

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DOMESTIC COOKING GAS

(No. B/146) **Mr. N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres)** asked the Chief Commissioner as regards domestic cooking gas in Rodrigues, he would, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) whether there has been any shortage of domestic cooking gas in Rodrigues since the last three months and, if yes, state the reasons; thereof;
- (b) the dates of the last three shipments of the commodity to Rodrigues; and
- (c) table the number of gas cylinders by mass shipped for each respective shipment;
- (d) the period of time for which each stock was available to the consumers;
- (e) how he is envisaging to solve the problem in the short and in the long term?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed by the Consumer Protection Unit that there have been shortages of LPG – Liquefied Petroleum Gas commonly known as cooking gas during the last three months, as follows:

- In July 2009, during a short period in the last fortnight whereby there were shortage of almost all brands/cylinder sizes;
- In August and September 2009, whereby the 5 kg Shell brand and 12 kg Total brand cylinders were in short supply which caused the demand for 12 kg Shell to increase.

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The main reasons for the shortage of the cooking gas as explained by AEL-DDS Co Ltd, the sole supplier of cooking gas in Rodrigues, is that they received insufficient supplies of the gas from Mauritius during the last two shipments.

However the other reason causing the shortage of the cooking gas includes there is only one supplier of the commodity in Rodrigues, there is only one transporter, only MV Trochetia transports the gas every month once to Rodrigues. There has been an increase in demand due to change in habits and change in standards of living. There has been an increase in demand from consumers who could afford to buy several sizes and brands of cylinders. There has been an increase in demand for commercial use. There is frauding and black marketing practised by ...men by the channel of distribution. And finally there is an inorganized and inefficient panel of distribution. All the above is an example of market failure.

As regards to part (b), the dates of the last three consignments of LPG arriving through the M.V Trochetia are:

- 29 July 2009
- 27 August 2009
- 24 September 2009

As regards to part (c), the information requested is being tabled. **(APPENDIX I).**

As regards to part (d), I am informed by the Consumer Protection Unit that the period of time for which each stock was available was on average five (5) days.

As regards to part (e), Mr Chairperson Sir, I would like to point out that it is not the responsibility of the Chief Commissioner or the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to distribute cooking gas in Rodrigues. We are in a mixed economy, in a market system where it is up to the private sector to provide these services in Rodrigues. And fortunately, the private sector has been unable to do so to the satisfaction of people in Rodrigues. In my last budget speech in this House on 18th September 2009, I informed that I am aware that the inadequate supply of cooking gas and of the distribution system which has been causing much inconvenience to consumers. I also informed the House that following the recommendations of the Consumer Protection Unit and representations of consumers and the Rodrigues Shop Owners Association as well as taking into consideration the lack of security during gas delivery in the vicinity of the filling station and the threat to public safety not excluding the security concerns with regard to the gas lorry transport on the roads, my office is making arrangements for the AEL DDS Ltd, the supplier of LPG gas, to be also responsible for effecting the distribution of LPG gas all around the island. Further, I informed

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that TOTAL and SHELL of Mauritius will also be pressed upon to improve the supply of LPG to Rodrigues.

As a result, Mr Chairperson Sir, a meeting under my Chairmanship was held in the beginning of October 2009 with AEL DDS, the Mauritius Shipping Co Ltd, the Consumer Protection Unit, the Shop Owners Association, the Association Des Consommateurs de L'Ile Rodrigues, the Fire Services Department, the Police etc and the following measures are being taken:

1. In the short term, to immediately eliminate the shortage of LPG on the market by increasing the number of LPG shipped from Mauritius. As such, as it is noted from the paper I circulated that the supply of LPG is increased in September to 7254 cylinders and in October, that is the shipment of 21 October, to 8635 cylinders;
2. Further as from the October 2009 shipment, AEL/DDS has been asked to supply the LPG gas to all retailers throughout the island. No sale of LPG will be effected at the filling station for resellers and lorries. In this connection more that 100 selling points have been identified by my office in collaboration with the Consumer Protection Unit, the Shop Owners Association, the Association Des Consommateurs de L'Ile Rodrigues and the Fire Department throughout the island. Implementation will be effective as from October 2009 this month;
3. Only the selected lorries of the AEL/DDS will supply LPG gas on its own name. The selling price of LPG at retail outlets would thus be ensured as fixed by law;
4. AEL/DDS will ship back the maximum number of empty cylinders of LPG to Mauritius in the next Mauritius Trochetia boat. The number of LPS cyclinders at all sizes will be also increased. I am informed that arrangements have already been made by AEL/DDS via the MSC and the local Rogers office. This will ensure that sufficient number of cylinders are filled and sent back to Rodrigues in future consignments;
5. Transportation of cylinders will be effected by lorries fitted and licensed for the purpose. The objective is to reduce the safety hazards both at the filling station and during transportation ;
6. Licence for storage of gas and retail gas sellers will be required by retailers engaged in the activity. AEL/DDS and my office will encourage and facilitate all resellers to obtain the necessary licenses;

7. The Consumer Protection Unit will effect site visits to ensure that the fixed price are practiced and in preventing hoarding.

Mr Chairperson Sir, the above measures are expected to solve this long outstanding problem. Further in the long term, the possibility of filling of cylinders in Rodrigues is being looked into. Projects in that respect will be encouraged by the RRA. A Feasibility study I understand is under way by the AEL/DDS in that respect.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the cooking gas problem has been existing in Rodrigues since years and more acutely felt during the year 2006 under the previous government. At that time only five containers of cooking gas compared to an average of ten containers which are now shipped to Rodrigues. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have mentioned above, it is not the direct responsibility of the RRA to supply gas. Should the problem persist then the RRA will envisage together with other organisations like the State Trading Corporation to import and distribute the commodity in the last result.

Thank you.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I refer to the answer of the Chief Commissioner and he has been mentioning about hoarding and black marketing which is one of the cause of the lack of the ...in Rodrigues. May I ask him whether the Consumer Protection Unit has established any contravention with respect to this problem of hoarding and black marketing?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are all aware of persons, traders who hoard to keep a large stock of all types of gas cylinders and we are all aware of the places where they keep it. And when there is a shortage of supply they increase the price artificially. Unfortunately, I don't have information whether contraventions have been held by the Consumer Protection Unit. I can have this information later.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner also mentioned about the problem of gas which has been a problem and he mentioned also that the problem was most severe in the year 2006. By the year 2006, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there were two companies who expressed their wish to come forward with the filling of gas in Rodrigues namely Société les gazes Industriels represented by Piat and there was also AEL DDS. May I know from the Chief Commissioner what has been the follow-up that has been made with respect to that project?

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The Chief Commissioner: As I have replied, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, AEL DDS is contemplating to bring the gas in bulk, in large cylinders and then fill the gas locally in Rodrigues. I repeat we are in a mixed economy, in a system where gas distribution is undertaken by the private sector and we are here to help in the possibility of our administrative means, providing land, providing necessary permits, etc. The investment, for the time being, rests with these private sectors. We will encourage and facilitate AEL DDS if they ask for any facility and which is justified to be granted to them. As regards Mr. Piat, I met that promoter once and we were told that we could go ahead with the project if government finances a sort of pipe line to take the gas or the petroleum products from the port to their proposed place of development of this activity on the reclaimed land at *Baie-aux-Huitres*. Obviously government has no funds and will not be able to do this.

Mr. N. Lisette: Is the Chief Commissioner aware, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that a building was identified as far back as 2006 for AEL DDS represented by Mr. Robert Desvaux for the project of filling gas in Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this was in 2006. May I remind the respected Member that in August 2006, there was a change in government and therefore a change in options. This side of the House thinks that the building and the site which was identified for this activity is within the fishing port area and it is better to keep this place for fishing port and fishing development activities. We are for the decentralisation of gas filling, fuel storage outside Port Mathurin.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I note also from the reply of the Chief Commissioner that there is a lapse of almost one month for the shipment of LPG in Rodrigues by Mauritius Trochetia. May I ask him whether there has been any proposal to the Mauritius Shipping Corporation as it used to be done in the past for charging special shipment of gas whenever the lack is felt in Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: All these questions have been discussed, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, during several meetings held with all parties I mentioned in my answer. Unfortunately, as the respected Member who is a former Commissioner, may be aware, transportation of gas in Rodrigues is done under special circumstances because it is a dangerous product. When the Mauritius Trochetia transports gas, *l'essence*, they can't take as much passengers as they can normally take. So this is why there is a high cost associated with transporting gas to Rodrigues. They can't take normal cargo and normal passengers due to this transportation of gas. All these questions of bringing the gas immediately whenever there is shortages have been raised with the Mauritius Shipping Corporation and of course they have been requested together with AEL DDS Ltd, to do their job. And they have been warned that if they can't do the job, we will take over the job.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that in some villages there are no selling points, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether the number of selling points stated in his answer will also include new ones in those areas where these selling points are absent.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in Rodrigues today, I am not aware of any village where there is no shop. Unless it is a very removed village but in this case these persons will have to go where there are the selling points. *Si Cesar ne vient pas à toi, tu viens à Cesar!*

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, another problem that has been raised by the Chief Commissioner is with respect to the 5kg of gas, especially the blue one which is normally used by the vulnerable people. May I asked him whether he has discussed with the transporter or with the distributor here in Rodrigues whether there is a policy to reduce constantly, gradually the number of 5kg gas which is being brought to Rodrigues.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have tabled a paper and I don't know whether the Member has seen the paper. Number of 5kg blue shell received on 29th of July 2009, 184; on 22nd August 2009, 406; and on 24th September 2009, 384. The statement that this is being reduced is therefore a misleading one.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the proposal of the Chief Commissioner in the short terms to reduce shortage ... is to indulge in the distribution by AEL DDS of the commodity all around the island. We all know that one of the major problem is the lack of a revolving system as regards to the lack of cylinders that is available in Rodrigues. Has the Chief Commissioner really assess whether this means of distribution around Rodrigues will be really an effective one?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, how can I assess something that has yet to be implemented? We'll cross the bridge when we'll come to the bridge. But what we think is that AEL DDS has to take the responsibility. They are the importers of gas in Rodrigues. This import of gas, they get a lot of money from it, government money which is subsidised to them to bring it to Rodrigues. Each container which leaves the port of gas and goes to the filling station, this carrier is paid by the government. The transport from Mauritius to Rodrigues is paid through the subsidy. We are told that they don't get much money from this, we don't know. What we have told them is that they should work with the small lorries. They select those lorries that they think can transport the gas. These lorries will be paid by AEL DDS. The retailers on the reselling points, they will place their order directly, either by telephone or by calling directly to the AEL DDS' Office and they will tell I want

