, loan at the

level of the Development Bank of Mauritius is not mentioned in this, but its normal Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this are not things that are to be included into Legislations. Legislation is another thing.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, somebody talked about l'arrêt de la désert de Catovair sur Rodrigues comme étant comme si un résultat directe de l'incompétence de ce Gouvernement. Mais Monsieur le Président la désert de Cateau Vert ou n'importe qu'elle outre compagnie pour moi n'est pas un issue. What is not an issue ? What is an issue is l'augmentation du nombre de place sur la désert Maurice et Rodrigues, c'est ça notre problème dans le secteur touristique. C'est pas d'avoir X ou Y compagnie pour Rodrigues mais augmenter le nombre de place. Donc tous ceci Monsieur le Président démontre un manque de vision de la part des gens qui nous ont malheureusement gouverné dans le passé.

The last thing Mr. Chairperson, Sir, before I end, I don't know..

(Interruptions)

Commissioner EMILIEN: Before I conclude Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I heard Mrs. Arlette Perrine- Begué saying why don't we impose local artist in Hotels and other tourist resorts? This is not our policy Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as far as we are concerned we strongly believe in democracy, we strongly believe in the right to choose the type of music one wants to listen to. So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as it seems that the Members are tired and they don't want to listen, I will stop here and once more I congratulate the Chief Commissioner for coming up with this Regulations and I hope it will give a boost to the tourist sector. Thank You.

Mr. Chairperson: For the summing up now Chief Commissioner.

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if I analyse the logic of the minority, these Tourism Regulation Mr. Chairperson, Sir, should be the Constitution of Rodrigues because they want me to put things regarding land, they want me to put things regarding land management, environment , roads, loans by the Development Bank of Mauritius etc.. Which means Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that they were in Government they understood nothing about the objectives and the targets of this Regulations Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I believe that they are talking, criticising severely in a very aggressive manner and unreasonable manner. What I am thinking about is that may be the lack of attendance at their meetings may be responsible. *Ils n'ont pas de temps dans leur meetings peut être, ils viennent ici faire leurs démagogies dans cette Assemblée.*

Let me first of all come to statistics Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and once again wash up the memory of the member from Baie Aux Huitres. As been saying that all the positive results, this is a fact, that we have had up to now is the reason of what they have done when they were here that is one year before etc.. let me tell him Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the delay of reaction in the tourism industry. If you want to get tourism in a period, the delay is the time present minus one period and one period in tourism is about six months; that is six months

before. If you make, the result will come six months in the next tourist period that is if you make promotion in September you can start getting the result around December Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Not years before Mr. Chairperson, Sir. What have they done before Mr. Chairperson, Sir? Yes they have participated to Top Resa, they have participated to SMT Salon Mondiale du Tourisme etc. But who have they sent there? Ridiculous people instead of promoting the image of Rodrigues, they have destroyed part of the image of Rodrigues. This is what we have been told at the level of the MTPA, at the level of the different organisers of these tourism fares.

Chief Commissioner: When we came, we decided to professionalise the participation at tourism fair. We want professional this is why I went to Top Resa first to see how the market works and how we get the best of it and we did get the best of it Mr. Chairperson, Sir and today with this approach we have a professional team under the direction of the Departmental Head and under my direction working on the tourism industry and basically tourism promotion in Rodrigues Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Some of these persons have been recruited in partnership with the MTPA and we have a thriving and dynamic *Office du Tourism* today laid down at the Residence Mr. Chairperson, Sir. They can say they set up, on the 4th August, did we have a tourism office at the Residence? We launched it Mr. Chairperson, Sir. If they have done it they should have inaugurated it, not us who should have inaugurated it. So it is false to say that the years back has brought the results. In the years back there was decline in tourism. The Member says that there has been mainly Mauritian tourists, let me give him some figures which he may not have, up to July this year compared to July last year there is 17% increase in the number of tourist who have come to Rodrigues, 17% Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

(Applause)

