

Mr. Chairperson: Clerk can we start.

The Clerk: Announcements, please.

Mr. Chairperson: No announcements.

The Clerk: Papers, please. Questions please.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RODRIGUES CAPITAL FUND

(No. B/182) **Mrs. M.A. Perrine-Begue** (*The First Local Region Member of St. Gabriel*) asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to the “Rodrigues Capital Fund” will he, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) whether any sum of money has been transferred by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly from the Capital Budget 2007 – 2008 to any Deposits Accounts and if yes, the amount, thereof;
- (b) whether authorisation from the relevant authorities was obtained for that transfer; and
- (c) give details of the use of that money to date?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer to part (a) of the question is no. However, at its sitting of 8th July, 2008, I informed this Assembly that at our request the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development accepted to allocate a supplementary provision of Rs 98 million to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to implement some priority projects. These priority projects include *inter alia*:

- (i) supply, installation and commissioning of two prefabricated desalination plants at *Pointe Venus* and *Songes*;
- (ii) Desalination of brackish water at *Camp du Roi*, *Baie Topaze* and *Fond La Digue*; and procedures regarding the projects were already in hand in 2007-2008, but could not completed within the financial

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year. Since the Estimates Committee of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Empowerment agreed that saving from the supplementary allocation would be utilized during this financial year to finance the desalination projects, only a token provision was made under the item of charge 31-107.012 for financial year 2008/2009. Therefore, and the unspent balance from the supplementary allocation was thus transferred to a deposit account to meet the commitments during 2008/2009. However, it should be emphasized that the Rs 45.5 million has always remained under the Current Bank Account of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly with the Bank of Mauritius where monies standing under the Rodrigues Consolidated Fund, Rodrigues Capital Fund and Deposit Accounts are kept in safe custody.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (b) considering the provision of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001, I am not aware of which authorities the respected member is referring to. The transfer of the saving to a deposit account was made with my approval in my capacity of Chief Commissioner and Commissioner for Finance.

The following payments have been made from the funds transferred to the deposit account.

Date	Amount (Rs)	Contractor	Project
03 rd September, 2008	4,966,407.22	Aquaflo Ltd	Supply, installation, commissioning of reverse osmosis brackish water, purification plant at <i>Fond La Digue</i> borehole
03 rd September, 2008	7,789,453.21	Aquaflo Ltd	Supply, installation, commissioning of reverse osmosis brackish water, purification plant at <i>Camp du Roi</i> and <i>Baie Topaze</i>
24 th October, 2008	1,500,689.58	Aquaflo Ltd	Retention money on the above project

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The remaining balance of Rs 31,246,467.89 is for payment of supply, installation and commissioning of containerized sea water reverse osmosis desalination plant at *Pointe Venus* and *Songes*, which is expected to be effected within the next two months.

I am informed that the shipments are due to be made to Rodrigues shortly.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner to confirm because he said no and at the same time he said yes the money has been transferred. So that's why we want him...

Mr. Chairperson: Be ...among the terms you use in your questions.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner confirm to the House whether it is from the Capital Fund, the money that was appropriated by the National Assembly that is was from this money that the Rs 45.5 million was transferred to a deposit account.

The Chief Commissioner: The answer is no, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Can the Commissioner now inform the House very clearly where did that money that he effectively confirmed as having being confirmed, came from?

The Chief Commissioner: I am not Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am Chief Commissioner. The money if the Member has listened well came from supplementary extra provisions which were granted by the Ministry of Finance.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Nevertheless, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, supplementary money that was given was from National Budget. Was there any discussion between the Ministry of Finance and the Chief Commissioner's for that money to be put elsewhere than in the Capital Budget?

The Chief Commissioner: The question relates to Rodrigues Capital Fund, not to National Budget, Mr. Chairperson, Sir and the answer to the second part, yes, consultations were made and being given that these funds were additional funds, we consulted and they agreed. It was agreed with the Ministry of Finance for us to be able to save that money that it be transferred to a deposit account, the money has been it has been provided for and the remaining sum will be use for what it has been provided for, the best interest of Rodrigues. There is nothing suspicious about this practice, we have to view the whole project execution as a whole, whereby the project has not been completed fully, therefore we could not allow the money to be returned, like they did in the past,

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we transferred the money with the concurrence of the Financial Secretary and the Ministry of Finance to that deposit account which is the account of the Regional Assembly at the Bank of Mauritius.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Can I ask the Chief Commissioner when that supplementary fund was given to the Chief Commissioner's Office?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, these funds were given around January/ February 2008.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner as regards to the transfer of the supplementary allocations given to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, whether on his budget outturn, this is termed as expenditure for financial year 2007/2008?

The Chief Commissioner: I have to check, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, but I repeat, we have to view the project as a whole, the expenditure for us has been made, we must understand what has happen, why we have not been able to pay for the supply of this. The problem comes from external factors which have affected the delivery of these reverse osmosis desalinated plants containerized. Because there have been delays from the supply country due to numerous strikes and logistics problems which have delayed the delivery of these in Rodrigues. So we had two options. Either we returned the money and say we could not pay or negotiate to have the money transferred to that deposit account which is a normal feature. If the Ministry of Finance wants the money to stay with us, you have to look at the law. There is a Rodrigues Consolidated Fund and a Rodrigues Capital Fund and these funds are not meant to be empty. There needs to be money in it. We have put money and we are now waiting for the ..we could not pay before the delivery, so we are waiting for the delivery and if the delivery is satisfactory, then we will pay.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether as regards to that particular transfer and the use of that money, I mean that deposition of that money on another account, can the Commissioner confirm that there was in writing any correspondence between the two corresponding bodies and if yes, if he could table the letter by the end of this session?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not in the Registry of my office in this Assembly. The Registry of my office is some 200 metres away. I don't think that there has been any correspondence and I am not prepared to table such correspondence, if there is because I will not take everything which is in government files at my office to put on the table of this Assembly. But I have to assure that I take the responsibility and you can sue me if you want if you think that there has been anything done illegally.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the transfer of the Rs 45.5 million has been done on the permission/authorization as put by the Chief Commissioner on his authorization as Commissioner for Finance. May I know in his budget outturn that he presented in this Assembly on 8th July 2008, no mention of this transfer was made thereto?

The Chief Commissioner: As I have explained, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, once the money has been transferred, because it is a money which is already budgeted, the payment is already committed, we already have the proforma invoices, what could we risk? We risk losing the money or transferring it, saving it to a deposit account when we know that we have to pay it. We have had Rs 300 millions this year and we have told them at the Ministry of Finance out of the Rs 300 millions if we have to pay what was already committed during the last financial year that would not be possible. So we wanted to make maximum use of the funds which were granted to us. Where is the problem if we have transferred it for specific projects for which the commitments were clear and defined so that the money could be used when the commitments are fulfilled by the supplier? This is what we have done Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I am of the view that there is money which is granted to Rodrigues during a financial year and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act has been made in such a way that these funds are released as and when required. What will we do if for unforeseen circumstances tomorrow, out of the budget that is allocated for Capital Expenditure in Rodrigues, we are unable to spend 75% of this? Won't we negotiate and say ok we have not been able for unforeseen circumstances, cyclones, strikes or anything and try to get that money, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? This is logical. So they have agreed and we have put that money on that deposit account. We have retained that money because we have to pay it. We don't return money. The practice of returning money is no longer in use.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to ask the Chief Commissioner if he could enlighten the House because normally to ask for supplementary there is a procedure and when you have short of budget for specific projects, this is what the Chief Commissioner just said. Money was asked I think, may be by the end of 2007 and received on January 2008 and at the end of June 2008, that money which was asked as a shortfall was still not used. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House, what really happened, did that project in unforeseen circumstances that could make this House comprehend and understand the transparency of this project?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, our budget was made previously in early June 2008 in the National Budget and I have to say that we did not ask for these funds. There was no shortage of funds according to our projects. There was a surplus of funds within the National Budget and I was told by the Ministry of Finance at a Conference, I don't remember which conference

I attended in Mauritius that there is money if we have new capital projects which are serious and feasible, we could submit to them and get some additional money. So what we did we prepared immediately some series of projects which were submitted to them and which were over and above the capital budget of Rodrigues allocated to us. It was not shortage of money, it was additional money which could not be spent at some ministries in Mauritius and that we could use here in Rodrigues and I thank the Central Government for this.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Chief Commissioner to state to the House the exact amount of money that was given to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly on January 2008 as supplementary?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on January 2008, we were not aware of the total sum which could be allocated to us because they were considering projects on an individual basis. For example, the project of building a retaining wall, a rock bun at *Baie aux Huitres*, was negotiated and being given the urgency of this because we were shortly undertaking the dredging works, this was seen as a priority project, it was approved. The *Baie du Nord/ Port Mathurin* road again was seen as a priority project and was approved. The *Baladirou* Earthworks again was submitted and individually was approved. In the end the total amount is Rs 98 million.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in his statement of the 8th July, 2008, the Chief Commissioner informed the House deliberately by himself without him being questioned that unlike I quote him: “the total capital expenditure already paid, unlike the provisions which was being cast upon us and accusations that we will not finish our budget has reached Rs 393 million as compared to Rs 274 million”. And now the Chief Commissioner just said that he has received Rs 98 million as supplementary. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I’d like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether in the statement where he said that the total Capital Expenditure or the money that has been given to the Regional Assembly has been used, is it not true that the Chief Commissioner has misled the House on this issue?

The Chief Commissioner: The Member, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is again taking us for a tour. I don’t understand the gist of her calculations but I have to say that all money that have been allocated to us have been used judiciously and that the deposit money that has been retained will be used judiciously. And I think that logically, if you go outside this Assembly and explain to the layman what we have done, the layman will say yes, these are intelligent people.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner has not answered my question. I’d like to ask him whether he has not deliberately misled this august Assembly as regard to the statement of account that he made here.

The Chief Commissioner: It is not in my practice to mislead this Assembly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I don't understand the calculations which the Member is trying to make. However, I repeat that everything has been done in transparency and that if there is any problem, you can sue me personally if you think that I have stolen money. You have your Public Accounts Committee which can go and check all accounts of government at any time, you have your Minority Leader who writes letters very often to Mauritius. He can write as much letters as he can, you yourself can ask substantive questions here giving details of sums of money and asking me to account for any money which you think is missing.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the Chief Commissioner did not give to the House the exact sum and what actually happened to that money, he said that the total money was effectively paid, already paid, and we know that some money have been transferred to another deposited account.

Mr. Chairperson: Are you giving information? If he has not answered, asked him again.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: No. No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am putting the ambits because he said that we can come here and ask him questions. Being given that he has not been giving the exact answers that we asked, can the Commissioner now, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on oath in front of this House inform this House that apart from the Audit Office has mentioned about the Rs 45.5 million that has been transferred whether there is any other sum of money that have been transferred in any other deposited accounts for any other use?

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, this question is allowed except for the word on oath.