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such number of gas per cylinder. AEL DDS will then send them the gas. These lorries they will not receive payment, they will receive only the carriage fee from AEL DDS. It is now up to AEL DDS to select the lorries and to work with the retailers. At my level and the level of my office and with the Shop Owner's Association, we have already identified all this gas reselling points. These gas reselling points they already have their gas storage grids. They have all the metallic grids where there is gas and then the gas is locked for security reasons. Another problem, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is that Mauritius Trochetia is very busy, they don't want to stay in Rodrigues, they come to Rodrigues today and they go the day after. This limits the capacity of AEL DDS to bring the empty cylinders on the boat for it to be taken back to Mauritius. This possibility of asking Mauritius Trochetia to stay a number of hours more, a day more in the Port to be able to take all the gas cylinders, this also has been discussed but we have been told that the cost of Mauritius Trochetia of staying one more day is high. And there is no money to bear this cost. I repeat it is up to Mauritius Shipping Corporation, it is up AEL DDS to take the responsibility. Normally there is no problem, when to look at the figures for the demands for gas and the supply for gas, there should normally be no problem. There is also a problem in the minds of people. People want to make a very big stock of gas. Some people have gas of blue, red, yellow, all sorts of colours of gas. Myself on three days, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on three days when I come to work in the morning, I saw the same persons in the queue to buy gas. One day the person was with three blue gas cylinders, another day she was with yellow, on another again I saw the same person with a smaller, they have a whole family, I would say a whole generation of cylinders. The problem is also in the mind of consumers. We understand them because they think that there will be gas shortage and they want to be on the safe side with their gas. So what we need to do is to bring a very large stock so that gas is available and then this will be dissipated in the mind of consumers so that the supply becomes more regular. At our level, administratively we are doing what needs to be done. We have told them do your job, if you are not able to do the job we will take it over.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will come to the issue of selling point again. In some villages, shop villages have stopped with the gas business. In a village like Petit Gabriel for exemple, there is no selling point of gas. This is why I am asking the Chief Commissioner, these people should walk long distance to have gas containers filled sometimes, they do not have the alternative to do same. What alternative is put in place for these regions, these villages to have so?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I repeat, we are in a market system, if in a village, a retailer who was supposed to have a certain responsibility towards their consumers, don't want to sell the gas, can we force them to sell the gas, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? Can me, Chief Commissioner or any

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Commissioner here go and say, ok you have to sell gas, if you don't sell gas, I will revoke your permit, this is not legal, we cannot force them to sell gas. If in a village, gas sellers, there is no gas seller, what can we do? Can we come here with regulations forcing general retailers to sell gas? If we want we can come, like they are, they must sell rice, they must sell sugar, they must sell oil, basic commodities. I think that there are regulations for this for which they must sell. The Member can come with solutions, we are prepared to study these solutions. Unfortunately, at times we are told that the profit margin also on the gas is very small for villages outside Port Mathurin. We are dealing with this. We are prepared to make concentration and ask at least, convince at least one retailer at a particular place to sell gas. But I repeat now, being given that the distribution system will be taken over by AEL DDS together with lorries that they will pay for it, it will be more comfortable for someone in a village to take this responsibility of selling gas.

Mr. N. Lisette: One last question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The proposal that is being made by the Chief Commissioner for distribution will alleviate the problem of those consumers as he said by himself who have two, three or four gas cylinders. Being given, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that we are coming to the festive period of the end of year, may I ask the Chief Commissioner whether any special derogation of either the Mauritius Pride or the Mauritius Trochetia, specially for that end of year period, there has been times when this has been made, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for Mauritius Trochetia where the number the number of passengers have decreased from 268 to 34 in this case. I am aware that this has been done, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in 2005 and in 2006. So my suggestion which is in a form of a question is whether a special derogation or a special charger may be made for the end of year period.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have informed the House, AEL DDS has been asked to eliminate any shortage and to create confidence in the minds of consumers. If need be, if we are told by AEL DDS that there is shortage of gas which is coming and that there is need for our intervention towards Mauritius Shipping Corporation to make the boat, Mauritius Trochetia, Mauritius Pride or any other boat to take gas to Rodrigues, we will be glad to intervene and to ask the Mauritius Shipping Corporation to look into this policy. But as I repeat, Mauritius Trochetia, AEL DDS have been asked to eliminate this shortage of gas and to create confidence in the minds of consumers. I appeal to the population not to come to Port Mathurin to buy gas and to wait in their villages. We have to trust the system, if everybody takes their gas cylinders to Port Mathurin, it will be the chaos, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. There is danger of bringing it. The day an accident will arise and then people will become conscious. Ok? What we want is that gas is distributed in all villages all around Rodrigues. Why is it that Rum, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is distributed all around the island? Why is it that beer, lorries are taking beer all around the island, why can't we distribute the gas in the same manner? I am not satisfied

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with the way gas was being distributed, etc, if they are not able to do it, I repeat, government regional assembly will take over.

SECONDARY EDUCATION - RODRIGUES

(No. B/147) Mr. N. Lisette (First Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner as regards Secondary Education in Rodrigues, would he state whether, he envisages to transfer/shift the students now studying at Ex-HSC College Building of Citron Donis to Terre Rouge College once its construction is completed and if yes, what he intends to do with the vacant building?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the purpose of constructing a new Secondary School at Terre Rouge is to facilitate access to Secondary education to the students of the Northern Region who are now scattered in different colleges.

Once completed, the Terre Rouge College will be placed on the list for new admissions based on the criteria of the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate. Students will be given the opportunity for transfer nearer to their residence.

The office of the REDCO Ltd. will remain at Citron Donis. Up to now, no final decision has been taken as regards the vacant building. However, preliminary discussions have been initiated with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources and the Industrial and Vocational Training Board (IVTB) for using the building either for vocational training, i.e an extension of IVTB or polytechnic courses for our students.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I believe that in budget 2007/2008, there was Rs 1.5 million earmarked for the conversion of Citron Donis into a training centre for management, tourism, entrepreneurship, ICT, and it was even mentioned in the budget speech 2007/2008. May I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner what has become of this project?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said, because for the time being, the building has been to host the pupils from Marechal College, that is, an extension of Marechal College. The project is still ongoing. We have not yet started using it as a vocational building but as I have just mentioned the possibility of using it as an extension of IVTB or for polytechnic courses still stand good.

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Mr. N. Lisette: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at that point of time, the Deputy Chief Commissioner mentioned Trust Fund Management. Now he is referring to the IVTB and the Ministry for Education. I would like to ask him whether negotiations with Trust Fund Management have lapsed or has ended?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. If I mentioned the Ministry for Education is because such institutions falls under the purview of the Ministry for Education. In fact, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the IVTB and the Technical Management Trust Fund will merge together into the ...And I met later the representatives of the institutions and this is where the possibility of using that building into the purpose that I have just mentioned has emerged.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, how far is the Commissioner proactive with respect to the staffing for the project that is to be underway?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for the time being the question does not arise because the question has been asked what will be the use of that building when the Terre Rouge College will be opened. Therefore for the time being the building, as I have just said, is being used to cater for pupils of Marechal College. Terre Rouge College has not yet been built, right? So why should I start now looking for staff for that building? This question does not arise, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he is aware that there is a lack of some important amenities at the ex-HSC College *et que les enfants doivent être traiter sur le meme pied d'égalité*. I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether these classrooms of the ex-HSC College will be equipped before transferring these students?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. For the time being, the classrooms which are being used by the students from Marechal College, they are provided with all the facilities that a college needs. But if the Member is referring to the use of these rooms for eventual opening of the vocational school, therefore when the time comes it will be equipped.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may we know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner what is the lapse of time that he is envisaging for the transfer or the shifting of the students to Terre Rouge and the eventual starting of the training centre?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Terre Rouge College will be done in phases. The first phase of the college is expected to end in 2010. That is if everything goes as it should be the first phase will be opened in 2011. Therefore

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the time to shift from that college into Terre Rouge we still have at least two years in front of us as from now. Ok? And the Citron Donis College, I mean it has been set up in such a way that it is more favorable to perform vocational training there than the normal conventional classes. Therefore, as far as equipments which has just been mentioned, is concerned there will be no problem. We will when time comes, we will cater on the purchase of these equipments but it will depend on what we will do there. Let me for example, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, give you an example of the number of students that we have in Mauritius right now doing polytechnics. We have in all 68 who are studying for 2009/2010. And these are in different fields. For example, 7 in *batiment*, 7 in electronic and electro-mechanics, 12 in *fabrication métallique*, 6 in *fabrication automobile*, 4 in maintenance and *automatisme industrielle*, 1 only in informatic applications, 2 in accounting and finance, 2 in human resource management, 2 in marketing, 6 in business informatics, 9 in information systems, 3 in information and communication technology, 7 in business administration. So, it is clear, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that if we had to choose any of these fields of studies, it will not be cost effective to run such courses in that building. So, for the time being, I think that it is better for us to give possibilities for the IVTB to provide training there. Because later on during this session, when I will answer to another question I will give more information on how Citron Donis needs more and more spaces because the demand for training there is on the increasing side.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I rephrase my talking of academic equitation itself. At the time being there are lack of some amenities like internet facilities, there are not...and these students are being penalized with respect to the other students in the other colleges. This is why I was asking the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether these lacks will be fulfilled before transferring these students to another college?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Then, it is clear, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I understand now what the Member really wanted. I assure the Member that if such lack does exist it will be looked after before the shifting of the pupils to Terre Rouge.

MAISON FAMILIALE RURALE

(No. B/148 Mrs. R.M.F Gaspard Pierre Louis (First Local Regional Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, his Commission or any other body is setting up a project of Maison Familiale Rurale in Rodrigues, and if in the affirmative, could he state to the House:

- (a) the scope of the project

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- (b) the cost breakdown of the project;
- (c) whether any recruitment has been effected for the running of same project; and if yes, to table the list of applicants together with the eligibility criteria for the different posts?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a), I wish to inform the House that “*Maison Familiale Rurale*” is an international training structure providing basic education and training in Agriculture, Farming and other training areas to out of school adolescents aged between 14 and 18 years old. “*Reussir Autrement*” is the moto behind the setting up of each “*Maison Familiale Rurale*” worldwide.

In Rodrigues, the project “*Maison Familiale Rurale*” is being implemented with the help of “*Union Nationale des Maisons Familiales Rurales d’Education et d’Orientation*” of France, the Federation of MFR of Reunion Island and Mauritius. My Commission is acting as facilitator in the implementation process of the first Maison Familiale Rurale in Rodrigues on a pilot basis. The region identified for the setting up is at Citron Donis. Beneficiaries will be from neighboring villages such as Petit Gabriel, Saint Gabriel, Malartic, Le Chou, Soupier, Quatre Vents, Bigarades, Eau Vannée and Rémir.

With regard to part (b), the cost break down of the project has been worked out by the Executive Committee with the expertise of MFR of Reunion Island and Mauritius. Copy of the cost estimates worked out by the Executive Committee for period October 2009 to December 2010 was submitted to Commission for Education on 1st October 2009.

For this 15 months period, the budget proposal amounts to Rs 510 000, so as to meet the following costs:

Sn.	Expenses	Costs (Rs)
1.	Allowance for Two “ Moniteurs Stagiaires”	201 000
2.	Air Fares for Participation to the National Committee of MFR	30 000
3.	Rent, Electricity, Cooking Gas and Water	125 000
4.	Communication facilities and other expenses	40 000
5.	Training of monitors, administrators and	114 000

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	assistance	
	TOTAL	510 000

The above costs do not include costs for office furniture, chairs and tables for trainees, computers and printers.

As regards to part (c), Mr. Chairperson Sir, no recruitment has been effected. However, two “moniteurs stagiaires” have been nominated by the Executive Committee in consultation with My Commission.

Mrs. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regards to the setting up of the MFR, *donc comme le commissaire l’a bien dit c’est une institution internationale, et les formations sont dispenses dans plusieurs domaines, ce qui veut dire que les formateurs doivent avoir des formations professionnels. Est-ce qu’on peut savoir si ces formateur professionnels ont des qualifications professionnels et quels sont leur qualifications ?*

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : D’abord, M. le président, je voudrais dire les objectifs de la *Maison Familiale Rurale*. Ses objectifs c’est reunit localement sous forme d’associations, de coopératives, ou de groupement villageois, des familles et des personnes concernés par le but qu’elle poursuit. Ces objectifs sont de concourir à l’éducation et à la formation des jeunes ou des adultes, à leur insertion sociale et professionnelle. Elle favorise également un développement durable du territoire ou elle est installée. A cet effet, M. le président, les deux moniteurs stagiaires dont je viens de mentionner sont des personnes qui sont déjà engagés dans le sociale, des personnes qui ont un background dans la formation dans ce domaine précis dont a parlé la Membre. Donc, c’est-à-dire qu’elles ont des expériences dans le domaine de la pédagogie, de *literacy and numeracy* et *social work in the local community*. Et d’autre part, afin de poursuivre efficacement ce projet, ces personnes seront en mesure de poursuivre des formations continues à Maurice, à la Reunion et ailleurs dans le monde.

