

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RODRIGUES COMMISSION FOR CONCILIATION & MEDIATION

(No. B/168) Mr. N. Lisette (First Local Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports & Others whether as regards the setting up of the Rodrigues Commission for Conciliation and Mediation as per the Employment Relations Act 2008, would he for the benefit of the House:

- (a) state the names of its members, when they were appointed and the capacity on which they were appointed;
- (b) give details of any fee/allowance paid to them;
- (c) state whether any dispute has been reported to the above mentioned Commission so far, and if yes, the parties involved and the nature or the litigation?

The Commissioner for Youth & Sports & Ors (Mr. J. C. Agathe): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a draft Employment Relations Bills and Employment Relations Bills was initially related to my office by the Ministry for Labour and Industrial Relations for views and comments. I personally contacted the Ministry to send a delegation to Rodrigues to enable a wider consultation with our stakeholders. A consultative meeting was subsequently held in Rodrigues at the Malabar Gymnasium on the 28th November 2007, during which the Bill was presented to the Trade Unions and other stakeholders present.

During this meeting, the Trade Union emphasized that there is need to have a special provision in the new law for the provision of workers rights and industrial relations in Rodrigues. Same was not included in the initial draft. A tripartite workshop on the draft Employment Relations Bill & the draft Employment Rights Bill was subsequently held in Gold Crest Hotel from 8th to 9th January 2008 and which was attended by one representative of Trade Union from Rodrigues and the Officer in Charge of Labour and Industrial Relations from my Commission.

It is also to be noted that two experts from MILO namely Mrs. Doubiah.. and Mr. Karier did attend and acted as facilitator on the workshop by leading discussions on the two draft Bills. All the parties concerned have been given the opportunity to express their views and make proposals as regards aspects to be taken into consideration in these two laws, that is, the Employment Relations Act and the Employment Right Act.

I must point out, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the two laws were eventually adopted to replace the outdated Industrial Relations Act dated back to 1973 and 1975 respectively. In the new law, provision has been made for the establishment of the Rodrigues Commission for Conciliation and Mediation to determine any labour dispute which may occur in Rodrigues.

Furthermore, the function of the Officer of the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations and the Ministry of Civil Service Affairs will be exercised by the Departmental Head of my Commission to provide reconciliation service in Rodrigues.

Section 99 of the Act refers to the establishment of Rodrigues Commission for Conciliation and Mediation. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to reply to question (a), the law allows me to appoint four members to constitute the commission namely:-

1. a president, who shall be appointed on a part time basis by the Commissioner responsible for Labour and Employment.
2. One representative of workers representation, one representative of the employers organization which may be appointed for such periods that may be determined after consultations with most representative organization of workers and employers as the case may be; and
3. One benevolent member.

So, to reply to question (a), I have nominated Mr. Lelio Roussety as Chairman of the Committee, secondly, we have Mr. Fok Ken Ho Tu Nam who is the member of the employer and unfortunately, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have not been able to appoint Mr. Jacques Castel because he is ill that this moment. He has been replaced by Mrs. Bégué and fourthly, I nominated Mrs. Gontran as an independent voter.

As regards to part (b), the president of the Commission is paid an all inclusive monthly allowance of Rs 15,000. The appointed members are remunerated at the rate of Rs 625 per sitting as approved by the PRB Report 2008.

As regards to part (c), I wish to point out to this House that so far one case has been reported to the Rodrigues Commission for Conciliation and Mediation. At the time that I am speaking, I am informed that a second ... has been tabled at the Commission. As a matter of confidentiality I will not disclose any information in regards to the contents of all parties present.

Mr. Chairperson: Any supplementary?

Mr. N. Lisette: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if you refer to the Employer's Relation Act, the Commissioner has had prerogative of appointing four persons. May he inform the House for the period of time for which these persons have been appointed?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is mentioned in the Act, for a specific period of time but for the time being I have given two years, for two years.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the appointment of workers representatives, the Act states that consultations should be made with the Trade Unions in Rodrigues. May I ask the Commissioner for Labour and Employment whether these consultations were made and what was the outcome with respect to that consultation?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, consultations have been made with representatives of employees. First of all we have had a meeting on the 1st February 2009. Second meeting has been scheduled for another day, I don't see the exact date here but we have scheduled a second meeting and I have met personally the representatives of the Trade Unions in the conference room of the Commission for Health. At that time the place at my office was not available. But unfortunately, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am very sorry, and I was very surprised that all the Trade Unions walked out of the meeting. But I take the opportunity to consult them but they prefer to go away. But the prerogative to appoint someone on the Committee is the Commissioner responsible for Labour Relations and I have taken the opportunity to appoint someone to represent the employees on the committee.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that we are made to understand in this House that there has been a walkout from the meeting where there has been protest from the Trade Unions. It is not right, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that in the first meeting of 10th February 2009, the Commissioner through his Departmental Head, did tell to all those present at the meeting that he will allow the Trade Union to democratically elect the representatives?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, yes, what he said is right. But they prefer to go out, what can I do, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? I have the prerogative someone so I have done it.

Mr. N. Lisette: I rephrase my question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and I repeat it. Is it not right that in the meeting of the 10th February 2009, it was decided that, whatever be the name to be forwarded to the Commissioner for Labour and Employment, he will accept and agree to the Trade Unions’?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I know what name they are mentioning but in the ...security, I have chosen a place for him. But to give the names of the Trade Unions which is the most representative, and the Registrar of registration in a letter dated 18th February 2009 has given me, the Federation which is the most representative, and here it is the Rodrigues Workers Federation which has a total membership of 1278 members. So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have taken this opportunity to ask the Chairman of this Federation to send me a name and the Federation has sent me a name and I have nominated the name that has been chosen by the Federation which has the most representative. *“Pli clair ki sa péna là”*.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the name of the chairperson who has given the name to the Commissioner was himself in the meeting of the 10th February, he himself was there! Allow me, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to quote part of what was said in the meeting of the 10th February 2009, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, if this will be a basis for your question, of course.

Mr. N. Lisette: Following a phone call from the Commissioner, the Departmental Head informed the meeting that the latter has accepted to appoint any representative the meeting would propose. That was the decision that was taken in the meeting of the 10th February. May I know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, why is it that after the meeting has taken on particular name, why is that the Commissioner did not agree with that?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, you know, I know what the Member wants to say. I have stated the name, I have chosen a place at *Baie Malgache* for him in the Food Security Fund. *Ena place Baie Malgache, aller alle travaille garcon*. Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have been consulted by the Trade Unions, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and here in this country, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we don’t want people *ki malélèver dans sa pays là*, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. And I must act according to law. First of all what he said is right. But unfortunately, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, they want to go out of the meeting so I must act according to law.

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And the law stated that the most representative...and the most representative federation is the Rodrigues Workers Federation. So I have consulted them and they have chosen one name and I myself have agreed to that name so I have nominated that person on the committee.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the names that have been submitted after the resignation of the first member that was appointed, I would like to know if he is a member of a Trade Union? Whether he is a member of the Trade Union?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, he is a worker there. She is a clerk of the Trade Union.

Mr. N. Lisette: So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we note here there is a representative of workers who herself is not a member of any Trade Union and she is representing workers' organization on the Rodrigues Commission and Conciliation Committee. This is right. He himself said that she is a clerk of that organization. She is working as clerk, she is not a public officer. She cannot be a member of the organization. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the Conciliation and Mediation Committee is to be set for resolving disputes, among other, as regards to Rodrigues it is set for resolving disputes between employers and employees. Does the Commissioner not think that it would have been better if from the very start himself, we start on a very good foot, in order to set the right signal to the employers community as well as the employees community?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as a government which is responsible, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what is our role here, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? It is to act according to law. What does law state, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? The law states to have consultations with the most representative. I would meet only the Rodrigues Workers Federation but I preferred to meet all the Trade Unions. And here it is stated in a letter, I repeat it again, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on the 18th of February 2009, the Registrar of Association, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I can table the copy here, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, stated that the Rodrigues Workers Federation was the most representative. And the Rodrigues Workers Federation nominated someone. Can I have this opportunity to reject, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? *Nous pé cause democracy?* Is that not democracy, Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

FOOD SECURITY FUND

(No. B/169) Mr. P. Francois (Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture & Others whether, with regard to funds allocated under the Food Security Fund for Rodrigues, he would, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) the number of contracts awarded up to date under the fund;
- (b) the names, categories and addresses of all successful bidders for the different projects;
- (c) the name, reference and value of each contract awarded and to whom; and for any other projects?

The Commissioner for Agriculture (Mr. L. A. Perrine): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to apprise the House that the Food Security Fund is governed by the Finance and Audit (Food Security Fund) Regulation 2008. The objective of the fund is to finance projects for mobilizing land and aquatic resources, inputs for production, human resources, technology and financial resources to optimize food and livestock production locally for domestic consumption.

Secondly, promotion of surplus food production for export. The fund is administered and managed by a Committee of thirteen (13) members which meets on a monthly basis and the Officer in Charge of the Agricultural Services is the representative of Rodrigues on this Committee. All projects submitted by Rodrigues and approved by the twelve (12) technical committees have been included in the Strategic Plan approved by the government for funding in phases over three (3) years.

In fact, Rodrigues submitted projects amounting to Rs 200 M out of which 21 projects have been approved for a total amount of Rs 187 M over three (3) years. Projects are being implemented after examination and financial clearance obtained from the Managing Committee and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Empowerment.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for period July to December 2008, a sum of Rs 50 M has been earmarked for the implementation of thirteen (13) projects in Rodrigues. Eleven (11) contracts have been awarded to date under the Food Security Fund.

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As regards to part (b) and (c), I am tabling the requested information.
(APPENDIX I).

Expenditure to date amounts to Rs 21 M and some Rs 25 M will have to be disbursed before the end of the year for payment of equipment after delivery.

Several projects will start very soon out of which:-

1. Construction of a modern slaughter house;
2. Construction of a community kitchen for production of ‘charcuterie’;
3. Setting up of an incubation centre for the training of agro-processors; and
4. Rehabilitation of 250 arpents of abandoned agricultural land.

Tendering procedures are under progress.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on page 14 in the last Chief Commissioner’s budget speech, a list of nine projects have been enumerated with Rs 100 M under the Food Security Fund for the implementation. *Mais dans le document officiel du Food Security Fund Strategic Plan for Rodrigues, page 24, ces neuf projets avec un budget de 56 M figurent parmi une liste de vingt-et-un projets pour un budget out turn of about Rs 86 M and which are to be completed before December 2009.* Now we see that as per the budget 2010, all these projects have been postponed to be completed in year 2010. How can the Commissioner account for that?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is very simple. I think that Member is intelligent enough to understand that we cannot construct an *abattoir moderne* in five months. These will be extended. These are budget forecast and we will spend the money for a lapse of time of two years. We have up to 2011 to spend the money.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I refer to the same question as pointed out by the Commissioner for Agriculture. As regards to the strategic plan, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a forecast. Did the Commissioner for Agriculture consider the resources available to him both in terms of human and logistic before setting the forecast it is setup in the strategic plan?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Most of the projects will be contracted out. But I must explain, some people think...they were talking about “mangues tombé du ciel” they believe that it has been given as gift, this money. This is not the case. It has been a hard fought battle for that money. We

had to go to Mauritius to fight for that money. And up to now, people have not been paid for up, they are waiting for two months. This is not an easy task. So we have to prepare the projects, submit it to the Managing Committee, have it approved and then obtain the financial clearance from the Ministry of Finance and then we allocate the contract. This is not an easy task.

Mr. N. Lisette: This is the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, did the Commissioner take all these criteria and all these factors into account when he send his forecast? With respect to what is written in the strategic plan. This is the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Did he consider all these? Because if I refer to what my colleague said, by December 2009, Rs 86 M should have been used out of the Rs 187 M which have been provided to Rodrigues. And now we have so many projects that are lagging behind. We have for example, the Slaughter House, Rs 20 M, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I think I understand now, not a single cent has been used on this project. My question remains, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, did the Commissioner for Agriculture consider all the factors that he has enumerated before together with human resources and logistic resources when he setup the target?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think the Member is referring to the strategic plan. The Strategic plan was submitted in 2007. The law to administer the fund was voted in 2008. And the fund was disbursed this year, so all this he is talking about is obsolete. We have to prepare a new plan to submit it again.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House, whether he is satisfied with the implementation capacity of the authorities and the other stakeholders in the monitoring and the execution of the different projects. We see that there are 21 projects but the practicable time frame for the execution is far from the theoretical one. I will ask the Commissioner whether there will be a special derogation to go beyond 2011, who will ask for it and will agree it?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I cannot forecast what will happen but I am satisfied. But you know not to 100% but up to now we will have about Rs 15 M until this year. But as from next year we have many forecast for Rs 100 M and I think that as from next year there will be acceleration in all projects, we will be able to complete everything in 2011. Anyway, if there is any project which is not implemented of course we will ask a derogation so that the money is carried over to 2012.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House who were engaged in the projects to be taken onboard for the Food Security Fund?

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Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have just said in my reply. There was 12 technical committees setup by government and these 12 technical committee submitted proposals for Mauritius...

Mr. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner whether there was consultation with the public and other Commissions who are involved in the food productive sectors?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, officers from my Commission were members of the technical committee and there was wild consultation with farmers' associations, producers' associations. Of course, genuine producers associations not fanthom.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether the dossier of the Food Security Fund for Rodrigues was given on a filliative approach, only agriculture or whether it was given on a whole productive sector approach?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: I cannot answer for that, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. But I know for the agricultural sector, my Commission is implementing this. But I must say the Fisheries sector also has submitted projects for purchase of multi-fishing boats. But for me, I must say that the Commission is responsible to implement projects concerning the agricultural sector.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether the Food Security Fund will account for a Seed Purchase Scheme for planters to cater for the high score of this commodity?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that the Member should try to be update. Nowadays we are no longer talking about Seeds Scheme, we are now contracting production. You must listen when I talk. *Aprane écouter*. So we are now talking about contracting so that the buyer enters into contact with the producer where facilities are given per seeds purchasing and other facilities.