Chief Commissioner: From Mauritius 16.9%, from Reunion and France 16.6% increase, from United Kingdom 20.6% increase, from Italy Mr. Chairperson, Sir, where I have been in Milan, I was in Milan this year to the tourism fair in Milan and already we have 33.1% increase from Italy Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I went there as Chief Commissioner and I met the person responsible on behalf of the MTPA in Milan, in Italy for the promotion of Mauritius and Mr. Xavier Luc Duval told him to get Rodrigues promoted also. We had meeting with this person and this person listened to us and the Director of Tourism Promotion Agency in Italy on behalf of Mauritius came to Rodrigues this month to see how Rodrigues could get a better knowledge of this Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

What we had in the past? They were sending one pick and choose, one person who must even don't know reading and don't know how to write a report, sending these persons there and these persons go there, sit in their isolation and nobody caters about Rodrigues. Today, Rodrigues is visible on Mauritius stand. You have Mauritius and Rodrigues today written on the stands and this is what we have negotiated. When we went first in France, it was only Mauritius, there were no space reserve for Rodrigues and I made it clear to the Minister that you should put Mauritius and Rodrigues. This is why we have Mauritius and Rodrigues

today in tourism stand. Has the ex-Chief Commissioner ever be in tourism fair Mr. Chairperson, Sir and Commissioner for Tourism? You know who you meet there? You meet professionals and you come, you send somebody there, some people, ex-political agents, you send these persons there, these persons have free rooms and when they go there they want to negotiate. They want to talk to the Minister of Tourism of Italy. Will the Minister listen to that person or will he want to have official contact? They will want to have official contact, this is why it is important, this is why professional in Italy always say *"if you want your country to progress in tourism, you have to be present and you have to make the sacrifice of coming and to be present"*. Some people think Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that we go there as a pleasure.

Chief Commissioner: Do you think I like going to Italy, I like taking the plane in economy class, sitting one night in a plane going to Italy, going to France, taking all the luggage in town which are sometimes dull for me, I don't like, the climate is different you get sick, you are far away from home. May be these people they like this sort of life but we want to go and promote our country but it is very tiresome and is very destructive personally.

I keep giving the figures Mr. Chairperson, Sir, from Switzerland 25.9%, from Belgium 22.9%, up to last year January to June 2006, we had 18,410 tourists. Today the same period January to June 2007, we have 21, 547 tourists Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Even for the month of June where it is a bad month we had 8% increases. Even for the month of July, it is still increasing. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Mauritian tourist people are travelling to Rodrigues, there has one big reason also because there has been political change, change of attitude and change of mindset in Rodrigues.

(Applause)

This is the real truth, they have to know and to bear it in mind because no longer a ruler in Rodrigues, you have a Chief Commissioner playing his role attracting people in Rodrigues and this team is doing good to the publicity for Rodrigues Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

(Gaps on Casette)

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, much have been said by Members of the opposition and I would like to deplore the attitude of the second member of the local region number three, very negative attitude and aggressive attitude toward this Tourism Regulations trying to see all the ticks and tacks and trying to criticize things which have been prepared by dedicated people for a dedicated industry. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, they said themselves that they have drafted the Regulation and we have made a copy of it and that the Member said it that we should have made a law. But if we should have made a law, but if we should have made a law, why didn't they drafted a law, they drafting a Regulation and they want us to make the law Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Where is the only law which has been voted by this Assembly? Where the Children Council Bill is today, has it been enacted? It has not been enacted. This is the result of the parliamentary performance of the ex-Government on this issue. As regards the Member from Baie Aux Huitres; Mr. Lisette, he is saying that the Tourism Advisory Committee, his point is that there is no provision for other public officer. I don't know when

they have been reading their Regulation, very late at night or there has been electricity cut and they didn't see. Provision is made Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at Regulation 5 (iv):-

"The Committee may co-opt such other person as may be of assistance in relation to any matter before the Committee"

Chief Commissioner: It is clear Mr. Chairperson, Sir, other persons include public officials, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the ridiculous idea and the ignorance of the quorum, it is not necessary to have a majority to have a quorum. The tourism for example provides a quorum of five in a Committee of twelve. Our own House provides a quorum of seven out of eighteen Mr. Chairperson, Sir. They said they have twenty five points but they have twenty five false and misleading points and I will break each of these. The Tourism Advisory Committee which is the Regulation 3. The point of the Member is that there can be conflict of Members appointed by the Commissioner. The ICAC is there and Corporate Governance law, Court, already provides for anybody who has an interest before any thing in the Committee to disclose and declare his interest and he may also decide to be absent from any decision or recommendation which will be made by the Committee.