Mrs. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: M. le président, nous savons aussi que le MFR dans le monde entier dispense des formations qualifiantes par exemple on a jusqu’à BEP, CAP. Est-ce qu’on peut savoir à Rodrigues quelle sera la certification que les élèves auront à la fin de leur parcours ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Et bien, M. le président, ce qu’il faut d’abord savoir c’est que la MFR n’a pas l’obligation de fonctionner partout dans le monde. Sa veut dire si à la Réunion ils donnent des certificats à la fin des stages, si en France ils donnent également, c’est pas nécessaire qu’à Maurice et à Rodrigues ces

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stagiaires soient sanctionner par un certificat. La première chose dans les objectifs que je viens de mentionner c'est de permettre aux jeunes de réussir autrement. Chez nous ces jeunes qui ont été identifié, M. le président, ce sont des jeunes qui ne sont pas pris en charge par aucune institutions éducatives. Ils ne sont pas au collège, ils sont dans aucune centre de formation, ils sont comme je viens de dire *out of school students*. Donc, au lieu de laisser ces gens là, ces jeunes là à la rue, d'abord leur insertion sociale et professionnel, leur donner confiance en eux-mêmes. C'est pourquoi on ne choisit pas, et d'ailleurs je donne raison à ce comité, ils n'ont pas choisit des personnes comme moniteurs stagiaires, des personnes qui sont des diplômés, ils ont choisi des personnes qui comprennent la situation sociale de Rodrigues, qui peuvent cheminer avec ces jeunes là, leur donner confiance, les remettre sur les rails afin qu'ils se développent là où ils sont à pratiquer le métier, qu'à travers la formation ils auraient eux-mêmes choisit, parce que n'oubliez pas qu'on ne vient pas leur donner des formations sur ce que eux ils pensent mais cette formation c'est d'abord en consultation avec ces élèves et les parents. C'est à partir de là que le programme de formation est préparé. C'est un programme de formation qui cadre avec le besoin de ces stagiaires.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a *Maison Familiale Rurale agit selon la pédagogie par alternance*, ils ont pour but d'accueillir des jeunes en formation par *alternance dans le domaine de l'agriculture, l'élevage, l'horticulture, etc.* I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner, in which sectors these stagiaires will be involved, whether he is satisfied with the place chosen to do same, whether the given topologie of the place satisfies the objectives of the MFR.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, even though I am not satisfied, it is the choice of these people. They have chosen that place. The place is a building which they have been able to rent for the time being to be able to dispense the training. The respected Member mentioned *l'alternance*, of course there will be *l'alternance*. But *alternance*, it will not be in that particular place. Wait, wait!!! Because for the time being they haven't got a building for their own. It is in their project to find a suitable place, where there will be enough land for them to do farming or agriculture and so on. And then after that, when they are able to have their own building, then they will be able for *alternance*. But for the time being, this is the place that they have chosen. They have chosen a building which according to them is suitable to them because it is in the vicinity of Citron Donis and because it is not far from the villages which I have just mentioned so it is accessible to all these *stagiaires*. So, how are they going to practice *alternance* at that place, for the time being they are going to start on a pilot basis and after that we are going to access what is lacking and how to further improve the situation.

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Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, from what the Deputy Chief Commissioner said, there will be no certificate as such that is going to be delivered at the end of the project. May I ask him how will be the *stagiaires* be accessed in order to know whether they have acquired the knowledge that they come to look for?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner:Reunion, France, etc, so we are going to apply the concept of MFR to our local context. If need be, it will start in 2010 on a pilot basis, and only time will give us the right direction in which to go. But for the time being the prime objective of the MFR is to take onboard these out of school adolescents aged from 14 to 18 whom we have identified. There are many in these villages, we are going to start with some 25 of them. So, our first objective is to get these young adolescents *leur insertion sociale et professionnelle d'abord, c'est-à-dire de les éviter de dérailler et de prendre une pente dangereuse parce que nous savons qu'ici à Rodrigues, M. le président, il y a de très gros risques de délinquance de nos jeunes vers des choses qui ne sont pas agréable. D'ailleurs tout le monde le sait, il y a une tendance à ce que les jeunes prennent des directions néfastes pour l'avenir du pays, alors notre premier objectif, M. le président, c'est de sauver ces jeunes là. L'avenir nous le dira. Je félicite d'abord ce comité et ces parents qui ont accepté de travailler ensemble dans ce projet MFR afin de tirer nos jeunes dans des fléaux éventuels qui sont en train de les attendre au bout du chemin.*

Mrs. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I know from the Commissioner for Education where exactly this project will be set up and in which village and what will be the area which will be available for these persons to work out the project as it should be.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I have mentioned earlier, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is at Citron Donis. Citron Donis is not a big village so I will invite the respected Member to go, because you go everywhere around Rodrigues. Probably you know better than me where it is situated. But it is at Citron Donis very close to the main road and as regards to the land that the respected Member has just mentioned, this committee they are trying to identify a plot of land which has not yet been finalized. I can't at this point in time give them exactly every details on the project. The project will start in January 2010 on a pilot basis according to what I have just mentioned.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not convinced about one thing. The Commission for Education is acting as a facilitator and the Commission is working with an association for the setting up of a project. So, I believe that there must have been a project which should have been submitted to the Commission in order if he go forward with its ... In a former answer he said that he is not aware of the certification process. Does the Commissioner think that right from the beginning it is of utmost

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importance that everything is clear in the mind of the *stagiaires* so that they know exactly what is expecting of them.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if the respected Member is not convinced, how can I convince him? I have explained clearly the scope of the project. I have told the respected Member that the committee has submitted a project. I have also given the different cost of the project which has been submitted to my Commission. And I have also said that it's as from now to the start of the project in January, things are still going on. They are still working on finalizing the project. So what can I say more about it? And I also explained, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that after the course whether they will receive a certificate or not, this is not our prime objective. Our prime objective is to take these out of school students who are not taken onboard by any training educational institutions, take them onboard so that they get training.

Mrs. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I know from the Commissioner how many students will be involved in the first recruitment and what will be the duration for a student for him to complete a course.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Normally, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, they have identified 25 students for the first instance and it will be of a duration of 2 years.

PREVOCATIONAL EDUCATION

(No. B/149) Mrs. R.M.F Gaspard Pierre Louis (First Local Region Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the students admitted in the Prevocational Education department in the different colleges, from the start of the project to date, he could state and table, year wise and college wise:

- (a) the number of admission for each college;
- (b) the number of drop outs, if any;
- (c) the amount who seeks a seat for the 4th year at the IVTB;
- (d) the amount who seeks a seat for NTC3 level courses, trade wise at the IVTB;

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

(a) The number of admission for each College is listed below:-

College	Years								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1. Rodrigues College	44	27	18	36	25	20	19	24	18
2. Marechal College	-	-	50	50	50	50	41	29	24
3. Le Chou College	-	-	50	48	47	50	46	27	24
4. Grande Montagne College	-	-	21	25	25	24	27	52	22

[illegible]

As regards part (b), the number of drop outs is as follows:-

[illegible]

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As regards part (c), the number who seeks for a seat for the 4th year at the IVTB are as follows:-

SN	Year	Amount
1	2004	78
2	2005	97
3	2006	131
4	2007	111
5	2008	130
6	2009	134

The information pertaining to part (d) are as follows:-

List of students who seeks a seat for NTC3 level courses tradewise at the IVTB

Full time 2005 – No candidate

Full time 2006 – No candidate

Full time 2007

SN	Trades	No. of candidates
1	Automotive Mechanics	3
2	Agriculture	10
3	Plumbing and Pipe Fitting	5
4	Welding and Metal Fabrication	22

Full time 2008

SN	Trades	No. of candidates
1	Electrical Installation	3
2	Automotive Mechanics	6
3	Wood Trades	9
4	Plumbing and Pipe Fitting	12
5	Welding and Metal Fabrication	10

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6	Building Maintenance	5
7	Agriculture	16

Full time 2009

SN	Trades	No. of candidates
1	Electrical Installation Work	2
2	Wood Trades	11
3	Agriculture	2
4	Plumbing and Pipe Fitting	10
5	Automotive Mechanics	3
6	Welding and Metal Fabrication	7

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling information pertaining to parts (a) to (d).
(APPENDIX II).

Mrs. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have seen that with regards to the number of dropouts it is very high for certain years, can we know from the Commissioner for Education what are the reasons for which these students drop out?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Dropouts for which year specially? In 2007, I see the greatest figure was 19 at Le Chou and then the others they are not so high, 4, 6, 7, not high. In 2008, Rodrigues College, 10 whereas Marechal College only one, Grande Montagne, 11. But for 2009 you will see its only at Mont Lubin College that there are dropouts. So, I will enquire and I will give you the information later on.

Mr. N. Lisette : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, schooling is compulsory in the Republic of Mauritius up to the age of 16. The Deputy Chief Commissioner has noted so many dropouts when we add them together it is a quite large number. Did or has the Commission made any inquiry as regards to these dropouts specially that they were supposed to be in school up to the age of 16.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I mentioned the years since 2007 up to now and it has been noted that during all these years there have been dropouts. When they were in power I wonder whether they were questioning themselves about the high rate of dropouts at that time. Well what I can say, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I personally think and believe that the prevocational in the long run must be phased out. This is what we are doing in order to phase out the prevoc. What are we doing, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? We are starting to invest right from the very start of the pre-primary level, Mr. Chairperson, Sir and the primary and you will see the results that we have obtained since last year speaks for themselves. The

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CPE pass rate will constantly increase, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, due to the different measures that we have initiated so far. And in the long term, what would that mean, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? There will be less pupils going to the prevoc. So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, now precisely there are some 125 students who are dropouts other the different years. They are taken onboard by the second chance school grant. And this problem is not in Rodrigues only. It is a national problem. The Ministry of Education and Culture, during the last financial year, this has been by the Minister of Finance, he has mentioned that to cater for these students who are not taken onboard by any institutions, who are dropouts, to give them a second chance. And we are also benefitting from that. We are actually giving the opportunity to 125 students to get training specially from life long learning process, how to make them take confidence in themselves so that they, as I have said earlier for the MFR, *leur redonner confiance afin qu'ils reprennent gout à la vie, reprennent gout à l'étude et c'est ce qui est fait maintenant, M. le président, en consultation avec les stagiaires moniteurs venant de Maurice.*

Mrs. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we all know that the fourth year at the IVTB, at the Vocational, it is the bridge to the NTC 3 level courses but according to the figures we can see that for all the years nearly half of the vocational students have not seek a seat for the NTC level 3 courses. Can we know the reason for this?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The reason is simple, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in fact, they should answer for me because at that time during all the process from pre-primary, primary until these pupils go to the prevoc, who were governing this country, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? Who? Can I reply for what they have done in the past? *Ki mo pé fer?* What am I doing? I have just clearly mentioned what I am doing, I have started right from the beginning. This is not what has been done before. Ok? *Alors c'est trop facile à la fin, M. le président, le sommet de l'iceberg. Mais le mal le plus grand est à la base, M. le président. Qu'est ce qu'on a fait avant ?* How have they cater for a pre-primary education ensuring that every child goes to pre-primary, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. How? *Nous avons été à l'avant garde, M. le président. D'ailleurs le Ministre de l'Education l'a reconnue lui-même. Il a reconnu que nous l'avons devancé. Et d'ailleurs c'est grâce à nous qu'à partir de maintenant,* there will be two years of pre-primary compulsory pre-primary education. *Nous l'avons fait, nous avons relevé le défi et nous allons le maintenir, M. le président. Et nous nous croyons,* in years to come when people will question us « what have you done ? » we can say we have given the opportunity of a child to have a good, a better strong foundation. This is what we have done, this is what we are doing. Let the time come and then you will come and ask us. But for the time being, I cannot answer for this, it is up to you who can answer this, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

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Mr. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like the Deputy Chief Commissioner before phasing out these prevocational schools educational department, what arrangements are being made for the deployment of those classes?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The Chief Commissioner mentioned it earlier, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when we will come to the bridge we will cross it.