PROMOTION OF HANDBALL DISCIPLINE

(No. B/170) Mr. N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports & Others as regards to the promotion of handball discipline in Rodrigues, he would state:-

- (a) the competitions organized locally since January 2009 to date and the prizes awarded for each competition, if any;
- (b) whether any training/s has been organized, for the same period locally and, if yes, the date/s and the person/s conducting the course/s;
- (c) the amount of money disbursed for the ongoing financial period of July 2009 to date for any activity organized for the promotion of the discipline, and if any; and
- (d) table the expenses per item?

The Commissioner for Youth & Sports & Ors (Mr. J. C. Agathe): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to the Sports Act 2004, sports competitions in Rodrigues are normally organized by Regional Committees and when we are speaking of handball, so handball is being organized by the Regional Handball Sports Committee.

My Commission has only a facilitating role in providing the financial and logistic support to enable the regional committees organizing their sports activities. In this context, my Commission has allocated Rs 200,000 and Rs 100,000 to the Rodrigues Regional Handball Committee for the financial period 2008/2009 and July to December 2009 respectively for its activity to promote the development of handball in Rodrigues.

Since January 2009, the Regional Handball Committee has organized the following competitions:

- (a) Beach Handball at *St. Francois* on 8th February 2009;
- (b) An Inter-zone Handball Festival held on 27th June 2009 at Manique Sports Complex;
- (c) Journée de Handball at Citron Donis held on 15th November 2009.

Prizes for the competitions were awarded for the competitions of 15th November were as follows:

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(a) Winner; cup and gold medal to Malartic Young Tigers Handball Club (Men), Union Sportive de Mont Lubin (Women);

(b) Runner-up; silver medal to Pointe L'Herbe Handball Club (Men), Grand La Fouche Mangues Handball Club (Women);

As regards to part (c), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that no training has been organized so far. However, I am informed that the Regional Committee has submitted a request to the "Ligue Reunionnaise de Handball" in Reunion to provide a technician for the training of its coaches and referees. The training is tentatively scheduled for December this year.

As regards to part (d), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have indicated earlier, a sum of Rs 100,000 has been allocated to the Regional Handball Committee for a period July to December 2009. Out of this sum, an amount of Rs 22,055 has been disbursed for:

(a) The participation of the new president of the Rodrigues Regional Handball Committee to the General Assembly of the Mauritius Handball Federation in Mauritius on 17th November 2009;

(b) The organization of the Festival de Handball at *Citron Donis* on 15th November 2009.

Details of the expenses incurred for these activities are being tabled. **(APPENDIX...).**

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Commissioner for Sports whether any competitions started and was cancelled in the course of the competition?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed of that.

Mr. N. Lisette: May we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the reason as to why the competition was cancelled?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is the affair of the Rodrigues Regional Handball Committee and up to now I have not asked them to explain why they have started a competition and the competition has not been completed.

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Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner is responsible for the general policy of sports in Rodrigues. And if anything is happened, I think it is part of this duty in order to investigate into the issue. Why is it that the Commissioner called the Rodrigues Regional handball Committee to investigate into the matter of why the competition was cancelled?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is not the role of the Commissioner to look into the aspect of the petty things of the Regional Committee. But however, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that with a view to boost up the promotion of handball in Rodrigues, our Commission has had a brainstorming session with the Rodrigues Regional Handball Committee in April this year at La Ferme Youth Centre. Problems affecting the development of handball were edified. A strategy and a programme of action was developed in which the Rodrigues Regional Handball Championship, the Tournoi de Handball Inter colleges and the Tournoi de Handball Inter-écoles competitions were also scheduled to take place during that present fiscal period. I am informed that these competitions have not been organized as scheduled due to some problems encountered by the new Regional Handball Committee. I understand that a new committee has been elected which have already submitted its program of activities until the end of this year.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is he aware because of the cancellation of that league system competition, that there is a demotivation of the part of the athletes and in the competition that was held at *Citron Donis* on 15th November 2009, there was very few teams who participated in that competition?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is his opinion that there has been demotivation. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what has been the role of the Commission? I must remind the Member that out of the Rs 100,000 that we have placed at the disposal of the Committee we have constructed a handball pitch at *Manique* to the tune of Rs 7 M, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to the tune of Rs 7 M, I repeat it, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Rs 7 M. Is that not a motivation to the Committee, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? If the players don't want to play, what can the Commission do, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? We have placed all the facilities, all the infrastructures around the island so that the players can participate. We have placed Rs 100,000 recurrent, Rs 7 M as capital, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is the role of the Commission. And we are not here to go in all the competitions that the Committee. It is the role of the Committee to organize competitions.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, has he been made aware, he is talking about infrastructure, this can be a motivating factor but has been made aware that

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even though there made be good sports infrastructure if facilities are not provided to the athletes in terms of training, so far there has been no training organized, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. In terms of training, in terms of participation abroad, does he agree that such matters can imbibe on motivation of athletes?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what can we spend in this House, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? Only things that we have. *Il y a un dicton qui dit, il faut coudre son pantalon d'après le tissu qu'on a eu. C'est ce qu'on a fait.* This Committee can go anywhere that they want but where can they go, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? We can spend only what we have in this House, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: No more supplementary? Deputy Chairperson take the chair, please.

At this stage, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson in the Chair.

UNE RUCHE PAR FAMILLE

(No. B/171) Mr. J. D. Speville (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture & Others whether, as regards the project “ Une ruche par famille” enunciated in the last Chief commissioner’s budget speech, he will for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) state on the modus operandi of the project and its practical monitoring by all parties concerned;
- (b) give the detailed and total financial cost to be incurred by his Commission and the beneficiaries, if any;
- (c) table any report or study which sustain such policy;
- (d) state whether he intends to go ahead with same and if yes, indicate the measures he proposes to take to support the whole beekeeping sector in Rodrigues ?

The Commissioner for Agriculture (Mr. L. A. Perrine): Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the honey sector of Rodrigues comprises of 190 beekeepers possessing a total of 2,300 bee hives. Honey is produced mainly from eucalyptus, pongamme and other miscellaneous melliferous plants and add-up to 25 tonnes annually. Most honey produced is exported to Mauritius by informal channels (tourist luggage). Per capita consumption is about 250 g per head per year while

10% of annual production is used by the agro processing section in the production of pickles.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, as regard the scope of the sector, Rodrigues honey is a world class product which has been recognized on several occasions. Local beekeepers have acquired sufficient know-how to produce both honey and queen bees very well. The excellent climatic condition couple with the pest and disease free environment confers much advantage to the sector. The development of new products by the agro processing sector with honey as key ingredient and the possibility of substituting honey export in Mauritius and the region are excellent opportunities to increase local production.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, my Commission has highlighted these specific advantages in its Strategic Option for the Agricultural Sector in Rodrigues in 2007. The SIDPR Report 2009 conquers with the idea of increasing the production of honey in Rodrigues.

The present meliferous cover of the island stand at 780 hectares approximately. It is known to all that increasing nectar production will directly increase honey production. This is why my Commission has planted 12,500 meliferous plants this year. Also, the Forest Division has planted endemic plants which all have meliferous properties.

The objective of my Commission, therefore, is to reach an annual honey production of 75 tons by 2015 compared to 25 tons being produced actually.

To achieve this target, the number of hives; honey production per hive and meliferous cover have to be increased. This is why the policy of my Commission by 2015 is to increase meliferous cover which is now 780 hectares to 1,500 hectares by 2015, number of hives to 4,000 and annual honey production per hive to 18 – 20 kg.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the answer to part (a), (b) and (d) is as follows:-

A Technical Committee comprising of national and international experts (FAO) including Beekeepers Association will be set to look into the:-

- (i) modus operandi of the project and its practical monitoring by all parties concerned;
- (ii) financial implications to be incurred by both the Commission and the beneficiaries; and

(iii) the action plan for the project.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, concerning assistance to actual beekeepers, my Commission has purchased over Rs 1 M of equipment to ease the processing and bottling of honey under sound food safety environment.

The Honey Centre will thus be fully operational and offering a range of services to beekeepers while honey marketing will be done by the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Co. Ltd.

Training of beekeepers is ongoing and exchange with beekeepers from Reunion Island will be intensified for better exchange of know-how and technologies between the two parties.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, can the Commissioner state to the House, whether bee keepers in Rodrigues were consulted during the budgetary consultations for year 2010 before enunciating such project?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, budget consultations is taken by the Commissioner responsible for Finance not by the Commissioner for Agriculture. Anyway, I must say that we have had very large discussions with bee keepers in Rodrigues and we have discussed many issues of what is important there. And we have to increase the production of honey in Rodrigues. It is one of the rare products that we have scoped to export in Mauritius. Mauritius import at about 150 tons of honey every year from abroad and we have the possibility to produce this honey from Rodrigues and to export it to Mauritius. The Opposition should not look at it on the negative side. It is only a policy and of course we will be cautious not to cover Rodrigues with bee hives. It will be done in phases and after appropriate technical advice.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, can the Commissioner state to the House whether a survey of the whole sector has been carried out particularly on the present total number of bee hives that the island can support sustainably and the sizes of plantations of meliferous plants that can be planted sustainably all around the island?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Of course, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I have said naturally we have a cover of 780 hectares and in order to increase the number of bee hives and honey production, we have to increase the cover up to 1500 hectares by year 2015.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, can the Commissioner inform the House, how many bee hives will result after the setting up of this

project? If all the families in Rodrigues accept to have a bee hive backyard at home, how many bee hives will there be after the setting up of this project?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, first of all I am not sure that all families in Rodrigues will like to a bee hive at home, this is one point. After it will be done according to phases. We have planned to have at about 4000 bee hives by 2015. At that time we will carry out a midterm review to see whether is policy of “une ruche par famille” still hold good or we have to modify it.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, is the Commissioner aware that if all the families in Rodrigues accept to ...

(Interruptions)

Mr. D. Spéville: Is the Commissioner aware that in Rodrigues about 11,000 of bee hives, there will be about 11,000 of bee hives after the setting up of the project? However, the strategic option for the agricultural sector in Rodrigues in its strategic option, in its implementation plan for 2015, it is envisaged to have 3000 bee hives. In 2015, 3000 bee hives implementation plan in the strategic option for agricultural sector in Rodrigues? How does the Commissioner account for that difference, a difference of about more than 2...?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I think the Member should make a difference between strategic option plan and action plan. He is talking about an option but not about the strategic issue. I'll advice him to consult out action plan for midyear for honey sector.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I refer to that ...analysis. The s...analysis for the bee sector which appear in the report of the anti-erosion programme of 2004 by ...International Consultant. And one of the drawbacks that was mentioned in that report was the amateurism that majority of the producers have. The Commissioner is trying to increase honey production by increasing the number of bee hives. We know it not be better, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, in the first instance to professionalize the sector with the actual number of people already in the sector rather than increasing the number of bee hives like he has pointed out to 4000 up to 2015?...professionalize the sector right now to increase the production?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, this is what I have said. We are not only going to increase the number of bee hives but we are also increasing the production of honey by each bee hive, which is to date about let us say 9 kg and we expect by 2015 to increase the production by 18 to 25 kg. And

also we have a target. I have said we have the possibility of exporting honey to Mauritius. We have about 150 tons that can be exported. Now we are producing about only 25 tons. We have to increase, we are all talking about *pas d'emploi, problemes budgetaires*, but when we have the policy to increase production they are ... So you must know what you want. Either we leave it as it is and it will die of old age or we reorganize it and we put up challenges. I am surprised to see that there are Opposition is surprised or is not agreeable to the ambitious proposal that we are setting up.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, we are not against the Rodrigues production, we are thinking that we can increase the honey production and the sector can be at stake. Because if the Commissioner is not aware, according to the statistical data, Rodrigues is producing 25 tons of honey instead of 90 tons per year due to climatic conditions and lack of meliferous plants. Ok? And can the Commissioner inform the House whether he has receive complaints on the part of the bee keepers in Rodrigues for the first setting up of this project?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, we all know that people don't accept competitions. We have a small group and they want to eat the cake for themselves and don't want anybody to enter. We are for the democratization of business in Rodrigues so we'll give everybody their chance. That's why we are talking about "*une ruche par famille*", anybody if the sector is sustainable and anybody wants to enter, he will. And we are not going to follow small groups to reserve it for themselves. There will be no group.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, quantity should not be done at the expense of quality. And what is the policy of the Commissioner for Agriculture with respect to quality control, whether there is in the pipeline the setting up of any laboratory for the testing of quality in Rodrigues as regards to honey?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Of course, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, a series of measures will soon be announced including the setting up of many labs. But also, we are going to go further, we are going to number every hive and they will have to put the number on the bottle or any recipient product that they sell and we will know, we will be able to control the quality and to know exactly who is the bee keeper who is selling honey which is improper for consumption.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, can the Commissioner state to the House whether additional number of species of bees will be produced locally only in Rodrigues to cater for the project and which species, and if there is a lack what other alternatives there is to seek for other sources?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, we are not going to introduce any new species. As I have said the bee keepers in Rodrigues have now control the production of Bee Queen, la Reine Italienne, and we are going to produce the same species and have it distributed and sell it to the bee keepers in Rodrigues.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, is the Commissioner aware that in some areas there are too many bees which may cause bees to become aggressive. Ok? *Operation mouche di miel remplace mouche jaune, pique partout.* As there is a high competition for foraging. I would like to ask the Commissioner whether same has been taken into account and how it will be dealt with namely in the south-west region?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, Rodrigues is a small country. We have about 200 bee keepers. *Ou pose question écouter ki mo pé dire ou.* We have about 200 bee keepers and we'll have to discuss with them. We will tell them that everybody will have his chance, we will assist everyone and that there is no need for them to have strong competition between themselves. Our objective is to produce 150 tons of honey each year to be able to satisfy the Mauritian market.