The Chief Commissioner: I have already made my oath, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I am not aware, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my officers have informed me that there is only this project and I repeat you should view the project. The money for me is already spent, Ok? Because we know how much we have to pay, but we cannot pay because there has been delays in the delivery and we have to see if everything comply with the specifications of the desalinated plants for this project. As regards to the comments of the Director of Audit, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I must say that I am very much surprised because the Director of Audit has a job to do and with all accountants they only look at books, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, but books do not give a picture of what is going on in a country. You have to understand political decisions within the political framework, the social setup in which the decision makers are taking decisions, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. So we have taken decisions including in the allocation of

bad weather in line with what we feel is good and in line with what we feel was needed to be done. The Director of Audit has his job to do; we have our job to do. We may justify everything we have made though it may not be seen as being financially sound from the accounting point of view but from the social, political and people's point of view, decisions which we have made had to be made, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner just said that we, this Executive Council, we do not return money. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner being given that we do not have Finance as an area of responsibility whether it will be the practice of the Chief Commissioner's Office to save in deposited accounts all funds that have not been used?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not saying that this will be a practice but any financial arrangements which need to be done to save funds and to keep these funds to implement priority projects which need to be done and which are envisageable in consultation with the Ministry of Finance when need be if there is something which needs to be done, we have to do it for the better implementation of government projects.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the Rs 45.5 million are going to be spent during financial year 2008/2009, will these expenses be included in the budget outturn for 2008/2009?

The Chief Commissioner: I repeat, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, these expenditures have already been accounted for in the last budget. In this budget, in the speech it may mention what has been done but the project, for me it is a project account, this is a project account and for me the money has already been appropriated.

COMMODITIES BEING IMPORTED

(No. B/183) Mrs. M.A. PERRINE-BEGUE (*The First Local Region Member of St. Gabriel*) asked the Chief Commissioner as regards to commodities being imported to Rodrigues will he for the benefit of the House, state whether:-

- (a) there has been any increase in freight from Mauritius to Rodrigues recently and if yes; when was it effective; and
- (b) the reason that underlie this increase;
- (c) the price of basic commodities like milk, flour will be affected, therefrom;

- (d) there has been any prior discussion between the related authorities and the Executive Council of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly?

The Chief Commissioner: I have been informed, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, by the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Ltd. that there has been a 12.5% increase in freight rates as from 24 November 2008 along the Mauritius – Rodrigues route.

The reasons for the increase in rates were premised on the following:

- (a) The Company was no longer able to maintain a high level of cross subsidy on the Rodrigues Service from revenue generated on the international route;
- (b) The Company has been struggling to cope with inflation, operating costs such as victualling, stevedoring, crewing, insurances and expensive maintenance costs to carry livestock on board.
- (c) The need for the Company to maintain a regular shipping connection despite decreasing cargo traffic on the Rodrigues route.

It is expected that the prices of some commodities will increase slightly. However, it is expected that the prices of commodities such as rice, flour and sugar will not increase in the meantime as the State Trading Corporation will meet the associated cost.

I wish to point out that the request for the increase in prices were communicated to my Office as far back as September 2007 and that the quantum of increase requested was much higher and in some cases the rate of increase were over 150%. Following our strong objection, the Mauritius Audit Bureau was thereafter requested to carry out a study to justify the increase. We have positively obtained that the increase in rates requested by the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Ltd. for all commodities be limited at 12.5%.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since July last International Maritime Freight rates have crashed by 90%, prices of petroleum products have gone down by more than 60% by now and other commodities have gone down by at least 60% the price, with those figures in mind will the Chief Commissioner agree that the increase in price in freight from Mauritius to Rodrigues does not reflect at all the crash of freight rates and products on the International market.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a question of opinion. I don't know what are the cost of the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Limited but of course these figures were negotiated during the last year before the sharp increases in the petroleum products and food prices and of course during this time there has been changes in the world prices and this matter will have to be taken up with the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Limited. But I think that to operate the ships, the two ships on the Rodrigues route, there are of course a number of costs and they have shown to us that if they did not increase their cost, they wanted to increase by more than 150%, we have convinced government not to do at this rate and to do only at 12.5%.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to ask the Chief Commissioner being given that the Maritime Freight between Mauritius and Rodrigues is being subsidized, whether there is any request that has been made with the National Authorities with the percentage of VAT Maritime Freight subsidy be increase in the light of the increase in the freight for Mauritius Shipping.

The Chief Commissioner: This matter will be looked into, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, has there been any discussions already between the Chief Commissioner's Office and the related authorities in Mauritius, in the light of this new evolution of the situation?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I repeat we have objected to the then contemplated increase in freight and of course we could not resist that they wanted to increase their cost and that they have given reasons for this, we could not resist that they have a certain amount of increase in the freight. Ok? Now if you want to know what are the real cost, you have to look at the report of the Mauritius Audit Bureau and from this they have confirmed that there are a need to increase the cost for the sea route for the freight between Mauritius and Rodrigues.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that a number if not all, the commodities imported from Mauritius will now know an increase of 12.5% on 1000 kgs each, I'd like to ask the Commissioner whether in the wake of increase of those increase that are going to be experienced in the following weeks whether any mechanism has been put in place for a control so that no abuse be noted?

The Chief Commissioner: Of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, these prices of freight are fixed and cannot be changed by the MPC, by the Mauritius Shipping Corporation unless there is a consultation, a decision between the cabinet. This decision to increase the freight has been taken by Cabinet itself.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that the question that was asked by my colleague relates to the selling of commodities on local market. There is the question ofthat may happen whereby commodities that have been sent prior to the increase of 12.5% of freight will also have an increase of 12.5%. The question is how is the Chief Commissioner who is also responsible for Consumer Protection proceeding to ensure that the protection of the consumers is being due to?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the prices also of basic commodities are fixed in Rodrigues. Not all of course but how can we check this? How can we check such and such commodity which has been imported on such a rate of freight and such and such commodity which has been imported on another rate of freight? We don't have the capacity to check this. However we have the protection that prices are fixed for basic commodities like rice and flour. And of course, they cannot interact to pass on consumers increase in freight prices.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if I take a commodity such as milk, the importers in Rodrigues, they are going to send new invoices to the Consumer Protection Unit so as to have a new price fixed. I don't think that for the case of milk where there are very few importers of such commodities from Mauritius, they is going to be a problem as regard to the control and also to access the stock of these importers. Will the Chief Commissioner specifically as regards to milk, will he ensure such a follow up?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as far as I know the price of milk is fixed. Where is the problem? Does the Member expect myself or officers of the Consumer Protection Unit to know from this trade of milk, this stock was imported before the increase in freight and this stock was imported...How can we know this, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? How will we check the thousands of bottles of milk.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner said that the question has been taken up in the Cabinet. Being given the figures which I have put forward and which have not been challenged because they are facts, crash in maritime trade freight in more than 90%, all prices crashing, petroleum products ...and other products. Will the Chief Commissioner take up with the Honorable Prime Minister the issue of taking urgent measures so that Consumer in general, the traveling public, small planters, taxi owners, lorries and bus owners, fishermen and planters should benefit from this massive increase in price?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, actually in Paris the temperature is I think around 5 degrees or less than this. In Rodrigues it must be

30 degrees Celsius. I don't know if the Member knows a bit of international trade. It does not mean that if the prices worldwide are decreasing that they should be decreasing here between the Mauritius and Rodrigues route. You know that the volume of freight is a major factor influencing the freight unit meter cube. If you take a big ship traveling across the world because of its size, the freight cost will be lower, because the operational cost, the crew is the same. Now if you take the Rodrigues route, it is one of the highest in the world. The freight per meter cube is one of the highest because of the operational cost, because of the remoteness of Rodrigues and may be because of the type of ship which is being used. We are studying all sorts of means and ways to reduce the freight price including changes in the stevedoring, we have had meeting with the representatives of the stevedoring and all sorts of reforms which could bring the freight price to weigh lower, a lower price, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. But it does not mean that if there is a world wide ...it is exactly the matching case here in Rodrigues. We have to look at the local facts and the local context.

OFFICIAL MISSION - MAURITIUS

(No. B/184) Mrs. M.A. Perrine-Begue (*The First Local Region Member of St. Gabriel*) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to his official mission in Mauritius from the 3rd to the 6th November, 2008 he will inform the House:-

- (a) The projects discussed with the Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands, Hon James Burty David and the Minister for Tourism, Hon. Xavier Luc Duval;
- (b) The actual state of those projects; and
- (c) The other Ministers/officials he met during that same mission?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, during the said mission, I discussed the following projects and issues:

- (i) With Hon Dr. James Burty David, Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues and Outer Islands
 - 1) The need for positive discrimination in favour of Rodrigues in development projects, given the principle of continuation of territory of the Republic of Mauritius and the need for ensuring uniformity of services and standards of living among all the population of mainland Mauritius, Rodrigues and the outer islands, in spite of low economic and short term returns regarding investments in Rodrigues;

- 2) The Sir Gaetan Duval Airport Development project;.
 - 3) The Scheme set up by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the Voluntary Relinquishment of Fisherman Card;
 - 4) The switchover from analogue to digital television in Rodrigues;
 - 5) The putting up of a Memorial of Late Emmanuel Anquetil, famous unionist who was deported to Rodrigues by the colonial government for organising strikes in defence of workers rights.
- (ii) With Hon. Xavier Luc Duval, Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Leisure & External Communications:
- The Sir Gaeten Duval Airport Development and new runway project;
 - The Port Mathurin Port Development project, namely the dredging works at Pointe Monier up to *Oyster Bay*, and the development of the sea port at *Oyster Bay*.

With regards to the **Airport Development Project**, the central government has stated its agreement to the implementation of the airport development project in Rodrigues and the construction of a new runway to cater for regional and international flights. The central government has agreed to guarantee any loan that would be required to finance the project and to contribute to the development costs of the new runway as proposed by Aeroports de Paris International (ADPi) with a new runway reaching up to 3000 metres in the long term.

The Ministry of Finance has agreed to look for potential donors, such as, the World Bank, L'Agence Francaise de Developement (AFD) and the Export Import (EXIM) Bank of China to finance the project. The donors would also be requested to finance the Feasibility Study of the project. In this connection, my office is working in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the External Communications Division of the Ministry of Tourism, Leisure & External Communications to prepare the Terms of Reference of the Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study, which will include a cost-benefits analysis and a geo-technical survey, is expected to take one year, after which the construction works might start.

With regards to the *Port Mathurin* Port Development Project, the tender for dredging works at *Pointe Monier* and up to *Oyster Bay* has been launched jointly by the RRA and the Mauritius Ports Authority. The tender closing date

was on 3rd December 2008. The bids received are presently being evaluated by the Central Procurement Board. The works are expected to start in April 2009.

With regards to the Voluntary Relinquishment of Fisherman Card, a joint working committee has been set up to look at proposals.

During the mission, I also had the opportunity to attend the launching of the “Google Initiatives in Mauritius” organized by the Board of Investment. The launching was made by the Honourable Dr. Ramakrishna Sithanen, Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment and Honourable Dr. Vasant Bunwaree, Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources on 5th November 2008 at the Labourdonais Hotel in Port Louis.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner just said that the Central Government is ready to guarantee the loan as regards to the developments at the airport, being given that the airport has been vested back to the Central Government, I’d like to ask the Chief Commissioner, who will contract the loan?

The Chief Commissioner: The airport has not been vested to the Central Government, the airport has been vested to a Company, the Airport of Rodrigues Limited.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: One more, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I’d like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether there is any time frame which has been set, discussed, negotiated as regards to the kick-off of the major projects which he mentioned?