ARAUCARIA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

(No. B/150) Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis (First Local Regional Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner with regard to the eventual opening of the Araucaria Community School in January 2010, whether he would for the benefit of the House state:-

- (a) the number of classrooms which will be operational;
- (b) the number of student who will be admitted and/or transferred to the school.
- (c) the necessary measures taken for the staffing of the school?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, four (4) classrooms will be operational, that is, from Std I to IV.

Given that the school will be one-stream, the number of pupils to be admitted/transferred are as follows:-

- (i) Std I - around 25
- (ii) Std II – 25
- (iii) Std III – 25
- (iv) Std IV – 22

The above pupils will come from the catchment area of Araucaria Community School, i.e *Citronelle, Malabar* and *Mont Lubin*. These pupils will be transferred from Basile Allas Port Mathurin Government School and Antoinette Prudence Ste. Famille RCA School.

As regards part (c), actions have been initiated for the staffing of the school at the level of the management team and teaching staff. Recruitment procedures of non-teaching staffs will be initiated soon.

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Mrs. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Commissioner for Education whether regarding the admission exercise for Standard I students, whether the parents have already filled their forms for the students to be admitted in the Araucaria Community School?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, admission for the Standard One has been done in the two respective schools that I have just mentioned, that is, Basile Allas and Antoinette Prudence Ste Famille RCA, and upon the opening of the Araucaria, these pupils will be transferred to according to where they come from, the catchment areas that I have just mentioned.

SECONDARY EDUCATION - RODRIGUES

(No. B/151) Mr. J.D. Speville (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner with regard to Secondary Education in Rodrigues, would he, for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) table the number of Form V students who sat and will be sitting for GCE-O Level Examination and School Certificate Examinations for the year 2007,2008 and 2009 for each secondary school in Rodrigues;
- (b) table the percentage pass rate of students who sat for the School Certificate Examination for the year 2007 and 2008 in each secondary school in Rodrigues;
- (c) to give the purpose, reason, criteria, procedures to be followed and the new way forward, if any for students to sit for GCE-O level examination instead of School Certificate Examination?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling the requested information for parts (a) and (b) respectively. **(APPENDIX....&...).**

The policy of my Commission is to allow all students of Form IV to proceed to Form V level and sit at least once at the Cambridge Ordinary Level Examinations. The minimum requirements to proceed from Form IV to V is that the student should secure a pass i.e above 45 marks in at least five subjects (including a minimum of 2 core subjects, i.e Maths, English, French). Unfortunately, the strict application of these criteria would lead to a high number of drop outs at Form IV level.

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That's why, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, It has been decided that from now on, REDCO will allow all students to proceed to Form V under the following conditions:-

- (i) students who secure 5 passes or above will be allowed to sit for full SC exams;
- (ii) students who secure four passes will be allowed to sit for a maximum of six subjects at SC level; and
- (iii) students who secure three or less than three passes will have to opt for GCE 'O' Level examinations (5 subjects).

We believe, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that a lower work load at Cambridge examination level will enable the students to devote more time to their subjects taken and this will maximize their chances of obtaining better results.

I should point out that students for their first sitting even if they are having a lower load of subjects must follow all their classes (for all seven subjects). In case of good achievement, they can be allowed to take higher load for the second attempt.

Finally, I should stress that students who have performed badly at their first attempt at SC are also allowed to take a lower load of subjects for their second attempt for the same reasons as stated above.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether the practice of channeling students towards GCE O level examinations has been an official decision from his Commission for the past three years or it is merely taken at the level of the schools?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have just explained the reasons why we have opted for such measures, that is, to avoid high dropouts level of Form IV. I have also mentioned that from now on REDCO will allow all students to proceed to Form V. Therefore asking me whether it is a policy of my Commission during the previous years, this is no.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Deputy Chief Commissioner aware that there is an ongoing pilot study in the Republic of Mauritius for all Form IV and Form V students to sit for 8 subject examination, Science or Business and Arts students, Literature or Sociology for Science students. I would like to ask the Commissioner, will the secondary schools in Rodrigues continue to channel these

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...GCE O level Examinations while the Ministry of Education is proposing to broaden the curriculum at this level.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: This is false, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is wrong to say that I am channeling our pupils towards GCE. I have just mentioned, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in order to give equal opportunity to all out students, those who can hold the heavy work load, normally they will go to sit for SC. Those of lower capacity instead of leaving them alone so that they have a tendency to drop, we gave them alternatives, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. These are alternatives, we are not channeling the students towards GCE. This is not the case.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regards to the proposal of the Deputy Chief Commissioner whereby from now on, sitting for GCE at Form V will be a criteria for promotion from Form IV to Form V. Is this policy a child-centered or a result centered one as regards to the results of Form V?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I mentioned earlier that all the pupils are given the possibility to... I repeat, I should point out that the students for their first sitting even if they are having a lower load of subject must follow all their classes, that is, giving them the possibility to follow all their seven subjects. In case of good achievement, it all depends on the achievement of the child. So, are we depriving the child of having access to all the subjects? No. It's upon after their achievement, they are allowed to take a higher load for a second attempt but if all students perform well from the beginning, where is the problem? There is no problem, there is no question of channeling.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the problem will arise for students who are say, 20 years age. If a student is moving from Form IV to Form V and he is already 19, so we have only one chance for sitting for O level. What will be the policy that you, of the Commissioner, for this category of students?

Mr. Chairperson: Before the Commissioner answers the question, I would like to point out that in my view there are all sorts of policies that are nobly handled by the National Government as compared to the Regional Assembly. Well I understand that there is good debate here, I don't want to interrupt but if it goes beyond what the Assembly can discuss...I have got your point, I just want to highlight this. You want to explain? Proceed.

Mr. N. Lisette: He said that his Commission with REDCO has now decided that for the promotion of students in Form IV to Form V, one of criteria that will be taken into consideration is the number of passes of the students at Form IV level. I don't think that it is a decision of the Ministry, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This is a policy

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or a decision taken by the Commission for Education together with REDCO so this is why I am asking him on this basis of this decision, the question that was asked formerly.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I understand the point of the respected Member. But can I cater for the needs for each and everyone? It is difficult. You mentioned for one category, for those who are 19 and who will be above 20 will get only one chance. Of course there will be only one chance, they get one chance but after that?

(Interruptions)

...wait! I have said earlier, the minimum normally should be above 45 marks. And we all know how many of these students will get more than 40. So if we apply strictly this, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are paving the way to dropouts, so we have found an alternative to avoid such situation. That's why I have mentioned three criteria where we allow everyone those full-fledged to take advantage of their capacity and those of the lower performance to be also taken onboard. I can't do otherwise, this is the only alternative. In fact, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if I have to refer what the MES say about this matter, I am going to read one correspondence from one Lucien Finette, "as far as we are concerned," that is the MES, "there is no policy decision taken as such to replace the School Certificate by the General Certificate of Education". Candidates can still enter for GCE or SC as in the past. However school candidates entering for GCE O level are required to enter for at most 5 subject otherwise they will normally enter for SC where the minimum for 6 subjects is required including English Language. On the other hand, private cannot enter for SC but they can enter for GCE O level and sit more one or more but at most 9 subjects. So what we are applying is not against any existing policy, in fact, as regards to policy of education, I can't decide for any new policy we are just applying what exist already and putting in line with our local requirements.

Mr. N. Lisette: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let us view the problem now from a child's perspective. This is why I asked the question formerly whether it is child centered or whether it is result centered. From a child perspective, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a student who is allowed to sit for 7 subjects may end up with 5 subjects and at the same time he obtains his GCE O level, now we are reducing his number of subject to 5 and there is a big chance, there is chances, that he may fail in one of these subjects. It is not hypothetical, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what is hypothetical? These are facts that are viewed, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. So my question to the Deputy Chief Commissioner with respect to this looking from a child perspective, will it not be better to give that child a better chance to sit in more subjects so that if he fails in one of them, he can end up with 5 subjects for GCE.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if I have to reply to this question. Normally who prepares the child to have better chances in life? Is the Commissioner responsible for that? So, at the level of the schools, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because the school, the teachers, the educators, they know the requirements of these. So, I ...Mr. Chairperson, Sir, so that, that's what I tell the Directors when I hold meetings with them. Everything lies in their hands, they are managers of the. .. together with the educators. So do what they can do in order to give all chances to the pupils. So, I understand your question, so you are talking about child centered, of course it should be child centered when you prepare the child, if you know what you are doing is child centered you must make it in such a way that at the end you are not depriving the child of getting a good certificate as all the others. But sometimes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when we are faced with certain problems we have to take actions. And this is the best alternative that we've got so far. If ever there are any better alternatives later on so I would be pleased to hear it from the respected Member.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is why I am cared about the children as an educator of course, we should see the question in a broader aspect. He is telling that the students will be allowed to have a second attempt to sit for SC, that's right. Now when the children are sitting for the first attempt, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, he knows very well that he is sitting for 5 subjects only, can you imagine the psychological impact that this is going to have on the student, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? He is studying 7 subjects to prepare to sit for five subjects. Can you imagine the psychological impact? Of course you will see at the end of the day the student dropping the one or two subjects out by themselves. So this is why my main problem lies at this level of criteria at the Form IV level when you are saying to a child, you have passed in 3 subjects at Form IV level, you will be allowed to sit for only 5 subjects without giving him the opportunity may be to come up in his first year of Form V. It seems to me that the Commissioner has stated that this is going to be a final decision to be taken from now onwards. Don't you think that we should broaden this perspective, giving the opportunity to the child. If he feels that I can do an effort, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in my Form V, I can give more time to my studies, don't you think that it will be better for the child?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the child studies 7 subjects, right? It is the duty of all those concerned to in the school to see to it that the child get passes, that is, in the 7 subjects, so as to allow him normally to sit for an SC, right? But don't you see, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the child has studied 7 subjects and he passes in only 3, are you going to allow him to sit for an SC of 6 subjects? Knowing quite well that the child will fail in any 3 of these subjects? He is not qualified, of course. So, I leave it in the hands of the schools and the educators. It is a

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challenge for you, it is a challenge, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the child studies 7 subjects he should pass in at least 5 subjects not in 3 subjects.

YOUTH ANIMATORS

(No. B/ 152) Mr. N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports and Others whether his Commission envisages to recruit/appoint any Youth Animator for the promotion of either youth or sports activities in Rodrigues and if so, to state:

- (a) The number to be recruited/appointed;
- (b) The conditions to be attached to their recruitment/appointment;
- (c) The criteria for their selection;
- (d) Whether there has been any meeting or correspondence between his Commission and the Rodrigues Regional Youth Council on the matter, and if so, the latter's stand, thereof?

