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Debate No. 9 of 21.10.2008

RODRIGUES

SECOND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 9 of 2008

Sitting of Tuesday 21 October, 2008

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Port Mathurin at 10.30 am.

(Mr. Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

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RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 21 October, 2008

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ADJOURNMENT

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**The Executive Council
(Formed by Mr. Johnson Roussety)**

Mr. Johnson Roussety	Chief Commissioner, Commissioner responsible for Finance, Economic Affairs, Central Administration, Civil Aviation (administration), Civil status, Customs and Excise (administration), Fisheries, Industrial Development, Information Technology and Telecommunications, Judicial (administration), Legal Services, Marine Services (administration), Meteorology (administration), Postal Services (administration), Registration, State Lands, Statistics in respects of Rodrigues, Town and Country Planning, Tourism, Trade, Commerce and Licensing, Handicraft, Consumer Protection.
Mr. Gaetan Jabeemissar	Deputy Chief Commissioner, Commissioner responsible for Arts and Culture, Education (administration), Library Services, Museums, Archives, Historical Sites and buildings, Vocational Training
Mrs. Marie Thérèse CLAIR	Commissioner responsible for Social Security, Child Development, Family Welfare, Social Security(administration), Women's Affairs, Poverty Alleviation
Mr. Franceau Aubret Grandcourt	Commissioner responsible for Environment, Housing, Infrastructure including Highways and Roads and Public Buildings and Utilities, Marine Parks, Transport
Mr. Jean Christian Agathe	Commissioner responsible for Labour and Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports, Employment
Mr. Joseph Allan Ladd Emilien	Commissioner responsible for Community Development, Co-operatives, Fire Services, Health (administration), Prisons and Reform Institutions (administration)
Mr. Louis Ange Perrine	Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, Food Production, Forestry, Handicraft, Plant and animal quarantine, Water Resources

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Mr. Chairperson - Lamvohee, Mr. Joseph Chenlye

Clerk - Gopall, Mr. Navin

Sergeant -at-Arms - Louis, Mr. Jorgenson

Mr. Chairperson: Clerk can we start, please.

The Clerk: Announcements, please.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, please wait. Respected Members I have a short announcement to make. The Clerk, Mr. Navin Gopall has been nominated to follow the Parliamentary Internship Programme, New Delhi, India which will be held from the 1st to the 30th November this year. Consequently, he will be absent from this Assembly as from the 23rd of October and he will return back on the 2nd of December. Being given our particular situation, specially we don't have a Deputy Clerk, I do hope that all the Members will understand the situation. Thank you. Yes, proceed.

The Clerk: Papers, please. Questions please.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

WATER CONSUMPTION – QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

(No. B/158) Mr. S.P. Roussety (*Fifth Island Region Member*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others as regards to the water consumption at the Queen Elisabeth Hospital, would he, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) whether the water distributed from Sunday 05 October, 2008 to date, for utilization at all sections of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was of bad quality; and if the affirmative;
- (b) what was the cause of the quality of water that flew in all taps of the Hospital;
- (c) what action has taken during that period for the smooth running of the Hospital?

Commissioner for Health & Ors (Mr. A. L. Emilien): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that water from the taps at Queen Elisabeth Hospital on Sunday 5th October, 2008 was turbid, so the answer to part (a) of the question is yes, but I must point out, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the positive answer applies to the 5th October, 2008 only and not from Sunday 05th September to date as set out in the question.

With regards to part (b) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the cause of this turbidity was due to an act of vandalism that has occurred during the previous night. One of the two reservoirs at *Creve Coeur* (the concrete one) from which there is a direct pipe connection to the hospital was temporarily put out of operation to enable its cleaning which is normally effected on a six month basis. Vandal has opened the stopcock releasing the turbid water to the hospital.

However, the Acting Health Director has informed my office that the outflow of turbid water from the taps were on and off, as a result of its mixing up with clear water from normal network feeding the hospital.

For part (c) of the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it has to be pointed out, that key sectors of the hospital have not been affected by this temporary problem, due to immediate measures taken, i.e:-

- (i) Immediately upon notification of the problem the stop cock was closed thus stopping the inflow of turbid water at Queen Elizabeth Hospital;
- (ii) the existing storage from above the Operating Theatre block was diverted through minor piping works to cater for the needy areas such as the Operating Theatre, Gynaecology, Obstetric and other wards;
- (iii) Another key sector which was not affected at all is the dialysis unit as it is autonomous, being not connected to the network. It is being supplied by water tanker thrice weekly.

I am informed by the Commission for Water Resources that works are presently underway to fence the compound of the reservoir to prevent public access to the site to provide better security and avoid recurrence of same.

Mr. P. François: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has mentioned an act of vandalism which is a very serious matter, I should like to know from the Commissioner whether this has been reported to the Police?

Mr. A. L. Emilien: As far as I know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the case has not been reported to the Police because it has not caused so much harm to the service at the Hospital but immediate action has been taken to close the stop cock.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner for Health stated in his answer that this has caused no disruption in the smooth running of the hospital, may I ask him whether he is aware that because of this turbidity of water, patients have had to buy water for their own use?

Mr. A. L. Emilien: I am not aware, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

GAMBLING/BOOKMAKER LICENCES

(No. B/159) Mrs. M.A. Perrine Begue (*First Local Region Member of St. Gabriel*) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the gambling/bookmaker licences granted for operation in Rodrigues since 2006, he will:-

- (a) give the names of the operators together with the different conditions attached for the acquisition of the said licences and to table copies of same;
- (b) inform the House where are the locations of their place of business in Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that three licences related to gambling/bookmaker licences have been granted since 2006 as follows:

- (1) A Coin-operated Gaming Machine licence to Vayres Investments Ltd.
- (2) A Commission Agent Licence to Bet on Line Ltd.
- (3) A Bookmaker licence to Mr. Jean Welson LEVEQUE.

I am tabling copies of the different conditions attached for the acquisition of the respective licences and the locations of their place of business. **(APPENDIX 1).** It is to be further noted that the prior approval of the Gambling Regulatory Authority was required before the processing of above licences.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begu : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the bookmaker license is being operated on Rodrigues premises, I'd like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether before issuing other licenses by the authority, the local licensing authorities were implied in the licensing procedures?

The Chief Commissioner: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Gambling Regulatory Authority allocates bookmaker licenses, following the Gambling Regulatory Act 2007, bookmakers off course. Off course means outside the main racing ground of the Champ de Mars and then the bookmaker chooses where to apply for local authority license.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begu : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the place of business is being found in Rodrigues, while the applications are made, is there any objections that have been made by the local authorities as regards to this?

The Chief Commissioner: The process, I repeat, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there have been advertisements in the press inviting those applicants wishing to obtain off-course bookmaker license to apply. There are conditions that are to be fulfilled by the Gambling Regulatory Authority and when the applicant is approved, this is not my business how the Gambling Regulatory Authority approves the bookmaker license; when this bookmaker license is approved it is then that this person chooses whether to apply for Rose-Hill District Council, Black River District Council or Port Louis and elsewhere but as you are aware, if a company has a bank license when the company comes to Rodrigues, it applies for local license. The same principle applies. What we have done is that we have just considered whether all the regulatory framework behind the license are met and once the Gambling Regulatory Authority has given us his clearance that the license has been cleared at their level, we have considered at our level.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner has stated of different examples of Port Louis and Rose-Hill but we all know that here in Rodrigues, our status is different and we have got a local authority in the name of Rodrigues Regional Assembly, may I ask the Chief Commissioner if he finds it right that applications made at the Gambling Authority is thrust upon the Rodrigues Regional Assembly without him being aware that same is being applied for?

The Chief Commissioner: This is my political question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Nothing is being thrust forced the Regional Assembly. As you are aware, if somebody for example, wants to open a *cabinet medicale*, can we give a doctor's cabinet to somebody who is not recognized by the Medical Council? No. They must meet the statutory requirements before operating as the professional and the statutory requirement is in this case the Gambling Authority. At our level, we have not been forced. We could have accepted, we could have rejected.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that gambling affects a state's economy, money that could be invested, loaned and recycled for the economy is instead risked in a legalized gambling scheme and being given that a legalized is a bad social policy, will the regional government undergo a study on the social impact in Rodrigues and take corrective measures thereof?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not here to interpret what the Member thinks is good or not good for himself. If he wants to carry out the study, he is free to do it.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Coming to the land that has been leased for that purpose, for the place of business, can I ask the Commissioner whether the land was been leased prior or after the license?

Mr. Chairperson: Which cases? You mean all the three cases, you mean a specific case?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: All the three cases.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not aware of the status of the land; whether these are private land or leased land or who are owners of this land. This should have been specified in the main question.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when consideration is being given for the local license by the License Authority, does the Chief Commissioner Office consider whether the land lease is met for that particular business?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, policy has changed as regards to land lease. Even now residential businesses, if their residential lease is ok for a commercial activity, we are granting licenses. There are cases where I have approved retail of tobacco licenses, general retailer licenses on residential leases, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This is not the issue, our policy is to empower the people and give them the means to work and not to strangle them, like they did before.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I understand that for the bookmaker license, this place of business has been sublet which means that the Rodriguan Authority has been implied in the process of business, I'd like to ask the Commissioner whether he could confirm and whether approval has been sought and obtained from his office for the subletting of this place of business to the bookmaker?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not here to control what everybody is able to do freely. Somebody has a lease and the person has a commercial lease, they have built up with their savings, they have bored money and they have sweat to build it up, why should I be the one who will choose why they can't sublet it or not sublet it? It is their money, their building, they want to sublet it, it is legal, we give it rent, they will receive the rent. Where is your problem?

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Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: We ...these two questions. Excuse me, this does not give you the opportunity to question our intentions. We are here to ask questions.

Mr. Chairperson: Order! Order, please! Commissioner for Youth, please! You want to ask another question? Yes, please do so.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: On a point of order, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I'd like to say that we are here to ask questions. Is it right for the majority to make a process of our intentions? What's our job here, Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

Mr. Chairperson: Who you mean? You mean the majority?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: I mean people sitting and standing in the other position.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes but this is not allowed.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: This is a point of view. We have the right to put questions.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please. Order, please! No personal attack. But you don't have to be swayed by all these sittings interruptions. If ...

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order please!

AFFORESTATION

(No. B/160) Mrs. M.A. Perrine-Begue (First Local Region Member of St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, Water Resources & Others with regard to afforestation in Rodrigues he will, for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) state his policy regarding same;
- (b) what is the actual status of the forest cover of the whole island;
- (c) the surface area covered from 2006-2008 and the number of contraventions set for that period for illegal deforestation;

- (d) whether any increase in deforestation has been noted in the wake of the increase in the price of gas and if so, how is his commission dealing with the issue?

Commissioner for Agriculture & Ors (Mr. L. A. Perrine): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the policy of my Commission regarding reafforestation in Rodrigues has been discussed and contained in the National Forestry Policy. On the basis of this document, my Commission is presently aiming at:-

- (i) Ensuring sustainable development, management and protection of environmentally sensitive areas including watersheds and to increase and regulate fresh water resources for all purposes in Rodrigues;
- (ii) Preventing further degradation of forest areas and increasing the area under natural tree cover;
- (iii) Reversing the process of degradation of biodiversity through habitat restoration using in-situ and where necessary, ex-situ conservation techniques; and
- (iv) Addressing land degradation by minimizing soil erosion through reafforestation.

In view of achieving the above objectives, my Commission has started with the catchment area of *Anse Raffin* where 106 ha of bare land have already been fenced to enable its reafforestation for soil and water conservation.

Planting of seedlings on the fenced area will start with the onset of the forthcoming rainy season.

In the same perspective, 65 ha of bare land have been identified in the catchment area of *Anse Baleine* and will be soon fenced and reafforested with the collaboration of the villagers. 300 additional hectares of very degraded land at *Grenade* and *Pistache* will be fenced, reafforested and planted with fodder grass and trees under the DCP Project with a view to restoring these degraded land, promote forest cover and provide fodder for livestock breeders.

At the same time, an Education, Information and Communication Unit has been set up at the Forestry Services. This Unit is presently finalizing an intensive education programme that will target school children and other stakeholders with a view to sensitizing them on the importance of forest and the need to maintain forest cover in their immediate vicinities.