The Chief Commissioner: We are still negotiating, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have not time frame at this stage, we are at the preparatory stage of submitting these projects to, as we have said, to the Ministry of Finance, to donors and financing agencies.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I’d like also to ask the Chief Commissioner, in his allocation over the radio the Minister mentioned the coming to Rodrigues of an expert in Water Resources, whether this matter was discussed when he met the Minister and whether effectively the expert came over to Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, usually I don’t talk on what I heard on the radio with the Ministers.

**PLANTATION, COMMERCIALISATION &
EXPORTATION OF ONIONS**

(No. B/185) **Mrs. M. A. PERRINE-BEGUE** (*The First Local Region Member for St. Gabriel*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, Water Resources & Others with regard to the promotion of the plantation, commercialization and exportation of onion in Rodrigues will he, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) his policy regarding same;
- (b) the area dedicated to the cultivation of that crop this year and the amount harvested;
- (c) the number of bodies/companies who purchased onion from Rodrigues this year and their respective prices;
- (d) whether, any initiative is being contemplated to encourage onion planters to intensify their activities?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the mandate of my Commission is to ensure sufficient food for the Rodriguan population. Since this Regional Government came into office, no stone has left unturned to increase the food security of our nation.

As it has been spelt out in the Strategic Options for the Agricultural Sector 2007-2015, among others, the policy concerning onion is as follows:-

- a) produce onion to meet the consumption of the population of Rodrigues which amounts to some 300 tons per annum;
- b) increase local seed production;
- c) increase production for export to Mauritius;
- d) reduce import of the commodity;
- e) promote onion processing.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, concerning the production statistics, I wish to inform the House that following measures taken by my Commission to provide onion growers with better seeds quality, irrigation facilities and better technical advice, both the area planted and yield per unit of production have increased over the past three years as follows:-

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YEAR	2006	2007	2008
Area Planted (Ha)	23.1	19.5	26.7
Production (T)	312	385.6	500

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (c) of the question, it is to be noted that the commercialization of onion was liberalized in 2007 by the Ministry of Agro-industry and Fisheries.

The Agricultural Services have been informed by some onion growers that this year they were visited by several onion traders from Mauritius who offered to purchase their onion at prices ranging from Rs 12,000 to Rs 16,000 per ton and that many of them seized the opportunity due to the higher price. They refused to decline the identity of the traders.

Moreover, the Agricultural Marketing Board bought 60 tons of onion at Rs 11,000 per ton from local producers through its agent, the Rodrigues Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Federation. On the other hand, the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Co. Ltd bought 4 tons of onions at Rs 16,000 per ton for storage trial in its cold room.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as for initiatives that have been taken to encourage onion planters to intensify their activities I have to mention the following ten actions:-

- 1) free mechanization service;
- 2) subsidized pest and disease control;
- 3) subsidy on seed at the rate of Rs 1,000/kg;
- 4) installation of irrigation network and provision of irrigation water;
- 5) training and follow up of planters through the newly adopted filière approach where 4 officers deal with onion production specifically;
- 6) conducted tours for planters and officers locally and in Mauritius;
- 7) increased production of seeds locally (local red and Bella Rose);
- 8) issue of the SPWF card where planters have discounts when purchasing inputs along with other privileges;

- 9) setting up of the Onion Producers Association for the welfare of the planters;
- 10) regularization of land tenure.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, excluding like the Commissioner said individual traders, are two government agencies that are now in line with commercialization of onions. There was a initial cabinet decision like we know back for the Marketing Board to purchase rodriguan onions

(Gap on cassette)

In Rodrigues, has the Commissioner observe... (problem on cassette)

Mr. L. A. Perrine:.....there is a discussion debate in Mauritius on the future role of the Agricultural Marketing Board. And Rodrigues has sent somebody to participate in the debate and we are also contemplating to sign an MOU, the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Company Limited will sign an MOU with the Marketing Board where we will define the future role of the Marketing Board in Rodrigues. However it is good to note that whatever price the Marketing Board offers in Rodrigues, it is only a referral price and that other traders can come and buy the commodities at whatever price they want but not lower than the Marketing Board.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the 4 tons that were bought by the RTMC, may the Commissioner enlighten the House the criteria on which the Company base itself for the selection of the planters, provided that there has been some prejudice that has been caused to other planters who have not been able to sell their products to the RTMC given the difference in price that has been...on the market?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the RTMC made an announcement on radio asking planters who wished to sell their products to the Company to have themselves registered and according the list, the 4 tons of onions have been purchased and as I have said this has been purchased for trial call.

Mr. N. Lisette: My question is clear, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, out of the list of applicants for the selling of products to the RTMC, what was the criteria that the RTMC applied for the selection of these planters? Did the RTMC obtain only the applications for the selling of 4 tons of onions or more?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that the only criteria was the ...onion.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, Member you are on your feet, yes proceed.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to ask...

Mr. Chairperson: Order, please!

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: I'd like to ask the Commissioner... When you speak to the planters on the ground, they say, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the grading of onion for sale is more in their interest than I quote: "lib low" like they say, that is mixing the different categories. This has always been the case, that is grading the onion but this year traders bought, including the two government agencies, they bought the onions without grading, giving a sum which you just said it was practiced. Can the Commissioner envisage influencing the commercialization process in the best interest of the planters?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't know I will have to check but according to my information, the Agricultural Marketing Board purchased 60 tons of onions grade one onion and for the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Company Limited also they purchased 4 tons grade one onion. I will have to check whether there has been a mixing with the other traders. But for these two agencies, my information is that there was grading.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: I'd like to ask the Commissioner regarding the timing in commercialization and in save, on two aspects, first is that the planters were paid 15 days or one month after sale. This is one situation which made them say that "quand fini vane nou zoignons ler la donne nou nou largent". And the second timing frame is that the time lag between harvest and sale, "nou tou cone ki zoignon la deséché" and it is done this year one month or one and a half month after that. And as you know majority of small planters, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, have no store. They store their onions at home and onions discharge and uncomfortable smell, so I'd like to ask the Commissioner what he intends to do as regards to this situation?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I must confess that I also was irritated by this issue, I raised the matter with the Marketing Board, that is why as from next year, we will have an MOU signed with the Agricultural Marketing Board where how the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Company Limited will take over all activities in Rodrigues.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the 500 tons of onions collected, the Commissioner is in a position to tell us in this Assembly that only 64, 60 by the Agricultural Marketing Board and 4 by the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Company, 64 has been able to be absorbed, this remains with more than 300 tons which we don't know what is the situation? On this basis of this

figure, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner for Agriculture, whether there has been any complaints by the planters as regards to the lack of marketing of their products for this harvesting season?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer is No.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with years of selection, the variety called toupie onion has developed exclusive characteristics which includes a special taste and relatively long conservation time. However, being given that there has been a degeneration of stream, it is imperative to establish a gim bank and to produce seeds for medium scale plantation. I would like the Commissioner to inform the House where matter stands on this because this year many of the planters have had a bad quality of seeds which has lowered their production?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that's why I said earlier that the policy of the commission is to review the whole issue and to start with a new seed production. To review all the procedure so as to have good seeds production in Rodrigues.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner confirm that the policy of the Commission is to phase out importation of seeds, the J22 Veronique, and that there is more production of the onion seeds locally?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have not said that we are going to phase out but we are going to increase our seeds production in Rodrigues.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given the specificities of Rodrigues regarding onions, when you go "dans les carros" you see that the seeds that have been produced locally are more resistant to drought, more resistant to scarcity of water and other local problems whereas the J22Véronique seed imported are prompted to like planters said "maladie blanc", need more pesticides, and more water, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that's why I'd like to ask the Commissioner what are the measures that can be taken so that the local seeds that are being produced are more important, if possible to phase out the imported seeds and if there is possibility also if he could look into the possibility for the AREU and other experts to give a helping hand to some of the planters who are now having another economic area which is the production of seeds which is by the way less expensive than the one which is being sold from imported...

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, of course I will look into the matter. We have an MOU with AREU but one thing that I would like to point out is that there is another side of the story because with the other variety the

yield is higher rather than the local variety. That is why you see that some planters would like to plant Bella Rose or J22 instead of local Red. Any way the difference is on the price, we will have to encourage people to grow the local red for Rodrigues and we are going to discuss with AREU to have the production of local red seeds increased in Rodrigues.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to ask the Commissioner for Agriculture in the light of the aggressive policy recently coming from the Ministry for Agriculture to render mainland Mauritius self sufficient in onion, what is the Commissioner stand point to render the rodriguan onion more competitive being given that it is one of the most important cash crop and by the end of the year, the planters see that it is a way for them to have a lump sum.

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not an *oiseau de mauvais augure* but I don't see Mauritius self sufficient in onion in the coming years, I think that there is a lot of potential for Rodrigues to grow up to 2000 tons of onions per year because the consumption of onions in Mauritius is about 1100 tons per month. And Mauritius is importing more that 14,000 tons per year so there is a lot of possibility for Rodrigues to grow and export onions.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Irrigation is capital for onions production in terms of volume, in terms of quality; can the Commissioner give some of the measures that are being considered for planters to have better access to irrigation facilities?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with Irrigation Authority, we have prepared a plan for up to 2015, where we are going to review all the irrigation network in Rodrigues, to tap water sources, to distill springs and also to drain boreholes whenever necessary so as to provide irrigation water to all planters in Rodrigues.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, does the Commissioner finds this situation normal and equitable when some planters are selling onions at Rs 9 to the Rodrigues Trade and Marketing Company a pound and others are selling at a much lower price at Rs 5.80 to the Marketing Board? Being that the RTMC is 60% RRA own, can the Commissioner tell us what is being envisage next year so that social justice is being promoted among this planter community.

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said onion is a liberalized commodity; prices have been liberalized for importation. But we are going to give a referral price that is other traders may come to Rodrigues and purchase but will have to give a referral price that is they will not be able to purchase onion lower than the price that the RTMC will give.

JEUX DE RODRIGUES

(No. B/186) **Mr. N. LISETTE (The First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres)** asked the Commissioner for Youth and Sports & Others as regards to the 3eme Edition des Jeux de Rodrigues, he would, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) when the Directeur des Jeux was appointed/nominated and by indicating whether he was on contractual basis ;
- (b) his scheme of duties together with his monthly salary/allocations and other benefits given to him;
- (c) whether the latter has left the office prior to the opening of the Games and, if yes, why?

Mr. C. Agathe: Monsieur le Président, nous avons présenté à l'Assemblée le plan du sport pour 2008-2012, ou nous avons plusieurs défis devant nous comme par exemple, nous avons voulu faire de Rodrigues un endroit ou la pratique du sport soi une priorité et puis servir du sport pour contrer les maux de la société comme par exemple SIDA, Maladies Sexuellement Transmissible et puis servir le sport pour unifier la famille rodriguaise et la je vais dire bravo à la population rodriguaise pour avoir marcher sur le terrain et des différents sites de sports pour saluer l'initiative par apport aux 3eme Jeux de Rodrigues. Notre motto, Monsieur le Président, est le sport pour tous. Et si il y a un axe ou il ne faut pas faire de la politique c'est le sport, parce que le sport c'est pour tous mais quand meme, M. le président, vue l'affront effectué par les Membres de l'Opposition lors des 3eme Jeux de Rodrigues, *I have decided, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, not to answer any question pertaining to Jeux de Rodrigues.*

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, any more supplementary. Next question. Order, please! Order, please!