The Commissioner for Youth and Sports (Mr. J. C. Agathe): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission is envisaging to recruit on a sessional basis at least unemployed Youth and Leisure Officer to assist the organisation of youth development activities. You may noted, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the recruitment will be made on a project basis, for example, special vacances, indoor games and other youth activities to be carried out by my Commission.

These animators will be recruited:-

- (i) to organise sensitisation and awareness programme on youth issues;
- (ii) to assist my Commission in the organisation of youth activities in the different local regions throughout Rodrigues;
- (iii) to act as interface between Officer of my Commission and the youth of Rodrigues; and
- (iv) to motivate the youth of Rodrigues to get involved actively in programmes and activities concerning their development.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (c), the criteria for the selection of these animators will be their involvement and participation in youth activities and programmes.

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Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (d), the answer is yes. My Commission has had meeting with the Rodrigues Regional Youth Council on this issue. However, with due respect to our partner and as a matter of principle, I consider it not proper to reveal neither the details of our discussions nor the stand of the Council on this matter.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Commissioner for Sports whether the funds to be paid for the animators will come from the Rodrigues Youth Council or from the Commission for Youth and Sports?

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, all the funds will come that are earmarked by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the funds under the Commission for Youth and Sports, may I ask the Commissioner how does the Rodrigues Youth Council become involved in the process of the recruitment of animators?

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said recruitment will be made on a project basis for example, like special vacancies, indoor games and other activities that are being organised by my Commission and this is going on since long since my Commission is organising activities and the animators are involved in organising the activities for the youth.

Mr. N. Lisette: My question is, may be he had not yet understood, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The Commissioner has admitted there has been exchanges either in terms of meetings and in terms of correspondence with respect to the recruitment of the animators and the fund lies in the budget of the Commission. This is why I am asking him how is the Rodrigues Youth Council involved in this recruitment where funds are under the Commission for Sports?

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, up to now no funds have been disbursed from the Rodrigues Youth Council for this particular activity.

Mr. N. Lisette: I will like to ask the Commissioner for Youth and Sports whether the Rodrigues Youth Council will be involved directly or indirectly in the recruitment/appointment of these animators?

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said there is discussions on that issue but I will not reveal the matter, in a matter of principle, I consider it not proper to reveal the nature of the discussions that we had.

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Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not telling the Commissioner to reveal secret matters in this House. I am questioning on a matter of principles of funds that have been budgeted in this Regional Assembly for a particular purpose. So, I will like Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to have more planifications in his House as regards to the recruitment procedure, the mode of recruitment and the involvement of the Rodrigues Youth Council on the matter.

Mr. Chairperson: I think that it is the third time that you are asking a question of this issue, but I do understand that from the answer that the matter is not yet settled between the Commission and the... This is what I heard? Yes. But it is not settled, you can put the question but you will get the same answer. You've got a point, you may reformulate your question if you wish.

Mr. N. Lisette: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Commissioner for Youth and Sports whether these animators that are going to be recruited, will they be under the aegis of the Commission for Youth and Sports or under the aegis of the Rodrigues Youth Council?

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, first of all I will state to this House that the Rodrigues Regional Youth Council is under the aegis of my Commission...

(Gap in cassette)

Mr. J. C. Agathe: and if we divide the 10000 youth between the five Youth Officers we get an average of 2000 youth per Youth Officer and it is very difficult for the Youth Officers to meet all the youth around Rodrigues and the role of the animators is to go towards the youth even wherever he is be at Camp Pintade, Pointe Coton and they must know what are the activities that are being carried out by my Commission.

Mr. N. Lisette: Just to point out one thing, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The Rodrigues Youth Council is statutory body under the National Youth Policy Act and it is a partner to the Commission and it is under the control of the Commission in fact. I would like to ask the Commissioner for Youth and Sports why is it that the Commission is not recruiting the youth animators directly but is involving the Rodrigues Youth Council. Why is it not recruiting as it used to be in the past like for sports animators even for the ex youth animators. It has been the case where the Commission recruits directly. Why is it that now there is a change in procedure in this respect?

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Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a question of choice and question of policy, new Commissioner, new policies.

LOW COST HOUSING UNIT

(No. B/153) Mr. N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Others as regards to the construction of 83 Low Cost Housing Unit in Rodrigues allocated to beneficiaries, he would, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) whether all the housing units have been allocated so far and, if not, why;
- (b) whether all the beneficiaries have paid their deposits;
- (c) whether all the beneficiaries are regular with the payment of their monthly installments;
- (d) the total amount of money collected as at to date;
- (e) the amount of arrears due by the beneficiaries, if any?

The Commissioner for Public Infrastructure (Mr. F. Aubret Grandcourt):
Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards part to (a) of the question, all housing units have already been allocated as to date.

As regards part to (b) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer is no. I wish to inform the House that two beneficiaries namely were granted the Low Cost housing Unit free of charge upon the Executive Council's decision dated April 2007 and 28 May 2007 on humanitarian ground.

As regards part (c), the answer is no. While we acknowledge that most of the beneficiaries are regular in the payment of their instalment, there are however a few that have not paid their instalment due as scheduled.

In the above cases, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my office has already issued letters to the beneficiaries to settle their payments. In addition, I have personally convened those beneficiaries in view to motivating them for timely payment of their instalments and they have further been explained that failing of which legal actions may be entertained to vacate the houses. As such Mr. Chairperson, Sir, legal advice

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has already been sought accordingly. It is however, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, noted that there has been a positive response from some of the beneficiaries.

The total amount of money collected as to date is Rs 1,334,545.00

The arrears Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is Rs 248,015.

INVEST RODRIGUES

(No. B/154) Mr. P. Francois (Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Chief Commissioner as regards Invest Rodrigues, whether he would , for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) the number of projects (Companies and Enterprises) which have been submitted, approved and implemented, thereto, since its inception; and
- (b) the number of same which have asked for an extension of their activities, in terms of land and permit, together with the number of same which have been approved and implemented?

The Chief Commissioner : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the number of projects submitted to Invest Rodrigues (and the ex-Business and Investment Promotion Unit) from its inception to date is 699, out of which 223 projects have been approved for grant of commercial and industrial leases. With regards to breakdown in terms of Companies and Enterprises, I am informed that no classification in terms of companies and enterprises are maintained at the office. However, following query with the Registrar of Companies Division in Rodrigues with regards to companies and businesses, I am informed by the Registrar of Companies Division that since August 2007 to date 121 new companies have been formed and 1982 new businesses have been registered.

With regards to projects that have been implemented, I am informed that the office of Invest Rodrigues has not yet set up a system of recording precisely the number of projects that have been implemented. The information on the number of projects implemented as such not available. Such information will be available only at costly and timely inspection on projects size.

I am informed with regards to part (b) that only one promoter (Compagnie Valomee Ltee – Mourouk Ebony Hotel) has asked for extension of its activities and requested

for additional land. The request of the promoter is being considered and processed by my office.

POVERTY IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/155) Mr. P. Francois (Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Commissioner responsible for Women's Affairs, Child Development and Family Welfares:-

- (a) the situation concerning poverty problem in the island;
- (b) whether any survey has been made on that issue, and if so, table the latest report, and if not, why;
- (c) the number of organisation that are involved in combating same together with the number of projects, their respective areas of intervention and their financial resources, if any; and
- (d) the tools and strategies that are being used to combat same, if any?

The Commissioner for Women's Affairs (Mrs. M. Thérèse Brault): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) I would like to invite the Respected Members to read later on at the Budget Speech of the Chief Commissioner, page 5, 6, 7 34, 39. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when we took office as Commissioners we were immediately struck by the economic crisis that hit the whole world. Nous sommes tout à fait conscient, M. le Président, de la situation de pauvreté et de précarité ou vivent certains famille.

Mons. le Président, tout gouvernement digne de ce nom a la responsabilité et le devoir de garantir un environnement social adéquat pour son peuple. Nous ne voulons pas nous voiler la face ici pour dire que nous avons réussi cela à 100%. Mais nous pouvons nous vanter d'avoir fait beaucoup encore et encore.

Ce gouvernement fonctionne comme une équipe. Les stratégies pour combattre la pauvreté et l'exclusion ne se trouvent pas seulement dans la politique de ma commission, mais nous avons une stratégie globale pour combattre la pauvreté. Pour combattre la pauvreté il faut que tous les acteurs, politiques sociaux et économiques y mettent du sien.

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La politique de ce présent gouvernement premièrement qui prône le retour à la terre, accompagnée d'innombrables facilités pour cultiver cette terre, a permis à nos citoyens de retrouver le gout et l'amour de manger les produits locaux.

Au niveau de la Commission de la Sécurité Sociale, nous avons consolidé ce qu'on appelle le *social safety net pour notre peuple* et à travers la modernisation de nos services, dont l'informatisation nous pouvons assurer un service très rapide.

Dans le domaine de l'Education we have spared no efforts to empower and assist our people through capacity building et aussi à travers des assistances à les étudiants pré-primaire et à travers la Commission d'Infrastructure Publique, à travers le programme de logement.

Dans son discours budgétaire, M. le Président, le Chef Commissaire a fait une analyse de la situation socio-économique dont je vais inviter les Membres de l'île et a mentionné les 4 points suivants :

1. La création d'emploi ;
2. La pauvreté et l'exclusion ;
3. Le déficit de productivité ; et
4. Les menaces environnementaux.

Alors j'inviterais bien les membres à relire ce discours. Tout ce qui est prévu dans le discours du budget et dans l'action de ce présent Gouvernement vise à l'amélioration de la condition humaine et au renforcement de ses capacités pour combattre la pauvreté et l'exclusion. Beaucoup d'emphasis a été mise sur les moyens pour permettre aux Rodriguais *déboute lors so 2 lipieds et faire ène pas en avant*.

Les ressources financières qu'on a eu minime a été bien canalisées vers de différents domaines pour relever le déficit dont la formation, l'éducation, la pêche, la santé ; et le secteur social à travers les projets de logement, des constructions des track roads ; l'aide social au plus vulnérable et démunis et le renforceront le tissu socio-économique de l'île.

With regard to part (b) of the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in 2008 my Commission planned to conduct a study on social development. This study has not been carried out given that the amount tendered by the sole bidder was too exorbitant. The commission is planning for next year to commission this report by local experts. Many contacts have been made namely the University of Mauritius with a lot of people there so that this report could be done.

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During these two months this year, we have also started the construction of toilet blocks in Region 6, and we are doing a lot with other organizations such as the DCP, the Trust Fund and other local organization to combat poverty.

In the Housing Sector we have set up a committee on 17th September to look into Housing problems and to devise means to accelerate procedures for same. The Committee is acting as a focal point to deal with people with housing problems and also to serve as a link between the Commission for Social Security who take application for housing and the Commission for Public Infrastructure. Furthermore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have discovered since we took office that there is a need to protect our people from dependence and to press on our youngsters to be responsible citizen, this is why I will have been earmarking money since 2006 item parental empowerment programme to cater for the need of our people. This year we have again earmarked Rs 1 million for the budget 2010 to train women and youngsters aged 18 to 35 in income generating activities. New training in glass painting, Art and Design, Fashion and Design, Home Economics and cookery courses would be given in different region.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (c) and (d), there are a lot of organizations actually working to eradicate poverty. I can cite as far as I know in the Republic a never ending list of people who work in close collaboration with us and other organizations for example the Trust Fund, the Empowerment Programme, DCP, Women and children solidarity programme under the Prime Minister's office, caritas, RCSS, CRAC, AERO, ACTION FAMILIALE, and a number of many NGO's. So far I don't have a list of the activities and the financial resources. I will come later in this House with a statement on the matter.