As regards to part (b), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to records available at the Forestry Services, I am informed that 3,500 ha of land in Rodrigues are covered with forest cover, representing one third of the total surface of Rodrigues.

A total of 44.16 ha of land have been put under forest cover during period 2006 to date through our reafforestation programme which has been largely constrained by unfavourable climatic conditions. During that period, 28 cases of unlawful destruction of forest produce including trees have been established.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that these contraventions concerned forest trees which have been cut without authorization for the purpose of scaffolding. There are no indications that trees are cut for firewood purposes. Therefore, the increase in the price of gas has no influence on our forest cover for the time being.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to ask the Commissioner, what about the economic part, in terms of priority and policy of reafforestation/afforestation in Rodrigues, could he say some words as regards to the place of the economy in the afforestation policy?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have already... the information. Rodrigues can produce about 2000m³ of wood per year. This amounts to Rs 6 million and the respected Member may note that Rodrigues is importing even copper chips for ...on chicken from Mauritius. This can be produced locally and we are coming soon with a National Forest Action Programme to look at this issue.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: As regards, in the same field, as regards to handicraft which is one of our major sector which benefits from forest. I'd like to ask the Commissioner whether it is in his priority to further plantation of *aloes* and *vacoas*?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, you know that 55% of our forest in Rodrigues are situated in catchment area. But we have a numerous of catchment areas which have to be reafforested and rehabilitated. In our programme, *vacoas* is being included in trees that are being planted and other species also to boost up the handicraft center.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that all the bare lands of the regions of *Anse Baleine* are being fenced. I would like to ask the Commissioner, what alternatives will be given to the farmers in the region to continue to with their traditional activity of farming?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the fencing of *Anse Raffin* has been done in collaboration with the villagers and farmers of the region. There was a lot of discussion and they will benefit because for they also ...will be planted in these areas. And the farmers will have fodder which is now impossible because of the dry season. But yes, on the contrary we are having the collaboration of all farmers in the region.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the different hectares that are under reforestation, may I ask the Commissioner for Forestry, what is the proportion of endemic to exotic species that are being planted there.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, I don't know why I have to allow that question.

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will get the information and circulate it later.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards forest management in Rodrigues, I'd like to ask the Commissioner whether there is any inventory or census which has been made regarding the forest cover and the type of plants that exist from within these catchment areas?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we don't have an inventory as such but we are coming very soon with the ... for forest and I think this issue will be taken into account.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, given the importance of forest for culture, leisure, biodiversity, economy, fauna and flora and absolutely for water, I'd like to ask the Commissioner whether there is a forest land information system that is envisaged like it is being done in Mauritius, to supervise any degradation of land?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer is yes. At the very moment, we have two technicians in Mauritius, undergoing training to set up this important tool.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner for Agriculture mentioned that according to him fuel wood has not increased but we see when we go on the fields that we see more and more people with bunch of fuel wood on their heads specially in the poorest segment of the population. I'd like to ask the Commissioner whether any initiative can be or is being considered to furnish those who are going back to the old days, using fuel woods to have such facilities, like it is possible in other countries?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't have the figure but at the forestry division, fuel wood are sold to the public. They can purchase it

and what the respected Member has seen is the collecting of dry wood. But the cutting of wood itself, this, we don't have any cases where people have cut it for fire wood. They have been undergoing contraventions, cutting of wood for....to be used in construction. These we have about 28 cases but for fuel, we don't have any cases.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when you look around the site where the springs were, when you look around places where rivers were, you see that there has been major erosion and deforestation, is there any policy as we know that these trees cannot uphold these waters, is there from within the National Forest Policy that you have just mentioned, which includes Rodrigues , this policy being *en vigueur* since 2006, I'd like to ask the Commissioner what is being done to allow these springs to flow again, to allow these rivers to flow again via forest coverage.

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have about 48 catchment areas in Rodrigues and we have a programme to start reafforestation of all these catchment areas with water and soil conservation. We have just started with *Anse Raffin*, the next will be *Anse Baleine* and then we will move around Rodrigues and we have already prepared a programme that will be completed in 2015.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the fencing of the areas in the region of *Anse Raffin* is adversely affecting farmers of *Eau Vannée*, *Citron Donis* and *Pavillon*, now animals are roaming in these regions causing serious environmental problems, I am making an appeal to the Commissioner if part of the fenced regions can be granted to these farmers for community farming.

Mr. L. A. Perrine: I will look into the matter, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. N. Lisette: As regards to his policy on the reafforestation programme, may I ask the Commissioner for Agriculture and Forestry, how much emphasis is placed on the replacement of *piquant loulou* by endemic plants or other plants?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Yes, but for *piquant loulou* we have a good programme that will start soon. First of all we are buying a *broyeur*, a shredder because we can't start cutting the *piquant loulou* and then all the trees are left in the open air. We will start first to buy a *broyeur*, a shredder; we are expecting the shredder at the end of this month. And then we will have 40 hectares of land of *piquant loulou* that will be uprooted and then we will prepare compost that will be put at the disposal of planters. The planting of these areas will be done while using endemic plants to reafforest, i.e, 40 hectares. This programme will start early next year.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begu : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner talked about 171 hectares of bare land which has been fenced at *Anse Raffin* and also at *Anse Baleine*. I'd like to ask him who fenced the project, when it happened?

The Chief Commissioner: The question is on policy regarding reafforestation, now they are entering into different contracts and projects. This is far from the main question. Where do you want take this House? She wants to embark us on different trips, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. She is insisting again and again? *Cote ou p  rode am ne nous?*

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, the point raised by the Chief Commissioner is right taken. I am sure you understand this. If you want to reformulate your question.

CAVES AND ISLETS

(No. B/161) Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begue (First Local Region Member of St. Gabriel) asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to the caves and islets in Rodrigues he will:-

- (a) inform the House whether they have been the subject of any particular study during the past two years; and if so, to give details and outcome, thereof;
- (b) table copy of report(s), if any;
- (c) state whether any islet has been leased to any promoter or any such projects is being considered?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer is NO. The caves and islets in Rodrigues have not been subject of any study during the past two years.

Given my answer for (a), part (b) does not arise.

As regards to part (c), no islet has been leased up to now.

However, I am informed that there are interests from promoters for:

- (i) *Ile Aux Cocos* and *Ile Aux Chats* – From a promoter willing to undertake sea water activities such as diving, parasailing, water skiing, undersea walk, etc – which has been turned down; and

- (ii) Crab Island - For a hotel project from promoters from Dubai. Discussions are only at preliminary stage.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if there are no studies made on caves and islets, I'd like to ask the Commissioner, why an expert came over to examine the islets and the press release from the Executive Council was made on that issue earlier this year?

The Chief Commissioner: I would like the respected Member to enlighten me and to tell me which date was the press release was released, what is the name of the expert and then I will answer. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a serious matter. I invite the Member to tell me what is the date the Executive Council decision was made, what is the name, the title of the study and give me the name of this expert, I challenge her to give me this now.

Mr. Chairperson: No challenges but the matter...

The Chief Commissioner: But for the sake of transparency in this House, so that they stop coming here and telling each and every matter, false things and things which are not may be verified, give the date of the Executive Council press released.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, there is one point raised by the Chief Commissioner which is when the Member comes with questions. They do establish a basis for the question at times there are many, many facts which are being ushered to this Assembly. If those facts I consider are so important then the Member would be prepared and would be asked to substantiate before the question is allowed.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I come a little bit later with the question.

Mr. Chairperson: You want a notice?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Just a little bit later during the same sitting.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether he is aware that in 2004, the Ministry of Agriculture, Technology and Natural Resources has undergone a study of development of a management plan for the conservation and management of off-shore islets for the Republic of Mauritius comprising Rodrigues in collaboration with ADVER. I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner if the recommendation of this report is being adhered to.

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The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Member is a Maths Teacher; 2008 minus two years makes 2006 and therefore 2004 is out of the purview of question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. If you don't know how to put questions, I am ready to give you a tuition about how to your questions and how to put your supplementary questions. Your question is whether there has been the subject of any particular study during the past two years. 2008, there are CPE exams now, you can go and learn, 2008 minus two years is 2006. Do not come and ask me in 2004, I will not answer.....

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Order, please!

VISIT OF UNESCO

(No. B/162) Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begue (*First Local Region Member of St. Gabriel*) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner with regards to the recent visit of a high level delegation of the UNESCO in Rodrigues will he, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) the outcome of the mission for Rodrigues;
- (b) whether any application for any cultural or geographical elements of Rodrigues to be classified as World Heritage has been made, thereto; and if so, to give details, thereof?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (a), we have not been informed to date of the outcome of the discussions held with a high level delegation of the UNESCO comprising her Excellency Mrs. Indira Takoor Sidaya, Ambassador and Head of mission, permanent delegation of Mauritius to UNESCO, and Mr. Cheikh Tidiane Sy, Director, UNESCO Cluster office in Dar Es Salam, Tanzania..

The following issues were discussed:

1. Community Multi-media Development Project;
2. Sandwatch Project;
3. Micro science Experiment Project;
4. Study on the protection of the lagoon and the underwater resources;
5. Domestic Wind Turbid Pilote Project; and
6. Setting up of a beach resort center for the education and sensitization of the public on the coastal and marine environment.

As regards to part (b), the answer is No.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to ask the Commissioner whether there has been any application made or any application is being contemplated to be made regarding the listing of the Rodriguan lagoon as a world cultural heritage?

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait, do not answer this question. I can collect that the answer to part (b) is no and this question falls under this value. You cannot ask questions and questions and repeating questions.

MANUFACTURE OF BENCHES

(No. B/163) Mr. S.P. Roussety (*Fifth Island Region Member*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others with regards to the manufacture of benches for the Commission for Health, will he, for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) table the names of tenderers and the amount quoted;
- (b) state the name of the successful bidder; and table a copy of the contract award;
- (c) state whether payment has already been effected?

Commissioner for Health & Ors (Mr. A. L. Emilien): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the house that since I have been entrusted the responsibilities of the present Commission for Health and others, no benches have been manufactured for the Commission and as a matter of fact, the question does not arise.

However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if the respected member is referring to seating accommodation, namely 50 sets of plastic chairs on metal frames in sets of 4, as set out in Quotation No. 11 of 2008/2009, I am showing my good will in tabling the information for part (a) of the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. **(APPENDIX 2).**

For part (b), the successful bidder is Cyber Logistic Int'l Ltd and I am tabling a copy of the contract award. **(APPENDIX 3).**

For part (c) of the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer is yes.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: *M. le président, est ce que le Commissaire peut dire à la Chambre si les matériaux recommander dans le contrat pour la fabrication de ces chaises en plastiques ont été respecter par le contracteur ?*

Mr. A. L. Emilien: *En effet, M. le président, tel a été le cas.*

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether to as regards to the benches...

Mr. Chairperson: No benches, don't use this word.

Mr. N. Lisette: ...plastic chairs contracted from Cyber Logistics, whether there has been additional work that has been done on same once they have arrived in Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, please wait. What happens to be voluntary information to this House cannot be the subject matter of being in depth query in the questions.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to ask the Commissioner whether as regards to those plastic chairs which are being put at the well-wishers and the patients at *Mont Lubin*, whether there has been any complaints for these chairs?

Mr. A. L. Emilien: As far as I know, I don't know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: You are not aware. No more supplementary...

Mr. S. P. Roussety: *Une question supplémentaire, M. le président. M. le président, les patients fréquentant le centre de santé de Mont Lubin, se plaignent de ces chaises en plastiques qui leur font mal.*

The Chief Commissioner: Members again are embarking us on a story and introducing new matter to the question. The question relates to manufacture of benches and now he is taking us for one day at the *Mont Lubin* Health Centre where he wants us to look at the people sitting on the benches. We know that you are accustomed to visiting hospitals, etc, but this is far from the main question here.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, Chief Commissioner is correct. I have just made a ruling. What happens to be a voluntary information, you cannot come up and deal with it in details. This is the sort of objection that we meet times and again.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: One more supplementary. I'd like to ask the Commissioner whether any amendments have been made or new manufacturing of these plastic chairs have been made after their installation at *Mont Lubin*?