Mr. D. Spéville: Last question, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, can the Commissioner inform the House on the number of officers dealing with the honey sector at the Commission for Agriculture and how he will cater for more training if he is to go ahead with such project?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the new strategy is to empower bee keepers themselves. You know, I don't think that government officers should act as big brother and try to control everything. I am for bee keepers managing their own business. So, we are in contact with Reunion Island and we will have exchanges, for instance, in Reunion Island they have *syndicat des apiculteurs*. And we also in Rodrigues we can organize that and have this organization structure setup in Rodrigues, so that they can best defend their production and their job. But I am not for officers going around and you know doing anything. I want to see the bee keepers themselves empowered and being able to control their own business from production to marketing.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, but the project is *une ruche par famille*. It is not *une ruche* per bee keeper, it is *une ruche par famille*. How will these families be monitored, be trained to keep these bee hives at backyard in their homes?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I think that the Member has not listened to what I have said earlier.

PATIENTS – MEDICAL TREATMENT – MAURITIUS

(No. B/ 172)Mr. N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others whether, as regards to patients who go for medical treatment in Mauritius at their own costs and who unfortunately passed away there, he would, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) the number of cases where the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has helped financially for the repatriation of the deceased since January 2007 to date, if any;
- (b) the policy of his Commission and any procedure and criteria applied for benefiting of same; and
- (c) whether there has been any refusal for granting such help to any person/s for the above period and if yes, the reason why?

The Commissioner for Health & Ors (Mr. A. L. Emilien): Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, it is the policy of my commission and that of the Regional Government to refer patients to Mauritius for further investigations and treatment whenever need be.

When, unfortunately same happen to pass away, we do the needful to repatriate the corpse, be it by the National Carrier Air Mauritius or the Dornier. This is the normal practice. However, some people do proceed to Mauritius on their own for treatment. In these cases they make their own arrangements.

To part (a) of the question, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the answer is one. As far as part (b) of the question is concerned, there is no policy as such for these cases.

But, we all know, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the long established traditions of our ancestors which are still deeply anchored in our people, in so far as funerals are concerned. Our people care a lot for people when burial and other funeral purposes are concerned may be more than when the guy is still alive. And every one would wish to have their loved ones buried in the island where they can always take care of the tombs.

Bearing these in mind, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when we received the only request from a relatively poor family who could not afford to repatriate the corpse of one of its member by the Dornier, which costs Rs 59,000, we considered it positively.

Such cases have to be dealt diligently as we all know what this implies here in Rodrigues if the corpse takes time to be repatriated. I referred the case to the Executive Council which gave its covering approval at its sitting of 4th September, 2009.

For par (c) of the question, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, as I said earlier, there has been only one case dealt with positively so the question of refusal does not arise.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I think it is wise to help poor people specially when they are facing difficulties in the repatriation of the corpse. But I think that the question remains to be answered, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam. What is the procedure to be adopted when poor people meet this problem in Mauritius? What is the procedure to be adopted by the families by this person in Rodrigues, in order to benefit from this facility? This is the purpose of my question, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, in part (b) of the question, the Member asked the policy of the Commission, there is no such policy as I have said. There is no policy, there is no procedure. You set up criteria, you set up the procedures when there is something which has been established. But nothing is established for patients going on their own to Mauritius. It has never been the case. And so what?

Mr. N. Lisette: And so I would like to ask the Commissioner how did he proceed then with the granting of that facility to that one person? Everybody in this island should know, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, in case that there is a problem that they are facing in such circumstances, everybody should know what route to be taken in order to obtain this facility.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I can't understand the feeling of the respected Member. There has been only one case and he was talking about, what are the procedures? There was only one case. Only one family has apply and we responded positively, and so what, where is the problem? Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, if there has been any refusal, then I will understand the position of the Member, but I can't understand you philosophy behind, man.

OYSTER BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

(No. B/173) Mr. S.P. Roussety (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others with regard to the Oyster Bay Community Health Centre, he will for the benefit of the House state:-

- (a) whether a tender was launched for the renovation of its boundary wall; and if so;
- (b) who was the successful bidder;
- (c) the amount of the contract and the scope of work?

The Commissioner for Health & Ors (Mr. A. L. Emilien): Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, there was no tender launched for these works and as a matter of fact part (b) of the question does not arise.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, may be the respected Member is not aware of the Public Procurement Act 2006, Act. No. 33 of 2006 Part IV – Procurement Methods, Section 22 Community End -User Participation, my Commission has embarked on a new venture in line with the policy of our Regional Government to empower our people.

We all see, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, that contracts have always been awarded most of time to big companies in this island. And these big contractors and companies have recourse to local contractors and other skilled workers to do the job.

Why not, wherever possible, not allocate these jobs to our local people. We have Community Health Centres throughout the island and we have entrusted the renovation work to Village Community Committees where these Community Health Centres stand. This has been the case for Oyster Bay, among others.

And this has been a successful endeavour Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam. People are happy as these Village Community Committees have not only helped unemployed youths in their respective communities but has also generated some money to maintain their respective Community Centres.

And we plan to do this again for other future projects as it really helps the community.

The Public Procurement Act No. 33 of 2006, part IV – Procurement Methods, Section 22 – Community End – User Participation states the following: -

I quote:

“Where the participation of the procurement end-user or beneficiary may result in enhancing the economy, quality or sustainability of the service to be procured, or the very objective of the project is to create employment and involvement of the beneficiary community, such end-user or community may participate in the delivery of services in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed.” End quote.

My Commission, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, has seized this new legislation to execute projects via allocating the contract to the village communities with a view to:

- (i) To empower the community; and
- (ii) Create a sense of ownership of the Community Health Centres to the community.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, the award of contract using this method of procurement has been a first in the Republic of Mauritius and I am proud of it.

However, I wish to inform the house that a contract with Oyster Bay Community Village Committee has been signed in accordance with the Public Procurement Act 2006, for the renovation of the Oyster Bay Community Health Centre. The value of the contract is Rs. 40,000 with the following scope of works not only renovation and boundary wall but includes:

- (i) Painting of building
- (ii) Placing of wall tiles in toilet
- (iii) Fencing of yard
- (iv) Filling of crack on wall
- (v) Repairs of roof ceiling
- (vi) Construction of retaining wall

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, can the Commissioner inform the House when was the work was scheduled to be started and its completion date?

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Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I can inform the House that the works up to now have been completed up to 60% and it will be completed in 2 weeks time.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, can the Commissioner inform the House who is supervising these works?

Mr. A. L. Emilien: There is an Assistant Inspector of Works posted to my Commission, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, does the Village Committee have the technical know-how with respect to construction work?

Mr. A. L. Emilien: There is no need for the community to have the technical know-how, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam. The contract stipulates that the village community identifies people with the appropriate knowledge to perform the work. If they exist in the community itself, its too good for them but if such is not the case, they seek for people from elsewhere.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, has the Commission for Health assess the type of workmanship which is being done with respect to the renovation of the boundary road?

Mr. A. L. Emilien: But of course, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, as I have said there is an Assistant Inspector of Works who does this job?

Mr. N. Lisette: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, is the Commissioner aware that at the Oyster Bay Community Centre, the previous boundary road was already tearing off and that the new work that is being done, the community centre together with the Supervising Officer has continued with the work on a pouring down road. Is he aware of that?

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I welcome the comment of the respected Member but so far I have not been in presence of any reports from the Assistant Inspector of Works concerning what you are saying but I take note and I will look into the matter.

MARKING – CERTIFICATE OF PRIMARY EDUCATION (CPE)

(No. B/ 174) Mr. P. Francois (Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner with regards to the marking

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exercise of Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) Examinations scripts of 2009 which is being held in Mauritius, will he for the benefit of the House, obtain the following information:-

- (a) the number of teachers selected in Rodrigues for that purpose and table their names;
- (b) the criteria used for the selection of same and the conditions attached thereto; and
- (c) table the names of all teachers selected and who participated in that exercise for the past three years?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, with regards to part (a), ten participants from Rodrigues have been selected to participate in the marking exercise of CPE examinations 2009 in Mauritius. I am now tabling the list of participants. **(APPENDIX...)**.

As regards to part (b), the selection has been carried out based on several criteria, such as:-

- (i) First time participation;
- (ii) The choice of subjects of the participants as per list submitted by the Mauritius Examination Syndicate; and
- (iii) In case of refusal of selected markets, appointed is made from the MES list.

I am now tabling the list of teachers selected in the marking exercise for the past three years. **(APPENDIX...)**.

Mr. P. Francois: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, can the Commissioner inform the House when the ten selected teachers were informed that they have been chosen for that exercise?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I don't have the exact date but it has been done prior to their leaving Rodrigues to Mauritius.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House on who decide on the quota of teachers to be selected in Rodrigues for that purpose?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, normally the MES gives us the total number of teachers that we may be able to send but it all depends on our budgetary provisions. So this year we have decided due to our budgetary constraints to send only 10 participants to the marking exercise.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House whether priorities are given to teachers already selected in the past years or is it a fresh exercise every year?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Normally, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I give the opportunity to every teacher doing the CPE a chance to go to the marking exercise in Mauritius. But it all depends, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, on which subjects these teachers they have opted for and what the MES has selected. We base on the list of teachers that have been selected by the MES and on that the selection is done. Normally, we give the chance to those who have never been, priority is given to those who have never been, but sometimes it happen that those people who have never been they turn down, so then we have to choose other people to replace them.

Mr. P. Francois: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, can I ask to the Deputy Chief Commissioner as regards to conditions attached thereto he did not mention, whether transport facilities for the selected teachers in Mauritius is still available from airport to their place of residence?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: No, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, there is no transport provided. They know ell before that the terms and conditions which are attached to their services in Mauritius, transport is not provided.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, as regards to refusal for marking in Mauritius, has there been any refusal because of short notice given to any teachers?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: No, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I am not informed that refusals were done because of short notice. But in fact, those who have already been informed before they turned down at the last minute and then we had to choose from the list given by the MES, we have to choose from those who have been selected on the list and fortunately these people they

responded positively. Even though at the last minute we informed them whether we were able to accept and they accepted.

Mr. D. Baptiste: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I would like to know whether these selected teachers used to benefit from transport facilities from their residence to the airport in the past obviously, and this has not been the case this year, why is it so?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I have already answered to that question, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam. In the past, yes, that was a long time back when everything was decided by the MES and the Ministry in Mauritius. Because they are paid for that job. These people when they accepted to go, they are paid for the work they will be doing. So, the condition, there is no transport facilities attached to these conditions. That's why this has not been the case.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, does the office of the Deputy Chief Commissioner liaise with the MES in order to ensure that these teachers benefit from such facilities?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam. If such facilities had to be given it was my office who had the responsibility of providing transport and as I have just mentioned earlier due to budgetary constraints we have had to restrict to only ten participants and we couldn't afford to pay transport as well.

Mrs. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the Commissioner mentioned in his answer that ten persons had the opportunity to go there due to budgetary constraints. I would like to know how many seats did the MES offered to Rodrigues this year?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Ten seats, Madam.

Mr. P. Francois: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, since the Commissioner has informed that there has been last minute refusal from certain teachers, did he enquire the reasons why?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, when somebody applies for something and then it turns it down. So, I also stated that it was done on the last minute. The only thing that I had to do is to replace. Now that such has been done, I am satisfied. So, why should I enquire?

Mr. P. Francois: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, is the Commissioner aware that one of the main reasons a teacher refused because in the last minute he was informed that he had to go to Mauritius?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: When somebody applies for something, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, he has to get prepared. Because at anytime he can be asked to go. So, what can I do? How is it that those who have been contacted in the last minute, they did go? Why?

NEW AGRICULTURAL PROJECT – *BAIE MALGACHE*

(No. B/175) Mr. P. Francois (Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture & Others as regards to the new agricultural project which is being implemented in the valley of Baie Malgache, would he for the benefit of the House, state since when work started there, the total project value and the progress of work achieved as at date?

The Commissioner for Agriculture (Mr. L. A. Perrine): Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the valley of Baie Malgache which has an area of 310 hectares among which (150 ha of pasture land, 100 ha of forest land and 60 ha of agricultural land) was rehabilitated in the 1980's by the European Development Fund (EDF) to boost up food crop production. This valley was once known to be the granary of the island.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, unfortunately, this valley has not received necessary attention by the former local government and was left in an abandoned state.

In line with the policy of my Commission to reach self-sufficiency in food production in Rodrigues priority has been given to rehabilitate the valley in order to render it fully cultivated with emphasis on maize production. In this context, a budget forecast of Rs 21 million has been earmarked under the Food Security Fund. The rehabilitation work which started in July 2009 is being carried in phases and consisted of:-

1. Construction of 2.5 km access road - Work started on 1st September and completed on 28 October 2009.

2. Construction of a water harvesting structure – the work is to be started soon.
3. Rehabilitation of 6 km of drains - Work started on 20 July 2009 and up to now 95% of works completed.
4. Fencing placement 6 kms - Work will start as soon as the construction of drain is completed.
5. Purchase of sowing machine, a new technique to plant maize, with machine instead of having to dig up small holes - Tender document under preparation.
6. Purchase of shelling machine - Tender document under preparation.
7. Setting up of irrigation network - work to be started soon.
8. Construction of Farmers' Centre - Work will start by the end of November 2009.
9. Pasture production - 10% completed.

By the way, I must say that the desilting of dams at *Mangues* is under way and this will be used in relation to the Irrigation Programme at *Baie Malgache*.

Up to now, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, we are satisfied with the progress of work which is around 60% completion and the whole valley will reach maximum production of 800 tons of maize early next year.

Mr. P. Francois: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I see in the reply of the Commissioner that he has mentioned 6 kms of drains. I have been to *Baie Malgache* yesterday and I have seen that the rehabilitation of drains have stopped. Can the Commissioner give reasons why?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, we have awarded a contract for this particular work and you know, the contractor has a time limit to complete the work, so if they work on one day and the other day they don't work, this is not my problem. The problem is that they have to complete the work by the end of this month.

WATER DISTRIBUTION – OYSTER BAY

(No. B/176) Mr. P. Francois (Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Chief Commissioner as regards to water distribution for domestic purposes to the part of *Oyster Bay* village commonly known as *Cornflour*, he would, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) the storage reservoir from which water is being distributed to the inhabitants of *Cornflour*;
- (b) the number of household getting water from that storage reservoir; and
- (c) the frequency of distribution?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner (answering for the Chief Commissioner): M Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, with your permission I will answer the question addressed to the Chief Commissioner.