BEACON LIGHT – GRANDE POINTE

(No. B/156) M r. P. Francois (Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Chief Commissioner whether he is aware that the beacon light found at Grande Pointe is out of use since a long time and, if so, will he consider the possibility of repairing same as a matter of urgency?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the procurement of the solar beacon lights has already been effected. The tender for the installation of same has been finalized and will be floated shortly. It is expected that the installation of beacon lights at the five identified places including Grande Pointe will be completed by the end of this year.

ANIMAL FEED – IMPORTED FROM MAURITIUS

(No. B/157) Mr. J.D. Spéville (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture and Others as regards to animal feed which is being imported from Mauritius, he will for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) table the amount imported to Rodrigues in general for each consignment from January 2007 to date for every category of animal feed;
- (b) give the names of the different suppliers (manufacturers of these animal feeds) together with the selling and purchasing price paid by both Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the local traders in Rodrigues;
- (c) state whether the price of animal feed was/is being subsidized in Rodrigues and, if so;
- (d) give the names and addresses of the farmers who benefited/are benefiting from same, if any?

The Commissioner for Agriculture (Mr. L. Ange Perrine): As regard to part (a) the information as provided by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) is being tabled. **(APPENDIX...).**

As regard to part (b), the names of the different suppliers (manufacturers of these animal feeds) are as follows:-

- “Federation des Associations Cooperatives des Eleveurs de Rodrigues” (FACER) and PAN YAN – Manufacturer: Livestock Feed Ltd.
- Colin Trading Ltd – Manufacturer: Meaders Ltd.
- Commission for Agriculture – Manufacturer: Richelieu Livestock Feed Factory up to June 2009.

As regard to the selling and purchasing price paid by the local traders in Rodrigues, the required information is being awaited and will be submitted in due course.

Moreover, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the prices paid by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to Richelieu Livestock Feed Limited were as follows:-

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Pig Grower	-	Rs 5,850/ton
Bull Feed	-	Rs 5,500/ton
Calf Feed	-	Rs 5,200/ton
Sow Feed	-	Rs 5,450/ton
Pig Starter	-	Rs 6,200/ton
Creep Feed	-	Rs 6,700/ton
Cow Feed	-	Rs 4,200/ton

With regard to part (c), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that the price of animal feed has never been subsidized in Rodrigues.

However, animal feed imported by the Commission for Agriculture from Richelieu Livestock Feed Factory were being subsidized by Central Government and sold to breeders registered with the Commission.

Secondly, a Freight Rebate Scheme was being implemented by SEDHA up to September 2009 whereby freight charges were being refunded to importers of animal feed up to 50%.

As from October 2009, the Scheme has been taken over by Invest Rodrigues.

A list of breeders registered with the Commission who were benefiting from sales of subsidized feed from Richelieu Livestock Feed Factory up to June 2009 is being circulated.

As the House is aware, following the closure of Richelieu Livestock Feed Factory, a subsidy of Rs 2,000 per ton on livestock feeds has been approved by Cabinet to assist small and needy cow and pig breeders in Mauritius. My Commission is working out the modalities so that this Scheme is also applicable to Rodrigues.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that Richelieu Animal Feed Factory had been closed that feeding from same was subsidized by Central Government, can the Commissioner inform the House about the necessary arrangement that has been made with other producers of animals feeds so that the quota for Rodrigues is not altered.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with the closure of the Richelieu Animal Feed Factory small breeders is facing much problem. In fact the price of feeds produce by Richelieu Feed Factory is about three times lower than the price offer by the other manufacturers. That's why Central Government has decided to give Rs 3000 per ton. But this also is not enough and still small breeders are still crying in

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Mauritius and the system is not working well, not to the satisfaction of small breeders, that's why we are working out a modality in Rodrigues so that to give satisfaction to breeders in Rodrigues. Moreover, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with the assistance of the DCP, we have a project to manufacture animal feed locally using raw material that are available in Rodrigues. This will reduce dependency of local breeders on imported feed from Mauritius. Furthermore, my Commission has earmarked fund in the Food Security Fund for the construction of a feed mix in Rodrigues where main components will be imported and maize will be added locally so as to reduce the price of the feeds in Mauritius.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Can the Commissioner for Agriculture state whether there has been any meeting with the other producers animal feeds like livestock with the farmers in Rodrigues and what have been the outcome for meeting to *amortir* the closure of Richelieu Feeding Centre?

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: But we had discussion with livestock Feeders and also association of breeders in Rodrigues. As I have said the issue of price of feed especially the component imported from South Africa or Argentina is very expensive. The solution is to import some of the component and also to add themaize and other component that can be produced locally. My Commission is in discussion with the produces like Meaders wo that we have a partnership to set up the factory itself to Rodrigues so as to reduce the price of these animal that have been imported from abroad.

RODRIGUES WATER COMPANY

(No. B/158) Mr. J. Daniel Spéville (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Chief Commissioner, whether, with regard to the recruitment of staff and workers at the Rodrigues Water Company will he for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Company information if any exercise has been carried out since its incorporation to date and if so, indicate for each post:-

- (a) the date of advertisement;
- (b) the number of application received;
- (c) the number thereof interviewed, by indicating their names, addresses, age and qualifications; and
- (d) the names of those recruited, if any?

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The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regards to the recruitment of staff and workers at the Rodrigues Water Company Limited, I am informed that the recruitment process for the post of Manager, Administrative Secretary and Technical Assistant (Civil) has been completed. As regards the other posts, the recruitment process is ongoing and I am tabling all the information requested.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given its confidential nature and the fact that this is an internal matter to the Company, it would not be appropriate to table the names of those interviewed. Thank you.

BUS FLEET IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/159) Mr. J. Daniel Spéville (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Others, whether, with regard to the bus fleet in Rodrigues he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the NTA information on the following:-

- (a) the names of the owners, the registration numbers and the daily routes of all the buses in Rodrigues and table same;
- (b) the number of buses more than 16 years;
- (c) the policy of his Commission, if any, on buses to be removed from the fleet and which can no longer be served as public transport?

The Commissioner for Public Infrastructure (Mr. F. Aubret Grandcourt): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am hereby tabling the names of bus owners together with their respective registration numbers and daily routes of all buses operating in Rodrigues as requested.

With regard to part (b) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, presently there are seven buses which are above 16 years. Out of which, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, four bus owners have shown their intention to import new buses shortly.

With regard to part (c), I wish to inform the House that presently it is the policy of the NTA for Public Service buses attaining the age of above 18 years to be removed completely from operating as public transport on the road.

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However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there has been request to consider the extension of the age limit to 20 years from some of the bus owners and same Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is under consideration.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner state to the house at what age legally should buses be removed out of the fleet of public transport.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to the Road Traffic Circulation, I quote “No motor vehicles licences shall be issued in respect of any car where 20 years have lapsed to date of its registration”. However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have just said, it is the policy of the NTA for which we have an MOU, the policy of the NTA that all buses above 18 years have to be removed completely from operating as public transport.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that these buses above 15 years old usually get breakdown, is there a special arrangement that is being been done at the level of the NTA to prevent disruption of the whole public transport because sometimes during weekend, during other days we have several buses that have got breakdown and there is a whole disruption in the public transport in Rodrigues. Is there a special arrangement that is being done at the level of the NTA to prevent same?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what we normally do, the owners what they do, they we just call officers of the NTA and after which they will decide to redirect buses on the respective routes.

MONT LUBIN HEALTH CENTRE

(No. B/160) Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis (First Local Region Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others, with regard to the maintenance and upgrading works at the Mont Lubin Health Centre, he would state, to the House, whether:-

- (a) any defection has been noted in the electrical installation of the complex and the consequences of same, if any;
- (b) there is any project to fence the Health Centre;
- (c) any upgrading work is being envisaged regarding the toilets and any other facilities used by the public and the personnel?

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The Commissioner for Health (Mr. J. Allan Ladd Emilien): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer to part (a) of the questions is yes.

In fact defects have been noted in the electrical installation of Mont Lubin Area Health Centre since the addition of one floor to the existing building. For recall Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on 11 October, 2005 a contract was awarded for extension works of Mont Lubin Area Health Centre with the following scope of works:

- (a) Demolition of existing concrete up stands and stub columns;
- (b) On the existing floor, construction of new block wall, columns, beams etc;
- (c) Supply and fixing of new openings;
- (d) Renovation of the records wing upon completion of first floor extension.

We have to note carefully here Mr. Chairperson, Sir that no mention is made for the upgrading of the existing electrical network and switch board to cater for additional load of electricity required to operate additional rooms constructed over the existing ground floor.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, on several occasions fluctuations in power supply at Mont Lubin Area Health Centre has been reported.

Investigations have been carried out by electricians of both my Commission and the Central Electricity Board to identify the exact causes of this problem.

At first it was believed that the frequent cut off of power supply in Mont Lubin Region was to be blamed. However after more investigation, it was reported that the connection from the main network in front of Mont Lubin Area Health Centre was loose and resulted into irregular phases of Electricity supply.

As there were equipment damaged Mr. Chairperson, Sir, during these frequent power cut, the Departmental Head of my Commission took up the question with the Branch Manager of Central Electricity Board.

However Mr. Chairperson Sir, the problem still persisted and a site visit was carried out by officers of my Commission, CEB technicians and myself, on Saturday 11 July 2009 and we noticed that there was a branch of *Derris Indica* commonly known as “pongamme or la coqueluche” pressing on the main network and has been burnt.

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I personally took pictures of the branches pressing on the main network in the presence of employees of the CEB.

After the cutting down of the branches it appeared that the problem was solved. However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it has been reported lately that the problem still persisted and we concluded that the newly bought Change Over Switch installed could be the source of the problem. The change over Switch is being replaced and the problem is still under investigation.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, the question of defection in the electrical installation cannot be stated as such as the cause of power fluctuation has not been identified so far. However this has had the consequences of frequent power failure and some damages to - ECG apparatus, -Dentist chair, - lighting and PABX System. All damages have been repaired. So far my Commission is presently looking for an Electrical Engineer with the Electrical Supply Division (ESD) of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. As they themselves have shortage of Electrical Engineers, I have been told that a special effort will be made by the Ministry to send an officer to Rodrigues. Same is being awaited shortly.

Concerning part (b) of the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer is yes pending availability of funds. I personally consider it to be one of our priorities as security within the Area Health Centre is an important issue.

But Mr. Chairperson, Sir, please note that we are not aiming at only fence the compound but this project is part of a global one which includes providing a two way access to Mt. Lubin Area Health Centre.

The two way access road leading towards the Senior Citizen Centre will facilitate fluidity in the movement of vehicles, mainly ambulances within Mont Lubin Area health Centre.

Presently it is rather difficult for vehicles to move freely within the compound hardening the job of the personnel specially whenever there is an urgency.

We have also identified other upgrading work concerning the mess for drivers, ambulance attendants and hospital attendants. The upgrading of toilets also forms part of works identified to be carried out at the Mont Lubin Area Health Centre.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to (c) for financial years 2010-2012 no such project has been envisaged due to unavailability of funds. Kindly note Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that with the PBB methods, being given that no such project has been approved; no demarcation from projects approved is possible.

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I would also like, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to put on record that we recently carried out some upgrading works at Mt. Lubin Area Health Centre, among others:-

- Refurbishment of immovable furniture
- Paintings of buildings
- Refurbishment of alleys; etc

and this is on ongoing process, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, thank you.