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, I have just disallowed a similar question. You have not understood my ruling. It happens to be the question is on benches and the Member out of transparency has distinctly made what he means by plastic

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chairs and benches. You don't seem to agree with that. If the questions are couched in an ambiguous way, then you have to bear the bending. But that is his answer.

FROZEN FOODS

(No. B/164) Mr. S.P. Roussety (*Fifth Island Region Member*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others with regards to frozen foods supplied to the Commission for Health, will he, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) whether frozen food delivered by the supplier was in a refrigerator lorry under contract condition on the 3rd September, 2008 and what types of product were delivered;
- (b) who supervised the delivery of frozen food on that day?

Commissioner for Health & Ors (Mr. A. L. Emilien): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the question of the supply of frozen foods to the Commission for Health has been raised in Question B/142 of the sitting of 7th October last with your permission I will come up with a statement at appropriate time.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

(No. B/165) Mr. S.P. Roussety (*Fifth Island Region Member*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others as regards to medical practitioners working in Rodrigues, will he, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) whether there are private medical practitioners practicing in Rodrigues from 01 January, 2008 to date; and if so, to state their names;
- (b) whether they are registered with the Medical Council and what types of consultations are they giving?

Commissioner for Health & Ors (Mr. A. L. Emilien): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Acting Health Director, that none of the Medical and Health Officers and Specialists who are undergoing a tour of service in Rodrigues enjoy the privilege of private practice out here.

Secondly, by the Licensing Office that no request has been made and no license issued to any private Medical Practitioner in Rodrigues for that particular period;

By the Medical Council that no private Medical Practitioner registered with them has been practising in Rodrigues from January 01, 2008 to date; and

By the Police that they have no records of such practice in Rodrigues for the mentioned period.

So, the answer to part (a) of the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is no and as a matter of fact, part (b) of the question is irrelevant.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to the answer of the Commissioner for Health, there is no Medical Practitioner exercising in Rodrigues, I invite the Commissioner to look at rue François Leguat near the India Ocean International Bank, there he will see somebody practicing as a Doctor with his name affixed there.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, I do understand this would arise, raised a fundamental question about some illegal acts are being carried out here. Did you ever made any declaration to the Police whenever? Would the Commissioner respond to that?

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the respected Member, that according to a report of the Police here in Rodrigues, mentioned is made that in the year 2006, I don't know if the respected Member is referring to this particular case.

Mr. Chairperson: Can we have it on record that one of the supporting documents made ...

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have here a document from the Police. I don't know if the Member is referring to the same case, referring to a case in 2006 and if this is the case the Member is referring to, he can't pretend now that he doesn't know the case because it dates back to 2006 where it is mentioned in the report of the Police that in this particular year, following a case of abortion, one male person was arrested and claimed himself to be a doctor in naturopathy and query reveals that he is not registered under the Traditional Medicine Board or to the Medical Council of Mauritius. A case of illegal practice of medicine has been lodged against him and same has been sent to Director of Public Prosecutions for advice. He is actually in Rodrigues but has no official consulting room where he is operating. So if the respected Member, I repeat, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is referring to this particular case. I will

invite him to come up with facts, so that we can deal with the matter accordingly.

Mr. Chairperson: Being given that the paper has been circulated....

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this person is not a doctor in medicine. I have read the paper, he is a doctor in naturopathy. I don't know whether he has a doctorat, a PHD. But with your permission, being given the seriousness of the matter, being given that the Member has said that he has took a picture on a building today or some days before, may I with your permission have leave to make a motion in this House under section, Standing Order 25 (f).

Mr. Chairperson: What will be the general substance of the motion.

The Chief Commissioner: The substance of the motion will be that this House will request the Police to investigate into the matter and to take appropriate actions as from this hour.

Mr. Chairperson: Before considering your application, I would like to have it on record from the Member who raised the issue, on which date and time did he made a photocopy of or did he witnessed that such the case was being done here in Rodrigues? Let the Member confirm this. If he does not speak, being given that there is no date it may refer to things very remote.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have not the date but it was during this month.

Mr. Chairperson: So, you now confirm that there was a practice by the said person during this month. And the office was open and there was a person there. You know this is very serious here.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, Commissioner under Standing Order 25. Under Standing Order 25, I will grant you application to make a motion on this issue.

(Gap on cassette)

The Chief Commissioner:....appropriate action at his level to date, forthwith.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, please wait, please wait. Yes being given that the issue has not been taken privately in a Chamber, I am in the office of the Chairperson, I would unfortunately have to ask open questions in the Assembly. Do you consider before this motion that this Assembly can request the DC to perform certain acts. You invite him.

The Chief Commissioner: Instead of he going to the Police, we are inviting him, being given that we have the administration of Health and it is a question of health, of public security. We are aware of what this person has done before, including alleged illegal abortion, etc. He has been to prison for this and he is again operating. And this House must show commitment about our opposition to this. We are inviting the Police to take enquire first and then to do what may be required.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, Clerk can I have the wording of the motion, please. Have you got it? The wording of the motion made by the Chief Commissioner.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I move that the motion be approved here. This House invites the Divisional Commander of Police to investigate whether there is any person illegally practicing medicine in Rodrigues and to take appropriate actions that he may deem fit.

Mr. Chairperson: You want to further support your motion or whether it has been made?

The Chief Commissioner: I said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are aware of the acts of this person since a number of years. The Divisional Commander of Police has informed me that he is actively watching for this person but unfortunately we see that the Member has come here with some evidence but I think that we should trust the Member on this matter. And being given the seriousness, I will invite the Minority to vote for this motion, so that in a sense we show that we mean business and that it is the responsibility of the Police to take action against this criminal activity.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, any secondment, please. Anybody from this side to intervene on this issue?

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begu : Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to make a proposal, that the motion add also the Ministry of Health be informed as regards to this issue.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, anybody from this side? If you won't add anything, I will sum it up because debate is...Now I will have to put before this House the motion that has just been tabled. Question, this House invites the Divisional Commander of Rodrigues to investigate whether there is any person illegally practicing medicine in Rodrigues and to take such appropriate action that he may deem fit. Those in favour say 'Ayes' and those against say 'No'. "Ayes" have it. Now can we resume where we stopped. Are there any supplementary on this question? No. Can we move to the next question?

LOW COST HOUSING UNITS

(No. B/166) Mr P. Francois (*Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Others with regard to low cost housing units built on a self-help basis scheme launched in September 2006 whereby building materials were delivered to some 164 beneficiaries, could he inform the House whether all the beneficiaries have completed their housing units to date; and if not, the reasons, thereof?

Commissioner for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Ors (Mr. F. A. Grandcourt): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer to first part of the question is No.

It is this present government which initiated the low cost housing scheme which was targeted to alleviate the housing problem and help the needy to own a decent dwelling. Actually there are 163 beneficiaries under this scheme and works are in progress in the above cases.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this scheme is on a self-help basis and the progress of work are highly dependent on the beneficiary being able to mobilize volunteers to implement the project.

Nearly 55% of the beneficiaries have undertaken construction up to beam level, 30% have already cast their slab and 10% are at the plastering stage. A minority of the beneficiaries are at the initial stage of the construction.

I wish to inform the house that materials are granted by my Commission at 3 different phases of construction to ensure the judicious use of the materials and exercise a better control on the progress of work.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the process of granting materials to the beneficiaries, we have been faced by periodic time overrun from the Suppliers in regard to delivery of materials in particular cement and lagoonal sand. The delay was mainly attributed to adverse weather conditions in respect of extraction of lagoonal sand and freight constraints regarding the importation of cement and iron bars.

We further acknowledge that in a few isolated cases materials, especially cement have been deteriorated due to the time long in the delivery of lagoonal sand and storage conditions.

However, I wish to reassure the house that presently all necessary steps have already been taken to remedy the above situation and delivery as per set schedule will be adhered to.

Mr. N. Lisette: May I ask the Commissioner for Public Infrastructure whether any facilities are being provided for the beneficiaries as regards to the casting of slab of these houses?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the beneficiaries are being provided with materials to cast the slabs and on top of that we have taken a decision in the Executive Council concerning the hiring of equipments to cast the slab, upon receipt from the Supplier, we give the beneficiary Rs 1500 to support them in the activity.

Mr. P. François: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Commissioner whether a target has been set for the completion of the project. Because many people they are worried because we are approaching the cyclonic period.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have a mandate of five years. Ok? Let me refresh the mind of the respected Member. *M. le président, je vais parler en français pour que tout le monde puisse comprendre. C'est vrai il y eu un changement. Laissez-moi expliquer M. le président. Donnez-moi la chance d'expliquer. Un contrat, M. le président, le gouvernement sortant, en mars 2004, ils ont alloué un contrat à un certain Monsieur Sinsamiramen pour 68 maisons et M. le président, the period of implementation was 5 months. C'était 5 mois, lorsque nous sommes arrivé en 2006, deux ans et demi après, ils ont terminé, M. le président 5 maisons et le grand changement quand je suis arrivé, M. le président, c'est que j'ai appelé le contracteur, on a parlé au contracteur, on a mis des garde-fous et il a terminé ces maisons, M. le président. C'est ça le changement, vous avez parlé du changement, on a fait du changement. Mais vous en deux ans et demi vous n'avez pas pu construire 68 maisons pour les gens et nous à ce niveau, M. le président, je répète, 55% des bénéficiaires sont at beem level, 30% have already casted their slab, you can calculate 30% out of 163. You are a Maths Teacher, just calculate and you will get the exact figure and one thing.*

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to ask the Commissioner who is responsible for the close supervision, is there any technical supervision, that is being assured as regards to those self help project low cost housing?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a number of times that I am answering this question. Yes we do have a team comprising of

Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors, even Engineers who are supervising the work at the different sites.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that there is a supervision that is being done at the level of the Commission, may I ask the Commissioner why the facilities for the casting of slabs is given after rather than before the casting?

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, is this an impothesis, please ask the question...lay the basis of your question first.

Mr. N. Lisette: Why are the facilities for materials/ equipment is given after the casting and not before the casting of slabs, knowing well that these beneficiaries are poor people?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *M. le président, je vais parler en français pour qu'on puisse comprendre encore une fois.*

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, it is not correct to repeat that.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Mais il faut le dire car il y a des personnes qui ne comprennent pas.*

Mr. Chairperson: Yes you may address the House either in English or in French.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *M. le président, il faut s'assurer que ces personnes-là coulent vraiment leurs dalles, M. le président. On ne peut pas faire comme on a fait dans le passé comme dans le cas de ce contrat dont je viens de décrire, l'erreur qu'ils ont fait de donner des maisons, d'allouer un contrat, je sais pas s'ils ont payé le type et à la fin de la journée, on se retrouve avec seulement 5 maisons construites, il faut s'assurer qu'on a coulé la dalle et ensuite on amène le reçu et ensuite nous on donne de l'argent, on participe aux frais de ces maisons-la.*

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to ask the Commissioner being given that it's two years that bulk of materials have been deposited next to those beneficiaries houses, being given that it's been two years now has there been any cases of sale of materials, losses of materials that have been reported?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not aware of this.

Mr. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know whether there was any agreement made between the Commission and the beneficiaries?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what I know is whenever there is delivery of materials, the beneficiary signs a receipt of the materials delivered to him.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the deterioration of materials mentioned by the Commissioner, may we know if the Commission is going to proceed to give further materials to these persons?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: We are going to consider this on a case to case basis.

JEUX DE RODRIGUES

(No. B/ 167) Mr. P. Francois (*Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports & others in view of the forthcoming “Jeux de Rodrigues” in December 2008, whether he would, for the benefit of the House, state where boxing competitions will take place, and as regards the construction of a Boxing Centre for that event where does matter stand?

Commissioner for Youth & Sports (Mr. C. Agathe): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for the forthcoming ‘Jeux de Rodrigues’ in December 2008, we have several options where we could organize the boxing competition and other “sports de combat” such as Gymnasium, Boxing Centre, Passenger Terminal or any sports complexes since we have a mobile and movable boxing ring.

Finally, the organizing committee has opted for the Passenger Terminal for the organisation of boxing competitions and other “sports de combat”.