As regards to water distribution for domestic purposes to the part of *Oyster Bay* village, commonly as *Cornflour*, I am informed that:

- (a) Water distributed is from the Pavé La Bonté Dam;
- (b) Some 50 families from this part are connected to this network;
- (c) The frequency of the distribution is normally once every 8 days.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, is the Commissioner aware that some of these families from *Cornflour* do also receive water from Jardin Mamzel Reservoir?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I am not aware, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam. But I don't know why the Member is asking such a question but I will enquire into the matter.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, there are many families which are complaining about the quality of water that they are receiving from *Jardin Mamzel*. It happens that the small dams which is at *Jardin Mamzel* is in a very bad state and there are animals which are going around, so there is a danger of hygienic conditions, so I would invite the Deputy Chief Commissioner to take account of the information.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, I take note.

SEIZURE – STRAY ANIMALS

(No. B/177) Mr. J. D. Speville (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture & Others whether, as regards seizure of stray animals by the authorities in Rodrigues he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information on:-

- (a) the number of animals seized per category from January 2007 to date;
- (b) the place/s and conditions under which the seized animals are kept;
- (c) the number of cases in which the seized animals were lost or died, if any;
- (d) the number of animals released and the condition attached thereto;
- (e) the number of auction sales held since January 2007, the number and the names of person who made a successful bid together with the prices paid for animals bought by them;
- (f) the measures that have been envisaged so far to reduce such phenomenon and to compensate the farmers for the losses sustained by them?

The Commissioner for Agriculture & Ors (Mr. L. A. Perrine): Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the problem of strayed animals in Rodrigues is causing much harm to our environment. If necessary steps are not taken to remedy the situation, key productive sectors will suffer from severe draw back.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the problem of strayed animals is not new. In fact, it dates as far back as 1980's and has not been dealt with effectively as there was no political will to enforce the Cattle Walk Regulation as recommended by various international funding agencies.

This present regional government is determined to solve this problem which is long overdue and will come forward with new Regulation to control strayed animals.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, as the House may be aware, in April 2008 we took the decision to set up an impounding station at Mt. Plate where all

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animals found straying are seized and kept until claimed by owner or dispose of according to Court order.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I am informed that the number of animals seized per category from January 2007 is as follows:-

- (i) 155 dogs
- (ii) 57 goats
- (iii) 3 pigs
- (iv) 5 cattle
- (v) 1 sheep

As regards to part (b), Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, seized animals are kept at Mt. Plate impounding station which started its operation on 19th April 2008. Each type of animals is kept in a different pen. The animals are provided with appropriate feed and water by Stockmen under the responsibility of a Technical Assistant.

I am also informed, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, that the Veterinary Officer effects regular visits to ensure that:-

- (a) seized animals are treated against any reported sickness;
- (b) to euthanize any unclaimed dog within 3 days after seizure as per existing regulations.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, as regard to (c), I am informed that no case of lost of seized animals has been registered. However, 8 goats have died during impounding due to their bad conditions at time of seizure, despite several interventions of the Veterinary Officer.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, as regards to (d), the number of animals released per categories is as follows:

Dogs – 7 (they have been claimed by their owners and the procedure has been done according to the Stray Dog Act of 2000).

Goats – 46 have been released ordered by the Court.

Cattle – 5 have been released ordered by the Divisional Commander.

As regards to part (e), Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, there has been one auction sale exercise on 21st September 2009 where the following were sold to the highest bidder:

1 He-goat – Rs 1000

1 Sow – Rs 700

1 Bore – Rs 1500

1 piglet – Rs 500

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, as regards of compensation, I must say that I have never come across any case where persons doing illegal actions are being compensated.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, whether and when notice was brought to the attention of the public prior to the holding of the auction sale?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: The auction sale was carried out on the 21st September, 2009 and this is done by the Police Officer, so it is the Police...

Mr. D. Spéville: I would like to know whether this was brought to the public before...

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Yes, I think proper procedures have been followed.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, can the Commissioner inform the House what happens and what are the procedure in line if pending Court Decisions, an animal dies and is to be claimed by its owner?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Yes, you know, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, animals are seized only in cases where the owner is unknown, if the owner comes forward, so the Forest Officer or the Police Officer will do the inquiry and will release the animal immediately. And if the owner is unknown, the animal is then taken to the Mte. Plate where it is kept for 21 days, if after 21 days the owner is still unknown, then we proceed to the auction sale. But in between if the animal happens to die, the Veterinary Officer will look into the issue and will issue a certificate to know the cause of death and then we will take appropriate action.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, being given many arable lands where these animals used to roam are being fenced as pasture lands, can I ask the Commissioner whether these fenced lands can be subdivided so that

rotational grazing be introduced to limit the destruction of crops plantation of many planters?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, we are looking into a new type of management regarding these pasture lands. So, we are empowering producers associations, that is, breeders' associations so that they take over the management of these pasture lands. These pasture lands will no longer be looked after by Watchmen who are not doing their work or Officers. These breeders should themselves manage these lands and they will decide whether they are going to rotation or they are going to use cut and carry system.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I would like to know from the Commissioner for Agriculture, when an animal dies within 21 days and the owner claim it after the death but within the 21 days, whether the owner is compensated?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, what I have said it depends on the certificate that will be issued by the Veterinary Officer because most of time the animals that are being seized, they are weak animals and on the verge of dying. So, we will have to give them feed so that they can recuperate. Because you know you have to run after the animal and only weak animals most of the time, are being caught. So, when they are there we have to give them animal feed so that they can recuperate so as to be used in Court cases.

Mr. N. Lisette: If ever this happens, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, and the animal was fit, will the owner be compensated, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, we have not received any claim in that direction but if ever there is a claim supported by the Veterinary Officer, we will look into the matter.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I would like to ask the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture whether there are incentives at the level of his Commission because at part (f), it is not farmers, it is planters whether there are incentives at the level of his Commission to compensate, to help planters who have sustained for loss of crops, destruction of plantations by these animals, these planters not farmers.

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, we have a program to fence ten areas where we are going to boost up production and we are going to fence these areas against stray animals. Anyway I must say that we are coming

forward very soon with new regulations, with strong measures. We can no longer accept that we have animals anywhere in Rodrigues, even in churches and in hospitals. So, we have to come up with strong regulations and believe me we are not going to run against our responsibility. We'll take actions against these breeders who contravene the law. Of course, we are going to help breeders also, we are going to reorganize them, to give them facilities to introduce the system cut and carry and also to rehabilitate all pastures that we have in Rodrigues so that they can have forage readily available near their house. Very soon we are going to conduct a livestock census. I don't think that it is sustainable that one farmer can have 150 cattle in Rodrigues, so we are going to look into this issue and come up with regulations so that this sector become productive.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the Commissioner is talking about cows in the church, yes, at the moment this phenomenon is increasing because more land is being fenced and no alternatives are being provided to the farmers, no community pastures are being envisaged so that these farmers can keep their animals. This is why I am asking the Commissioner for Agriculture if community pastures in regions like *Anse Baleine/Eau Vannée* can be set up so that these animals can be kept in that region and would not go up in upper villages.

(Interruptions)

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson: Order please! Commissioners!

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I am very sad to hear what the Member is saying because he has been the former Commissioner of Agriculture. And when I took office there were 15 pastures...areas were left in a state of abandon. We have had to rehabilitate everything. And now coming to talk about ...So we are putting under the Food Security Fund, we are putting Rs 10 M to rehabilitate all these pastures to help these farmers. These farmers were left to themselves during three years and we have had to take measures to reorganize the sector and to rehabilitate all the pasture lands.

PROLIFERATION OF RATS

(No. B/178) Mr. J. D. Spéville (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the commissioner responsible for Health and Others whether, as regards the proliferation of rats in Rodrigues, which are severely affecting households, agriculture and farming in Rodrigues, the would state to this House the measures his Commission is taking to remedy same?

The Commissioner for Health & Ors (Mr. A. L. Emilien): Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, since the time of the arrival of Francois Leguat in Rodrigues in 1691 – some 318 yrs back, rats existed in Rodrigues. Because our vegetation was and still an ideal habitat for rats. One of the reasons why they left the island was that rat destroyed the crops. Fortunately its population has gone down considerably since then. Since my early childhood, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have always seen rats almost everywhere (dans muraille) dans roche, dans la terre, dans l’herbe, or pied du bois partout. For me it is not a new phenomenon. But, if there is a considerable increase in the population of rats the Public Health and Sanitary Office will take up the matter and use appropriate measures either to mitigate the proliferation or to eliminate them, the latter being rather difficult due to the high fertility rate of same. (4 – 7 litters yearly – 8-12 pups per litter for female rat).

I wish to inform the House that to date there is no official report both from the Public Health and Sanitary office and the Disease and Quarantine Unit of the Agricultural Services to indicate an abnormal increase in the rats population in Rodrigues.

However problems in relation to rats affecting households and public buildings are under the responsibility of Public Health and Sanitary Office whereas rats affecting agriculture and farming in Rodrigues is under the responsibility of the Diseases and Quarantine Services of the Commission for Agriculture.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whenever there are requests to attend isolated cases of proliferation of rats and other pests the Public Health Office and Disease and Quarantine Unit attend cases. The Public Health and Sanitary office has advised that it is more realistic to contemplate the mitigation of any proliferation rather than elimination due to high fertility rate of rats. Actions to be initiated by individuals at specific places where they are affected are dealt with baiting and other rodent control measures.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, should the population of rats increase considerably in Rodrigues, my office will act according to Part V – Dangerous Epidemic Disease of the Public Health Act 1982 which clearly defines measures to be undertaken by

all stakeholders. (Gap in cassette)...not a new phenomenon. But, however if there is a considerable increase in the population of rats in Rodrigues the Public Health and Sanitary Office will take up the matter and use appropriate measures either to mitigate the proliferation or to eliminate them, the latter being rather difficult due to the high fertility of rats for the information of Members of this House Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam a female rats has 4 - 7 litters per year and 8-12 pups per litter which makes an average of fifty five pups per female rat per year). So the elimination of same is rather difficult.

I wish to inform the House Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, that to date there has been no official report both from the Public Health and Sanitary office and the Disease and Quarantine Unit of the Agricultural Services to indicate an abnormal increase in the rats population in Rodrigues.

However problems in relation to rats affecting households and public buildings falls under the responsibility of Public Health and Sanitary Office whereas rats affecting agriculture and farming in Rodrigues as stated in the question is under the responsibility of the Diseases and Quarantine Services of the Commission for Agriculture.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, whenever there are requests to attend isolated cases of proliferation of rats and other pests the Public Health Office and Disease and Quarantine Unit attend to these cases. The Public Health and Sanitary office has advised that it is more realistic to contemplate the mitigation of any proliferation rather than elimination due to the high fertility rate of rats as stated earlier. Actions to be initiated by individuals at specific places where they are affected by rats are dealt with baiting and other rodent control measures.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, should the population of rats increase considerably in Rodrigues, which is not the case presently my office will act according to Part V – Dangerous Epidemic Disease of the Public Health Act 1982 which clearly defines measures to be taken by all stakeholders.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam prevention is better than cure as you know. En ce moment, je vous dis, il y a une prolifération grandissante de rat a Rodrigues ils sortent dans les maisons, les salles de classe or even for buses on bus shelters Madam Chairperson, Madam. Et comme les rats fais vehiculer beaucoup de maladie comme l'estoperose. Est-ce que la Commission va reagir et est-ce qu'il aura une action concerter avec la Commission de l'environnement et la Commission de l'Agriculture pour une action concerter concernant la prevention and what is being done to sensitize the public on the

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environnement at home on the issue to have a participative approach to diminish the proliferation of same.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, as I said in my reply my office is not in the presence of any report stating same. If there is a problem at your place man, make a report. We'll go there and... There is no report so far Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, may I asked the Commissioner for Health who is responsible at his Commission for an evaluation of whether there is proliferation of rats in the country.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, we cannot afford to send officers to evaluate proliferation of rats. I am not here to ask question but as ever been in Rodrigues to go in the fields and to evaluate proliferation of rats if there is a report a request from somewhere where there is an abnormal proliferation of rats. Then officers of the public health centers office goes there evaluated and see what action has to be taken.

CONSTRUCTION OF TRACK ROADS – JULY/DECEMBER 2009

(No. B/179) Mr. L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Others whether, with regard to the construction of track roads, for financial year July/December 2009, around Rodrigues, he would, for the benefit of the House, state the number of same completed as to date together with the remaining track roads that need to be completed per zone and table a copy of the plans of each track road, if any.

The Commissioner for Public Infrastructure & Ors (Mr. F. A. Grandcourt): Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, it is proposed to construct a total of 4.9 kilometers of track roads at various location out of which 4 kilometers are being jointly funded under the DCP. The remaining track road are being constructed in House while materials are also being granted at committee level for the construction on a self help basis. I wish to refer the respected Member to PQ B/107 whereby a comprehensive list of track road and detail thereof was already table to the House.

As at to date Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, out of twenty five location identified for implementation of the project word at 21 location have been completed as follows: Zone 1 works at six out of seven location have been

completed as follows morcellement Jean Tac, Pte la Gueule, Terre Rouge. No. 2 Van gar and Roseaux the track road at Mt. Fanal over length of three hundred meters is presently ongoing. In respect to zone 2 almost of the track road has been substantially completed as at to date at the respective local Eau Vannee No. 2 Orange, Graviars, Malabar , Pompee and Port Sud Est. As regards to zone 3 the project has been completed at seven out of ten locations at Citron Donis, Pte Butte, Corail Petie Butte,. Reposoir No. 2 La Ferme and Mt. Croupier. And I further assure the House that all works shall be substantially completed by December 2009 and the respected Member may also wish to note that in our policy of adopting a polistic approach towards improving accessibility to our citizen the track road are being implemented on a standard during specification. I am hereby tabling a copy of the capital plan and a cross section of same. (**APPENDIX ...**).

Mr. D. Baptiste: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I would like to know who are responsible for the monitoring of all these track road specially those which has been constructed by community participation.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, we do have assistant inspector at our Commission so the Assistant Inspector do supervise the ongoing works.

AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS

(No. B/180) Mr. L.D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture and others as regards to agricultural projects financed by the organisations Programme de Gestion durable de la zone cotiere (ProGeCo) Empowerment programme, International Fund for Agricultural Developmet (IFAD) and the Decentralised Corporation Programme (DCP), for the period August 2006 to date, to different associations/individuals, would the Commissioner obtain information as to:-

- (a) the number projects financed thereof per organisation;
- (b) the total area of agricultural land allocated to the beneficiaries and the area which is actually under cultivation; and
- (c) table a list of the name of the beneficiaries by indicating;
 - (i) the date of approval of each project;
 - (ii) the date and extent of land allocated to them and their respective location?

The Commissioner for Agriculture & Ors (Mr. L. A. Perrine): Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I wish to inform the House that my Commission has written to the various organizations requested them to submit the required information and we are waiting off for same and we will compiled the information as soon as we get it and have it circulated to the Member of the House.

EXTENSION OF MANGUES GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

(No. B/181) Mr. L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether with regard to the extension of Mangues Government School, he would, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) when tenders were launched;
- (b) the number of bidders who responded to the bidding exercise;
- (c) the name of the successful bidder and its contractual value; and
- (d) table the list of bidders, together with the amount each tendered and a copy of the contract of the successful bidder?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, with regard to part (a), tenders for the extension of Mangues Government School were launched on 03 June 2009 through Opened Advertised Bidding.

As far as part (b) is concerned, six bidders responded in the bidding exercise. Part (c) the successful bidder is AJMC Ltée, subsequently incorporated as Colas (Maurice) Ltée. The value of the contract is Rs 11,488,417.20 VAT inclusive.

I am now tabling a list of the bidders together with their respective quoted price, VAT inclusive. **(APPENDIX...)**.

A letter of award containing the terms and conditions specified in the tender documents was issued to Contractor AJMC Ltd. on 7 August 2009. Subsequently, the contract agreement was being prepared by the Consultant.

During a site meeting at Mangues Government School on 15 September 2009, it was agreed that the contract will be signed within three weeks. However, my Commission was later informed by the Resident Engineer and the Site Agent of AJMC that AJMC Ltd has been incorporated as Colas (Maurice) Ltée). Therefore, the Contract could not be signed with AJMC Ltd.

My Commission had therefore requested the Consultant to submit a legal evidence that AJMC Ltd. no longer exists and that it has been incorporated as Colas (Maurice) Ltée. Such evidence was received on 10.11.09. The signature of the contract is now being scheduled for this week. I shall then be able to table a copy of same.

Thank you.

Mr. D. Spéville: Madam Deputy Chairperson, Madam, can the Commissioner inform the House what does the extension of schools will cater for more classroom of special school.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the main purpose of this project is to provide better school infrastructure at Mangues Government School so as to be able to accommodate their increasing number of pupils. The works consist of the construction of six additional classroom. The demolition of existing all school canteen and the construction of a new one has been initiated.

Mr. D. Spéville: Madam, Deputy Chairperson, Madam being given that the extension of school is less than five meters from the central road can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether the boundary fencing will be instrengten or remove and replace by a boundary wall for the safe of security for children and prevention of waste.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, of course all the security measures will be taken on board that is if the fencing are being remove such will be replaced or by either fencing or by retaining walls.

Mr. D. Baptiste: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, from the document table here I can see the lowest bidder quoted is 8.625 million vat inclusive. May I know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner why the contract was not been awarded to this Company.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the two bidders, there were in fact two lowest bidders namely the Ecobat building services Ltd. and Marde Colimallé construction Ltd. were not substantially responsive to the requirement of the bidding documents particularly as regards to conformity with the required experience in carry out works of similar nature over the last ten years. They were therefore disregarded for future evaluation whereas

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the other four bidders were found to be responsive and were considered for evaluation.

DENTAL SECTION

(No. B/182) Mr. S.P. Roussety (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others with regard to the Dental Section of the Commission for Health, will he, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) the number of dental surgeons working in Rodrigues and their working hours; and
- (b) table the number of tooth extraction effected per month since January 2008;
- (c) how many patients are being viewed by the Dental Surgeons for scaling, temporary filling and permanent filling at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Mont Lubin and La Ferme Health Centres per day and their work time schedule at the different places;
- (d) how many patients are on the waiting list for scaling and permanent filling and when is the last appointment?

The Commissioner for Health (Mr. A. L. Emilien): Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I wish to inform the House that there are two Dental Surgeon/Senior Dental Surgeon in post in Rodrigues. One Dental Surgeon is posted at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the other one is posted at La Ferme and Mont Lubin on alternate day basis.

The official working hours for both Dental Surgeon/Senior Dental Surgeons are as follows:-

At Queen Elizabeth Hospital from Monday - Friday

Morning Session - from 09.00 to 12.00 hours

Afternoon Session - from 13.00 to 16.00 hours; and

Saturday - from 09.00 to 12.00 hours

Mont Lubin Area Health Centre on Monday and Thursday

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- Morning Session - from 09.00 to 12.00 hours
- Afternoon Session - from 13.00 to 16.00 hours; and
- Saturday** - from 09.00 to 12.00 hours

La Ferme Area Health Centre -Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

- Morning Session - from 09.00 to 12.00 hours
- Afternoon Session - from 13.00 to 16.00 hours

As regards to part (b) of the question Mrs. Deputy Chairperson Madam a question is never funning but I can't myself from smiling when I notice that the member wanted to know the number of tooth extraction effected per month since January 2008. In fact there has been nine thousand eight hundred and fifty two extraction. I wonder whether the respected Members has a good resite. I would invite him to share and I am tabling the information requested Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam. **(APPENDIX...)**.

Concerning part (c) of the question Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the number of patient viewed by the Dental Surgeon for scaling, temporary filling and permanent filling at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Mont Lubin and La Ferme Area Health Centres on average per day are as follows:-

At Queen Elizabeth Hospital , number of patients seen per day on average is 17 and for skilling and temporary and permanent filling is 12, Mt. Lubin Area Health center 16 patients on average, 21 for skilling and filling. And La Ferme area Health Center 12 patients on average and for skilling and filling sixteen

And as regard to (d) I am informed that there is no waiting list for scaling and permanent filling. However, patients are given appointment on their first visit based on the seriousness of their case and the scheduled of the Dental Surgeon/Senior Surgeon.

I am informed the following:-for Queen Elizabeth Hospital – last appointment for scaling is the 1 December, 2009,last appointment for permanent filling is 4 December, 2009. Mont Lubin Area Health Centre-Last appointment for scaling – 8 March, 2010; and Last appointment for permanent filling – 22 Feb., 2010. La Ferme Area Health Centre-Last appointment for scaling – 23 December, 2009, Last appointment for permanent filling – 23 Dec., 2009

Thank you.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Do you find it normal that the last appointment for skilling at Mt. Lubin and La Ferme is February and March.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Most natural, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, it depends on the number the last appointment that is the last person who got appointment before them. We have appointment for January, for beginning of January, mid January beginning of February its normal. Its according to the number of appointment already given.

Mr. N. Lisette: As regards to the delay in the appointment given is it due to a lack of dentist.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: I don't think so, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam as I said in my reply, it depends on the seriousness of the case at times even in the last. I know cases where for the last appointment let say it is for January 2010 but depending on the seriousness of the case for example if it is a student who is suffering from his tooth the appointment is given in a shorter lapse of time it depends on the case to case basis.

Mr. D. Spéville: Madam Deputy Chairperson, Madam the Commissioner was laughing about the 9302 extracted perhaps his objective to have zero tooth population, I don't know. But I would like to ask the Commissioner whether there are preventive talk measures are being envisaged at the level of the population, the community the schools sur la santé des dents a Rodrigues.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam it exists. The dentists go to school, colleges. But I must admit Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam that for me it would have been right to have a third dentists because I in fact, I raise the case with the Minister of Health on a meeting I have with him on the 13th of November last year. I wanted to have an additional dental surgeon so that one can be proceed to Mt. Lubin and one to La Ferme and this would also enable a mobile dental clinic and also to have more frequent visit in school but unfortunately presently on our establishment we have two post for dental surgeon and the two post are filled. Let's hope for next year Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam we will be able to fill a third one but in fact these campaigns sensitization are being done in our schools.

LARGE NET FISHING

(No. B/183) Mr. S.P. Roussety (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to large net fishing in Rodrigues, would he, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) how many permits have been issued and were operating during the fishing seasons; and
- (b) table a list of all fishers registered on each permit for those opting for close season allowance and those opting for bad weather allowance;
- (c) the sum of money paid to each permit holders for close season and bad weather allowance for the years 2006, 2007, 2008 and from January 2009 to date.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, with regard to large net fishing in Rodrigues, I am informed that seven permits have been issued on the operational during the fishing seasons I am further tabling a list of all fishers registered on each post including those opted for close season allowance and those opted for bad weather allowance.(**APPENDIX...**). As well as the amount of money paid to each permit holder

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House, whether it is normal that on one permit there is only three fishers registered.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, how can I give an answer to such a question. There are three registered fishers that's all.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, but there at least seven receiving bad weather allowance on this permit.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: In which permit, please.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Jean Donald Felicite.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I request the respected Member to scrutinize well the list which I have table because it continues on the next page. There are only three persons on that lists.

At 12.30 hrs the Assembly was suspended for 5 minutes

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On resumption at 12.35hrs, with the Chairperson in the Chair

MOTIONS

The Clerk: Motion, Commissioner for Social Security Women's Affairs Child Development and Family Welfare.

The Commissioner Social Security Women's Affairs Child Development and Family Welfare (Mrs. M. T. Brault): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move the motion standing in my name which reads as follows:-

“ that this Assembly is of opinion that, by virtue of section 31 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001, there is passed the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Regulations for Child Protection (Placement Home) 2009”.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, before 1945, fostering or placement of child referred to numerous arrangements in which children were cared for in homes other than their own.

The point of the term foster or placement was to contrast institutional care with family placement. The case was first articulated by a nineteenth century child-savers, hold Charles Loring Brace. One of the first Act was signed in 1935 in the United States.

During the past three years Mr. Chairperson, Sir at the level of my Commission we've been considering child safety with respect to a child's own home. My Commission has as mission interventions when children are abused or in danger including assessing the safety of these children in or out their home environment. Mostly everyone agrees Mr. Chairperson, Sir that the standard for care in out of home placement should exceed the care the child was receiving in his or her own home particularly with reference to the basis for why the child was removed.

And certainly everyone agrees that children should be safe once they enter placement. Mr Chairperson Sir, these regulations come at the right time. In three day's time the world will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the convention for the rights of the child. This event which was initiated in 1989 has brought many changes during the past two decades in the lives of millions of children across the

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world. Mr Le président, Le thème phare qui bercera les célébrations pour marquer cet événement est la dignité de l'enfant tout en ayant pour Sous Thème : Définir l'obligation de prévenir les violations. Le droit à l'éducation qui est l'axe central pour prévenir les violations des droits de l'enfant.

En cette année de commémoration du 20ème anniversaire de la Convention des Nations Unies relative aux droits de l'enfant, il convient de constater que de nombreux progrès ont été accomplis en matière de protection de ces droits. Néanmoins, de nombreuses atteintes à l'égard des enfants persistent (pauvreté extrême, violences, à la maison, à l'école ou des fois au travail, dans le cyberspace ou dans les familles, l'exploitation sexuelle et économique sont parfois devise). Il nous appartient tant que Gouvernement de lutter contre elles. Pour cela il faut que tous le monde, tout les acteurs concernés, c'est-à-dire le gouvernement, la société civile, la famille et les enfants eux-mêmes, s'engagent à travailler ensemble pour prévenir les violations des droits de l'enfant.

Les autorités publiques jouent un rôle fondamental en la matière. En effet, c'est d'elles qui émanent les lois applicables pour prévenir les violations des droits de l'enfant. Des lors, il leur appartient de faire en sorte que les instruments internationaux, régionaux et nationaux relatifs aux droits de l'enfant soient connus de tous. Cela passe par une dissémination des normes internationales, le renforcement des capacités des acteurs telle les enfants, la familles, les travailleurs sociaux, la police et autre et l'information au niveau de la communauté et la mobilisation sociale de tout le monde.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Mauritius signed the convention in July 1990's and since has set up a space for the development of the child through the Ombudsperson for Children's office which was first appointed on 10th December 2003 and the Ministry for Women's Affairs which passed fostering regulations in 2002 which came into force in 2005. Rodrigues is bound by the convention for children's rights and us as political heads should abide to its resolutions because we are part of the republic of Mauritius and we are part also of this global village. These regulations are in line with the convention and the child Protection Act which requires that:

First the child has the right to education; the child has the right for a decent lodging; the child has to be given equal chances; the child has to be protected from all forms of violence and abuse; and state actors have to ensure that the child lives in an appropriate environment.

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Mr Chairperson Sir, what is a placement home. A placement home means a placement parent or the head of a household. Children in placement care may live with either relatives, a licensed foster family, or a family who latter will plans to adopt. Placement care can also include emergency homes or sometimes child care institutions or residential care.

The need for this placement regulations have been felt when we have realised at the level at my Commission that the shelter run by us is not a home for a child and should only be a temporary abode for the child who has been removed from his her initial family background. Throughout the years we have come to notice that the child stay too long in the existing shelter and othen miss the affection and comfort of a family and this cause retarded development. The aim is not to substitute completely the original family but to provide a better environment conducive to the child's development. Putting the child in a Shelter is a state of emergency when the child is in danger in his own family. If the child's family environment cannot improve then we can move for adoption, but adoption procedures are very very long. The aim of my Commission is to allow the child who will be place in placement to be reunited latter on with the biological family after the family have been followed. During this time it is important not to deprive the child of the love from a parent either kin or foster. These regulations will provide for both kin and foster parents so that a child can be place safely in a home.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, in Rodrigues we know that many kins when a say kins I say especially grand parents or a close relative take care in an informal way, we should say, of a relative's child but there is a need to legalise these placements and to assess whether placement are being done in the best interest of the child. The first part of these regulations defines clearly the terms placement home and the different concepts associated with its inception.