Section 12, 13 and 14, the Member said that he will request amendments to include imprisonment Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for any offence. I believe the Member want to imprison somebody for such petty things as for example having transferred his licence unknowingly or not producing his tourist enterprise and of course not for not keeping records Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This means that if an Enforcement Officer enters a tourist enterprise and the licence is not displayed, that person is arrested and put into prison. Where are we Mr. Chairperson, Sir? This is unreasonable. If this happened this amendment goes, we will imprison many of our tourist professionals, very often in the year Mr. Chairperson, Sir because this may happen that this goes, there is a fine provided for it and the fine is just unfair Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Another point Section 18 is to include words promote and advertising in Regulation 18 (1) (a). Why do we to put this when it is said in (1) (a), no person shall describe, describe means promote and advertising. If you want to advertise or promote something you won't describe it. You will say I am renting rooms for two thousand rupees as Gites etc.. Are you not describing here? You are describing. The point does not arise again Mr. Chairperson, Sir and other comments which has been raised is that the Tourism Act does not make provision for specific Rodriguan type of tourism. They say that the Gites, Chambres d'hotes etc, these should is not included in the Tourism Authority Act, we have decided to put this. They say we have not recognize the small *Gites, Tables d'hotes* if you look at the Tourism Act, this is not present Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This Regulation makes provision for same. As regards the fees, they want to change the fees. Do you know how much are the fees? Have a look at the Tourism Act 2006 which provides for much higher fees and which is not adapted and affordable to Rodrigues. They are speaking in fact out of what I will say, out of ignorance Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and I come to the financial difficulties. People will not have the money and they want us to give money, to give loans to tourism what a ridiculous strategy Mr.

Chairperson, Sir. They are saying that we need 2 million rupees to invest in *a Gites*, in tourism sector may be they are speaking of very big buildings. They are very accustomed to these very big buildings Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Let me give, if we have not read in the 2nd Schedule, the meaning of *Gites*; a *Gites* means a premises which shall comprise of a maximum of four independent buildings It can be one building, each having up to four rooms; it can be a building having two rooms. A living room, a dining room, a kitchen, bathroom and toilet located within a radius of 100 metres from the owners residence.

A "*Chambre d'hotes*" means special room to a maximum of four for guests on a nightly basis with board and lodging in the House of the owner Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

"*Guest House*" means any premises where lodging and sleeping facilities and breakfast are provided.

"*Table d'hotes*" means part of a dwelling House which is used to provide primarily local cuisine etc designated space and where personalised relationship, it means in the house of that person.

"*Tourist residence*" any premises than any hotel.

Thus, choice of the people who would apply for tourist licence is wide. If you want to apply for Hotel, you must be in the criteria. You want to apply for *Gites*, you may not get *Gites* you may get *Chambre D'hotes*, you do not have *Chambre D'hotes*, you may get *Table D'hotes* or you may get *Tourist Residence* Mr. Chairperson, Sir. How much of these persons need two million rupees? They may need to put some bulbs, they may need to put tap water of hot water or they may need to put better beds etc. How will this cost two million rupees? They are always thinking about big money Mr. Chairperson, Sir, like the big money they spend, ten million rupees they used when they were in Government to buy luxurious Pajeros and BMW for their own comfort Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The Member has said we have not had consultations! May be she is ignorant but we have had many consultations privately, calling persons to see these Regulations.

Mrs. Arlette Perrine-Begue: Point of Order. I would like the Chief Commissioner to remove the word "she is ignorant". For me this is not parliamentary. He could say she is not aware but he cannot say that I am ignorant, I don't accept this word.

Mr. Chairperson: Like you said earlier he is mediocre. Well you need to have a balance in the House. You seem to be offended by this word. Yes, Chief Commissioner.