COLLECTION OF WASTE – ROD CLEAN LTD.

(No. B/168) Mr. P. Francois (*Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Others with regard to the collection of waste by Rod Clean Company Ltd from households and trade premises in the villages of Dans Samy and Montagne Tonnerre respectively, whether he will state:-

- (a) The frequency at which waste has been collected for the past three months, together with the day(s) and time; and

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- (b) How the inhabitant of these two villages has been informed of the schedule of waste collection?

Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Ors (Mr. F. A. Grandcourt): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to part (a), the information is being complied.

As regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that the programme of waste collection by Rodclean Ltd was broadcasted on the radio since January 2008. In addition, to ensure a broad dissemination of the programme, same have been distributed to all Community Centres through the Rodrigues Council for Social Services (RCCS) and according to the said programme, waste collection are scheduled on Monday and Thursday in the villages of *Dans Samy* and *Montagne Tonnerre*.

However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in certain cases of force majeure including breakdown of the vehicles, the established programme are sometimes altered and remedial actions are then taken accordingly.

TOURISM SECTOR

(No. B/169) Mr. N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards to the tourism sector in Rodrigues, he would, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) the number of tourists arrival per month for the third quarter of 2008, that is, from July to September 2008;
- (b) the percentage decrease or increase as compared to last year for that period;
- (c) the overall decrease or increase in tourists arrival from January to September 2008 as compared to the same period last year?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the number of tourist arrivals for the months of July, August and September 2008 are as follows:

❖ July 2008:	3,945 tourists
❖ August 2008:	3,549 tourists
❖ September 2008:	2,104 tourists

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The percentage decrease for the period as compared to last year is 19.8 %.

The percentage decrease in tourist arrivals from January to September 2008 is 13.8 %. It is noted that the decrease in tourist arrivals is mainly from the Mauritian market, where a decrease of 19.4% is recorded. Tourist arrivals from Reunion Island has been stable while we have recorded increase in tourist arrivals this year from UK, Germany, South Africa, Belgium, India, Netherlands, etc. In fact, the number of tourists from foreign countries, that is excluding Mauritius, has been maintained. The decrease in the overall tourists arrivals is a result of a fall in arrivals from Mauritius. The high price of air tickets, the low frequency of flights and the fall in the general purchasing power of households families in Mauritius.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is noted that the rate of decline in tourism is on the increase and there are, as put out by the Chief Commissioner, there are many factors which are creeping in the system causing a decline in the number of tourist arrivals. Even if measures are coming in, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Chief Commissioner whether there are innovative ideas which are being discussed with the stakeholders of the industry in order to counteract that declining trend in tourist arrivals.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the stakeholders in the tourism industry have been embarked on discussions. First to analyse what are the causes of the fall which we apparently all know and secondly to propose measures to counteract this fall. A meeting by the officers of the Tourism Office chaired by the Officer in Charge was held two weeks ago at the Cotton Bay Hotel with the major stakeholders that is the chairmen, presidents of the four main associations.

SEA CUCUMBERS

(No. B/170) Mr. N. LISETTE (*First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huîtres*) asked the Chief Commissioner as regards to collection and processing of sea cucumber in Rodrigues, he would, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the number of cases filed by the Fisheries Department of his Commission against any person/s since January 2008 who is allegedly in breach to the Rodrigues Regulation GN No. 1 of 2007, Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Fisheries and Marine Resources) Regulation 2007;

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- (b) the nature of the case/s and the charges with which the accused initially stand charge of;
- (c) whether any case/s has been dismissed and the reason/s, thereof, if any?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards collection and processing of sea cucumber in Rodrigues, I am informed that:

- (a) three cases have been lodged under the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Fisheries and Marine Resources) Regulation 2007.
- (b) the accused in the three cases were charged respectively with:
 - (i) fishing sea cucumber without authorization;
 - (ii) collecting sea cucumber without authorization;
 - (iii) processing sea cucumber without authorization.

In the last mentioned case and upon advice by the Director of Public Prosecution, the charge was amended to read “*collecting of sea cucumber without authorisation*” instead of “*processing sea cucumber without authorization*”.

Out of the three cases, one has been dismissed. As regards the reason thereof, it is not to me to interpret the judgment of the Court.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is it right to say that the dismissal of the case is because there is a discrepancy in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Regulation passed by the Chief Commissioner as regards to a lack of aspect of processing?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Member himself is criticizing a Regulation voted by this Assembly. I don't know whether he made proposals at the level of ... But the Court is there to interpret what the Regional Assembly has voted in the Regulations. And I repeat I am not here to interpret and to give explanations about abstract legal questions.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if you so allow me, may I at least state what is written in the Judgment so that I may proceed with my question.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, where are we going? A point of order.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, Chief Commissioner there is no need for you to point of order. I will rule this question.

The Chief Commissioner: With your permission, may I give a tuition to the Member?

Mr. Chairperson: No you are not allowed to give tuitions.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: On a point of order!

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, I have a point of order and I have not yet voice my point of order.

Mr. Chairperson: Take your seat, please.

The Chief Commissioner: Can I put my point of order?

Mr. Chairperson: You are on your feet, proceed.

The Chief Commissioner: What the supplementary question that the Member is putting is against Standing Order 19 (f), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, which states no question shall reflect on the decision of Court of Law or be sought after as to be likely to prejudice a case or on which a judicial decision is pending. No question shall reflect on the decision of a Court of Law. These are the Standing Orders of this House, abide to it.

Mr. Chairperson: The point raised by the Chief Commissioner is clear. The Standing Orders are couched in very simple terms and can be easily understandable by all Members, I do hope. On the other hand, I do understand that the Member wanted to site part of the judgment in order to illustrate one of the previous questions he asked about whether there is a discrepancy in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Regulation as compared to the Law. In my opinion, I can say that there is nothing against the Standing Order if a Member want to raise that an issue is lacking in our Regulations or there is an issue which is not well in order in as compared to the Law. This he is entitled to do so but he is not entitled to cite the judgment in order to interpret further the judgment, this place is not a Court of Law and we are not in a position in order to rejudge what has already been judged or to interpret the Law or a Regulation simply. So what the Member can ask in my opinion is simply to ask if something is lacking or not lacking in our Regulation but he will not be allowed to say or to explain why this is not lacking or why this is not. So, thank you Chief Commissioner your point of order is well taken but I have taken much time in order to inform the Members the point of view of the Chair.

Mr. N. Lisette: May be I will come later with the point of the judgment. Being given, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the prosecution in this case of dismissal are the officers of the Commission for Fisheries, meaning that the Chief Commissioner what his Commission is going to say as regards to this matter. Is it right...

Mr. Chairperson: No, this is not correct. If you want to ask a question on the basis that you have just said, I am sorry I cannot allow you to do so. If you want me to straight my point then I can or proceed then.

Mr. N. Lisette: May I ask the Chief Commissioner whether processing of sea cucumbers outside the closed season does not constitute an offence as per the Regulations passed in the Assembly here.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I started my ...first year I have passed but due to lack of time I have not been able to go ahead.

Mr. Chairperson: I wanted to disallow this question but unfortunately you were on your feet. Well you cannot ask the Chief Commissioner to interpret the Law or to say which circumstances are outside the ... of a piece of legislation. Well you have understood my rulings?

Mr. N. Lisette: May I know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, why the case lodged by the Commission for Fisheries was dismissed?

The Chief Commissioner: From what I recall from the first year of my...course, it is difficult to find the ratio ... of a case. You are a legal person, there is the ratio of ... and then what is not ratio, the reasons for the decision is called... At my level, now I have not read the judgment, I am not even aware what was the motive and it is not up to up Commissioner for Fisheries to interpret Court judgment, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. What the Court has said or not said should be left to the Court and not brought here. This is the doctrine of the separation of powers. We should not put our nose in what the Court has said or not said. It will be a breach of independence of the judiciary.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not asking the Chief Commissioner to poke his nose in the judiciary issues but Mr. Chairperson, Sir...

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, there is a point of order. You want to add something to what is said? I will not deal with what the Chief Commissioner has said by way a point of order but this question is not allowed.

The Chief Commissioner: I may try to understand the point of the Member, may be we could give him on out of the raised Standing Orders, allow

him to speak and may be we will understand where he wants to come, if you allow. May be it's important for us for the further amendments of the Act. He may cite what the Court has said, he seems to know it and then we will see what can be done, if you allow.

Mr. Chairperson: Of course, I will not allow something which is not normally allowed by Standing Orders. This is specifically and the Member doesn't seem to like that I do interpret the Standing Order so that... Well you want to insist on your question, if you want to insist then unfortunately...

Mr. N. Lisette: May I ask the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether he intends to bring amendments to that Rodrigues Regional Assembly Regulation in order to enforce the power of his officers as regards to illegal collection or processing of sea cucumbers?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if I will try to understand the charge was amended from "*processing of sea cucumber without authorization*" to "*collection of sea cucumber without authorization*". I may understand the stand of the DPP, which on a standard of proof, it would have been difficult to prove processing, it is easier to prove collecting. The problem is that when we have the closing season, on the day of the closing season that is on the 1st December last year, they have collected sea cucumber. But the processing goes on after the closing season. So may be we should put some dates about the closure of processing sea cucumbers. This is the problem, how do you know that the sea cucumber which is being processed... We have had an example even on 20th July, the Fisheries Officers have seized it and they say it was fished before that period. Is it true? How can we assess this? It is quite impossible so I think of course, we have to amend it to see that the processing does goes on after a specific date may be one month or two months after the closing date because it will be a pretext for illegal fishing. But in anyway, we may not necessarily amend the Regulation, we may put it in the processing license that the closing date for the processing is 15 days after the closing date for fishing. If even we grant fishing licenses again.

Mr. N. Lisette: This is a point, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because in the license that is given in Mauritius as regards to fishing. I think that the Chief Commissioner is interested in. It is stated, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that sea cucumbers should be processed in an appropriate place. In the license that is delivered in Mauritius, it is also stated that Environmental clearance for the proper processing from the Ministry of Environment and NDU shall be required. This is why the question that arise, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the time after the closing season, what measures the Commission is taking to ensure that sea cucumber that is going to be processed after the closed season has really been caught within the season that the Fisheries is allowed.

The Chief Commissioner: It is simple, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have to study what is to know what is the processing time for sea cucumber. I know they boiled it and then they have it dried and then there is a process for it. This may take one month. If you put one month after the closing date in the conditions, the regulation itself is casted so that we have a lot of scope to put all conditions that we want. If we grant any such license for processing of course, I think will be sufficient and any processing after this period of one month will be illegal according to the license.

COUPE DES CLUBS CHAMPION DE L'OCEAN INDIEN

(No. B/171) Mr. N. Lisette (*First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports & others as regards to the Coupe des Clubs Champion de l'Océan Indien (CCCOI) handball discipline to be held in Madagascar in October this year, would he for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) whether any team from Rodrigues will be participating in the competition; and if so;
- (b) the number of persons forming part of the delegation and the facilities to be offered to each member of the delegation?

Commissioner for Youth & Sports (Mr. C. Agathe): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at the time I was addressing this Assembly, I am informed by the Rodrigues Regional Handball Committee that no team will participate in the CCCOI. So the question (b) does not arise.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Commissioner whether there has been any request which has been sent to his Commission as regards to same?

Mr. C. Agathe: Yes.

Mr. N. Lisette: May the Commissioner enlighten the House, why is it that there is a request at his Commission and no team will be participating in that competition?

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is due to lack of funds.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commission for Sports voted a budget of Rs 500,000 for international leisure events, may I ask the Commissioner whether he has considered to take part of that sum and to grant it

to team so that they can participate to the *Coupe des Clubs Champion de L'Ocean Indien* in Madagascar.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a difference between friendly matches and major international events.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the *Coupe des Clubs des Champions de L'Ocean Indien* is not a friendly match; it is a competition...

Mr. Chairperson: Nobody said that. You have to ask the question.

Mr. N. Lisette: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the *Coupe des Clubs de Champions de L'Ocean Indien* a friendly match?

Mr. C. Agathe: I would say yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. N. Lisette: Can the Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, enlighten us how he comes to such a conclusion that the *Coupe des Clubs des Champions de L'Ocean Indien* is a friendly match?