The Minority Group left the Assembly at 11.35 hrs.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, being given that there are no Members who are voluntary to ask the questions, all the questions are automatically out for today's session. The House bears with me ...we can continue with today's agenda. Next item, please.

The Clerk: Statement by Commissioners, please.

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

DEATH OF CAPTAIN MORGHEN

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is with great sorrow that we been informed of the death of Captain Joseph Jean Paul MORGHEN, Principal of the Mauritius Maritime Training Academy on Friday last at the age of 53 years old. Captain MORGHEN has been a very close friend of mine and of Rodrigues. He has been strongly involved in the training in the fishermen community in Rodrigues. Words cannot express, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the deep appreciation of my office and the Commission for Fisheries for the strong commitment and personal involvement of Captain MORGHEN in the launching of the actually on-going training course for skippers for vessels of 12 metres in length but less than 24 metres. This course was the first one which is in conformity with the ILO FAO Convention to be organised within the Republic of Mauritius. I will invite you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to direct the Clerk of the Assembly to convey the condolences of this Assembly to the widow and children of Late Captain Joseph Jean Paul MORGHEN.

Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: May be before you proceed. I have know Captain, myself and his dedication to Rodrigues has been very large indeed and of course, I will order the Clerk to express the condolences expressed by this House by the Chief Commissioner and this will be so after this session.

CPE PASS RATE – YEAR 2008

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have the following statement to make in connection with measures taken this year as regards to the CPE pass rate. As compared to the CPE pass rate of 2007, this year there has been a significant increase in the CPE results from 49% to 55.19%. As early this year, the Commission for Education has taken a series of measures to improve the CPE results and at all levels as listed below:

- Visit by myself and the inspectorate in all primary schools to meet staff with a view to assuring them of the full support of the Commission at all levels;
- Regular visit of the inspectorate cadre in primary schools and an in depth analysis of the standard 5 and CPE results 2007 so as to identify pupils with specific learning difficulties who require special attention and coaching;

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- Enlistment of parents participation in their wards' schooling;
- The adoption of the child centered approach;
- Regular formative irradiation and forming in full learning to take place.
- Provision of pedogical tours to schools;

In addition, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is convinced that the education of the child embedded in an interaction with a multiplicity of partners within and outside the school has largely contributed towards the first improvement of teaching and learning by providing the school with adequate and appropriate pedagogical tools and other school amenities and secondly the development of sound collaboration with parents and the community.

The following measures were taken as based in the budget speech 2008/2009 of the Chief Commissioner:

1. Setting up of a multi-disciplinary taskforce chaired by the Chief Commissioner, himself to look into the issue of CPE;
2. The introduction of a month of revision prior to the CPE Exams dates during which no authorization was given by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the organization of fund raising activity over the island. The aim is that all the population should give support to the CPE pupils. In this respect, a series of meetings were held with parents of CPE pupils by the Chief Commissioner, myself, the Departmental Heads and Inspectorate to sensitize parents on the importance of accompanying their wards during their schooling and catering for their well being.
3. The organization of a residential seminar on 11th and 12th April, 2008 at Cotton Bay Hotel for CPE Teachers, Head masters and Deputy Head masters. The aim of this seminar was to motivate the participants on the need to improve the quality of education and share with them the vision of the local government for the constant improvement of the CPE pass rate.
4. The introduction of a remote system in view of encouraging schools to do better as such the Antoinette Prudence Educational Award Scheme has been devised to reward ten most performing CPE candidates in each category, the best class and the best school.

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5. The enlistment of agent d'education in primary schools which will serve as action to reduce a high percentage of failure, to reduce the pupils absenteeism, to put more emphasis on the motivation for reading, to strengthen contact between parents and school.
6. The grant of Rs 50,000 to each school PTA for minor repairs and other school improvements as deemed right by the school management.
7. The local government recognizes the pivotal role played by the pre-primary education in building the foundation upon which all future learning ultimately depends. Decision has therefore been taken to pay the school fees for all children coming from families with a low income and who are of pre-primary school going age, that is of age 3+ to attend pre-primary school as from 1st July, 2008.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will now enumerate some strategies for 2009 for the improvement of results at all levels.

Standard One, ensuring that the bridging the gap is well implemented. As early as December 2008, a two day workshop would be conducted with Standard I Teachers, Head Masters, and Supervising Deputy Head Masters of lower primary to empower them with the required knowledge, skills, values and attitudes for the successful implementation of bridging the gap programme.

In line with the strategic goal of the Ministry of Education for primary education, this project looks specifically at this issue. Address the problem of high failure rate at the end of the primary cycle and make public spending on education become more cost empty. It is believed that strong foundation at the lower levels of the system must ensure that all children acquire confidence in their learning abilities to ensure that they will succeed at the higher levels of the system.

At Standard Three, to adopt the established procedures put forward by the Ministry of Education to carry out a diagnostic assessment at the level of Standard Three. The main objective of this assessment is to enable the identification of learning difficulties of children early enough in areas that have not been sufficiently mastered. Then Teachers can focus remedial actions in the specific concepts learning areas not sufficiently mastered. Thus all children are led to master the basic competencies required.

Second, continuous assessment to ensure that the system of formative assessment, that is assessment for learning be adopted by all schools to:

1. Help identify pupils weaknesses;

2. Provide immediate support for improvement at all levels;
3. Cater for individual pupils so that each and every child gets the fair share of teaching and learning courses.

I thank you for your attention.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, any more statements, can we proceed on the next item on the agenda?

The Clerk: Motions by the Chief Commissioner.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg that the motion bearing on 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 (Investment Management) Regulations 2008”*.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in our government programme 2006-2011, I stated that my regional government would aim at gearing our island towards economic independence by carefully striking the right balance between economic development and the preservation the Rodriguan identity. I also stated that the regional government will lay much emphasis on improving and fostering job creation by all means. This is why the regional government has created five government own companies among its policies to encourage investment and set up the proper institutional set up to meet the objectives of economic independence.

These companies are namely:

- Discovery Rodrigues Company Limited who has the responsibility of the Tourism promotion and developing tourist sites and ensuring effective and professional management of these sites.
- Rod Clean Limited; for the provision of scavenging and refuse collection services throughout the island.
- Rodrigues General Fishing Company Limited; for the management of the Maison des Pecheurs and the development of the fisheries sector of the island.
- Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Limited; for the professionalised processing, branding and packaging and marketing of local rodriguan products.

- Rodrigues Water Company Limited; for the effective management and distribution of water in Rodrigues.

The sectors within which these companies have been set up represent the main pillars of our economy. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there was need for these sectors to be managed in a more professional and result ...manner. We need to do away with the system and structures that have failed to deliver over the years. We could not afford to continue living our population deprived of the social services or letting out structures prevent the economic development of the island. These companies have been given specific responsibilities and are required to deliver quality services in a cost effective manner and at the same time develop the sectors in which they are operating.

With Discovery Rodrigues Company Limited, the management of tourist sites as *Caverne Patate* and *Iles Aux Cocos* have been professionalised. The quality of services has also been improved. Within its first year of production, the Company have upgraded the sites allocated to it and has generated revenue of nearly Rs 1.2 million as compared to Rs 300,000 that was obtained under its management by government. The Company is now promoting the rodriguan destination worldwide with a team of professionals.

With regards to Rod Clean Limited, prior to the advent of this Company, every three years the Regional Assembly had to organize bidding processes for selecting an appropriate Contractor for refuse collection in Rodrigues. This process was very costly and was very time consuming and involve social stress to the workers when a new Contractor was awarded the contract. There was also not enough control and efficiency on the work which was being done. The regional government thus created Rod Clean Limited which is now also providing refuse collection service to the whole of the island which did not received such service previously. The Company is now operating with a budget of around Rs 6 million compared to a budget of Rs 15 million which would have been required had the services of refuse collection been contracted out.

The Trade and Marketing Company Limited has been set up successfully under this regional government. The Company is ensuring a guaranteed market and price for local producers.

The General Fishing Company Limited has already renovated the *Maison des Pecheurs* and is providing various services to the fishermen community. The Company is also planning to acquire its own boats to indulge in off-lagoon fishing which as you know require high investment cost which is not possible for local fishermen.

The above five companies have generated employment to some 96 persons to-date. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have seen similar strategies adopted by the United Kingdom during its most successful period of growth as well as in Mauritius during the 1980s. Many fast growing countries around the world are adopting similar strategies. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for ensuring economic development of Rodrigues, there is need for continual government involvement in nurturing promising industries and supporting essential sectors such as the water sector. The regional government's leading role is vital for these sectors and services. These Companies will bring in the necessary investments in the sectors and through strategic partners the latest technologies and know how in Rodrigues. I am fully confident that these Companies will pave the way for the development of Rodrigues and contribute towards the economic independence of our island. The objectives of these present regulations are to provide for the proper framework and mechanism for these companies to operate and generate results that are expected from them.

In that respect, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the proposed regulation's purpose is to:

1. ensure that the Regional Assembly government policies in investing in these Companies meets the objectives;
2. set-up mechanism for ensuring sustainable and feasible development of these sectors; and
3. ensure that the Regional Government obtains value for money for service and outputs from these Companies.

The second part of the regulation deals with the principals for investment in the Companies. It should be noted that investment in the companies would be made as far as possible where the investment:

- (a) in the interest of the general public;
- (b) aim at helping to provide merit goods in Rodrigues;
- (c) help promote job creation and social justice;
- (d) assist the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and its Commissions in the better attaining policy objective as approved; and
- (e) ensure that end users of goods and service by these companies contribute effectively towards the cost.

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Part 3 of the regulation provides for the keeping of proper accounting records for all companies and the auditing of accounts and production of reports. With the implementation of this regulation, my office will maintain a register of investment. This register will record all investment made in Companies and details of which will be produced in the annual financial statements of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly as well as the annual report.

Part 4 of the regulation provides for the companies to exercise proper consultation when deciding on fees to be charged for products and services. Such fees shall deal with the general philosophy of the general government.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we also realize that some companies such as Discovery Rodrigues Company Limited might be more successful in its early years as compared to others such as Rodrigues Water Company whose success will be more visible in the longer term. In order to ensure cost sensitization of our resources, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Company General Fund under the Rodrigues Consolidated Fund is proposed to be created whereby all returns from investments received from successful companies will be deposited and used to finance other companies covered under these regulations.

It should be noted that all the companies created by the regional government and operating under these regulations would be required to adhere to principals of sound financial practice, transparency and good governance as stipulated at regulation 25.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is proposed that these regulations shall come into operation in early 2009. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with our vision of commissioning the different sectors of our economy, it is undoubted that the introduction of these regulations in Rodrigues will put the proper framework and mechanism for ensuring that these companies meet the objectives that was set and the Regional Assembly obtains value from its investments. With these words, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I command the motion to the Assembly.

Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: Secondment, yes.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt rose and seconded.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, how many persons are going to intervene? Nodody? Well if there are nobody intervening, are we going to summing up?