Chief Commissioner: The words are fact Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Not ignorant. Ignorant in herself this is her problems. Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir and they want us to involve people. We have involved many people in the preparation of these Regulations. She says that voters wish to participate Mr. Chairperson, Sir. People want to participate this is what we do, people can walk in any Commissioners office today, people wait in the corridor to see the

Commissioners. Where was this possible at that time? Why Police would strike them off Mr. Chairperson, Sir? And she says in contradiction to herself she talked other people as the governed Mr. Chairperson, Sir. As if the Government would be the ruler and the people be the governed and at the same time, she says they have to participate in contradiction with herself. She says there is need for loan from the DBM. People will not have money; all the businesses will close down but at the same time Mr. Chairperson, Sir, she says people are investing massively and this is true Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Look at all the tourist enterprises. They are adding rooms, they are investing, they want more land, they are repainting, they are recruiting, they are buying new vehicles. Some people have left their job in the Government to do fully their own tourist enterprise business. Who would do that if he was not working? Who would leave the Government service today if tourism was not a thriving and dynamic industry and if the prospect were not good Mr. Chairperson, Sir? These people are not fools and the opposition today has shown once more that they are out of subject and out of the matter by saying that the regulation does not provide for such and such things. What they have done is just look at the wrong Mr. Chairperson, Sir, just search for the wrong, doing all their home work searching for what is wrong in these Regulations. So, what will happen with these Regulations, what I see is that these Regulations will formalise the Tourism Industry of Rodrigues and will give a formalisation to the tourism industry and one and everybody will know what are the guidelines what you need to set up to be a *Gites*, what do you need to set up to be a *Table d'hotes*, what you need to set up to put in place to be a *Chambre d'hotes* and this is a very marvelous thing Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Something that will happen and something that will be voted and something which is in modern times a very important thing for the development of tourism. Tourism will develop more, more people will invest and they will know how to build. the guidelines are there, if you want to set up a *Table d'hotes* how to set it up. If you build more than four rooms in the building, you will fall in the category of tourist residence. People today have this guideline. Where did we have the guidelines? Anybody could say I am a *Gites*, anybody could say I am a *Table d'hotes*, anybody could declare that he is such and such. I am very confident that we have worked the best, one of the best pieces of Regulation ever voted by this Assembly. In terms of arrangements of the sections, in terms of its presentations, in terms of its schedule, this is a very good piece of legislation. I would like to congratulate the team at my office under the responsibility of the Departmental Head of Tourism who have worked and who have given under my advise and my supervision their views and *petit a petit ont a pu construire* these Regulations over the months Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

I would also like to thanks the Island Chief Executive for his supports and our legal advisers, all the staffs, all the Commissioners who at the level of the Executive Council have given their views and have tell us to change this or to propose this and to give thoughts to this Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I am very proud of what the Members on this side of the House have said and the encouragement they have expressed and I want to thank them. Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: The summing up on general policies is over. Now can we turn like we did in the past years to the Regulation itself and let us start by page 1, 2, 3,4,5,6, page 6 nothing? We are at page 6 for amendment. Page 5 exceptionally.

Mr. Lisette: Yes. Regulation 6 Mr. Chairperson, Sir, subsection 9 in this Regulation.

Mr. Chairperson: Your amendment first.

Mr. Lisette: I move that the word “ *I* ” under Regulation 6 subsection (9) for the second phrase be replaced by the word “ *one* ” instead of “ *I* ”.

Mr. Philippe Francois rose and seconded

Mr. Chairperson: By the figure one, then.

Mr. Lisette: Yes by the figure one. The case of the offender under subsection 1 shall be liable to a fine of.

Mr. Chairperson: Any response?

Mr. Lisette: It is “ *one* ” before we are referring to subsection 1 it is written “ *I* ” there.

Mr. Chairperson: Question: that the word “ *I* ” in bracket in Regulation 6 (9) second sentence be replaced by the figure “ *one* ”. Those in favour say “ *ayes* ”, those against say “ *No* ”.

Members: No

Mr. Chairperson: No, so, Motion defeated. Page five down Mr. Lisette. Page 6, page 7.

Mr. Lisette: Page 7, subsection 11 (i).

Mr. Chairperson: 11(i) yes amendment in the subsection?