Mrs. R.M. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Commissioner for Health, whether actually at the Mont Lubin Area Centre there has been *installation du disjoncteur comme recommandé par la CEB par rapport au bâtiment ancien*.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson Sir, according to me such has been the case as it should be as the respected Member has said according to the regulations of the CEB. Yes it must have been the case. We just have newly board as I mentioned in my reply, this has to be done within all the parameters according to the regulations.

Mrs. R.M. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, puisque quand on parle de électricité (courant) on parle de sécurité, est-ce que le Commissaire peut dire à la Chambre aujourd'hui, quand est-ce qu'il prévoit de résoudre ce problème d'électrique une fois pour toute à l'hôpital de Mont Lubin?

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I just mentioned in my reply that we are looking for an electrical engineer from the Ministry of Health we are awaiting same soon.

TRUST FUND HOUSING UNITS

(No. B/161) Mr. L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner responsible for Women's Affairs, Child Development and Family Welfares as regards to the existing Trust Fund Housing Units for the vulnerable groups, will she obtain the following information:-

- (a) whether there is any undergoing project related to same, and if so;
 - (i) its nature, when works were kicked off and what is the expected date of completion;

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- (ii) whether tenders were launched, and if so, when;
- (iii) table the list of bidders, together with the amount each tendered and a copy of the contract of the successful bidders(s).
- (b) the total number of Trust Fund Housing Units and the number beneficiaries for ongoing project; and
- (c) table a list of the names and addresses of beneficiaries (region wise)

The Commissioner for Women's Affairs (Mrs. M. Thérèse Brault): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, though the question is a bit ambiguous related to undergoing project, I think there is a mistake. It should be ongoing project because undergoing project, it does not exist and I will reply to the question. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission is undertaking provision of basic amenities to poor families with the financial contribution of Rs 3 million rupees from the Decentralised Cooperation Programme. The project consists of the construction of toilet bath to beneficiaries of Housing Programme financed by the Trust Fund for Social Integration of Vulnerable Groups that is 61 toilet blocks in local region 6, 36 in local region 1 and 55 in local region 3 respectively.

The works have started on 8th September 2009 in local region 6 and is expected to be completed on 6 December 2009.

However, for local region 1& 3, works will be started shortly and the intended completion date for the whole of the works will be 60 and 90 calendar days respectively from the date of handing over of site.

Tenders were launched on 10 April 2009 and I am tabling the requested information.

As regard to parts (b) and (c), I do not deem it fit here to table the names of the beneficiaries because all the names of the beneficiaries are available at the office of the Trust Fund.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: I would like to ask for one supplementary question. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (b) if at least I have asked for the number of the Trust Fund Housing Units.

Mr. Chairperson: You listen to the answer.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: For this information you have to go to the Trust Fund.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: I understand that not all of the beneficiaries have been able to benefit from this ongoing project. So I would like to know why the criteria used to define those people who at now benefited from same.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: In fact, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the project initially we wanted to complete at least 300 housing units but unfortunately, due to a lot of delays in the concept of the project itself and with the approval of the DCP and as the project was delayed the cost of materials has increased etc. So we had to seek the approval of DCP for at least we could do half of what was expected. But this project is not an in bare because we are planning for *la vision 2020 comme le Chef Commissaire a dit de continuer pour terminer tous les maisons parce que c'est pas normale des personnes ont des maisons et ils ont pas accès à des toilettes. Et maintenant ce qu'on est en train de faire de mettre les bâtiments et plus tard venir avec des projets de pouvoir donner des aménités qu'il faut. Mais tout ça va venir dans un deuxième temps et à la longue tous les bénéficiaires de Trust Fund pourront bénéficier de ce projet et d'autres projets encore qu'on a prévu.*

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner state whether other Commission apart from her Commission are involved in the project?

Mrs. M. T. Brault: Of course as it is a housing project you would say the Commission for Public Infrastructure are involved in the supervision of the activities going up there.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Commissioner being given that she's moving forward with a project involving persons who benefited from Trust Fund, has her Commission made an assessment of the number of beneficiaries who are prone to obtain these facilities that is underway.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: At the initial stage of the project all beneficiaries of Trust Fund at that time were prone to receive this project. Because all of them are poor people, but gradually some people manage to come out of this vicious circle of poverty and some even beneficiaries which we identify since in 2006, we have to come back because this beneficiaries themselves they came to us and they say "we have been able to construct a toilet so we should give that to somebody else". So from time, this is what we do. Gradually people are moving out of the vicious circle so there are some people who were on our list which need to be amended to because these people have manage to construct their own toilet by themselves but we could

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say that most of the people are eligible for this facility and we would come to give it to them.

Mr. N. Lisette: May about the Commissioner being given that the DCP is providing Rs 3 million for this project, is there any amount that has been earmarked by his Commission and that is being added to this Rs 3 million?

Mrs. M. T. Brault: Of course because with the project of the DCP it is one third that the RRA should add to this project, so the RRA has contributed one third to the project.

Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can we know from the Commissioner whether the beneficiary has to contribute any amount of money or any contribution or any something like that.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: No the contractor is doing all the jobs and the contractor paid no contribution from beneficiary. Later when we are coming with the sceptic tank and others may be then the beneficiaries have to contribute.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House about the expected number of families who are expected to benefit from this.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: There are 152 people actually going to benefit from this.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LANDFILL – GRENADA

(No. B/162) Mr. L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Others, as regards the construction of a new landfill site Phase 1 at Grenada, will the Commissioner state to the House the scope of work of same and whether any Environment impact assessment was carried out; and if same has already been completed?

The Commissioner for Public Infrastructure (Mr. F. A. Grandcourt): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with the increase in the generation of solid waste and the actual dumping site at Roche Bon Dieu nearing saturation, the Commission for Public Infrastructure has embarked on the construction of a new cell in line of the proposed landfill. Phase I of the work consist of the excavation and construction of a berm in view to creating a cell of volume of approximately 10,000 m³.

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Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the construction of landfill is a schedule activity under the Environment Protection Act 2002 which requires an Environment Impact Assessment. However, in view of the urgency thereof and on the basis of financial constraints, my office proceeded with the implementation of one cell under Phase I of the project. Accordingly the Ministry of Environment was approached thereon and the said Ministry issued an environmental clearance for the construction of the aforesaid cell at Roche Bon Dieu. We are also informed that the full implementation of the landfill project for disposal of solid waste will warrant the EIA accordingly.

I assure the House that all environmental conditions in relation to the construction of a new cell is being adhered to. In view of our visionary policy whereby we were embarked on the waste segregation project we expect a reduction in the volume of waste in the long term conveyed to the landfill site. In addition, Mr. Chairperson, fencing work will be carried out shortly.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner state to the House whether there has been a new consultancy firm engaged in the construction of this landfill?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer is yes. I think that the Member is referring to Gibb Mauritius in September 2005. What I would like to remind the House, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Environment Impact Assessment of the construction of landfill was drafted by Gibb Mauritius in September 2005 to the Ministry of Environment by the then Government, former Government. However, it is noted that the EIA was, I quote “very deficient and generic nature of the EIA Report” unquote, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as stipulated in the reply from the Ministry of Environment and NDU depict that the EIA has not been drafted with the required technical background.

“JARDIN D’ENFANT” – BATATRAN

(No. B/163) Mr. L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Others, whether, as regards to construction of a “Jardin D’enfant” at Batatran (Cité), he will state to the house when works started and when they have been completed together with the total cost of the project?

The Commissioner for Public Infrastructure (Mr. F. A. Grandcourt): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the construction of a children playground at Batatrand (Cite), started on 09 August 2009 through in-house labour by my Commission and the fixing of children play equipment was completed on 21 August 2009. However, minor

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works comprising of the installation of entrance gate and repairs of one play is ongoing.

The total cost of the project amounts to Rs 55,000. It is to be noted that while the equipment are meant for children, adult do also use to accede to these play and cause damage as same has not been designed to support such load.

As such, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission intends to place information panels on all children playground to refrain adults from using the children play equipment. Furthermore, a dedicated maintenance team has also been deployed to ensure a constant maintenance of the children playgrounds.

RODRIGUES TOURISM REGULATION 2007

(No. B/164) Mr. S.P. Roussety (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner, with regard to the coming up into operation of the Rodrigues Tourism Regulation 2007, he will state:-

- (a) the names and addresses of any successful applicant who has received an industrial lease or a letter of approval for the operation of a tourism accommodation as at to date;
- (b) who has been awarded a tourism license as at to date;
- (c) the different dates on which the Advisory Committee held its meeting since its set up?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part 9(a) I am informed that upon receipt of applications for Tourism Enterprise Licenses, the Commission for Tourism verifies the documents submitted by the applicant and a site visit is carried out at the proposed business premises by a Tourism Technical Team which assesses the compliance of the enterprise in line with the RRA Tourism Regulations. In light of the report of the Technical Team, letters of intent are issued to applicants whereby they are informed of shortcomings, if any, or of the approval. I am informed that as at to-date thirty (30) accommodations have been issued letters of intent. The names and addresses of the thirty (30) accommodations are being tabled.

As regards to part (b) I am informed that nine (9) tourism enterprise licenses have been granted as at to-date. The names and addresses of the nine (9) enterprises are being tabled.

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With regards to part (c), I am informed that the Committee has met on two occasions namely on 7 November 2007 and 9 April 2008. I am also informed that a meeting of the Committee which was planned for 8 October 2009 this month could not meet given three of its members were abroad and the meeting has been postponed for this week on 22nd October 2009. Thank you.

EXAMINATION FEE – PAYMENT

(No. B/165) Mr. S. P. Roussety (Fifth Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Women's Affairs, Child Development and Family Welfare, whether, with regard to the payment of examination fee to students, she will, for the benefit of the House state:-

- (a) The criteria set by her Commission for the payment of examination fees to those students;
- (b) The number of beneficiaries for which her Commission has paid for half and full fees; and
- (c) The total amount paid; and table a list of beneficiaries

The Commissioner for Social Security (Mrs. M. T. Brault): Mr. Chairperson Sir, the only set criteria for the payment of examination fees which is a national policy for needy students are for SC and HSC exams and are as follows.

- (i) The student should:
 - (a) be aged 20 or less during the academic year;
 - (b) be following full time courses in a secondary institution

The undermentioned families are eligible for a refund of 100% exams fees of their children:

- (a) Beneficiaries of the basic benefits such as basic retirement pension, widow's, invalidity and orphan who would have been eligible for Social Aid in the absence of basic benefits;
- (b) Families whose monthly income does not exceed Rs 7500.

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Families with a monthly revenue of Rs 7501 to Rs 10,000 having more than one child sitting for SC of HSC in the same academic year are eligible for 50% refund.

Furthermore, the Executive Council at its meeting on 24 April 2009 has taken note that some families are unable to pay examination fees due to hardship cases and as they do not fall into the approved criteria set by the Ministry of Education we exceptionally met for these examination fees under the Vote Item "Poverty Alleviation" after recommendation from Officers of the Social Security. So, my Commission has paid full fees for 419 beneficiaries and half fee for 5 beneficiaries on a case to case basis. And as regard to part (c) the total amount paid is Rs 3 million sixty seven thousand and five hundred and eighty one rupees (Rs 3,067,581.00).

(gaps on cassette)

Mrs. M. T. Brault: table the list of beneficiaries.

Mr. S. Pierre Roussety: Est-ce que Madame la Commissaire peut dire à la Chambre si il y a des cas où des paiements pour payer les frais d'examens pour certains élèves là les salaires des parent dépassent le plafond fixés.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: You have to listen. I have said that for those who do not fit into the criteria set by the Ministry for Education, after a decision of the Executive Council on 24th April 2009, after recommendations from Officers of our Commission, the Executive Council decided to pay for these people.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis : Canthe Commissioner how many persons are in this case.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: I don't really have this figure with me now but if you consult the list I have just table, you would see the number of persons.