In these regulations, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the role of the body which is through the department head to consider the requisite of the placement home is defined. The departmental head on whom bears the responsibility to supervise all placements through:

- Applications
- Consideration
- Accountability
- Recording
- Supervision
- Compliance; and

- Training is a very important role

In the second part of the regulations analyses the different methods of placement and define the licensing and assessing of these homes.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, in these regulation, the Rodrigues family Welfare Committee plays an important role .

In the second part of the regulations we analyses the different method of placement and defined the licensing and assessing of these home. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in these regulation the Rodrigues family Welfare committee play an important role .

Families be interested to be placement families or placement parent should make an application for the registration of a placement home to the Departmental Head; the Departmental Head refers the application for consideration to the Rodrigues Family Welfare Committee. The Committee will have the responsibility to formulate objectives, policies and priorities for the development and implementation of placement care system in Rodrigues; to oversee processes, standards and products related to the development and implementation of placement care system in Rodrigues, including strategies for monitoring and assessment of the system; to consider such application referred to it under regulation 4(3) and make recommendations to the Departmental Head.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, they are different type of condition under which a child can enter into a placement First we have Emergency Placement. An emergency placement is made in virtue of an emergency protection order known as IPO made under section 4 of the Child Protection Act and an interim committal order made under section 8 of the Act. It provides an immediate family for children in need of Care. After children enter care, our goal is to thoroughly assess the child's needs and the needs of the child's family. Because when the child is place under placement it does not completely stop contact with its original family. During the assessment phase a concurrent placement home for the child is identified that can provide ongoing foster care for a two- year period, while reunification services are offered. Interested caregivers or placement families will be considered for concurrent placement if no relatives for placement are identified because the relatives can apply for placement themselves. Placement families should actively support reunification efforts.

Voluntary placement: A voluntary placement is a service for families only when the parents are temporarily unable to care for the child/children under their

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responsibility. Some acceptable reasons are incarceration or hospitalization of the parent or when no one else can provide care for the child for reasons which has been identified by the Commission itself. Voluntary placements are usually for shorter periods; however, extensions can be given.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, to allow placement it is important to assess and license the placement home. Usually licensing occurs for a period of two years. Assessment of the safety of a placement home occurs every time a placement is considered.

Usually the encounter with a prospective placement provider occurs before you are in the process of deciding to remove a child. Au préalable les parents potentielle peuvent soumettre une application meme si n'y a pas d'enfants qui a été identifier pour placer dans un placement home pour devenir des parents d'accueil c'est-à-dire bien avant n'importe qui qui a envie d'être un parents d'accueil peuvent faire une application et peuvent etre recommandé par le comité.

When a member of the community reports abuse, neglect or abandonment of a child by the parent, legal guardian or any other person responsible for the child's health or welfare, Children's Development Unit (CDU), within which Family Welfare and Protection Officer will investigate the situation to determine if it is safe for the child to remain in the home.

If the assessment determines the child is unsafe, the CDU may petition for family court to intervene. Temporary placement pending further enquiries is done at the shelter then afterwards the child will be directed towards a placement family. For a child with no possibility of returning back to the birth relative's family the alternative is placement for a longer duration. When a child after a committal order has been placed in a home for a longer period, and if this type of family is willing to provide a permanent home, this mean after placement there can be adoption for a longer period if child reunification is not possible then the parents can go through procedures for adoption.

Our goal Mr. Chairperson, Sir is to provide the child with the strongest possible legal connection with the concurrent family because now it does not exist although we have relatives who are acting as foster parent there is no legal connection this mean legally you cannot say that this child has been place into a foster family. Adoption usually provides the strongest legal connection but when you have a placement family then legal guardianship under the social security act will be possible. Due to the unique needs of some children placement allow a better transition from institution to adoption. This mean there was a missing link

between when the child was in a shelter and then to go for adoption then when we place the child in a family. I want to point out that there is already a family which has been identified upon consideration by the court and although we have not been able to put the regulation before this family is already acting as a placement home and with these regulation this family will be able to legalise its situation until adoption is being made.

There is a registration certificate, Mr. Chairperson, Sir where the parent who intends to be considered as placement family may apply. This is found at the first schedule page 10 of the regulations. The Departmental head will consider the application after recommendation from the Rodrigues family welfare committee. The license will be worth for a period of two years. The family who wants to continue to be a placement home may apply for renewal before the expiration of its certificate. Qui veut dire que la famille qui decide d'être un parent d'accueil peut faire une application pour deux ans mais cette application peut renouveler trois mois avant son expiration pour que la famille puissant continuer s'ils ont envie de prendre d'autre enfants

Mr. Chairperson Sir, it is important that to note that we do not assess placement only before the placement is done but during the placement also. The departmental Head and the Commission has the responsibility to consider the requisite associated with the initial placement responsibilities for safety management occurring when the placement occurs.

In the second schedule of these regulations there is a code of conduct for placement families. During an initial assessment or at any time a placement of a child is being considered, the DH must judge the safety of the chosen home before and during placement. This requirement applies to both kin and foster placements. This mean although the person is a relatives he will have to undergo this assessing. In practical terms this mean DH makes contact with a family through a visitors which will be appointed at any time day and night weekends and would determines that a child's safety is threatened and if safety cannot be maintained in the child's home, the child might be removed .This obligation exists for any placement home whether they are family members, friends, neighbours or professional providers like placement families.

Additionally it doesn't matter how long the placement is expected to exist before whether it is over month, other years. Before a child is placed for a longer period the placement home must qualified as a safe environment and this will continue to be assess during the placement. Mr. Chairperson, Sir placement decision for each

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child are based on an evaluation because it depends whether some children has to remain in the shelter because sometimes it depends on the case while the child has been removed from his families. Sometimes it may happened that the child does not go in placement if it is remove for only two days or a week. It depends on the goal of permanent for a child, the child safety physical and emotional needs, placement with a relative extended family or kin, Proximity to the child's family for example we would not consider placement for a child to go to Mauritius or go we are on the same territory, placement with siblings (brothers who are older, the child's and the family religious preference sometimes we have to consider that because this might create conflict in the child latter on if he has to go back to his family . The least restrictive setting which will meet the child's needs so whether the child environment meet the child need. The continuity of relationships with friends, teachers, and other partners. The availability of placement resources for the purpose of timely placements. All placements will be done in respect of all these criteria.

The placement regulations Mr. Chairperson, Sir is another engagement that this Assembly is taking to respect the rights of the child with regard to Article 20 of the convention of the rights of the child which reads as follows:- a child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the state. State parties shall in accordance with their national laws ensure alternative care for such a child. Such care could include inter alia, foster placement, adoption or if necessary placement in suitable institutions for the care of children. When considering solutions, due regards shall be paid to the desirability of continuity on a child's upbringing and to the child's ethnicity, religious, cultural and linguistic background. The need for a comprehensive service at the level of my Commission Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is being reinforced with these regulations. But I just want to point out here because sometimes we have a miss conception between a child who is in need of placement because he is a victims and a child beyond control when we consider placement we are not considering for juvenile delinquency. We are only considering child who have been victims, have been abused in their family environment or when the environment is not suitable. The child have been involved in a criminal action the child would not considered for placement . And this is the case admitting children in the shelter. So with these regulations Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the missing link between the child place in the institutional care of the shelter and adoption or the biological family is being failed.

I thank you for your attention and I command the Motion to the House.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner seconded the Motion.

Mrs. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my intervention will mostly be based on the general situation of children in Rodrigues. Si c'est vrais M. Le président qu'il y a eu un grande prise de conscience par rapport a l'enfant dans son ensemble a son développement, a son épanouissement, son éducation, voir sont bien êtres en général. Il est tout aussi malheureux de constater qu'il y aussi pas mal d'enfant qui ont une vie difficile aujourd'hui. Les raison qui contribue cette état des choses multiples l'alcoolisme, la drogue, les jeux, le maque de travaille, des fois un manque de créativité le surendettement, la monoparentalité, l'exode des parents vers Maurice a la recherche d'un emploi et le rôle du Gouvernement. Dans le domaine de l'éducation Mr. Le président alors que la loi exige que toute enfants Mauricien par extension Rodriguais doit obligatoirement aller a l'école .Nous constatons aujourd'hui que le taux absentéisme deviens de plus en plus prononcer (change cassette)... La réponse a cette question. Qu'est-ce qui se fais aujourd'hui pour savoir Mr. Le président, vu que la loi exige que les enfants vont a l'école, qu'est-ce qui se fais pour que le gouvernement pour que la Commission responsable de l'éducation puissent savoir qu'elles sont les raisons exact de ces absences répéter a l'école. Nous savons une des raisons plus mentionner c'est le manque de nourriture d'ou la vision de L'OPR d'avoir le school feeding projets avec un repas équilibrer pour chaque enfant. Toujours dans le domaine de l'éducation du point de vu de ... scolaire. Nous le redisons encore et encore, malgré que nous savons que la politique de l'éducation réside a Maurice qu'elle influence est-ce que Rodrigues dans le cadre de l'autonomie a travers la Commission de l'éducation. Qu'elle influence la Commission a sur la définition d'une éducation adopter, adapter a la réalité locale pour nos enfants. Nous savons tous que l'éducation que nous dispensons a nos enfants les fabriques a devenir des bureaucrate alors que nous vivons dans un pays a des vocation agricole, un pays qui doit compter sur l'entreprenariat sur le tourisme. Qu'elle éducation aujourd'hui pour nos enfants afin de les préparer pour qu'ils deviennent des hommes et des femmes pour qu'ils puissent relever les défis du monde. Toujours dans le domaine de l'éducation nous avons pu constater au cour de la dernière session l'Assemblée Régionale a travers une question que les quatre années qu'un enfant ...la CPE passe a la pré-vocationnelle n'est qu'une méthode utiliser pour retarder l'âge a laquelle l'enfant est jeter a la rue. On a pu voir qu'après une années de mise a niveau ce chiffre donner par le Commissaire de l'éducation que par exemple en 2007 seul 40 enfants sur 160 ont pur avoir une place a l'IVTB. Qu'est-ce que veux devenir ces 120 enfants. En 2008 seul 60 sur 180 ont trouvé une place. En 2009, 35 sur 180. Aussi nous avons vu des chiffres concernant des taux de drop out pour ses enfants 35% en moyenne chaque année. M. Le président,

nous qui avons un constat quasi permanent avec les collégiens de par notre profession comme éducateur. Nous constatons qu'il y a aussi un atout crucial chez nos jeunes enfants aujourd'hui qu'il faut à tout pris les aider à faire développer. C'est se qu'on appelle l'estime de soi, sans l'estime de soi personne ne peut rien faire. Même si les éducateur chacun a leur manière essaye de faire quelque chose de manière générales et bien définie. Comment est-ce que le gouvernement régional peut aider nos enfants. Au niveau du social M. le président, on constate une recrudescence dans le nombre des jeunes s'adonnant à l'alcool, au tabac, à la drogue.

Mr. Chairperson: One minute please. I understand what is your point, but I think there is a little wonder away from the main subject. What I understand from the mover of the motion is that this is meant for personal who are not delinquency persons but who are children family problems. I agree that you got to introduce your subject but not too far away. Agree. Proceed.

Mrs F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: M. le président, on constate au niveau des écoles la montée en terme de grossesse précoce. Je ne vais pas m'attarder beaucoup là-dessus mais on sait que si la jeune mère qui a eu un enfant comment pourra-t-elle elle-même elle est un enfant. Comment pourra-t-elle assurer l'avenir de son enfant. M. le président, on a constaté que le drame dans cette affaire de fille mère. C'est que bien souvent la jeune mère qui fait l'expérience d'une grossesse précoce se retrouve avec d'autres enfants et se qui se passe c'est que la loi aujourd'hui prévoit que cette jeune mère automatiquement sa pension son aide financière est arrêtée. M. le président, le Chef Commissaire l'avait dit la dernière fois c'est la loi *qui dit bisin arrête sa*. C'est vrai M. le président, on est d'accord mais en même temps je vais redire le droit de l'enfant à l'éducation. Comment peut-on aujourd'hui conseiller les deux le droit de l'enfant à une éducation et en même temps la loi qui dit qu'elle que la maman a un autre enfant sa pension est coupée même est surtout quand on sait que dans le cadre de Maurice cette mère cette fille dont son pension est arrêtée, elle peut trouver un job dans une usine ou quelque chose d'autre. Et moi, je souhaite la, M. le président, que la Commission de l'éducation conjointement avec la Commission de l'éducation la famille et l'enfant réfléchisse comment on peut arriver à une solution à ce point.

Aussi M. le président, on constate aussi aujourd'hui qu'il y a beaucoup d'enfants qui travaillent et jusqu'ici on n'a pas entendue grande chose qu'est-ce qui se fait pour décourager la pratique des enfants qui travaillent alors que c'est contre la loi encore. Venant au règlement M. le président, je voudrais demander à la Commission responsable de l'enfant qu'elle est sa priorité aujourd'hui par rapport

a la protection de l'enfants. J'ai très bien compris l'esprit derrière la création de ce règlement. Mais se que je vois c'est que d'un coter la Commission a déjà lancer le tender pour la contribution d'un *larger shelter* alors qu'il y a un shelter existe en ce moment, un shelter dont le earthworth sa couter plus de cinq million si je ne me trompe pas. Et de l'autre coté elle fait passer un règlement pour placer des enfants dans les famille et un autre projet qui va couter certainement beaucoup d'argent encore.

M. le président je voudrais savoir s'il n'y a pas une étude proprement dis pour savoir exactement qu'elle est le nombre d'enfants nécessitant placer dans un shelter ou dans des familles. Qu'elle est la capacité actuelle du shelter et qu'elle est la nécessiter de faire un autre alors que nous savons que c'est vrais qu'il y a beaucoup de cas mais le shelter actuelle peut accommoder quand même plusieurs enfants a problème.