The Chief Commissioner: I think that they are a gone ... holidays, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I will sum up by saying that *ces règlements étaient nécessaires pour définir comme je viens de le dire, le cadre d'opération de toutes*

compagnies pour l'Assemblée Régionale a un actionnariat. Nous avons déjà la REDCO auparavant et nous avons investi dans d'autres compagnies au par je viens de vous le dire. Il est nécessaire d'avoir un contrôle par le Conseil Exécutif par l'Assemblée elle-même sur ces compagnies. Par exemple pour créer une compagnie, c'est le conseil exécutif, d'après le règlement, qui prend la décision et si demain on veut étendre l'actionnariat, ouvrir l'actionnariat d'une compagnie, comme on l'a fait pour le Rodrigues Trade and Marketing Company à d'autres organisation ou à d'autres personnes. Il faudra venir à l'Assemblée avec une motion. Ce qu'on fait c'est qu'on veut préserver les investissements que l'Assemblée Régionale est en train de faire dans ces compagnies d'un côté et de l'autre côté, de donner le cadre administratif et légal, pour dire qu'on peut financièrement investir dans ces compagnies et deuxièmement, ces compagnies doivent poursuivre des objectifs à caractères sociaux, à caractères générales. On nous a accusé dans l'Opposition et d'autres personnes qu'on est en train d'évincer le secteur privé. Ce n'est pas vrai, si vous regardez la tendance mondiale aujourd'hui, marché peut faire certaines choses mais le marché ne peut pas tout faire c'est pour cela qu'il est nécessaire qu'en tant qu'Assemblée Régionale nous intervenons pour mieux faire je veux dire que le système de marché. On prend l'exemple de Rod Clean, on a pu employer beaucoup plus, deux fois plus de travailleurs que les contacteurs privés auparavant, utiliser la moitié du budget qui était nécessaire et en plus avoir un meilleur contrôle sur ce qui est en train d'être fait.

Donc aujourd'hui nous aurons ces règlements qui vont être le cadre légal qui vont guider over and above the Company's Act. Quelle est la relation entre par exemple une Commission et la Compagnie ce qui tombe sous sa tutelle, qu'est ce que le Commissaire peut dire au Board et qu'est ce que le Board doit faire. Le Board doit prendre en compte ce que la Commission veut faire. C'est comme-ci la Compagnie est une main en plus avec la Commission pour faire un travail spécifique. Ce n'est pas nouveau, M. le président, vous avez Enterprise Mauritius à Maurice, il y a toutes sortes de compagnies que le gouvernement investi à Maurice et on a pensé qu'il faut faire la même chose à Rodrigues. Je voudrais dire un merci spéciale pour la Rodrigues Water Company Limited sur lequel on compte beaucoup pour reformer institutionnellement le secteur de l'eau à Rodrigues car il y a un gros problème dans la gestion et la distribution de l'eau. On n'est pas en train de privatiser l'eau à Rodrigues, on est en train de confier la distribution à une compagnie privé et mais qui est bien sur 100% actionnariat par L'Assemblée Régionale.

Je vais terminer en déplorant encore une fois l'absence de fair-play de nos amis de L'Opposition qui ont choisi la porte de la fuite encore une fois alors même que nous avons à l'agenda de l'Assemblée aujourd'hui d'importants règlements que je viens d'expliquer. Cela témoigne du manque de sérieux et l'amateurisme politique qui guident le Minority Leader et les Membres de l'Opposition. Il est clair qu'un Commissaire peut décider de

refuser de répondre à telles ou telles questions et qu'on ne peut pas insister sur ces questions, ils doivent au courant des provisions des Standing Orders. Et je crois que la décision de ne pas répondre à cette question des Jeux de Rodrigues est totalement justifié parce qu'on a pas vu, M. le président, une seule participation du Minority Leader qui se dit proche des jeunes et ami du sport. Une seule participation de l'ex-commissaire de la Jeunesse et du Sport qui est si en crin à crucifier le Commissaire de la Jeunesse et les politiques de la Jeunesses et des sports à Rodrigues. Ils ont pratiqué comme vous le voyez vous même la politique de la chaise vide, c'est pour cela que le Commissaire a refusé de répondre à cette question, ils ont préféré partir, peut-être qu'ils n'avaient rien à dire sur le Rodrigues Regional Assembly Investment Management Regulation, c'est parce que tout a été bien fait, s'ils avaient vraiment des arguments solides, ils seraient rester pour dire quelles sont leurs arguments.

Merci, M. le président. Et je souhaite qu'on passe au vote de la motion.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, unfortunately, I have to proceed in English. Can we turn to the regulation itself? And if there are some amendments, please let me know. ***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 (Investment Management) Regulations 2008***". Those in favour say "Ayes", those against say "No". Ayes have it. Before we move to adjournment being given that all items have been speedily exhausted. Yes anything?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, before I move for the adjournment of the House, I would like to in my capacity as Chief Commissioner and leader of this House, to say a few words.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have now reached the end of the second full year of our present mandate. During this year, this House has been called to debate on four motions; the purpose of these motions is to approve the regulations applicable in Rodrigues thus crystallizing other policies in different fields. Among others these regulations purported to fix the price of fish and this for the first time in Rodrigues. Rationalized the collection of refuse and today we have approved thefor both the companies and the Regional Assembly has created so far and for others that would be created in the future.

Furthermore this year, this Regional Government has been called to provide answers to 231 questions out which one answer has just been refused. Members of the Executive Council have in addition for the sake of transparency stated their policies present and future and provided this House with other useful information.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, so may I now be allowed to ask you in my personal name and in that of all Members in the House to present the seasons greeting to the President of the Republic and to Lady Jugnauth, to the Vice-President and Mrs. Chettiar, to the Prime Minister and Mrs. Ramgoolam and to their families.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I convey to you, to the Clerk and to members of your respective families, to all the staff of the Secretariat, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2009. My best wishes also go to all the respected Members and their families as well as to the Island Chief Executive, to the Departmental Heads and all staff of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I also express to the whole population of Rodrigues, the children, the youngsters and all the adults a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I would like to congratulate all those who have made tremendous efforts for the advancement of Rodrigues in 2008.

Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: I will now associate myself with the season's greetings which the Chief Commissioner and the House has expressed to the President of the Republic and Lady Jugnauth, the Vice President of the Republic and Mrs. Angili Chettiar, the Prime Minister and Mrs. Ramgoolam and their families. I will of course, with great pleasure convey the message of the House to them. I thank the Chief Commissioner, on my behalf and on behalf of the Secretariat for his best wishes to us and I will also express my best wishes to the Members of the Minority, unfortunately not present now, to the Minority Leader and Mrs. Clair. Of course, the message will be sent to them in writing through my secretariat. I am pleased to express now in my turn a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner and the Commissioners and their spouses. And finally I will have to assure you once again that this year has been a long year and I am grateful to you for all the businesses to have conducted in this House, specially your corporation, understanding and the way this House has been presided over. Once again, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for your greetings. I beg to move the Assembly be adjourned to Tuesday 17th February, 2009 at 10.30 a.m.

Mr. Chairperson: Question that this Assembly be adjourned to Tuesday 17th February, 2009 at 10.30 a.m. Those in favour say Ayes and those against say No. Ayes have it. Nothing about adjournment matters? No. The Assembly stands adjourned.

At 12.30 hrs, the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 17th of February 2009 at 10.30 am.

WRITTEN ANSWERS

ATELIERS DE SAVOIR PROJECT

(No. B/187) Mr. N. Lisette (*The First Local region member for Baie aux Huitres*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports & Others as regards to the “Ateliers de savoir” Project in Rodrigues, he would seek information from the Rodrigues Regional Youth Council, the implementing agent, whether:

- (a) the council is working out a new orientation for the project and, if yes;
 - (i) to give details, thereon;
 - (ii) to state whether this new orientation will cause delay in the opening of the different *ateliers* next year;
- (b) the Council intends to recruit new responsible and *formateurs* for the different ateliers for the year 2009?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have been informed by the Rodrigues Regional Youth Council that it has already started working on the new orientation of the “Ateliers de Savoir” project. A workshop funded by the Decentralised Cooperation Programme was held at Malabar Centre D’Accueil on Saturday 13 September 2008 to address the issue of the new and future orientation aiming at the sustainability of the project. The participants of the workshop were:

- (i) members of “Comité de gestion” of the Ateliers
- (ii) members of the Rodrigues Regional Youth Council

All those present in the workshop agreed that increased productivity in the different Ateliers should be an important objective in 2009 as this will lead to the sustainability of the project. In parallel to that, the Rodrigues Regional Youth Council is having regular working sessions/meetings to work on the new orientation of the Project. The final report of the new orientation is under completion at the level of the Rodrigues Regional Youth Council.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have also been informed by the Rodrigues Regional Youth Council that there will be no delay in the opening of the different Ateliers as all the Ateliers will be operational as from Monday 12

January 2009. Meetings will be held for the new recruits and their parents and necessary procedures are being carried for the recruitment of new trainees. It must be noted that the number of trainees enrolled per Atelier will be taken into consideration for the new orientation.

Yes. I have been informed by the Rodrigues Regional Youth Council that it intends to recruit some new *Responsable* and also some *Responsable* who have already been working in the project for the past years, but it will depend on the number of trainees enrolled for 2009 and the number of Ateliers that will be properly functioning in 2009.

SELF HELP COST HOUSING SCHEME

(No. B/188) Mr. N. Lisette (*The First Local region member for Baie aux Huitres*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Others as regard to the Self-help Cost Housing Scheme under his Commission, he would state to the House whether:

- (a) there is any Monitoring Committee which has been set up for monitoring progress of work and if yes, since when;
- (b) all materials delivered have been duly kept on record at his Commission for the different zones;
- (c) there is any case where materials were delivered in excess to any beneficiaries and if yes, to give details of the nature and amount of same and the course of action he has taken/intends to take?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as a caring government, we have initiated the self help housing scheme under my Commission to cater for the need of housing the low income/vulnerable group. This scheme has greatly contributed to alleviate the housing problem in Rodrigues. However, the project being on a self help basis, the progress of implementation is highly based on the beneficiaries' capability to construct their dwelling.

As regard to part (a), the answer is Yes. In view of supporting the above beneficiaries and ensure a judicious use of materials, my Commission had decided to allocate the materials on a phased basis. In that respect a monitoring committee was set up since October 2006 for issue of materials to the beneficiaries and follow up of the project. In the initial states, the monitoring committee was mostly involved in the issue and delivery of materials so as to boost up the implementation of the project by the 163 beneficiaries.

As regard to part (b) as at to date, all records in respect to delivery of materials and progress of implementation pertaining to each beneficiary is being kept in the respective files.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to part (c), all materials are being delivered as per the estimated drawn for each stage of construction and duly approved by the Engineer including the construction of water tank and septic tank. I also wish to inform the House that the topography of the terrain have been taken into consideration and an allowance has been made in calculating the materials to be allocated accordingly.

It is further noted that the majority have not started the construction of their water tank and septic tank which explains that concrete blocks delivered have not been fully utilized as at to date.

However, my Commission has initiated the necessary measures to encourage the beneficiaries to complete their project as planned and a letter of notification has already been addressed accordingly.