Mr. Lisette: I move that the word “ *whereby* ” be deleted, because when the Commission vary revoke or refuse to renew a tourist enterprise licence whereby reason of the assignment. So, the word “ *where* ” appears twice.

Mr. Philippe Francois rose and seconded.

Mr. Chairperson: Question: that the word “ *where* ” in Regulation 11 (1) (i) be deleted? Those in favour say “ *ayes* ”, those against say “ *No* ”.

Members: No.

Mr. Chairperson: The “Noes” have it.

Mr. Lisette: On the same page Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I move that with respect to Regulation 11 (1) (g) the word “*section*” be deleted and replaced by “*Regulation*”.

Mr. Philippe Francois rose and seconded.

Mr. Chairperson: Question: that the word “*section*” in Regulation 11 (1) (g) be replaced by the word “*Regulation*”. Those in favour say “ayes”, those against say “No”.

Members: No.

Mr. Chairperson: The “Noes” have it. Down the page 7, page 8.

Mr. Francois: Page 8 Regulation 16 item (1) second sentence I move that the word “*then*” be deleted and replaced by “*than*”.

Mr. Daniel Speville rose and seconded.

Mr. Chairperson: Question: that the word “*then*” in Regulation 16 (1) be replaced by the word “*than*”. Those in favour say “ayes”, those against say “No”.

Members: No.

Mr. Chairperson: The “Noes” have it. page 9, page 10, page 11.

Mr. Lisette: Page 11 Regulation 25 (b). I move once again that the word “*section*” be deleted and replaced by “*regulation*”.

Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, I think that the Regulation have been drafted, we are a new Regional Assembly and of course Regulations in Mauritius are drafted and..... Regulation 1 and Regulation 2. But in the mind of the legal drafter, those who have made these Regulations can also say section. If you look at the cover page it is here written “*section*”, so, section 1 to 30. It is therefore not inappropriate to refer to them as being “*section*”.

Mr. Chairperson: Question: that the word “*section*” in Regulation 25 (b) be replaced by the word “*Regulation*”. Those in favour say “ayes”, those against say “No”.

Members: No.

Mr. Chairperson: The “Noes” have it. Page 12, page13.

Mr. N. Lisette: Page 13, Regulation 29. I move that the word “**Travel Agent**” be added under the list of activities because it has been stated in the first schedule part (b).

Mr. Philippe Francois rose and seconded.

Mr. Chairperson: First Schedule on Page 14? Yes. Question: that the word “*Travel Agent*” be added to the list in Regulation 29 (a) Those in favour say “ayes”, those against say “No”.

Members: No.

Mr. Chairperson: The “Noes” have it. Page 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22. Question: “*That this Assembly is of opinion that, by virtue of section 31 of the Rodrigues Regional Act 2001, there is passed the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Tourism) Regulations 2007.*” Those in favour say “ayes”, those against say “No”.

Members: Ayes.

Mr. Chairperson: The “ayes” have it.

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I move that the Assembly be adjourned to Tuesday 7 August 2007 at 10.30 a.m

Mr. Grandcourt rose and seconded.

Mr. Chairperson: Question: that this Assembly be adjourned to Tuesday 7 August 2007 at 10.30 a.m. Those in favor say “ayes”, those against say “No”.

Members: Ayes.

Mr. Chairperson: The “ayes” have it. No Statements? The House stand adjourned.

(On its rising at 18.18 hrs, the Assembly stood adjourned to Tuesday 7 August 2007 at 10.30 a.m)

WRITTEN ANSWERS

**RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY PARTICIPATION IN THE
'SALON MONDIAL DU TOURISME '**

B/107 **The Minority Leader (Mr. L.S. Clair)** asked the **Chief Commissioner** whether, in regard to the official Rodrigues Regional Assembly participation in international Tourisms Beurs (ITB) Berlin, Salon Mondial du Tourisme (SMT) Versailles, Paris, Salon de Mahana Lyon, and Borsa International Turismo (BIT) in Milan, 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 each delegation in terms of airfares and subsistence allowances; and
- (c) state the total expenditure incurred?