M. le président, the Chief Commissioner presented last time the SIDPR Report which he said should be the bible of the development of Rodrigues. And one of the essential point that the SIDPR mentioned is the active participation of the population in the realization of projects, while they are on the move to implement the SIDPR plan. What I see is that they have not been able till now to épouse se concept de la participation du peuple. Pourquoi je dis sa M. le président, se règlement est présenter aujourd'hui le 17 novembre a l'Assemblée et se n'est que le 10 Novembre que les acteurs travaillant pour les enfants ont été mise au courant et au lieu d'une consultation se n'était qu'une rencontre de formation. Alors que nous savons que ses personnes ils ont beaucoup chose beaucoup d'idée qu'ils peuvent apporter a la réalisation de se projet. M. le président, moi je considère que c'est un manque d'égard par rapport a l'ACE, par rapport au comite droit de l'enfants, par rapport aux autre personne œuvrant dans intérêt des enfants. Ces gens je suis sure avait des chose importante a dire sur les enfants des idées valable surement pour être inclus dans le règlement vu qu'il sont en contact permanent avec les enfants.

M. le président je pense que la, toute ses personnes en œuvrant en faveur des enfants, mérite plus de respect et de considération. Pour terminer je voudrais féliciter toute ces personnes, ces ONG qui même avant de mis en place du premier shelter ont bien voulu faire peuvent de grand Cœur en accueillant des enfants et femme a problème ainsi que le travaille accomplit pas le centre Carrefour dans la formation des parents et la je pense a la formation donner au parents concernant la manière élever di fi di garçon et aussi je pense que c'est important de féliciter se grand travaille de mobilisation que fais l'ACE la seul instance qui de manière

soutenu donne la possibilité aux enfants de faire entendre leur voix même si bien souvent les autorités négligent son remarquable dans ce regroupement. Pour terminer M. le président se que je souhaite c'est que la Commission travaille de manière assidue à la conscientisation des parents afin que ceci reconnaissent l'importance de la prise en charge de leur enfants et que on a de moins en moins recours au shelter et à la famille d'accueil. M. le président, je crois fermement dans le dicton qui dit une feuille sèche à la maison vaut mieux que rôtie ailleurs.

Sur ce je vous remercie.

The Commissioner for Health & Ors (Mr. A. L. Emilien): M. le président, je ne vais pas être long mais j'ai voulu m'exprimer sur la présentation de ce règlement parce que je trouve que c'est quelque chose de très important pour notre société. Mais ce qui me paraît pas tout à fait étrange il y a des gens dans ce pays qui ne participe jamais à ce qu'on fait ne donne jamais leur opinion mais ils ont toujours des choses à dire mais je me demande qu'elle est le rôle de ces gens là dans ce pays. Ceci étant dit M. le président c'est connu que la population de Rodrigues a beaucoup d'attachement à la valeur familiale, attachement ce qui concerne au bien-être de la famille spécialement les enfants. Mais depuis une ou deux décennies nous vivons, nous expérimentons un phénomène nouveau par rapport aux personnes qui vont à Maurice ou ailleurs à la recherche d'emplois et pour des raisons économiques ou pour des raisons sociales et très souvent il y a des enfants qui sont restés à eux-mêmes des fois et parfois sous la garde des grands-parents. Ce qui est très souvent M. le président emmène l'enfant à perdre ses repères dans la vie et il tombe dans la délinquance parce qu'il ne peut plus se repérer il n'y a plus d'attachement. Il ne sait plus vers qui se tourner en cas de problème en cas de gros chagrin et cherche un réconfort et sa mère ou son père l'aurait compris mais la grand-mère avec cette préoccupation n'arrive pas toujours à comprendre l'enfant.

Le problème de l'enfant comment apporter un réconfort à ces enfants là. Il y a aussi un autre phénomène nous le voyons tout les jours à la télévision nous l'entendons à la radio, nous le lisons dans les journaux et des faits troublants et l'atrocité qui sont commises sur les enfants et parfois par les enfants. Nous venons de vivre cette semaine si, ou la semaine dernière un fait rare ou trois adolescents trois enfants ont commis vraiment une barbarie exceptionnelle pour aller ouvrir le ventre d'une femme enceinte de huit mois pour *aller guetter le bébé*. Donc nous perdons nous la valeur de notre société sont en train de perdre ses valeurs. Les valeurs fondamentales que nous avons les perdons tous les jours d'où la nécessité d'avoir des règlements appropriés pour sauvegarder d'une part ses valeurs familiales, les enfants pour que notre société de demain soit une société vraiment digne de

noms. Aujourd'hui mon collègue a présenté ce que nous appelons le Rodrigues Regional Assembly Regulation for Child protection for Placement Home 2009.

Dans la vie M. le président, il ne suffit pas de placer les enfants quelque part. Il faut que se soit un lieu approprié, il faut qu'il y est également un encadrement légal solide, approprié pour notre environnement, pour notre société pour que l'enfant puissent vraiment se sentir en sécurité là nous avons dû le placer pour sa propre sécurité dans son propre intérêt. Aujourd'hui ce que nous avons M. le président bien sûr avec le moyen de bord que nous avons. Nous avons dû faire avec le moyen de bord. Nous plaçons les enfants dans un endroit à mon avis je pense mon collègue partage cette opinion que le lieu n'est pas vraiment approprié c'est trop isoler dans un fin fond de la vallée de Baie aux Huitres c'est un peu pire dans la Prison notre prison est pieds dans l'eau comme un hôtel. Moi je trouve que l'endroit choisit pour construire ce centre je félicite mon collègue de la Sécurité Sociale et vraiment idéale pour une insertion ou une réinsertion de ces enfants dans la sécurité dans la société de demain.

Pour terminer, M. le président, je voudrais inviter les gens de bonne foi, de bonne volonté dans ce pays, telle que soit leur bord politique parce qu'il n'y a rien de honteux, de dégradant de se rallier autour d'une cause que nous considérons comme juste. C'est pas parce que je suis de couleur politique gris que je ne peux pas me rallier à une bonne cause initiée par l'autre couleur politique disons orange. c'est moi tant être humain je sens qu'il y a quelque chose de bien à faire pour mon pays pour l'intérêt de notre société je me rallie derrière mes initiatives tout en gardant mes limites, respectant idéologie, la philosophie de mon parti. Donc je profite de cette occasion pour lancer un appel à tous les gens de bonne foi pour lorsqu'il y a un travail à faire dans l'intérêt du pays qu'on s'assoit autour d'une table et qu'on se consulte et on expose ses opinions et on trouve un consensus pour le bien commun pour l'avancement de la société Rodriguaise et je termine M. le président en remerciant encore une fois et ma collègue en la félicitant d'avoir penser n'ont seulement penser mais concrétiser, réaliser le rêve dont le Gouvernement Régional avait ses quelque temps mais faute de moyen on n'a pas pu le réaliser avant là on va dans la bonne direction et là je constate avec beaucoup avec de plaisir que toutes les décisions prises par l'Assemblée régionale c'est dans l'intérêt de la société Rodriguaise.

Merci, Mr. Le Président.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Children represent about 40 % of our population and 100 % of our future. This is why any attempt or proposal that aims

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at the protection, the welfare and the promotion of the child is most welcome. However, whatever is being proposed, we should retain two guiding principles from the Strategic plan for Parents' Empowerment Programme prepared by the Commission for Women Affairs, Child Development and Family Welfare in 2003. Under the heading Rodrigues: "An island fit for children", two basic principles are mentioned among others: First the families should remain the first institution for protection, for upbringing for development of every child bearing in mind that various forms of family exists and the second point Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the guiding principle, it is the fact that prevention is the most effective and cost effective way to address the needs of troubled families and vulnerable children. I hope and wish that the Commissioner is still making use of this Strategic Plan for promoting better parenting through parents' education whose impact will ultimately be felt on the children.

The Regulations before us in this House have as outstanding principle that if a child's mother or father cannot provide proper care or is hurting or abusing their kid, the State needs to step in and place the child in another home. At a glance and as per the speech of the Commissioner for Child's Development, it sounds like a simple exercise but in fact, it is not as simple as it sounds. Most often, a child goes into a foster family because his parents has a problem with drugs or alcohol. Other times, a parent may be sick, in jail, or have some other troubles. The parents may need so much help with their own problems that they are not able to focus on what the child needs. Sadly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir but it is true children are abused and they are neglected. This is why I consider the guiding principles mentioned above as very biblical. Is the Commission providing enough Parental Empowerment through education before moving to other means like the one she is proposing to us today?

This is why the present Regulations should be scrutinized in each and every angle to ensure that the child does not experience a second trauma in the foster home that is welcoming him. If the authority is not careful enough and if the proper mechanism is not set up, it may become detrimental to the child. The minority Mr. Chairperson, Sir considers that some elements are missing in the present Regulations for a full-fledge consideration of the child, not only the child but also the biological parents as well as the foster family. I will consider three such drawbacks now Mr. Chairperson, Sir, which will be viewed as suggestions for the improvement of the regulations which ultimately will need to an improvement in the life of those children that we aim at placing in foster home.

My first aspect to start with is about the role of the biological parents. Should the approval of the biological parents be needed prior to the placement of a child in a foster family? Some parents may prefer their children to be kept in a shelter or home rather than in a foster family for confidential purposes. From an ethical point of view, when a child is placed in a foster family, he carries with him what he has been brought up with and matters that a family may consider as confidential. The Regulations states that the Departmental Head shall interview the child before the placement and ensure that the child's best interests and wishes are taken into consideration. Is the view what is mentioned in the regulations is the view of the biological parents considered and will the Departmental Head be allowed to so act in case that there is a different point of view between the child's and his parent's wishes? No where is it mentioned that the child's parents' views shall or may be considered before the placement. Will it not be better if the child's parent do also sign an approval form to give their consent for the placement of their kid in a particular family so that they too have their say in the matter and as such they are able to have prior contact with the foster family beforehand and are not placed *devant des faits accompli*? Because, if we really want the system to work, Mr. Chairperson, Sir if we really want the child to get out, there should be trust between the biological parent and the foster family. A study Mr. Chairperson, Sir carried out in the United States revealed that the placement home system fails in many cases because no trust is established between these two families.

This is why the Regulations presented by the Commissioner responsible for Child Development and Family Welfare is only a duplicate of the one that was made by the respective Minister in 2002. What the Commissioner did is only to replace the words '*foster care*' by the words '*placement home*'. In fact, in Mauritius, the same regulations are known as the Child Protection (Foster Care) Regulations which were passed by the Minister in 2002. On making a comparative study and analogy of both Regulations, I note that the Commissioner has not been able to bring additional ideas and new measures to fit to the Rodriguan context. In big countries, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the placement of the child is easier because of the size and distance factor which is contrasted to the insular attitude of small island. This is a very important issue Mr. Chairperson, Sir when we speak of foster family.

The only major difference that I note in the Regulations as compared to Mauritius is the setting up of the Rodrigues Family Welfare Committee, thus bringing more proximity. Emphasis is laid in the second schedule as regards to site visit to be effected by the visitor. I have a major question to the Commissioner. Does the Commission have the proper pre-set mechanism for kicking off the project in terms of personnel such as social workers for a proper follow-up of the

children in their new homes? As at now, as far as I know, there is only one officer at her Commission who performs field works and pay visit to children who are vulnerable? If additional load is added, will she be able to perform her duty as professionally as she would have liked? The House needs to be convinced and apprised of the number of licensed workers to be recruited by the Commission for the monitoring of any placement. Has the recruitment been done and where does procedure stand? The social worker Mr. Chairperson, Sir is central to the functioning of the system once the child is placed in the placement home. This is why much focus should be given as regards to the issue of the role of the social worker.

I now consider a second aspect Mr Chairperson, Sir, any laws or Regulations that is passed should be linked with the prevailing economic, cultural and social context of the country so that it has a good pervasive rate and a better chance of succeeding. I don't want to be viewed "*comme l'oiseau de la mauvaise augure*" non but as the Regulations are presented before the House and taking the prevailing social and economic conditions, I consider that there are better and simpler ways for providing protection of these children whom we are aiming to help. Let us analyse, Mr Chairperson, Sir. I'm coming with example. Yes let us analyze Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The family and social conception of Rodrigues have changed. Many mothers work nowadays leaving less time for their families and household tasks. As such, these mothers will be less willing to accommodate another kid at their homes if they already have one or two children. What are left are those mothers who stay at home. View the economic context where standard of living is declining and purchasing power is decreasing, there are very few of them who even though they would have wished, would indulge in fostering a child.

The immediate danger that I foresee is an exploitation of the allowance given to the child. We all know in this House Mr. Chairperson, Sir, of the abuse being made by some relatives to elders and bedridden people as regards to their pensions and the career's allowance fees? We all know it in this House Mr. Chairperson, Sir I do not want to elaborate on that. I am sure that the Commissioner for Social Security knows what I mean!! This is why we have to be very careful about Section 8(1) of these Regulations. Once again Mr. Chairperson, Sir the role of the social worker is crucial here.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I contacted some of the NGOs dealing with the welfare of Children in Rodrigues to have their views on the present Regulations. They are quite septical about one issue—the adaptability to the Rodriguan context. The only

half-day seminar as pointed out by my colleague organised almost *en catimini* by the Commission for screening these regulations was not enough for the relevant stakeholders to give their views. Many wonders why the Commission did not send a copy to each of them so that they can discuss it freely in their respective organizations instead of organizing a workshop where only 2 representatives were invited. These representatives should have been given enough time to consult their respective organizations, seek for more views and send them to the Commission. That has not been the case. I wonder why has there been such a big rush. We are dealing with the welfare of the child, what is there to hide Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The more open the debate, the more the suggestions and the better it is for the child. As pointed out by my colleague the SIDPR that is about to be launched stressed about *une approche participative et plus démocratique*. The Commissioner should have been inspired from that. In addition, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I consider it as degrading and shameful that the Commissioner has not found it wise to incorporate the representative of at least one NGOs who is dedicated to the welfare on the children in the composition of the Rodrigues Commission for Rodrigues Family Welfare Committee.

Mr. Chairperson: Please, I do not want to stop you but you should not use that word again when you say shameful to Commissioners. You should not do that. Proceed.

Mr. N. Lisette: If it is for a reason, I can withdraw it, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Yes, I have here in mind those dedicated institutions like Association des Ecoles Maternelles de Rodrigues, les droits des enfants et l'Action Catholique des Enfants. Can she substantiate to this House Mr. Chairperson, Sir, why such ill-treatment towards these dedicated organizations? We see that there are only public officers who composed that Committee. This is once again copied from the Regulations of Mauritius.