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF LAGOON SAND

(No. B/189) Mr. N. Lisette (*The First Local region member for Baie aux Huitres*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Others as regards to the supply and delivery of lagoon sand for the Self-help-Low Cost Housing Scheme for financial year 2007/2008, he would state:-

- (a) the number of times that tenders/quotations were launched;
- (b) whether any contract/s for supply and delivery of same was/were awarded, and, if yes;
- (c) the name of the successful supplier/contractor/s and the dates same were awarded, together with the amount of lagoon sand to be supplied;
- (d) the rates of the contract per m³ and time frame for delivery of same;
- (e) whether any successful supplier/contractor cancelled any contract awarded and if yes, the reasons put forward, if any?

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Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to part (a), quotation for the supply and delivery of lagoonal sand for the financial year 2007/2008 were launched on two occasions.

As regard to part (b), the answer is Yes.

As regard to part (c), the award to the supplier their respective dates and quantum of sand are as follows:

19 September 2007 } and 25 April 2008 }	Contract awarded to Mr. Ah Tock Chin Chew for the supply of 2000 m ³ lagoonal sand
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At each of the above tendering exercise, the above supplier was the lowest responsive bidder.

As regard to part (d), the rates for the supply and delivery of lagoonal sand was as follows:

Rs 358/m³ and Rs 428/m³ for the award made on 19 September 2007 and 25 April 2008 respectively.

The period of supply and delivery was 30 June 2008 in both cases.

As regard to part (c), the answer is Yes. The supplier proposed to cancel the contract awarded on 19 September 2007 for the supply and delivery of 2000 m³ sand based on the ground of substantial increase in fuel and other operating costs.

RODCLEAN COMPANY LTD

(No. B/ 190)Mr. P. Francois (*The Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Others as regards to Rodclean Company Ltd. would the Commissioner, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) the amount of funds disbursed by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for financial year 2007/2008 to the Company;
- (b) whether the Company has submitted any business plan and annual report since its coming into operation;
- (c) whether the contract/assignment started last year has lapsed, and, if yes;

(d) whether new tenders will be launched?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to part (a), a total sum of Rs 4,534,567.00 has been disbursed by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to Rod Clean Ltd. for the financial year 2007/2008.

As regard to part (b), Rod Clean Ltd. has submitted its Business Plan since October 2007. I am also informed that the Annual Report has been prepared and the final accounts ending 30 June 2008 is in the process of being audited.

As regard to part (c), the answer is Yes.

As regard to part (d), the answer is No. The Executive Council at its meeting held on 25 July 2008 has decided that in light of the Legal Advice received, the agreement with Rod Clean Ltd. be renewed for the financial year ending June 2009.

SELLING OF ECONOMIC LAMPS

(No. B/191) Mr. P. FRANCOIS (*The Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huîtres*) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the selling of economic lamps at a low price to households in view of reducing electricity consumption, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information from the Central Electricity Board (C.E.B.) why this project has not been extended to Rodrigues?

Reply: I am informed by the Central Electricity Board that Rodrigues is included in the project for the selling of economic lamps at low prices to households. The project has already been launched in Mauritius since August 2008 with a limited stock of lamps. The Central Electricity Board has already ordered about 1 million additional units and upon receipt of same, the project will be implemented in Rodrigues in early 2009.

BUYING OF LOCAL PIGS

(No. B/192) Mr. P. FRANCOIS (*The Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huîtres*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, Water Resources & Others with regard to the buying of local pigs, for export to Mauritius, by the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Company Ltd, will the

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Commissioner, for the benefit of the House, give information as to whether clearance can be obtained from his Commission for private buyers who wish to get involved in this activity, and if not, give reasons, thereof?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with the outbreak of swine fever in Mauritius in 2007, the whole pig industry faced a severe knock-down. My Commission, through the Swine Fever Committee comprising of all stakeholders of the sector, has managed to keep the virulent disease away from Rodrigues up to date.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, pig rearing in Rodrigues is a key economic activity where many poor families manage to earn from. My Commission not only wants to keep Rodrigues free from Swine Fever virus but also to promote the sector to tap export possibilities which exist in Mauritius.

As such, it was agreed by all stakeholders that the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Co. Ltd be the sole exporter of live pigs to Mauritius for the following reasons:-

- (i) Prevent pig buyers and breeders from Mauritius to come to Rodrigues to look for animals from local breeders as such practice is against bio-security measures to be adopted to prevent entrance of Swine Fever virus in Rodrigues;
- (ii) Offer pig breeders with a sound market and thereby increasing pig production locally;
- (iii) Regulate the price of pig thereby ensuring better trading opportunities for pig breeders.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, one shall not forget the hard time pig breeders had to face when the selling price of live pigs hardly reach Rs 15.00 per kg. Such a situation discouraged genuine pig breeders who stopped their activities.

The policy of my commission is to maintain the export of live pig to Mauritius through the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Co. Ltd until we are ascertained that Rodrigues no more run the risk of an outbreak of Swine Fever.

PETROL CONSUMPTION FOR OFFICIAL VEHICLES

(No.B/193) Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis (*The First Local Region Member for Grande Montagne*) asked the Chief Commissioner whether with regard to petrol consumption for the official vehicle of

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Commissioners, he would, for the benefit of the House, table the monthly consumption of same, by different commissions, for the period of January 2008 to date?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I am tabling the requested information.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER AWARD

(No. B/194) **Mrs. R. M. F. GASPARD PIERRE LOUIS** (*The First Local Region Member for Grande Montagne*) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the “Chief Commissioner’s Award” for post HSC students, he would, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) The eligibility criteria for a student to benefit from same;
- (b) The mode of selection of candidate;
- (c) Table the list of applicants for the year 2008, together with the name of the selected candidate?

Reply:

(a) Eligibility Criteria

With regard to part (a), the eligibility criteria for the Chief Commissioner’s Award are as follows:

1. Open to all Rodriguan candidates aged between 18 and 30 preferably those who have not benefited from any previous scholarship but not necessarily to students having completed their HSC in the previous years.
2. Candidates should possess the following minimum qualifications:
 - (i) SC/GCE ‘O’ level with passes in at least 5 subjects including English Language at one and same sitting
 - (ii) HSC/GCE ‘A’ level in 3 subjects obtained at one and same sitting

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OR an Alternative qualification acceptable and equivalent to the above.

- (iii) Candidates should undertake studies preferably from the list of indicative priority fields of study for Rodrigues.

As regards part (b), candidates will be selected based on the abovementioned criteria.

Thereafter, only the best qualified candidates will be called for an interview where they should produce evidence that they have secured pre-admission or are in the process of registration with a university or training institution.

With respect to part (c), I am tabling the list of the 14 applicants including their fields of study.

No candidate has been selected as it was decided during the scholarship committee meeting held on 16 September 2008 to re-advertise the award early next year.

It was considered that applications received are not in line with the objective of the award which is to train high caliber professional Rodriguan having a professional project plan to undergo 3 years undergraduate or post graduate studies whether in Mauritius or abroad to serve in Rodrigues long term development strategy.

CALL CENTRE/BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING (BPO)

(No. B/195) Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis (*The First Local Region Member for Grande Montagne*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports & Others as regards to his policy for unemployment, would the Commissioner for the benefit of the House affirm whether any call centre Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) is actually in operation in Rodrigues, and if so, would he:-

- (a) state whether any licence permit has been delivered for same; and state the activities carried out, thereat;
- (b) state the number of workers employed there; and

- (c) whether the Commission of Employment has been involved in the recruitment exercise?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that Heaven Multimedia Co. Ltd is engaged towards international multimedia clients for data treatment and moderation at Camp du Roi (chat SMS). As regards to part (a), the answer is no. The Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Licences) Regulations 2003 does not provide for any licence for Business Process Outsourcing.

As regards part (b), I am informed that Heaven Multimedia Co. Ltd employs 23 workers.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission has facilitate the Company for its setting up in Rodrigues and has put the Conference Room at the disposal of the Company for the interview prior to its opening in Rodrigues.

CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION OF ROAD – GRANDE MONTAGNE/BRULEE

(No. B/ 196) Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis (*The First Local Region Member for Grande Montagne*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Others whether, with regard to the construction or renovation of the road from *Grande Montagne* to *Brulée*, he would, for the benefit of the House, state the scope of work completed together with the cost of the project?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the enhancement of the road network of Rodrigues with a view to improving access and promote economic development has been the priority of our government. I am pleased that unprecedented progress has been made in respect to above since the government has taken office and will continue in this trend, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The scope of work in connection with the resurfacing and upgrading of road along the stretch Grande Montagne to Brulé is as follows:

- (i) Laying of Bituminous Concrete Base Course
- (ii) Laying of Bituminous Concrete wearing course over a length of 1.02 km
- (iii) Cleaning of road side drain over a stretch of 1 km

The cost of the project for the above works is Rs 8,595,580.00.

TAILORING & ISSUING OF UNIFORMS

(No.B/197) **Mr. S.P. Roussety** (*The Fifth Island Region Member*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others with regards to tailoring and issuing of uniforms to firemen for the Commission for Fire Services, he would, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) when tenders were issued to prospective tailors for the tailoring of uniforms for the year 2008?
- (b) to whom tenders were sent and to state their bids;
- (c) who was the successful bidder and table a copy of the contract?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, The reply to part (a) of the question is 14 November, 2007.

As regard to part (b) – tenders were issued to one Mr. Jacquelin VONMALLY of Victoria Street, Port Mathurin and to one Mr. Jacquelin PROSPER of Citron Donis.

Mr. VONMALLY quoted the sum of Rs 31,800 for the confection of 159 pairs of trousers Gabardine and Rs 132,500 for 53 pairs of Tunic and Trousers Polyester, while Mr. PROSPER quoted for Rs 55,650 for the 159 pairs of Trousers Gabardine and Rs 60,950 for the 53 pairs of Tunic and Trousers Polyester.

And so, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for part (c) of the question, the successful bidder was Mr. VONMALLY for the 159 pairs of Trousers and Mr. PROSPER for the 53 pairs of Tunic & Trousers.

I am hereby tabling the letter of award for both suppliers.

DELIVERY OF DRUGS

(No. B/198) **Mr. S.P. Roussety** (*The Fifth Island Region Member*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others as regards to the delivery of drugs for patients at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Health Centres and Dispensaries, he would, for the benefit of the House, state whether there has been any lack of same from 01 January 2008 to date and if yes, to state the names of the drugs?

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Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that Medicine & Drugs for patients at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and other Health Centres including Dispensaries are received from Central Supplies Division on a quarterly basis, period:-

- (a) January – April
- (b) April – June
- (c) July – September
- (d) October-December

As a General Government Procedures all drugs and medicine are purchased by the Central Supplies Division, Ministry of Health and Quality of Life through international tendering exercise and afterwards distributed to all hospitals in Mauritius and Rodrigues against appropriate store forms.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the Acting Principal Pharmacy Dispenser reported on 29th January 2008 that there was a shortage of dangerous drugs, namely Morphine, Sosegon or Palfium tablets due to a shortage of stock at the Central Supplies Division of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life in Mauritius.