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let's take for example football, for football we have FMA Cup and the winner of FMA Cup goes for African Cup, this is major international match and for the *Coupe de L'Ocean Indien*, it is just matches for clubs for winners of the Indian Ocean only.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, this is the answer.

Mr. N. Lisette: I would like to know exactly from the Commissioner for Youth and Sports, who are the competitors in the competition of the *Coupe des Clubs Champion de L'Ocean Indien*?

Mr. C. Agathe: As the name states Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is *Coupe des Clubs de Champions de L'Ocean Indien*.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Commissioner for Sports whether he discussed with stakeholders, I mean the Rodrigues Regional Handball Committee as regards to the beneficial aspects of such a competition for the Rodriguan team?

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, all these aspects have been taken on board, we have had meeting with the Regional Committees and they have decided to go to Mauritius rather than to go to Madagascar.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is something that is not in line. On one side the Commissioner is saying that requests have been made by

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the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and now he is telling us in this House that there were discussions meaning that the discussions made was not a final one or rather there were no compromise on the matter. Can the Commissioner enlighten us or state to this House as regards to the discussions made with the Rodrigues Regional Handball Committee, as regards to the participation in Madagascar whether a final decision was taken by Commission together with the Rodrigues Regional Handball Committee?

Mr. C. Agathe: May be, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the Member has not listened. I have said that there is a problem of lack of funds. First of all and we have reached a compromise, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, they want to go to Mauritius and they have been to Mauritius last week instead of going to Madagascar.

LIEU DE MEMOIRE – L'UNION

(No. B/172) Mr. N. Lisette (*First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres*) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, as regards to the Lieu de Mémoire in the village of l'Union, he would, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) how the site is being managed;
- (b) the statistics regarding the number of persons visiting the site;
- (c) how his Commission is promoting the site both as a cultural as well as a tourism site;
- (d) where matters stands as regards to the relocation of the Community Centre;
- (e) what is his policy as regards to this cultural heritage?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (a), the site is being maintained twice monthly by the Environment Unit and a general worker is posted on a permanent basis there to keep the physical environment in good condition.

With respect to part (b), the site is open to the public at large and there is no statistics as regards the number of persons visiting the site.

As regard part (c), each year, on the 1st February, my Commission organizes different activities, such as wreath laying ceremony, exhibition on

slavery and cultural shows at the *Lieu de Mémoire* to commemorate the Anniversary for the Abolition of Slavery.

In addition my Commission together with the Chief Commissioner's Office is working out an action plan to implement a Golden Bat Reserve in *Accacia*, Rodrigues. The objective of the project is on the conservation of the species of Golden Bat and will be a major tourist, educational and scientific attraction for the island. The project will also include the *Lieu de Mémoire* at *L'Union* which will be promoted as a cultural and tourism site.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner apart from the traditional 1st February celebration of abolition of slavery, what additional activities are being proposed by his Commission to increase the "attachement" of the Rodriguan population as regards to this cultural site?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the site at L'Union is just a *lieu de mémoire* in connection with the past history of our island. Therefore if on the 1st February of every year we commemorate such a great event and as I have just said there are many different activities, I don't think that there is need regularly every month, every day activities to make that site more cultural than it is.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, several months back the Members of the Public Account Committee visited the site, and the wooden fence which constituted the overall fencing was broken. I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner if same has been repaired?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I don't know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if the respected Member has been there recently but in fact it is not the case now.

Mrs. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, ...

Mr. Chairperson: Deputy Chairperson to take the Chair.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson: Yes, may we proceed?

Mrs. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, can the Commissioner give the answer for part (d) regarding the relocation of the Community Centre?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: As regards to part (d), Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, it has been decided to stay action for the time being regarding the relocation of the Community Centre pending the implementation of the project that I have just mentioned that is the Golden Bat Reserve Project.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner enlighten the House as regards to the Golden Bat Project, will it be situated from within that memory part?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The project will start from the *Lieu de Mémoire* at L'Union, which is the whole boundary of that site and the coastal part down to the *Fond d'Accacia*.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, can the Commissioner...

(Gap on cassette)

The Deputy Chief Commissioner:...Actually the site is being used both as a cultural and a tourism project because tourists do go there everyday but to further give more tourism attraction to that part it will be included in the future bat reserve.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mrs. Chairperson, I'd like to ask the Commissioner whether any pamphlet or any brochure has been made or published after the inauguration of the site to explain the cultural properties and the high symbolism of this site and the guide also sensitize as to the respect of this site by those whom they sent there.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I'm not aware, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: I'd like to ask the Commissioner, being given that the Memory Park is a highly respected place in terms of historical memory and the Memory Park is normally a place where pilgrimage of the Rodriguans is made, whether there has been, two years since the project is awaiting, any infrastructural or any structural facilities that has been made to encourage the respected use of the memory site?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, first of all, I have to remind the House that during the two previous years the respected Members, themselves, they didn't attend any activity that my Commission organized in connection with the celebration.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Point of order, Mrs. Chairperson. I want the Commissioner to correct because I attended. No, he is accusing me and I want him to remove the words he said. He did say any and I attended the activities made as a former Commissioner for Arts and Culture so unless he rephrase his sentence excluding some of the Members who participated.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson: Commissioner you want to rephrase your sentence and exclude some?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: But the fact, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, that only one Member of the Minority side attended. So you want me to rephrase my answer. Ok. Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, if the Minority group themselves, they don't show enough interest for that place, how do they intend to get other people being interested. In fact, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, this place has been subject to a survey done by Dr. Vidaya Teeluck, in connection with the Slavery Project. In due course, this place will have more interest and more importance when it will be listed in the Slavery Project.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner has been speaking about another phase, can we have an idea in this House when is he expected to start that second phase as regards to of course the Golden Bat Project and as well as the relocation of the Community Centre?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, no time has been decided up to now but it will come in due course.

Mr. D. Speville: Madam Deputy Chairperson, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether there is any collaboration between his Commission and the Commission for tourism to promote such place as a tourism place.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I have already answered to that question.

Mr. P. François: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I should like to know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner at which frequency he receives the report as regards to the management of the site?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I have just said earlier the place is being monitored and maintained twice monthly by the Environment Unit and there is a General Worker posted there on a permanent basis and officers of my Commission go there to see that everything is being done correctly.

Mr. P. François: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, I'd like to know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he is satisfied with the management of the site?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam.

Mr. P. François: As regards to the place, Madam, it is a forested area, the Commissioner mentioned a General Worker is posted there whether he is aware that the person is an old man and the load of work is very bulky attributed to that person whether he intends to add another General Worker to keep the place in good state for every often it seems to be abandoned.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, first of all, the officer posted is working according to his scheme of service, he has to deliver the goods according to what he is intended to do, but in fact, if the respected Member thinks that this person is too old, if the work is not too satisfactory may be it will be required that he be replaced, then I will look into the matter.

Mr. N. Lisette: May I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Madam, how much matrackage his Commission has been done with Tourism Enterprises for encouraging foreigners and tourists to visit the site, whether a permissity, any sort of pamphlets which has been sent to hotel to encourage same?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, my Commission looks at the cultural aspect of that site since I have enlisted the collaboration of the Chief Commissioner's Office who is responsible for Tourism, they are working as I said earlier how to better promote that site. So it is up to that Commission to see what are the different mechanisms to put in place in order to promote that place as a tourism site.

Mr. D. Speville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether there is a new project in the pipeline for the lightening of the site so that the site become operational at night?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I will look into the matter, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam.

UPGRADING/RENOVATION – GRANDE MONTAGNE SPORTS COMPLEX

(No. B/ 173) Mr. L.D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports & others whether, in regard to the upgrading/renovation of the Grande Montagne Sports Complex, he will state to the House if the works have been completed, by indicating:-

- (a) to whom the contract was awarded;
- (b) the scope of the works carried out;
- (c) the breakdown of its costs?

Commissioner for Youth & Sports (Mr. C. Agathe): Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the works for the upgrading/renovation of the *Grande Montagne* Sports Complex have not been completed and the contract was awarded to A.J. Maurel Construction Ltd under approved rate contract.

As regard part (b), the work is ongoing.

Mr. N. Lisette: May the Commissioner for Sports enlighten the House as regards to the scope of work, what is the Contractor expected to do?

Mr. C. Agathe: I refer to the question, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the scope of work carried out. But I said that the scope of work is ongoing.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, a contract has been given for a particular work to be done, may we know, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, from the Commissioner for Sports what are the works that have been directed to that Contractor to be performed at that site at *Grande Montagne*?

Mr. C. Agathe: Asphalting of access roads and volleyball pitch.

Mr. D. Baptiste: I would like to know when is the work expected to be completed.

Mr. C. Agathe: By November, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam.

Mr. D. Baptiste: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I would like to have an answer to part (c).

Mr. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the work is ongoing so, I cannot up to now give a breakdown of the final cost.

Mr. D. Speville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I would like to know from the Commissioner whether the work has been given by way of works order or a whole contract?

Mr. C. Agathe: It is through works order, Madam.

Mr. D. Speville: Madam, Deputy Chairperson, Madam, being given that the work is through works order, I would like the Commissioner to inform the House about the value of the works order before same is being contracted to the contractor before contracting the works by works order, the value should be known and noted to the contractor.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the Member must refer to the question put before asking this question.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Commissioner for Sports whether as regards to the site, the complex, whether he intends to enlarge the site so that it can be used by the handballers, by those who are involved in handball discipline?

Mr. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, there is a financial constraint as regards to enlarge the ...

Mr. D. Baptiste: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, we can notice that there has been excavation work carried out at this site and now it is shown that in case of heavy rain, we will see that the complex, the volleyball pitch will be converted into a muddy place, so I would like to know what the Commissioner would like to do because he talked only about.

Mr. C. Agathe: *Madame la vice-présidente, je crois que c'est un ... dans le passé, je ne sais pas si vous êtes allé à Grande Montagne mais dans le passé vous avez vu dans quel état on a laissé le complexe de Grande Montagne. Heureusement, Madame, la vice-présidente, nous sommes venus et nous avons commencé à rénover le bâtiment.* And I can say, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam that the work is ongoing.

Mr. D. Speville: Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, being given that there is a road passing alongside the site, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether there are drainage works included in the ...

Mr. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, I will say it again. The work is not completed.

Mrs. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, je voudrai savoir du Commissaire est ce que dans le cadre de cette rénovation, est ce que le Commissaire envisage de réaménager les vestiaires ?

Mr. C. Agathe: Yes, of course.

CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION – TENNIS COURT

(No. B/ 174) Mr. L.D. Baptiste (*Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports & others whether, with regard to the construction/renovation of the tennis court of Pointe Venus, would the Commissioner, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) the name of the successful bidder and the amount quoted;
- (b) the scope of the works carried out?

Commissioner for Youth & Sports (Mr. C. Agathe): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the works for the construction/renovation of Tennis Court at Pointe Venus were allocated through works order under the approved annual rate contract to the contractor of A & J Maurel Construction Ltd. The estimated value for the works order is MUR Rs, 2,470,871.86 excluding VAT.

As regard part (b), the scope of the works carried out are as follows:-

- (1) Earthworks;
- (2) Construction of seating facilities in masonry;
- (3) Asphalting of pitch;
- (4) Fencing.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Commissioner for Sports as regards to the tennis court of Pointe Venus, whether there is any cloakroom which is under construction there?

Mr. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, yes there is a cloakroom there which is under construction.

Mr. N. Lisette: I would like to know, Madam Deputy Chairperson, whether there is any private partnership as regards to the construction and *reaménagement* of the tennis court together with the cloakroom, whether there is any private firm which is involved in the sponsoring of the project?

Mr. C. Agathe: I know, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, that the Committee, the Rodrigues Regional Tennis Committee is helping, I don't know whether there is any partnership between any private contractors.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the tennis court is a public property and works is being done on a public property and it seems that the Commissioner is not aware of the type of work that is being done. May I ask the Commissioner for Sports whether the Regional Tennis Committee made a request or seek authorization from his Commission before entering with any

partnership with any private firm being given that this site is a public site which is owned by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly most commonly by the Commission for Youth and Sports?