Mr. N. Lisette: May I know from the Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, how are applications receive for these type of students who do not fit the criteria, yet who receive these facilities.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: People who want to apply for payment of exam fees they come to the Office of the Social Security in their region, of course, and they fill a form but unfortunately some of them did not fit, because some people has Rs 7501 but when we look into the family backgrounds, people have 10 children who are going to school, they cannot afford to pay. So, this on a case to case basis, then I forwarded the request to the Executive Council to look into the cases of these persons, but normally everybody who wants to, can apply, even you can go to the

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Social Security, next yearand apply for it. But, o.k of course your application will be rejected. So this is how would happen.

Mr. N. Lisette: In this case, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I know from the Commissioner out of the total number of applicants who did not fit the criteria, whether any of them who were rejected out of the list.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: Of course as I said there should be some who would be rejected. It's on a case to case basis we have to make a social enquiry before. But of course when we make a social enquiry those who were rejected some people which we can't do anything for them because of their social background, they would not fit in any even our criteria because of course we have to draw a line somewhere we can't afford to pay for everybody. Otherwise everyone would come to apply and would get their examination fees paid.

Mr. N. Lisette: Is the social inquiry, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, based on only the number of children that the families have or are the any other criteria?

Mrs. M. T. Brault: Yes of course we look at the number of children. We also look whether the person for example some people are earning income as careers allowance, for example. Some people are physically handicapped, they can't afford the money that they get is sometimes insufficient to care for themselves. But when we look because we look at the income, so it would come into their income but we analyse the situation we see that this person would never afford to pay these examination fees.

DISEASE OF CANCER

(No. B/166) Mr. S. P. Roussety (Fifth Island Region Member) ask the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others, with regard to the disease of cancer, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) the number of persons suffering from same;
- (b) the number of patients who died of cancer from February 2008 to date;
- (c) whether there has been any increase/decrease in those death;

The Commissioner for Health (Mr. J. A. Ladd Emilien): Mr. Chairperson, presently there are 100 known cases of persons following treatment suffering from Cancer in Rodrigues.

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As regards to part (b) of the question from February 2008 to date there have been 56 deaths due to Cancer.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, for part (c) of the question in fact according to routine statistics of health care delivery system in Rodrigues, it has been observed that the rate of Cancer is increasing in the population among both males and females.

In 2003 there were 40 deaths due to Cancer. The year after i.e 2004 there were 32 deaths cases, in 2005 24 cases, 2006 31 cases, 32 cases in 2007, 41 in 2008 and from January 2009 to date 15 cases.

In line with the above, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it has been observed that there is an urgent need to intervene in order to treat and prevent cancer cases among Rodriguans. It is envisaged to seek the collaboration of the Mauritius Institute of Health to conduct a survey on the incidence of cancer in Rodrigues.

The execution of the above survey together with the design and implementation of an action plan is already under discussion with Mr. Ameerbeg, Senior Research Officer at the Mauritius Institute of Health.

HIV/AIDS & AIDS SECRETARIAT

(No. B/167) Mr. S. P. Roussety (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others, with regard to HIV/AIDS and Aids Secretariat at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, he will, for the benefit for the House, state:-

- (a) who is the Officer in charge of that Unit;
- (b) whether a residential building (a quarters) under the responsibility of the Commission for health has been converted into the AIDS Secretariat building and if in the affirmative, since when and when has it been handed to the AIDS Unit;
- (c) whether this building is operational, and if so, since when;
- (d) the number of patients suffering from HIV/AIDS?

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The Commissioner for Health (Mr. J. A. Ladd Emilien): As regard to part (a) of the question the officer in Charge is Dr. DIDARALLY KHODABOCUS, Medical and Health Officer.

As regard to part (b) of the question, the answer is yes, Quarters 5A formerly occupied by the Surgical Store has been vacated and handed over to Rodrigues AIDS Secretariat on the 1st of June this year. The building is operational since then, as the officers are involved in preparing data sheets, survey forms and other secretarial works in anticipation of Global Fund Grant Signature tentatively scheduled for Thursday 22 October, 2009.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, for part (d) of the questions the answer is 32; 21 Male and 11 Female. Thank you.

Mr. N. Lisette: With respect to the separation of the Aids Unit in a quarter, I believe that patients are being directed there. Is it right that the patients who are having AIDS are directed there, Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I must inform the House that Members should note that there is a difference between the Aids Unit and the Aids Secretariat. The Aids Secretariat has nothing to do with the treatment of patient whereas this concerns the Aids Unit. Such is the case in Mauritius, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Aids Unit is at Cassie under the responsibility of Doctor Suntally whereas the Aids Secretariat is in the Prime Minister's Office under the supervision of Dr. Pathak. This has nothing to do, Aids Secretariat and Aid Unit. The Aids Unit is still where it is, where it was formerly that is on the 1st floor of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

EXTENSION OF RUNWAY AT SIR GAETAN DUVAL AIRPORT

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to make three statements which will have three components. First component will be the Airports Development, the second one on the MARS – Marine and Agricultural Resource Support Programme and the third the SIDPR. Mr. Chairperson, you would recall that the *Aéroport de Paris International* (API) has prepared a development strategical report on Sir Gaetan Duval Airport in September 2008. The report has confirmed the direct relation between tourism development of Rodrigues and the completion of a longer runway at Sir Gaetan Duval Airport. According to the report the construction of new runway appeals a better option ofto an extension of existing one

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which necessitates the closure of the airport during several months. The new runway offer a 2100 m in the first instance with a provision of an extension of up to 3000 m in the event of long traffic opportunity. The project will entail an investment of 1.3 billion. We have had consultation on the issue with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Empowerment and the Ministry of External Communication and I am now pleased to inform this House that I have obtained confirmation by the International Bank for the Construction Development that is the World Bank has agreed to finance the feasibility studies. The terms of reference to the feasibility study has now been finalized and we are preparing the tender documents for the financial and technical feasibilities studies.

MARS

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards the MARS, Marine and Agricultural Resources Support Programme. I wish to inform the House that the project has become effective with effect from October 2009. The startup launching workshop was held yesterday. The MARS Programme will be implemented over the islands of Rodrigues and Mauritius over a six years period. Programme is estimated to cost Rs 615 million and will be financed jointly by IFAD. The Government of Western Australia, the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme, the National Empowerment Foundation and the Government. The programme intervention will mainly focus on the procure reform agenda on Government, the Marine Resource Management and the Diversification of Rural Incomes by the promotion of income generating activities in the agricultural sector. Finally, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards the SIDPR, Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues, I am pleased to brief the House on its finalization and implementation. With the permission of the House today, we have circulated copies of the SIDPR together with a CD, containing a soft version of the document. Each Member has received an envelope containing the final SIDPR, the short term action plan and a CD containing with documents. Members of this House are invited to study in depth and to acquaint themselves with the whole SIDPR. They are also advised to keep the documents and the CD safely. Soft copies of the SIDPR are also available on line at the Web Site of my Office, at www.rra.mu. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if I have written personally to each Member to submit the SIDPR document it is because it has an immense importance as mentioned in the letter I have addressed to each Member today, there is need for one and all to participate. The EPMU is currently working on the whole SIDPR launching programme and this will be communicated to one and all shortly. In fact Members of this House are the first persons receiving the SIDPR copy. Three hundred copies have been ordered and will be distributed shortly to various stakeholders, organizations etc in Rodrigues. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are planning as a tentative date which is yet to be finalized with Central Government in Mauritius to launch the SIDPR on 8th November as a tentative

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date. I invite all persons, all Members, all organizations in Rodrigues to participate in the SIDPR especially in the different thematic groups and in forming the *table ronde* de Rodrigues. Depending on all preparing issues which are timely and consuming the date of 28th November will be confirmed or another date which one and all will be identified. I thank you all and I wish you a good reading, fruitful reading of the SIDPR, a long read, of course, only long study leads to success.

Mr. Chairperson: We are left with only adjournment matters. I do not really want to disturb the atmosphere that exists here today but I feel compelled to refer to this House a strong case of “Publishing False News”. This concerns and it goes directly to the dignity of this House. I have a newspaper *Le Rodriguais Autonome*, in its number 25 publication of Friday 2nd of October 2009. I will have to cite what is written thereon so that Members make their own mind about what I am going to say. The article proceeds and starts “la politicienne responsable de la Femme déclarait, entre guimets which means that something that is being repeated verbatim, I mean, “l’opposition s’acharne contre le gouvernement MR, certains pensent même pouvoir venir dormir dans les lits de la majorité s’ils pouvaient le faire”. This is wrong. I will not say pervert reporting but it is a wrong report. When I read this I immediately felt that this was not the correct words that were used. So, I invited the Secretariat to have a transcript of it and this is what the Secretariat report reads “M. le président, des fois ça tue de voir combien des personnes s’archarnent sur les gens, s’archarnent sur les personnes qui s’assoient de cet coté de la chambre, c’est-à-dire la chambre de la majorité, pour décortiquer, je n’oserais pas dire, permettez moi de peur d’être mal-élevé le fond de quoi, mais s’ils pouvaient venir dormir dans leur lit, je crois qu’ils le feront”. I cannot connect what has been said in the Assembly and what is written on this newspaper. And then what happens when something which is wrongly reported, the comments which follows this, go directly to our dignity here. Because they are based: the criticisms are based on a wrong quotation which was made. Then the first is that, “le président ne fait rien”, this is wrong, I did make a ruling. And then “Et pourtant quand Serge Clair parlait de corruptions sans viser personne le president accédait tres vite au point d’ordre du politicien responsable de Rodrigues”. Well what I have it that this connotation has brought a wrong interpretation of the whole part of this proceeding. And then this newspaper has as *directeur et redacteur en chef*, Serge Clair. I don’t want to say anything in the negative. He is a man who has more than 20 years of experience and I know that at this time this took place, he was not in the Assembly. This would mean that the Reporter which would report matters for this newspaper is not doing his work well. I will have to decide whether that Reporter is fit to remain in our press gallery. I will make my decision probably a bit earlier. I do not want to proceed further in the matter.

Thank you.

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The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I add one word to what you have said. And to say that I myself am very much surprised by the way some newspapers in Rodrigues report the proceedings of this House. And may I here, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the presence of police, people responsible of the police in Rodrigues including people of the NIU, etc, to draw the attention of this House and the police regarding the need for an imprint according to the Newspaper and Periodical Act, there is need to put the name of the publisher, the editor of the newspaper which is put here and there is need to put the name and address of the printer which is not put here. The impression of this newspaper is Compress Ltd. There is no address; we don't know where it is printed. This is a breach of the Newspaper and Periodical Act. I hope that the police is taking an act since this paper is published there is no address being given for the person or company printing this paper, this is a breach of the law. I do hope the relevant authorities will take the necessary action.

I move for adjournment, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I move that the House be adjourned to Tuesday 17th November, 2009 at 10.30 a.m.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

The Assembly was adjourned at 13.15hrs.

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Debate No. 12 of 20.10.2009

RODRIGUES

SECOND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 12 of 2009

Sitting of Tuesday 20 October 2009

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 20 October 2009

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ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr Johnson Roussety, GOSK	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 Gaëtan 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

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PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Mr Chairperson	-	Lamvohee, Mr. Joseph Chenlye, CSK
Clerk	-	Gopall, Mr. Navin
Sergeant -at-Arms	-	Louis, Mr. Jorgenson