I have to report, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that these Drugs and any other Medicine are under the total control of the Dangerous Drug Act 2000. Its procurement and distribution is strictly controlled by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life (The Director, Pharmaceutical Services). Consequently the Acting Pharmacy Dispenser was informed by the Director of Pharmacy Services that some Morphine Tablets with a much higher dosage might be obtained from Victoria hospital and some Tramadol of 150mg and Pentazocine tablets from SOCIEMED LTE. Subsequently after having sought the approval of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life in conformity with the Dangerous Drug Act 2000, 150 tablets of Morphin was purchased from La Clinique Mauricienne.

On 26 September, 2008 the Central Supplies Division again informed that the following medicine were not available as they themselves were facing an acute shortage for the quarter of October – December, 2008:-

- (i) Ferrous Folic Acid Syrup; and
- (ii) Alpha Amylass (Maxilage)

Here I must point out, Mr. Chairperson, Sir that between 29 January and 26 September, 2008 there has been no shortage of medicine or any drugs reported.

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Immediately upon receipt of the report from the Central Supplies Division the Higher Purchasing and Supply Officer together with the Acting Principal Pharmacy Dispenser were engaged into a “course contre la montre” to find a solution with a view to relieve the suffering of some patients who needed those medicines.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on 2 October 2008, that is 7 days later all the missing drugs and medicines were air freighted to Rodrigues following a local purchasing exercise from pharmacies in Mauritius.

The shortage was reported on 26 September, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and on 2nd October, the medicines were already available in Rodrigues. This demonstrates the seriousness and commitment of officers of my Commission concerned with the supply of drugs.

VEHICLES & EQUIPMENTS

(No. B/199) Mr. S.P. Roussety (*The Fifth Island Region Member*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others as regards to vehicles and equipments attached to the Commission for Fire Services, he would, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) whether any new lorry has been bought, and in the affirmative , since when;
- (b) the names of the tenderers together with their bids;
- (c) who was the successful bidder and table a copy of the contract;
- (d) whether the order was for a complete lorry tanker and with what capacity tank?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to inform the house that a Mitsubishi Truck, Chassis Cab Model FK 615JHR has been delivered to my Commission in November, 2008.

As regard to (b) the names of the tenderers are as follows:-

- (a) Iframac Ltd (Mitsubishi)- compliant: Rs 1,297,010
- (b) ABC Motors (Nissan) - compliant: Rs 1,603,725

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The answer to (c) is Iframac Ltd. I am hereby tabling a copy of the contract document which comprises of the:-

- (i) letter of award; and
- (ii) Performance Bond

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to (d) the tender was for the quotation of a New truck to the Rodrigues Fire Services without the water tank.

It has been assessed by the Mechanical Workshop that the existing water tank from GMR 624 is still in good condition and therefore can be fitted on another lorry. (This Regional Government means business Mr. Chairperson, Sir and does not intend to waste public fund in purchasing items we do not really need.) On a cost effective analysis, by purchasing only the truck without the tanker my Commission has made a consequent saving to the tune of around Rs 400,000.

The quotation was therefore floated for the supply of a new truck including the cost for the removal of a second hand water tank from GMR 624 and to replace same on the new lorry in Rodrigues at the cost of the supplier/bidder.

It is worth to note that GMR 624 is also of make Mitsubishi.

COLLOQUE VIH/SIDA

(No. B/200) Mr. S.P. Roussety (*The Fifth Island Region Member*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others with regards to the “Colloque VIH/SIDA Ocean Indien” in Mauritius organised by the *Commission de l’Ocean Indien* (COI) from 10 to 12 November 2008, he would, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) how many persons from Rodrigues attended the Colloque VIH/SIDA Ocean Indien” in Mauritius;
- (b) the names of persons of his Commission forming part of the delegation, with their respective grades and the names of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO’s) together with the names of its representatives attending the colloque;
- (c) who bore the costs of the tickets and the hotel accommodation and to state the stipend/allowance paid to each member of the delegation?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, HIV/AIDS is a very sensitive and important world issue. Every country throughout the globe is concentrating much effort to fight this pandemic. And Rodrigues cannot afford to lag behind. Actions have to be taken at the right moment, i.e. now.

My Commission has not spared and will not spare any effort to empower people engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

One of the best tool for those actors dealing with HIV/AIDS is training, acquisition of knowledge on the subject.

The 7eme Colloque VIH/SIDA de l'Océan Indien grouped world known immunologists and professors, among whom Pr. Rozembaum who co-discovered the HIV/AIDS Virus. Our people have to know the present trend of development on the issue, be it on appropriate treatment to patients, or the development of the virus itself.

My Commission, having different partners in the fight against HIV/AIDS would have been strengthened considerably if a maximum of persons could benefit from this Colloque, which is an annual event grouping islands of the Indian Ocean Region.

In a letter dated 5 September 2008, the Acting Senior Chief Executive of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life invited myself and ten other representatives to participate in the 7eme Colloque VIH/SIDA Ocean Indien from 10 to 12 November, 2008 at La Plantation Hotel, Balaclava.

For the sake of transparency and equal opportunity, the matter was referred to the Rodrigues Aids Committee for selection of participant. Unfortunately, due to budgetary constraints, my Commission could not afford return air tickets and hotel accommodation for 11 persons plus out of pocket and subsistence allowance to all the eleven participants recommended by the Rodrigues Aids Committee.

However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we didn't stop there, as we wanted to have strong delegation from Rodrigues to attend that very important event.

This is why, for part (a) of the question Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer is 14.

Part (b), which refers to names of persons from my Commission and NGOs the list is as follows:-

- (1) Myself, as Commissioner

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- (2) Mr. Aristide EMILIEN, Nursing Officer
in charge of AIDS Unit at Q.E.H
- (3) Mrs. Marie Agnelle FELICITE, Midwife
at Queen Elizabeth Hospital
- (4) Mr. Jean Berthé SPEVILLE HORTENSE,
Community Health Nursing Officer
- (5) Mr. Luciano LARCHER, Nursing Officer
Member of RAZA (Rodrigues Anti-drug
Substance Abuse)
- (6) Mrs. Marie Lindeda EDOUARD, Midwife
- (7) Mrs. Rosedanie LARCHER, Midwife
- (8) Mrs. Marie Stephanie MOMUS,
Youth Organiser
- (9) Miss Marie Lineda EMILIEN from
Mauritius Family Planning and Welfare Ass.
- (10) Mrs. Marie Rose LEGENTIL, from Action Familiale
- (11) Mrs. Anne Marie Viannée BAPTISTE,
representative of Community Health Agents
- (12) Mrs. Elisabeth SAMOISY
- (13) Mrs. Myriam TOLBIZE ; and
- (14) Mrs. Ivraise CLAIR

All representatives of Association Lutte et Espoir, who were not invited through the Commission for Health.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, as regard to part (c) of the question with a view to allow the maximum number of persons from Rodrigues to attend that important Colloque, the Rodrigues Aids Committee together with the Commission for Health left no stone unturned. Being given that Mrs. Rosedanie LARCHER and Mrs. Lineda EDOUARD both midwives and members of Rodrigues Aids Committee have programmed their vacation in Mauritius well before the invitation of the Colloque the Committee agreed that they attend the colloque,

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provided that an out pocket allowance is paid to them. In addition a request was made to UNAIDS (whose contact person is Dr. Farida OODALLY) which agreed to pay 4 return tickets to enable 4 more persons to attend the colloque.

In this respect, 5 tickets were paid by the Commission for the following officers: -

- (i) Myself
- (ii) Mr. EMILIEN Aristile
- (iii) Miss Marie Lineda EMILIEN
- (iv) Mrs. Marie Rose LEGENTIL
- (v) Mrs. Anne Marie Vianné BAPTISTE

The 4 tickets paid by UNAIDS were for: -

- (i) Mrs. Marie Agnelle FELICITE
- (ii) Mr. James Berthé SPEVILLE HORTENSE
- (iii) Mr. Luciono LARCHER
- (iv) Mrs. M. Stephanie MOMUS

Mr. Chairperson Sir, the Rodrigues Aids Committee unanimously agreed that being given 5 tickets are paid by the Commission, 4 tickets by UNAIDS and the two officers on vacation will pay their own tickets, only out of pocket allowance + subsistence allowance would be paid conditional that own accommodation arrangements will be made by all members.

Here, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to thank the four members whose tickets have been paid by my Commission for their collaboration. They unanimously accepted to make their own accommodation arrangements to enable all participants from Rodrigues to enjoy an out of pocket and subsistence allowance. As a matter of fact, no hotel accommodation was arranged for all the five participants, including the Commissioner himself, in fact, myself.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, so out of pocket allowance + subsistence allowance at the approved rate were paid, as follows:-

- (a) Rs 1,500 per night for the Commissioner

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- (b) Rs 640 per night for the other participants

And I repeat No hotel accommodation was provided.

ROAD WORKS – PORT SUD EST/MOUROUK

(No. B/201) Mr. J. D. Speville (*The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Others whether with regards to the present road works from *Port Sud Est* to *Mourouk*, he would:-

- (a) state the tenderings procedures carried out for the project;
- (b) give the actual length and breadth of road under reconstruction/rehabilitation together with the date scheduled for work completion;
- (c) give a description of progress to date on the project including the length of road already reasphalted by stating the condition under which the latter was done?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to part (a), the road works are being undertaken through Work Order issued under the approved annual rate contract for Maintenance, Upgrading and Construction of Roads awarded to the Company A & J Maurel Construction Ltee.

As regard to part (b), 2.32 km of road is presently under reconstruction/rehabilitation as follows:

Port Sud Est to Mourouk	-	2.0 km
Access road from Port Sud Est	-	0.32 km
main road to Port Sud Est Primary School		

The road width varies along the stretch of the road.

A copy of the proposed road layout is being tabled.

The contractual completion date is 02 December 2008.

An extension of time of 4 weeks has however been allocated to the contractor in furtherance to:

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- (i) The adverse weather condition (torrential rain) which occurred from 8th to 15th November 2008
- (ii) Poor geotechnical conditions along the proposed enlarged section of the road at Port Sud Est which warrants consolidation of the road base.

And as such the works are expected to be substantially completed by early January 2009.

As regard to part (c), the progress of works as at to date is as follows:

Cut (excavation)	-	95%
Fill	-	90%
Concrete works	-	80%
Masonry works	-	90%
Laying of plums	-	85%
Laying of Crusher run	-	80%
Bituminous concrete base course	-	18%

A stretch of 725 m of the road has been re-asphalted as per established parameters set as regard to the limitations with respect to weather condition and transportation of mix.

As per the provisions of the contract, prior to laying of the wearing course, test will be carried out and defects in the bituminous works which may have resulted will have to be made good at the contractor's expense.

It is further understood that the tests shall be carried out by the laboratory of the Road Development Authority.

PURCHASE OF TRACTOR

(No. B/ 202) Mr. J.D. Speville (*The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, Water Resources & Others whether, with regards to the purchase of the tractor with registration plate 43 RRA 08 he would for the benefit of the House:-

- (e) Give the full tendering procedures involved to buy same;
- (f) give a breakdown of works done by the tractor stating the dates, places and nature of works effected;

- (g) say whether at the time being the tractor is in working mechanical order and is adapted for Rodrigues and if not, he would state what steps he intend to take to remedy same, if any?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission has recently purchased one tractor and the necessary implements with a view to strengthening the Land Mechanization Unit, to cope with growing demand from farmers and to increase agricultural production.