Mr. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, what we want at Pointe Venus, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam is that the work is done according to all the Community.

Mr. N. Lisette: This is the question I am asking, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner seems to say there is a partnership or there is a sponsorship between the Rodrigues Regional Tennis Committee and other private firms and it seems that his Commission is not involved. May I know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, from the Commissioner whether his Commission is involved in any way or the other in the construction of that cloakroom?

Mr. C. Agathe: *Madame la vice-présidente, je vais demander à toute la population rodriguaise de venir à Pointe venus, nous donner un coup de main pour retaper le complexe pour donner un cachet plus environnemental, Madame la vice-présidente.*

Mr. N. Lisette: I would like to ask, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether green light was given by the Commission for Sports to the stakeholders before proceeding with the construction of the cloakroom?

Mr. C. Agathe: I will look into the matter.

SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE – JEUX DE RODRIGUES

(No. B/ 175) Mr. L.D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports & others whether, with regard to forthcoming “Jeux de Rodrigues” in December 2008, will the Commissioner give a list of all the sports infrastructures that will be used for the different volleyball and handball competitions, by indicating:-

- (a) their present status;
- (b) those on which works/projects are expected to be initiated, the nature of same and the expected date of completion?

Commissioner for Youth & Sports (Mr. C. Agathe): Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, volleyball will be played at *Grande Montagne, La Ferme Sports Complexes* and the Gymnasium whereas handball will be held both at *Citron Donis* and *Manique*.

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As regard to the status of *Grande Montagne*, I have already replied to question B/173 and as far as *Manique* is concerned, everything is on target, as necessary measures have already been implemented with regard to marking, provision of goal posts, nets, balls, sitting accommodation including lighting. We are left with only minor repairs in the conversion of an old ex-Redco Quarters into a Cloakroom.

As regard to *Malabar Gymnasium*, *La Ferme* and *Citron Donis Sports Complexes*, only minor works have to be carried out.

At 12.30 hrs, the Assembly was suspended for one hour.

On resuming at 13.30 hrs, the Assembly rose with the Chairperson in Chair

TRAINING CONDITIONS – JEUX DE RODRIGUES

(No. B/ 176 Mr. L.D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports & others whether, in regard to the forthcoming “Jeux de Rodrigues” in December 2008, he will, for the benefit of the House, state as regards to athletics, where the athletes of the four zones are presently training and what are the actions taken to ensure that all the athletes are having proper training conditions in terms of infrastructures, equipment and other facilities?

Commissioner for Youth & Sports (Mr. C. Agathe): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to athletics, every single effort has been deployed to ensure decent and proper training in the four zones, namely at:-

Zone I	- <i>La Ferme</i>	- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 15.00 to 17.00 hrs
Zone II	- <i>Citron Donis</i>	- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 15.00 to 17.00 hrs
Zone III	- <i>Camp du Roi</i>	- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 15.00 to 17.00 hrs
Zone IV	- <i>Grande Montagne</i>	- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 15.00 to 17.00 hrs

The four zones converge at *Camp du Roi* on Saturdays from 9.00 to 11.00 hours and my Commission ensures the conveyance of all participants after training sessions.

Mr. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know what measures have been taken by the Commissioner to ensure that all the regions have the same facilities in order to perform their training activities?

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, all equipments are available in the four regions but as regards to high jump and other equipments which are not available in the specific zones, they converge to *Camp du Roi* to train on Saturdays.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Commissioner for Sports whether his Commission has purchased additional equipments to be distributed the different four zones in order to meet the demand of the different selections?

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we can't meet all the demands because to purchase equipments for athletics we have to purchase it from international because in Mauritius we don't have such equipment available but I know that our Commission has made the request in order to purchase equipments for athletics, all the sports discipline that will be involved in the Jeux de Rodrigues.

Mr. N. Lisette: The policy of organizing the Jeux de Rodrigues, if I understand well, was pronounced as far back as 2006, when the Chief Commissioner disclosed his major policies as regards to the mandate of this Government. May I ask the Commissioner knowing well that equipment of athletics should be bought abroad, why is it that measures have not been taken beforehand to ensure that same reach Rodrigues on time to be able to be used by the different selections?

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, everybody in this House know that I have a capital vote of Rs 2 million for capital expenditure. But as regards to the Games itself, the emphasis is put on the athletes, the athlete is the actor of the Games, we are not going to look at all the equipments, the equipments come later but much emphasis is put on the athlete itself.

Mr. N. Lisette: If emphasis is being laid on the athletes, in the same line, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Commissioner as regards to the conditions of training that are being provided by his Commission as regards to the athletes, is it prone for a high performance level in the different regions?

Mr. C. Agathe: I would say yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. If you go at *Camp du Roi*, you will see up to now, even if they don't have all the required equipments, we have records, we are satisfied with the training and lots of athletes are training even in zone 1, zone 2, zone 3, you can go there every Tuesdays and Thursdays and you will see athletes are training.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the Camp du Roi Stadium is being used by the zone 3 if I understand well and the athletes of the different zones are converging to *Camp du Roi* on Saturdays, may I ask the Commissioner for Sports whether this is not disrupting or causing any incidence on the other structures such as Centre de Formation and the Ecole de Sport which are training at the stadium

Mr. C. Agathe: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know apart from equipment and infrastructures, what are the other facilities which are being provided to the athletes.

Mr. C. Agathe: As I have said Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have transport. We can go on training even to Saint Francois and we provide transport to them.

Mr. N. Lisette: I would like to ask the Commissioner for Sports if it is not unfair being given that *Camp du Roi* will be the site of the competition during the Game, I would like to know from him if it is not going to be unfair that some athletes are already using the site whereas others are not having the same facilities, I mean in terms of synthetic. If it is not being unfair from the very beginning itself as regards to the others who are not training at Camp du Roi especially those who are going to be involved in the ...events?

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have said the four zones converge to *Camp du Roi* on Saturday and they can come at any time, they want to train at *Camp du Roi*.

MARINE PROTECTED AREA

(No. B/177) **Mr. J. D. Speville** (*Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Others with regard to the establishment of a Marine Protected Area in the Southern Coastal Region in Rodrigues, whether the Commissioner will for the benefit of the House, give a description of the progress of the project to date?

Commissioner for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Ors (Mr. F. A. Grandcourt): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in furtherance to the project 'Partnership for Marine Protected Areas in Mauritius and Rodrigues' the establishment of a Marine Protected Area in the Southern Coastal Region of Rodrigues project was developed. The project was signed in January 2004 through an agreement with the funding agencies: United Nation Development

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Programme (UNDP), Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Government of Mauritius and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly with a view to developing and adapting innovative co-management arrangements for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) at a representative demonstrative site in Rodrigues.

It was also aimed at developing an enabling policy and institutional framework to sustainably co-manage MPAs throughout the Republic of Mauritius

Since the signature of the agreement in January 2004, the project was practically dormant and was officially launched in August 2005 after nearly one and a half year.

Mr. Chairperson Sir. Since August 2005 to August 2006 not much was done under the previous government for boosting the project and the activities were limited to the recruitment of some staff, renovation and official launching of the MPA office at *Port Sud Est*, and the sensitization of the relevant stakeholders on the project. Furthermore, it is noted that the Chief Technical Adviser who was a key personnel in this project was only recruited in June 2006 which has resulted in further delays in its implementation.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since this Government has taken office in August 2006, we have brought new steam to re-dynamize the project in view of its environmental and ecological importance which demonstrates our commitment and concern for the marine environment and the fisherman community at large. The South East Marine Protected Areas (SEMPA) has since then made significant progress in its implementation.

First, in September 2006, an Inception report was prepared which provided the guidelines for the project implementation and provided a clear direction of the project activities.

Second, sensitization meetings with the fishers and the restructuring of the participation strategy through the creation of committees have also been undertaken to engineer a new sense of faith and ownership among the fisher community vital for the success of the project.

Third, procedures were initiated for the recruitment of technical experts and in June 2007 the experts in the following fields:

1. Fisheries,
2. Aquaculture,
3. Geographical Information System,
4. Resource and Socio-economic surveys were recruited.

Two missions were conducted in September 2007 and May 2008 by a team comprised of specialists in Geographic Information System (GIS), Ecosystem and Fisheries which enabled the development of a GIS map for the area defining the terrestrial and marine boundaries for the SEMPA. The terrestrial area represents land within the catchment area of the southern part of the island and the marine area totals to 42.37 km² of the lagoon and outer lagoon.

Fourth, an aquaculture expert was also on mission to Rodrigues in February 2008 to identify the potentials for aquaculture development within the area and in a broader consideration to whole Rodrigues. Further to the mission, an aquaculture workshop was organized on 19-20 May 2008 to present the findings of the interim report, and to identify potential constraints and opportunities for aquaculture development in Rodrigues.

The technical reports of the experts were submitted to the UNDP and is available at the Project Management Office.

Fifth, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a socio economic expert has been recruited with a view to assess attitudinal changes of the communities towards MPA's. A household survey has as well been carried. Hence, during the second socio economic exercise, training was delivered to eighteen students of Rodrigues College who are presently working as enumerators for the household survey. This survey started on 31 May 2008 within the SEMPA region for addressing the issues of monthly livelihood, resource use and attitudinal change among the community. To date, the survey exercise has been completed for the coastal villages of the 9 Fish Landing Stations. The upper inland villages within the SEMPA catchment area still remains to be surveyed and will be continued during the school holidays of November 2008.

Six, to cater for the welfare of the communities of area, this government ventures further. The projects also aims at developing alternative livelihood activities for the fishers to compensate for their loss of earning as result of setting up of the Marine Park. With a fisher population of some 944 registered fishermen, adequate measures has to be applied to cater for any loss of earnings as a result of the setting up of the MPA. One such measure includes the scheme for the relinquishment of fisher card against a compensation of up 40,000 rupees.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the fishers have also been encouraged to form association to allow them to apply for funds from funding agencies. Two groups have so far applied for registration at the level of the Registrar of Association.

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Furthermore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are seeking the possibility for setting up of a ranger service within the SEMPA whereby some 9 rangers may be recruited from the fisher community and with a view to strengthen their sense of ownership for the project.

Seven, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a draft gazettement document has been prepared in view of gazettement of terrestrial and marine boundaries of SEMPA to allow for its delimitation and thereafter its zoning. Procedures have already been undertaken for the gazettement of SEMPA.

Eight, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in view of enhancing greater participation and sensitization of the fisher community in the project, Shoals Rodrigues has been awarded the contract for the Community Participation Campaign in September 2007. One important component of the community participation campaign pertains to the development of the draft zoning plan for SEMPA with preliminary consultation initiated through the Community Advisory Council. In line with the Community Participation Campaign, various activities were organized for the fishers. These include sensitization meetings, beach cleaning campaign and regatta competition.

Nine, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, various equipments have also been procured to facilitate the conducting of field activities and for proper running of the office including boats, diving equipment, refractometer, dive camera, Global Positioning System (GPS).