REPLY

- (a) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the official delegation which participated in the different tourism promotion fairs are as follows:-

BIT Fair, in Milan, Italy, which was held from 22 to 25 February 2007

- (i) Myself as Chief Commissioner and also Commissioner responsible for Tourism;
- (ii) Mr. Rameshwar Tupsy, as Tourism Promotion Manager attached to the Office Du Tourisme;
- (iii) Mr. William Auguste, as Tourism Operator and also member of the Tourism Promotion Committee.

Salon Mahana, in Lyon, France, which was held from 7 to 11 March 2007

Mr. Pritam Singh Mattan, as Departmental Head responsible for the Commission for Tourism;

- (i) Mr. Robertson Mercure, as Adviser on Communication Matters and member of the Tourism Promotion Committee;
- (ii) Mr. Phanuel Leveque, as Tourism Operator.

ITB Fair, in Berlin, Germany, which was held from 7 to 11 March 2007

- (i) Mr. Pritam Singh Mattan, as Departmental Head responsible for the Commission for Tourism;
- (ii) Mr. Robertson Mercure, as Adviser on Communication Matters and member of the Tourism Promotion Committee;
- (iii) Mrs. Carinne Prosper, as Tourism Operator.

Salon Mondiale Du Tourisme (SMT), in Versailles, Paris, France, which was held from 13 to 20 March 2007

- (i) Mrs. Marie Therese Clair, as my representative as Commissioner responsible for Tourism;
 - (ii) Mr. William Auguste, as Tourism Operator and also member of the Tourism Promotion Committee.
 - (iii) Mr. Jean Pierre Lim Kim, Mr. Gerard Edouard and Mrs. Jeanette Baudoin as representatives of the different associations of local tourism operators.
 - (iv) Messrs. Macdonald Farla and Dickson Legentil as artists/musicians accompanying the delegation.
- (b) With regards to (b), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the information are as follows:-

<u>BIT Fair</u>	<u>Airfares</u> Rs	<u>Subsistence Allowance</u> Rs
Myself	59,691.00	122,049.20
Mr. R. Tupsy	24,751.00	80,016.25
Mr. W. Auguste	24,751.00	Nil

Salon Mahana and ITB Fair

Mr. P.S. Mattan	46,000.00	52,390.90
Mr. R. Mercure	46,000.00	52,390.90
Mr. P. Leveque	36,676.00	Nil
Mrs. C. Prosper	40,715.00	Nil

Salon Mondiale Du Tourisme

Mrs. M.T. Clair	29,304.00	49,485.00
Mr. W. Auguste	28,704.00	Nil
Mr. J.P. Lim Kim	25,846.00	Nil
Mrs. J. Baudoin	29,304.00	Nil
Mr. M. Farla	29,304.00	Nil
Mr. D. Legentil	29,304.00	Nil

- (c) With regards to (c), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the total cost incurred by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly amounts to **Rs 869,668.17**. It should be noted that in relation to the above-mentioned tourism fairs, the expenses relating to stands and air tickets have been borne by MTPA.

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
PROPOSED BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

B/108 The Minority Leader (Mr. L.S. Clair) asked the Commissioner responsible for Finance as regards the budget estimates for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly proposed by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development at the National Assembly for 2007/2008 budget, whether he will state

- (a) the difference of the provisions made under both the Capital and Recurrent budget from those voted by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly; and
- (b) how it is proposed to adjust the figures under different votes and items of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Estimates as approved by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly with the provisions of the National Assembly for both the Recurrent Budget and Capital Budget?

REPLY

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I shall make a statement on the whole matter of budget allocation to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly later during this sitting.

EXCAVATOR GMR 375

B/109 **The Minority Leader (Mr. L.S. Clair)** asked the **Chief Commissioner** whether with regard to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Excavator GMR 375 work's at Creve-Coeur/Roseaux, he would

- (a) state who is supervising the works;
- (b) state whether the excavator is being used to prepare sites for residential construction and digging domestic pits other than excavation of roads and clearing of river, and if yes;
- (c) table the names of those who benefited from such services; and
- (d) inform the House, whether planning and environmental clearances have been obtained for the excavations in relation to (b)?