The tractor together with implements comprising of mounted disc plough, rotary tiller, cultivator, subsoiler and drag assembly were purchased through the open advertised bidding method as laid down in Section 16 of the Public Procurement Act 2006. Tender Notice was launched on 6 May 2008 and the closing date was fixed for 11 June 2008.

On the opening of bids offers were received from SCOMAT Ltée for a total price of Rs 3,725,936 and from TEMPL for a total price of Rs 3,208,000.

A Technical Evaluation Committee under the chairmanship of the Mechanical Engineer of the Commission for Public Infrastructure was appointed to evaluate the bids and upon its recommendation, the contract was awarded to SCOMAT Ltée on 23 June 2008 on ground of delivery period. SCOMAT has offered to deliver the tractor within 30 to 40 days as from signature of contract agreement whereas TEMPL has offered to deliver both the tractor and implements as from 135 days.

The tractor and one of the implements were delivered on 23 July 2008. The other implements were delivered on 10 November 2008.

Details of the works performed by the tractor are being tabled.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to part (c), I would like to inform the House that the tractor was removed from the Land Mechanization Unit on 30 September 2008 as it has already reached the recommended total number of hours for its first servicing which has to be effected by the supplier because of the warranty period.

However, following a request made by my Commission, the Contractor has requested full payment for the tractor and implements which could only be effected after delivery of all the items in mid-November 2008.

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The servicing was subsequently effected on 10 and 11 December 2008 and the tractor has already resumed operation.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the tractor is fully adapted to Rodrigues particularly on large land surfaces for sub-soiling and light derocking.

BOUNDARY FENCING WALL

(No. B/203) Mr. J. D. SPEVILLE (*The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, Water Resources & Others whether with regard to the erection of the boundary fencing wall at Terre Rouge, Creve Coeur and Hauteur Accacia water systems, he will for the benefit of the House:-

- (h) give the full tendering exercises involved for each projects;
- (i) table a copy of the tender documents of the projects; and
- (j) give a description of progress to date on each project by stating the different dates of commencement and completion?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with a view to providing better security to our service reservoirs, my Commission has decided to construct boundary fencing wall at *Creve Coeur, Hauteur Accacia* and *Terre Rouge* Reservoirs.

In this context, Messrs. A.J. Maurel & Co. Ltd, Laxmambhai & Co. Ltd, Callemallay & Co. Ltd and Edrados Construction Ltd were invited on 26 August 2008 through sealed quotation to submit their offer. The closing date was fixed for 15 September 2008 at 13.30 hours.

Three bidders responded as follows:-

- (i) Edrados Construction Ltd:
Rs 1,975,856
- (ii) Callemallay Construction Ltd:
Rs 5,749,020.20
- (iii) Laxmambhai & Co. Ltd:
Rs 5,066,158.25

The contract was awarded on 6 October 2008 to the lowest bidder, that is to Edrados Construction Ltd for the sum of Rs 1,935,856.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the tender document form part of the contract agreement between my Commission and the Contractor. I consider it to be unethical and inappropriate to table the document without the consent of all parties.

As regard to part (c), the construction work started on 13 October 2008 and was expected to be completed on 15 December 2008. As at to date, 90% of the work at each site have been completed. A snag list of outstanding work to be performed by the Contractor has been established and which is being attended.

COMMISSIONING OF ANIMAL FEED

(No. B/204) Mr. J. D. SPEVILLE (*The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, Water Resources & Others with regard to the commissioning of animal feeds from Mauritius to Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) from where does his Commission purchase every category of animal feeds;
- (b) the total amount, total cost price and total selling price for each category of animal feeds bought for every consignment from January 2008 to date; and
- (c) table the names, occupation and address of persons and associations benefiting from each category of animal feed from the Commission for Agriculture;
- (d) whether there are traders/persons in Mauritius and Rodrigues who are acting as selling agents of the animal feeds for the Commission, and if yes, table a copy of their names, addresses and occupation?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to part (a), I have to inform the House that the Commission for Agriculture purchases its animal feed from the Ministry of Agro Industry in Mauritius.

Imported animal feed from January 2008 to date is as follows:-

Type of Feed	Date Purchased	Quantity (Tons)	Price per ton	Amount
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Pig Starter	18.01.08	2	6 200	49 600
	02.03.08	2		
	28.07.08	2		
	18.10.08	2		
Total		8		
Creep Feed	18.01.08	0.5	6 700	20 100
	02.03.08	1.0		
	29.07.08	0.5		
	18.10.08	1		
Total		3		
Cow Feed	28.02. 08	9.8	4 000	137 600
	18.06.08	12.0		
	29.08.06	12.6		
Total		34.4		
Sow Feed	18.01.08	11.0	5 400	307 800
	02.03.08	21.0		
	28.07.08	11.0		
	18.10.08	14.0		
Total		57		
Bull Feed	18.06.08	2.5	5 000	17 000
	29.08.06	0.9		
Total		3.4		
Calf Feed	18.06.08	0.2	5 200	8 840
	29.08.06	1.5		
Total		1.7		

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Grand Total	107.5		540 940
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As regard to part (c), I have to say that no animal feed has been imported from the Ministry of Agro Industry for public sale from January 2008 to date because the Commission for Agriculture was not benefiting from subsidized feed. Therefore, the feed imported were used for feeding of animals on the four (4) Livestock Production Units of the Commission.

Moreover, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is no persons in Mauritius or Rodrigues who are acting as selling agents of animal feed for the Commission.

SEA CUCUMBER

(No. B/205) Mr. L.D. BAPTISTE (*The Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne*) asked the Chief Commissioner as regards to the collection/fishing of sea cucumber in Rodrigues, would he state:-

- (a) whether any field survey has been completed and, if yes, since when and give details about its outcome; and
- (b) table a copy of the survey;
- (c) whether new authorisation has been granted for the collection/fishing of sea cucumber, and if so, for which period and what are the conditions attached, thereto;
- (d) the number or number of persons/organisations together with their names and addresses who have been granted the authorisation to collect/process/commercialise the sea cucumber?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that a field survey of sea cucumber was carried out in July 2007 and that the main recommendations are:

- (i) A total allowable catch of 450 tons of live weight sea cucumber was set; i.e. about 75 tons of dried sea cucumber.
- (ii) A closing season from 01st January to 31st March be enforced each year.

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- (iii) A minimum landing size of 15 centimeters for all species is to be adopted.

Authorisations have been granted for the fishing, collection, processing and export of sea cucumber for the period 04 December to 30 December 2008.

I am tabling the following documents:

- (1) A copy of the report of the survey
- (2) Conditions for fishing/collecting of sea cucumber
- (3) Conditions for collection, processing and export of sea cucumber
- (4) List of persons/organizations to which permit have been granted to collect, process and export sea cucumber.

FACILITIES PROVIDED TO PLANTERS

(No. B/206) Mr. L. D. BAPTISTE (*The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, Water Resources & Others as regards to the facilities provided by his Commission to planters of Anse Ali, could the Commissioner for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) give an assessment about the actual water situation for irrigation purposes to these planters;
- (b) state whether some of these planters are facing water problems, and if so, give the nature/reasons for same and the remedial measures his Commission intends to take;
- (c) state whether there is actually/has been any request for the service of land mechanization, and if so, when are they likely to benefit from such a service?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to our records, there are twenty (20) planters working in the valley of Anse Ally. They produce mainly onion in the main season and vegetables following onion harvest. Irrigation water is obtained through the network placed by the Agricultural Services which tap water from a micro dam erected in the river.

Water distribution is managed by the farmers themselves who have been regrouped into a Water User's Association. Additional irrigation water is

obtained from individual well dug in their fields with the assistance of the excavator of the Commission for Agriculture.

Due to present rain deficit, there is no inflow in the micro dam thus the irrigation network is unoperational. The water level in the wells has also decreased.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as it is the case every year during this season, the amount of water available for irrigation around the island – including Anse Ally - decreases. Farmers have been advised to grow heat and drought tolerant crops such as tomato, brinjal and creepers (water melon, pumpkin, calabash).

However, following a recent survey, a work plan is being prepared by the Commission for the desilting and rehabilitation of 35 springs, dams and wells around the island. For Anse Ally, my Commission is considering the possibility of:-

- (i) removing debris from the wells that have been accumulated since 10 years;
- (ii) drilling a new borehole subject to technical recommendations.

As regard to part (c) of the question, I have to say that requests for mechanical land preparation have been received from four (4) planters of Anse Ally. According to our work plan, their requests will be attended by the end of this month.

AMBULANCE DRIVERS & OTHER DRIVERS

(No. B/207) Mr. L.D. Baptiste (*The Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others as regards to the ambulance drivers and other drivers attached to his Commission he would, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) the number, thereof;
- (b) the number of overtime hours worked and the amount of overtime allowance paid to each ambulance driver and other drivers from July 2008 to November 2008;
- (c) the total amount paid and the balance due to date, if any?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are 22 Ambulance Drivers, 4 Drivers and 6 Drivers on Roster attached to my Commission.

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As regard to part (b) of the question, the requested information is being compiled and will be communicated to the House later.

As regards to part (c) of the question, the requested information is as follows:-

July - Amount paid (Rs 79,733.61)
 Balance due: Nil

August - Amount paid (Rs 92,658.40)
 Balance due: Nil

September- Amount paid (Rs 66,240.15)
 Balance due: Nil

October - Amount paid (Rs 72,974.90)
 Balance due: Nil

November- Amount paid (Rs 63,644.54)
 Balance due: Nil

INTAKE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2009

(No. B/208) Mr. L. D. BAPTISTE (*The Second Local Region Member for Grande Montagne*) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Form 1 intake for the forthcoming academic year for both main stream and prevocational, he will state:

- (a) The procedures/criteria that will be applied for the admission of pupils of different colleges in Rodrigues;
- (b) If his Commission has made a forecast of the number of seats which will be needed;
- (c) How many seats are actually available for new secondary student per college;
- (d) What measures are being/will be taken to avoid overcrowded classrooms and lack of teachers at the beginning of the school year 2009, if any?

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

As regards par (a), the admission procedures for admission in Form I main stream in all the colleges in Rodrigues have been carried out by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate in the same way as it is done in Mauritius. As such, on the very day of the proclamation of the CPE result on Thursday 11 December 2008, the parents have been informed of the secondary schools in which their wards have obtained admission.

The following criteria have been taken into consideration:

- (i) Best Aggregate
- (ii) Parent's choice and
- (iii) Proximity

With regard to Prevocational stream, the admission procedures will be carried out by my Commission based on the following criteria:

- (i) Parent's choice and
- (ii) Proximity

As regards part (b), the answer is yes.

With regard to part (c), the number of seats which are at present available for new secondary student per college for both main and prevocational stream is as follows:

		SEATS AVAILABLE	
SN	INSTITUTION	MAIN	PREVOCATIONAL
1	Grande Montagne College	100	25

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2	Le Chou College	100	25
3	Marechal College	76	25
4	Mont Lubin College	95	50
5	Terre Rouge College (students to be temporarily housed at Ex-Citron Donis College)	100	50
6	Rodrigues College	130	25

With respect to part (d), we do not expect overcrowded classrooms. As regards lack of teachers at the beginning of the school year 2009, I have been informed that recruitment for same is underway at both the REDCO and RODCO Ltd.