Ten, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for a long term sustainable management of the SEMPA upon its completion additional staff are being recruited including Rangers, Administrative Assistant and a new Chief Technical Adviser after the Executive Council Decision not to proceed with the renewal of the contract of Mr. Iain WATT given the RRA views his overall performance to be poor in respect of agreed work plan and expectation of the project. A Project Analyst is also being recruited to assist in the analysis of status of project implementation and provide appropriate measures to help move the project forward.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the above measures and achievements in the SEMPA clearly demonstrate the commitment of this government in achieving the goals of the project from the ecological, environmental and social point of view.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that in the project objectives it has been said that the project will apply an integrated planning and management approach, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether same has been done or will be done in partnership with the private sector and the local communities and if yes, who?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have already answered to this question.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to ask the Commissioner, this is a co-funding project, I'd like to ask him, what is the deadline for the co-financing.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the first the project has been activated there has been some two years. Two years since the project has not been running as it should be. Till now I cannot define clearly the time frame for the implementation of the project, the partners they are aware of it, so we are going step by step to run the project partly and to attain the objectives and we will be able to define the implementation of the project at a later stage.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner talked only about the local communities of the fishermen, I insist if he can inform the House about, give the name of the private sectors that will be involved in partnership with the project.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have explained, the Member may be he has not listened well to the question, I have already answered to that part of the question, if he wants to be precise, I would invite him to come with a substantive question and I will be bound to answer it.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether the Steering Committee comprising of all the stakeholders of this project still standing and when was the last meeting?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we do have a Steering Committee, the last meeting, I don't have exactly in mind and if the Member wants to have the exact date she can come with a question, I will be bound to answer.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: In the main document signed, it says after a time limit, the RRA will take over this project in terms of financing and management, is the issue being discussed actually in the Steering Committee?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: The answer is yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: So, therefore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the delay as regards to the end of the partnership from the UNDP is still online. Can the Commissioner give more details?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it will be beyond 2010.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to ask the Commissioner, he said that within ...programme, institutional framework and policy are being divided. And he has said that these are one of the decisions that has been taken to give a "nouveau soufflé" to the programme. Can the Commissioner say ahead of the coming up of the programme, what's next downline the programme, "en avale du projet"?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may be the Member should listen well, I have already answered to that question. In my answer I have described all this, if she wants I can give her a copy.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the project should attempt to develop a co-management with the fisher community providing a sense of ownership and responsibilities among them, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether the project includes a capacity building project and thus who are the partners who will be involved in the transfer of skills, know-how and knowledge?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, concerning the participatory approach, we have a board, a Steering Committee which include the fishermen and as I have said in my reply, we are seeking a possibility of setting up of a ranger service within the SEMPA whereby some 9 rangers from the fisher community can be recruited itself. We have a Project Manager, we will recruit a new Technical Adviser, we will recruit a new Project Analyst after which the project will be run by. There will be also the participation of the Fisheries Division, the local people will be empowered and after which the project will be run by our local people but I think that the UNDP will still give us some support concerning the smooth running of the project.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that some groups will be vulnerable due to the activities of the project in the short terms, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether all the outcome of the social impact assessment will be adhered to and what other mitigation measures have been recommended to explore sustainable income generation activities?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we do have as I have said we have some 974 registered fishermen, some the priority will be given on the relinquishment on fishermen on the scheme, to compensate the fishermen. We are seeking the possibility of these fishermen of getting used to tourist activities. We have also talked to the DCP, in my reply, two groups have applied so far at the Registrar of Associations, so that they can apply for funding for their "redeploiement".

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that there is a vacancy for the post for Project Analyst for the MPA and that the candidate must have a sound understanding of the social-economic and political structure working in Rodrigues, I would like the Commissioner to inform the House whether preferences will be given to local candidates, what will be his main task in connection with the...?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a completely new question. I will ask the Member to come with notice. Yes, but don't ask me about the reference and so on. I have talked about the Project Analyst but don't ask me what he is going to and what I am going to do whether there will be preference or not. There is a board comprising of officers of my Commission and officers of the UNDP, so they are going to see the best candidate will suit. Ok? If you want to apply, you can.

CLOSING OF ROAD – ST GABRIEL/ MALARTIC

(No. B/178) Mr. J.D. SPEVILLE (*Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, Water Resources & Others with regard the closing of part of the road from St. Gabriel (Cemetery) to Malartic via the breeding centre of St. Gabriel, whether another alternative roads have been proposed to public road users and the villagers, and if yes, when will same be operational?

Commissioner for Agriculture & Ors (Mr. L. A. Perrine): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Livestock Production Unit at *St. Gabriel* has been put under restricted access by my Commission for bio-security measures following its reopening in October 2007.

Concurrently, the site was fenced and the gates were manned to restrict access to authorized persons only.

With a view to providing access alternately to nearly villagers, my Commission has undertaken negotiation with the *Vicariat Apostolique* de Rodrigues to construct a new track road adjacent to the Breeding Station and which will encroach on the private land belonging to the Catholic Church on a total land area of 50 m long by 2 m wide. The negotiation has been successful and the Vicariat has given its agreement for the alignment of the new track road on its private land. As at date, the leveling work for the new track road has already been completed. Construction work will start soon and we expect that the track road will be operational by December this year.

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ABREUVOIRS

(No. B/ 179) Mr. J.D. Speville (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, Water Resources & Others whether, as regards abreuvoirs in the Southern and Western Region, he will for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) indicate the number and locations, thereof;
- (b) give a breakdown of those presently in working conditions;
- (c) say at what frequency they are provided with water; and
- (d) give the number which are not in working conditions and the reasons, thereof?

Commissioner for Agriculture & Ors (Mr. L. A. Perrine): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to (a), I am informed that presently, there are 14 *abreuvoirs* in the Southern and Western regions of Rodrigues. Their locations are as follows:-

Port Sud Est, Mourouk, Anse Baleine, Rivière Coco, Tamarin, Mt. Croupier, Baie Topaze, Camp Pintade, Ste Marie, Anse Quitor, Anse Nicolas, La Boucherie and Cascade Jean Louis.

With regards to (b), I have to say that those located at *Port Sud Est, Mourouk, Anse Baleine, Tamarin, Baie Topaze, La Boucherie and Cascade Jean Louis* are in working conditions although all pipes connection for water conveyance have been removed by vandals.

These abreuvoirs are refilled by water tankers as and when required on breeder's request.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regards to (d), I have to say that the abreuvoirs located at *Camp Pintade, Mt. Croupier, Anse Baleine, Anse Nicolas, Ste Marie and Anse Quitor*, that is a total number of 6 are not in working conditions due to water leakage problem.

My Commission is presently undertaking a general repair and upgrading of all the abreuvoirs throughout Rodrigues with the collaboration of Breeder's Association.

Mr. D. Speville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether he has obtained complaints from the farmers of *Riviere*

Cocos whose abreuvoirs' pipeline has been dismantled and to see to it that these farmers obtain these water facilities?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, yes. We are giving priority to the abreuvoir of *Riviere Cocos*, a team has been sent there to connect the water connection so that the abreuvoir becomes operational as from next week.

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS OF THE YEAR 2008

(No. B/ 180) Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis (*First Local Region Member for Grande Montagne*) asked the Commissioner for Women's Affairs, Child Development and Family Welfare & Ors whether, in connection with the holding of the competition "Women Entrepreneur of the year 2008" she would, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) the name of the participants together with their corresponding field of activities;
- (b) the name of the juries;
- (c) the criteria on which they are assessed and the selection procedures; and
- (d) table the overall cost incurred for the activity.

Commissioner for Women's Affairs, Child Development & Family Welfare & Ors (Mrs. M. T. Clair): Mr. Chairperson Sir, as respected members of the House are aware, my Commission which also holds the responsibility for Women's Affairs, organized the Women Entrepreneur Award Night on Saturday 27 September 2008 at Domaine La Détente, Eau Claire.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, may I remind the respected Members that the objectives of holding the Women Entrepreneur Award 2008 are to:

- (i) encourage women engaged in enterprise in their respective sector;
- (ii) reward women for their achievements in their business;
- (iii) create maximum awareness amongst other women as role models.

This, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, goes in line with this government's philosophy of promoting Women Entrepreneurship within the overall context of the Women Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation.

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A total of 21 entries in six categories have been examined by the Jury panel and no entries were received for Art Category. Here I would not like to reveal the names of the respective participants because it might be prejudiced to them.

The Jury panel comprised of persons of wide experience and expertise in the fields of tourism, textile, marketing and entrepreneurship development as follows:

SN	NAME	OCCUPATION
1	Mr. Gaetan ARMOOGUM	General Director, Cotton Bay Hotel
2	Mr. Jerome DESIRE	Graphic Designer
3	Mrs. Coomaree TEMPLIN	Officer in Charge, SEDHA
4.	Mr. Laval SPEVILLE	Manager, Rodrigues Trade and Marketing Limited
4	Ms. Mariana MEUNIER	Tourism Promotion Officer

Mr. Chairperson Sir, let me outrightly state that the competition regulation that have been applied this year were the same as those of the precedent editions of the Women Entrepreneur Award except that two additional sectors have been added compared to the other years, that is, tourism and art.

However, with a view to professionalise women entrepreneur, we have also added one special out of contest price for the Most Promising Young Women Entrepreneur of the year.

The application of the evaluation criteria have been scrupulously followed by the Jury Panel.

This, Mr. Chairperson Sir, was purposely carried out and fits in the overall strategy of enhancing the quality and standards of goods and services produced by our Women Entrepreneur.

The competition regulations were as follows:

Eligibility

1. The contest was open to all women entrepreneurs of Rodrigues either individually or as owner or director of her own business; and having lived and worked in Rodrigues during the last five years.

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Candidates were encouraged to participate in one of the following six categories namely:

- (1) Textile
- (2) Agriculture
- (3) Food/Food Processing
- (4) Handicraft
- (5) Service
- (6) Tourism
- (7) Art

Profile

2. Profile of the entrepreneur and for enterprise; should
 - (a) create his / her product (s) and / or his / her company (s)
 - (b) create jobs directly or indirectly
 - (c) be a full-time entrepreneur
 - (d) deploy marketing and management skills
 - (e) provide quality products and services to the company
 - (f) be original and creative

A candidate's participation was restricted to one category only.

Assessment

4. The jury first proceeded with an elimination exercise using participation forms received.
5. 12 nominees, or 2 per category, formed part of the competition for the "Award Night" for the election of the Woman Entrepreneur of the year.
6. The winner in each category then competed for the Women Entrepreneur Award.
7. Award of a certificate of attendance to winners of the respective categories.
8. The jury reserved the right to visit each participant at his workplace.
9. The jury's decision was final.
10. A participant who won the trophy would not compete twice.

Overall cost estimates for the Women Entrepreneur Award 2008 is Rs 412,800.

Mrs. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in her reply the Commissioner said that this activity was held at Domaine La Détente, I would like to know from her, whether tendering procedures regarding the selection of the places where the.

Mrs. M. T. Clair: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mrs. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Can I know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, from the Commissioner who was those enterprises to whom tenders were sent?

Mrs. M. T. Clair: There is normally a Tender Committee who deals with these things so I think because the nature of the Award which is not more than Rs 500,000, so there were three tenders, three...bid and the successful one was of course La Détente.

Mrs. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know whether the successful bidder was the lowest?

Mrs. M. T. Clair: I would say yes but there were things to be taken into consideration because of the size of the place which has to be used and this is evaluated by a Technical Committee.

Mrs. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Commissioner, so we know that for the first price, it's a cash price, I would like to know from her what is the vision of the actual government regarding this award, what is the government expecting from those women in this award in the long term?

Mrs. M. T. Clair: I have already enumerated that, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, just to remind the respected Member that there are three main objectives, one is to encourage women engaged in enterprise to participate in their respective sector, two help them go ahead, reward women for their achievement in business and create a maximum awareness among others. And this is in the context of the Women Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation because when the woman gets the price, so there is a first price of Rs 50,000, Rs 25,000 and Rs 15,000 for the third price, this is reinvested in the business and this allows the woman to go ahead in the business.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to ask the Commissioner whether she considers it more strategic that cash funds be given to women for like she says be reinvested in their companies or cash price plus professional training that are professionally organised like it was done before.

Mrs. M. T. Clair: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, these women who participated in the award because the level of the award has raised during the past three years. You will see that those women who are participating now are professional women entrepreneurs. So, those who are ongoing training right now through the SEDHA and through my Commission itself, I don't think there is really the need for more training right now, it is for strengthening their business and the main problem for them to strengthen their business, to make it more profitable it is cash, finding money to invest in their business. They are professional women now and the money goes to them.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: This is your point of view. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to ask the Commissioner being given that just after the organization of the first edition there was an outbreak of Chikungunia in Reunion Island so that the second winner could not benefit for the whole year, the whole 2005 and the first semester of 2006 the price, can the Commissioner tell the House whether the second winner has entertained her price for a training at the Champs des Metiers like it was already organised during the last two years.

Mrs. M. T. Clair: I leave that to you to answer, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to the respected Member because she was the Commissioner who gave the award for 2005 so the price should have been given right now, she should have found an alternative, so it is not up to me, the new policy of the new regional government to find a price for this person. I am sorry.

Mrs. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to ask the Commissioner whether when there is a new government coming forward whether those persons who for some technical reasons have not benefited from their price should be left aside? This is her policy?