REPLY

Commissioner PERRINE: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (a) As regards to part (a) the answer is as follows:-

The Creve Coeur/Roseaux project has two components:-

- (i) Desilting and clearing of river Bambous. Work is being carried out by the Natural Resources Rehabilitation and Irrigation Unit under the supervision of Senior Technical Officer, Alex LAW SAN.
- (ii) Construction of water bound roads and track roads to facilitate access and enhance agricultural activities. This component of the project is being executed by the derocking and Mechanisation Unit under the supervision of Senior Technical Assistant, Daniel COUTY.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

- (b) Creve Coeur and Roseaux are amongst the poorest villages of Rodrigues which have received not enough attention.

The people of these two villages have always been deprived of all basic necessities, such as access roads, water and decent housing facilities.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since coming into office in December 2006, we set a plan of how to tackle the huge burden left by our predecessors. After careful planning, and following a fresh demand from the Village Committee of Creve Coeur in May 2007, Excavator GMR 375 attached to the Natural Resources and Rehabilitation Unit was sent to Creve Coeur for three purposes:-

- (a) clearing of Creve Coeur river;
- (b) performed levelling works to enable the construction of roads and track roads;
- (c) levelling of residential sites for vulnerable group and hardship cases as per request of Creve Coeur Village Committee.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the excavator, which is for the Regional Government but belongs to all people of Rodrigues has been in use to prepare sites for residential construction and digging of domestic pits for hardship cases and low income family upon request of the respective Village Committee.

I am surprised that the Minority ask such question as when he was Chief Commissioner and approved the construction of some 84 NHDC housing units he failed to make provision for these houses with a septic tank.

I am tempted to ask the Minority Leader:-

Where did he expect occupants of NHDC housing units to do their toileting? May be he has a magical explanation.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Village Committee submits requests to my Commission and same are being verified by Senior Technical Assistant, Mr. Daniel COUTY. Consequently, environmental clearances are sought from the Environment Unit, Commission for Environment. Upon recommendation and clearance obtained, requests were then approved by the Departmental Head and Mr. COUTY was requested to carry out works in consultation with the respective President of the Village Committee.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling a list of names of those who benefited from such services.

- (c) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (c), I think that the respected Minority Leader comes from another planet. I have tried to look over the internet where in the world planning clearance is required to dig domestic septic tank pits and have come across none. May be he could advise.

However, as far as I can recall, there is no need for planning clearance for digging of domestic septic tank pits. Once a person is granted a lease, planning to construct is not required. However, in all cases environmental clearances have been duly obtained.

STATE LANDS AT BATATRAN

B/110 **The Minority Leader (Mr. L.S. Clair)** asked the **Chief Commissioner** whether authorisation has been given to fence and plough acres of state lands at Batatran on the way to Mt. Ursule, where the Forestry Division has planted *Pandanus Heterocarpus* (vacoas) and other trees, and if so, to whom the land has been granted?

REPLY

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that no authorisation whatsoever has been given to fence and plough acres of state lands at Batatran on the way to Mt Ursule.

However, I am also informed that following a site visit effected by the Cadastral Office and the Forest Ranger some two months back, it was observed that one Mr. John Steward LEOPOLD had cleared part of the state land at Batatran and the latter was digging holes apparently for fencing. On query, the latter had informed that he had submitted a project to Invest Rodrigues (ex-BIPU), which project however, is still under consideration. In light of the above, Mr. John Steward LEOPOLD was requested to stop all works under the said state lands. I am informed that, as at date, no works or development whatsoever is being carried out under the mentioned site. The site forms part of our forests and as I stated in my Government Programme, our regional government intends to rehabilitate our forests.

RECURRENT BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2007/2008

B/125 **The First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres (Mr. N. Lisette)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth and Sports as regard to the Recurrent Budget for the Financial Year 2007/2008 under the item votes "*Promotion of Sports Activities*" and "*Major International Sports Events*" he would

- (a) table the amount allocated to each Regional Committee for their different activities under each item; and
- (b) state the criteria considered for the allocation of same?

REPLY

- (a) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, no budget has been allocated to Sport Regional Committees under any item votes of my Commission.
- (b) Question (b) therefore does not arise.