Mrs. M. T. Clair: No it is not a question of policy, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because the price has already lapsed, because it was in 2005, 2006, there was a change in government and the price has been ... Why are you specifying on this? Because there were other persons in the groups who never received their price and some prices were agreed by sponsors and some sponsors did not turned up. We wrote letters to these sponsors and these sponsors...

PROBLEMS AFFECTING FARMERS

(No. B/181) Mrs. R.M.F. GASPARD PIERRE LOUIS (*First Local Region Member for Grande Montagne*) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, Water Resources & Others with regards to problems affecting farmers in Rodrigues, especially in the Southern and Western region where there is a lack of fodder and water for animals due to prevailing droughts and lack of space due to pasture lands that are being fenced at the time, whether he

intends to take any measures to tackle same and give other alternatives to help these farmers?

Commissioner for Agriculture & Ors (Mr. L. A. Perrine): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as the question is rather vague, I have decided to make a full statement later on measures that are to be taken to help farmers in the Southern and Western regions.

End of Question time 14.00 hrs

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

PROGRAMME BASED BUDGETING

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me to make a statement on the proposed introduction of the Programme Based Budgeting in the next Budget of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Programme Based Budgeting has been introduced in several countries around the world in the view to improve the public expenditure by systematically linking funding and results with making use of performance information to achieve that linkage.

An...evidence has confirmed the Programme Based Budgeting can be a very effective tool in the enhancing fiscal discipline, bringing efficiency case and promoting good governance in the public sector. Some countries such as Singapore and Australia have embarked on the PBB as far as in 1978. As Members of this House are already aware, the Programme Based Budgeting has been introduced in Mauritius as from July 2008. The objective is to ingrate policy making, planning and budgeting over a three year period based on policy priorities within a medium term expenditure framework and term.

A fully fledged PBB ...in a three year medium term expenditure framework is currently being implemented by the Central Government. This solves the basis for appropriation of funds by the National Assembly and replaces the traditional line item budget.

The PBB has many benefits as compared to the line item budgeting currently being used in Rodrigues among the benefits are:

1. It is more transparent way of presenting budget by showing the programmes and projects where public funds are being allocated;
2. It improves effectiveness and efficiency of government's programmes and activities;

3. It provides much more country information and performance on decision making purposes and for setting up of future priorities and targets.
4. It facilitates monitoring and impact evaluation of the Programmes.

In fact, my office has already embarked on the preparation of action plans for the effective implementation of government policies and budgetary measures.

As from July 2007, each Commission is preparing and submitting an annual work plan based on budget allocation, budget speech and budgetary measures. This arrangement has facilitated our Commissions in the effectual and timely implementation of activities with emphasis on our food and results rather than in fruits that contribute towards the attainment of the overall goal set down in our five year regional government programme.

Within the implementation of the Programme Based Budgeting at the National Level, my office is planning to prepare the next year's budget along the principles of PBB as such each Commission will be required:

1. formulate sector policies in line with the overall policies with the regional government;
2. Based on those policies, develop a strategic plan which is broken down into an operational plan thus leading to the implementation of the PBB.

Appropriation of funds will be made by this House based by the programmes submitted by each Commission with predefined outcomes and performance indicators. This will ensure better fiscal discipline, allocating effectiveness based on priorities and operational efficiency, i.e, obtaining value for money.

Programme Based Budget though being more time consuming in its preparation represents more useful information to this House on service delivery and allow the transparency and accountability for each Commission in service delivery.

In this context, a delegation from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development was in Rodrigues last week to train and accustom Members of the Executive Council, the Departmental Heads and Heads of Divisions of the working of the PBB. They also had a working with you in that respect.

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However the implementations of the Programme Based Budgeting will require amendments of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 as well as the Constitution with regards to the Rodrigues Capital Funds and the Rodrigues Consolidated Funds and also the Finance and Audit Act.

My office is in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the...informed the Commission to look into legal...

The implementation of PBB will entail a large change in our mindsets. We need to acquaint ourselves in the Programme Based Budgeting, in this respect I will advise all Members of this House to go through the Programme Based Budgeting Manual, a copy of which is being tabled. (APPENDIX...). And soft copies are being provided on CDs for distribution to Members today.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, depending on the speed in which registration are ...We hope to present our first Programme Based Budget as for the next financial exercise. Members are thus informed that we may target to present the Regional Assembly Budget in this House under the PBB format and it is ultimately up to each Member to get accustom with the principles and working of the PBB.

With these words, I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, I have this little announcement to make. As the Chief Commissioner rightly mentioned, the delegation who came to Rodrigues, met me in my office and we discussed many issues that will affect preparation of the Budget but more importantly, that concerns this Assembly, by the way the Budget will be called to be approved in this Assembly.

I have already talked to my Deputy, the Deputy Chairperson and we are going to discuss the matter more fully in the Standing Order Committee and I do understand that in Mauritius they have ...following the amendments made in the Finance and Audit Act amended their Standing Orders there. So, the Standing Order Committee will be called to sit and to discuss and then obviously all the Members will be made aware of what will be undertaken following this meeting. Thank you.

Now are there any statement, I understand, Commissioner for Health?

FROZEN FOODS

Commissioner for Health & Ors (Mr. A. L. Emilien): Mr. Chairperson Sir, with your permission, I wish to make the following statement with regards to PQ B/142 of session 7th October, 2008 and PQ B/164 of today's session (21

October 2008) – Supply of frozen foods to the Commission for Health for the year 2008.

Allow me to describe steps that were taken by my Commission for the award of this contract. Being made aware of the new Procurement Act in force whereby procedures for procurement of items have to be made in a more transparent manner, I firmly instructed Officers of my Commission to strictly adhere to the provision of this Act.

It was why in conformity with Section 19 – Restricted Bidding, Paragraph 1 (c) of the Public procurement Act 2006, Public notice through the Press both in Mauritius and Locally, potential suppliers were invited for registration with the Commission to enable the compiling of a list of suppliers for not less than 39 items and services, among which item 5, i.e, Foodstuffs, frozen foods and milk for hospital. The Notice was published in newspapers over a period of two weeks as from 2nd June, 2008 inviting potential suppliers to register on or before 30th June, 2008.

On closing date of registration 53 potential suppliers have been registered for the various items mentioned in the Public notice.

Being given, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the contract for the supply of Frozen foods from the supplier Roussety and Co. Ltd would expire on the 30th June 2008, necessary steps were taken on 11th April 2008 to request sealed quotation with all four (4) potential suppliers duly registered with the Commission as laid down in section 19 of the Public Procurement Act 2006.

Sealed Quotation for Quotation No. 10 of 2008/2009 were issued to the following potential local suppliers possessing a valid trading licence, namely:-

- (i) Roussety and Co.Ltd
- (ii) Innodis (ex le Comptoir)
- (iii) Mr. Kong Wong So
- (iv) Yansea Marketing.

On opening of tenders on 23 May 2008, only Yansea Marketing has responded and an evaluation Committee was set up again in line with the recommendation of the Public procurement Act.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, it is to be noted here that the composition of the Tender Committee is different from the Evaluation Committee.

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The tender Committee is composed of: -

- (i) The Departmental Head;
- (ii) The Higher Purchasing and Supply Officer;
- (iii) The Financial Operation Officer; and
- (iv) The Executive Officer as Secretary

Whereas the evaluation committee is composed of: -

- (i) The Officer in Charge, Fire Services (or representative)
- (ii) The Assistant Superintendent of Prison (or representative)
- (iii) The Principal Health Inspector (or representative)
- (iv) The Officer in Charge Cooperatives Services (or representative).

The new Public Procurement Act 2006 makes provision that the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee is awarded directly without requiring the approval of the Tender committee. This is a new procedure in the evaluation of bids.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, ironically, in a letter dated 05th June 2008 in response to the issue that Roussety and Co.Ltd was not providing powdered milk as per tender specifications, namely country of origin whereby he was supplying milk from Belgium instead of France, the supplier drew the attention of the Departmental Head of my Commission through a letter dated 05th June, 2008 that: -

I quote:

“However you may have noted with satisfaction that my company has not responded to your Quotations for period July – December 2008 to avoid other non-compliances” End quote.

It is obvious Mr. Chairperson Sir, and can easily be deducted from the tone of the letter, that the supplier did not submit any bid for period July - December 2008. I hope that those concerned will take good note of this.

In this respect, the Evaluation Committee awarded the contract to Yansea Marketing, the only bidder.

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Consequently a letter of award was issued to Yansea Marketing on 16th June 2008 with specific Technical Specifications, among others - Delivery to be effected in a refrigerated vehicle which is protected from flies, direct rays of the sun and dust.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, Yansea Marketing was requested to submit a letter of acceptance and a performance bond representing 10% of the total value contract which he executed on the 19th June, 2008 and 19th August, 2008 respectively.

The supplier in its letter of award was requested to contact Mrs. FRANCOIS, Assistant Procurement and Supply Officer at General Store on a given telephone no. (8321500).

In a letter dated 01st, August 2008, the Assistant Procurement and Supply Officer, Mrs. FRANCOIS reported the following; -

- (i) that the items were not being delivered in a refrigerated vehicle;
- (ii) that chicken breast and thigh were not being supplied in portion of 150 grams; and
- (iii) an insufficient amount was being supplied.

Immediately the Higher Procurement and Supply Officer requested the supplier Yansea Marketing to abide to the contract which he promised and delivered on the following Monday 11th August 2008, by a refrigerated lorry bearing registration number 11RZP97. Here I must highlight the fact that no mention of defrosted chicken or beef has been made by the Assistant Procurement and Supply Officer. The report refers to the vehicle and the weight of chicken delivered.

On the 3rd of September 2008, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Assistant Procurement and Supply Officer, Mrs. FRANCOIS reported the following; -

- (i) that the supplier have delivered defrosted chicken;
- (ii) that the items were not supplied in a refrigerated vehicle as per condition of contract.

Immediately after having taken note of the shortcomings, my office dispatched the Principal Health Inspector to attend.

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The personnel of the General Store of Queen Elisabeth Hospital was advised by the Principal Health Inspector to refuse receipt of frozen foodstuffs as long as same is not delivered in a refrigerated vehicle, as per contract.

In addition a Prohibition Order, as per section 58 of the Food Regulations made under the Food Act was issued to the supplier on Friday 5th September 2008) to prevent him from transporting frozen foodstuffs in a non refrigerated vehicle. And according to law, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, you are personally very aware of this, failure to comply to a Prohibition Order is liable to a fine of not less than Rs 2,000 and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, being given that we live in “un état de droit” and that the law has to be applied in respect of all its provisions a first warning has been issued to Yansea Marketing inviting him to comply with all conditions of his contract within a period of 24 hours failing which his Performance Bond amounting to Rs 81,600 will be forfeited and his contract cancelled without notice.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, it is therefore clear that conditions of contract are being strictly adhered to. Whenever the supplier has not complied with the contract, necessary steps have been taken to refuse the frozen foods supplied and his attention drawn.

I have discussed with officers of my Commission to ascertain who supervised the delivery of frozen food. I have been made to understand that being given that delivery is made to the General Store of Queen Elisabeth Hospital, in this case Mrs. FRANCOIS was the one responsible to supervise and ensure that all conditions of the contract are being respected. It is only after delivery is being made to the General Store that the frozen foods are delivered to the Head of Catering Unit for Queen Elisabeth Hospital kitchen.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, officers of my commission have been instructed to deal within the provisions of the law when it comes to procurement activities. In this specific case, as there is only one supplier who quoted for the supply of frozen foods, in case of termination of the contract, a new tendering process would have to be undertaken.

I wish to re-assure the house that contrary to what has been reported, there has been total transparency into the tendering procedures of the supply of frozen foods to Queen Elisabeth Hospital.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, no more statements, next item.

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The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I move that the Assembly be adjourned to Tuesday 16th December, 2008 at 10.30 a.m.

Mr. Chairperson: Question that this Assembly be adjourned to Tuesday 16th December, 2008 at 10.30 a.m. Those in favour say Ayes and those against say No. Ayes have it. No other matters. The Assembly stands adjourned.

At 15.45 pm, the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 16th of October 2008 at 10.30 am.