As I say, skepticism is there. I was expecting the Commissioner to provide us in this House with information as regards to the number of vulnerable children what is the problem we providing us in this House the number. We do not here of any to substantiate may be she will come up in her summing up about the issue but I think to substantiate what is she about to bring in this House. It will have been very purposeful for her to come in this House and say the situation as regards to children I this House is like this in such and such. There is not shame in that Mr. Chairperson, Sir as such, we will be able to link the passing of these Regulations with the demand and her Regulations will stand on firm ground. We should not try to build castle in the air, Mr Chairperson, Sir!

And now I come to the example that was asked by the Commissioner for Health, the NGOs are unanimous about another scheme the Child Mentoring Scheme which was made possible by the Minister through an amendment in the Child Protection Act in December last. They believe that this Scheme would have been more adaptable to our present context especially view the economic gloominess on our island. Even the two categories of mothers which I mentioned earlier would have been more eager to provide some of their time in the mentoring and in the nurturing and by providing psychological support to a child.

The Children in difficulties in this scheme Mr. Chairperson, Sir is provided with a mentor who gives a chain of protective services to children living with emotional and behavioural problems. Actually countries worldwide are adopting this Scheme today with a view to maintaining children within their families instead of confining them to institutions or foster families where they are more likely to suffer from attachment disorders. The scheme also Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can be used as an apprentice it can be used as an apprentice for household who are willing to become future foster parents.

The third aspect, Mr Chairperson, Sir, that I want to point out relates to training. There are many proposals that is meant in that regulation as regards of the Code of Conduct to be abided by the placement homes and conditions to be adhered to in order to be issued with a registration. Though mentioned, the issue of training is not well elaborated. The mere consideration of applications by the Family Welfare Committee and its subsequent recommendations to the Departmental head as stated in these Regulations is not enough to state that the placement home has the required standard to be issued with a registration

I consider that a compulsory pre-training component for the whole foster family and I stress on that Mr. Chairperson, Sir I need pre-training for the foster family not for the head of the household for the mother and the father . It should be for the family incorporated which covers an overview of foster care and the challenging needs of children to be in their care.

Living with a foster family Mr. Chairperson, Sir means new rules — so many things can be different owned at once not only for the fostered child here will be also difference with respect to the children when the foster child will be leaving. They also should be prepared physiologically. The integrity Mr. Chairperson, Sir and conduct of the placement home should be above reproach, especially as regards to their role as foster caregivers and this can only be achieved through the provision of a pre-training courses. When I say pre-training courses Mr.

Chairperson, Sir it aims at preparing to make an informed decision so as to enhance the abilities to foster and meet the needs of the children. Going to live with a foster family means a lot of changes — bad or good ones. It can feel good for the kid to be in a calm, new place. But there are challenges. It may be tough getting adjusted to foster parents and the rules that they have at their house. A child's separation from his parents through foster placement can deepen the sense of loss. There may be other children in the family to get to know. These children as well as the foster parents should be prepared psychologically. None of these is mentioned in the present Regulations. In fact, what I am proposing here would have been the primal role of the Family Integrated Centre at Malabar which we constructed and which have been diverted to other uses. As it is stated in these Regulations, it appears that training will be provided only after placing the child in the foster family. It is like putting the cart before the horse!!

So this is why, Mr. Chairperson, Sir pre-training are utmost important. Another aspect that is important because of pre-training Mr. Chairperson, Sir it relates to the inculcation to the identity, cultural heritage and self estimates in the children opportunity must be provided to learn ways to help children develop positive cultural identity at different developmental stages and stresses the importance of family connections and continuity. And here specific skills must be offered relating to planning and handling visits between foster children and their parents. Skills and suggestions must be offered in how to make sure that the new home is a safe and healing environment for children who may have experienced may be sexual abuse, and strategies for handling same should be provided to the foster parents

Mr. Chairperson, Sir by presenting these Regulations, the Commission for Child's Development is skipping two rungs of the ladder through one large step. Firstly, it should be noted that there are very few mothers, so as not to say none, in Rodrigues who really want to leave their children. Whenever it arises, it is mostly due to the lack of financial ability because of extreme poverty to meet the child's needs. In fact, this is the source of the problem and that should have constituted our primary objectives—how to empower economically the poor biological parents of the child. Separating the child from his biological parents should be the last resort Mr. Chairperson, Sir , some kids remain in foster care for a long time, but we should aim but our goal is to be to limit the amount of time in a foster family. But we should aim and our goal should be to limit the amount of time in a foster family. The Commission must try to help the family get back together. But this can only happen if the parents are able to fix the problems they are And this is another aspect that should be considered. We escape from the real problem Mr. Chairperson, many parents will have their children place in foster families because

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they are leaving for Mauritius as mentioned by my colleague or because of poverty may be because of alcoholics, these factors lead to domestic violence and the neglect of the child. Would it be not more effective if we try at a first instance to tackle the problem at its bottom root? Why not? Prevention Mr. Chairperson, Sir as I have said, mentioned in my introduction, Mr Chairperson, Sir. We should have the courage to look at the crux of the problem. Mr. Chairperson, Sir *on ne doit pas essayer de noyer le poisson. This is the problem look at it straight Mr. Chairperson, Sir*

Mr Chairperson, Sir, the present regulations take its root from the Child Protection Act. There has been many laws have been mentioned by the Commissioner for child development that has been amended in Mauritius so that it come in line with Conventions that have been ratified by the Republic of Mauritius. Every country is called upon to adopt policies and measures for a better protection of tomorrow's adults but this should be done in respect to prevailing conditions and specificity.

My fear as regards to these Regulations is that some parents may use these mechanism to get rid of their children when they are going to Mauritius. This is my fear we all know Mr. Chairperson, Sir that massive exodus continues to go to Mauritius. I do work with children Mr. Chairperson, I am an educator I know of so many children in my class whose parent have left to Mauritius who are leaving alone and if we are getting a mechanism as it is proposed here there is danger that there may be at use.. This is why Mr. Chairperson, Sir the approval and consent of the biological parents are important so as to tell them that they too they should be involved in the rehabilitation process of the family and the children.

It's very difficult Mr. Chairperson, Sir for a child to leave his or her parents, and move in with a foster family. This is true even if there are a lot of problems and unhappiness in the home. This is why I stress on it. The placement of children in foster family should be only a measure of last resort who are at risk in their family environment and all measures mechanisms should be checked before same is done. While doing this, Mr. Chairperson, Sir all the mechanisms should be effectively set to ensure that the child does not encounter an additional trauma. This is my word of caution to this House.

I thank you for your attention Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I want be long but just to congratulate my colleague for having coming up today in this House with such a regulation which aims at better protect the child that is through the placement home regulation 2009. M. le président tout le monde sais que la

meilleur place un enfant ou il se sent vraiment a l'abris en sureté ayant tout amour qu'il faut pour pouvoir grandir c'est a la maison. D'ailleurs la Commissaire la dit dans son discours tout a l'heure, mais il faut pas qu'on soit aveugle et hypocrite M. le président (*change cassette*). Les valeurs qui ont été toujours existé a Rodrigues heureusement pour nous sa existe toujours. On essaye malgré tout contre vent et marre de garder intact et préserver nos valeurs familiale qui ont toujours cru que l'enfant doit avoir sa place au sein de la famille. C'est pourquoi malgré le déplacement l'exode comme ont dis toujours ici de l'autre cote de la chambre il y a l'exode massive des rodriguais vers Maurice comme si tout sa a commencer depuis que ce présent gouvernement est en place. Mais tout le monde sait que l'exode des Rodriguais vers Maurice a toujours existé M. le président. Mais malgré tous pour enfin éviter nos enfants, nos petit enfants de suivre les parents a Maurice, les grand parents, assure la garde de ses enfants.

De l'autre cote de la Chambre M. le président il y a des profs qui exerce maintenant, moi j'ai exercé ce métier pendant 27 ans. Il fut un temps il y a une dizaine d'années de cela j'ai fais une enquête dans ma classe et j'ai remarquer que deux sur trois des élèves de ma classe vivait avec leur grand parents Donc c'est pas un problème d'aujourd'hui. Il y a un Membre de l'autre cote de la chambre qui toujours se plainte que la vision de l'OPR n'est pas maintenu sauvegarder et par ce présent gouvernement. Mais M. le président, ou est le Minority Leader aujourd'hui on viens présenter dans cette chambre M. le président cette loi qui viens pour protéger les enfants ou est-il,. Qu'elle est sa participation dans le débat d'aujourd'hui. Et la responsabilité parental M. le président, la responsabilité des professeurs des institutions pour maintenir pour sauvegarder les valeurs M. le président si aujourd'hui on constate de plus en plus les grossesses précoces dans nos institution a qui la faute chercher le coupable. Les parents sont coupable, les professeurs sont coupable, le Commissaire est coupable, mais tout le monde est responsable mais quand on invite les ONG la société civile, les partis adverse l'opposition quand on les invites dans des forums dans des débats est-ce qu'ils sont présent, est-ce qu'on se retrouve pas avec les chaises vide. C'est pourquoi on les invites plus M. le président il n'y a pas des débats ou on entend la voix du peuple réellement, la voix du peuple aujourd'hui heureusement qu'il y a eu ces deux Membre de l'opposition qui intervenir même si leur Leader brille toujours par son absence, brille toujours les débats dans cette Chambre M. le président mais moi je me demande M. le président ce qu'il défend toujours cette vision qui a fais que aujourd'hui Rodrigues se retrouve la ou elle est qu'est *empowerment* on a donné au Rodriguais M. le président durant ces dernière années afin qu'ils se préparent a faire fasse au changement qu'il y a dans le monde M. le président au contraire heureusement Rodrigues la on évite nous sommes en train de tout faire pour éviter

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Rodrigues et les rodriguais de plonger dans le gouffre. Si certain famille vont a Maurice il vont travailler ils vont chercher l'argent et puis il vont retourner aux pays c'est pas l'exode permanente sa. Mais il fut un temps ou certain Rodriguais on quitter Rodrigues définitivement pour ne jamais revenir et sa on les entend tout les matins dans le matinal Rodrigues. Ce qui ont quitté Rodrigues il y des dizaines d'années. M. le président fasse a tout sa a tout ses problèmes auxquelles Rodrigues est en train de faire fasse et voila ma collègue est venu de l'avant et elle a eu le courage de venir avec une régulation avec un règlement pour sauvegarder en vu de sauvegarder le droit de l'enfant Rodriguais c'est a dire parce que n'oublions pas actuellement certain parent grand parents qui ont eu la charge d'un enfant son petit enfants, arrière petit enfant tant d'année mais devant la loi également Il ne représente rien parce que des fois surtout quand il s'agit d'aller demander de l'aide a la Sécurité Social pour venir en aide a cette enfants la. Le grand parent la toujours eu sous sa charge cette enfants légalement il n'a pas le droit. Mais j'espère avec cette règlement d'autre famille d'accueille auront la possibilité de subvenir aux besoins de l'enfant matériellement même si ont sais que en terme de chaleur parental, d'amour, d'autre aspect que seul la famille peut donner un enfant. Je sais que dans un foster care cela ne pourra pas exister mais peut être une solution qu'on peut avoir en vu de d'aider l'enfant rodriguais a mieux s'épanouir et trouver son chemin dans notre société. Donc, M. le président la crainte que le Membre Lisette avait concernant les parents qui démission devant leur responsabilité. Je pense que tous cela ne tiens pas. Cette loi ne viens pas dire qu'au parents de démissionner devant votre responsabilité et emmener vos enfants dans des placements home. Non telle n'est pas le cas au contraire moi je pense et je suis sur que même si on n'a pas tous le moyen possible la Commission trouvera certainement avec le coup de main d'autre ONG et la je fais un appelle M. le président a toute la société civile a tous les ONG, a toute la classe politique dans son ensemble pensons d'abord a la sécurité de nos enfants. Pensons d'abord a l'enfant Rodriguais mettons tous qui en notre pouvoir utilisons nos force afin de travailler ensemble main dans la main pour que l'enfant Rodriguais sort gagnant. N'essayons pas pour des raisons politique de diviser les Rodriguais parce que je sais aujourd'hui la société civile n'est pas en train de jouer son rôle comme il faut il y a des démissions devant les responsabilités c'est pourquoi nous constatons il y a certain qui se frotte les mains. Et moi je dis si chacun essaye de voir ou est sa responsabilité. A l'école les professeurs dois être plus responsable de donner le vrai sens, vrais valeur a l'éducation. Il suffit pas de venir dire on est pas en train de suivre la vision de l'OPR quelle vision l'OPR avait.

Aujourd'hui on est en train de récolter ce que l'OPR a semé. On est en train de récolter aujourd'hui. M. le président, moi je suis confiant qu'avec la mesure on est en train de mettre en place avec la bonne volonté et nous nous sommes en train de faire comprendre à la famille Rodriguaise il y a la situation est difficile aujourd'hui à Maurice. Tout les jours nous voyons qu'est ce qui se passe ici ailleurs, à Maurice la télévision, l'internet tout ce qui se passe ailleurs. Rodrigues nous ne sommes pas à l'abri M. le président c'est seulement quand on prend conscience des défis qui nous guettent quand nous essayons M. le président de mettre deux cotés ce qui nous divise mais regarder mais regarder ce que nous unis. Qu'elle est l'intérêt commun travaillons ensemble pour l'avancement de l'enfant Rodriguais c'est à ce moment là M. le président qu'on peut dire chacun joue chacun prend en main ces responsabilités. Donc, M. le président, je suis confiant que cette loi ce règlement que mon collègue vient de présenter aujourd'hui sera un plus dans la protection de l'enfant Rodriguais.

The Commissioner for Social Security & Ors (Mrs. M. T. Brault): M. le président, pour conclure sur ces règlements, d'abord je voudrais dire un petit quelque chose. Moi même je suis l'exemple vivant d'un enfant qui a vécu dans un foster parent et si je suis là aujourd'hui je dois en partie mon parcours mes parents biologique et aussi à mes parents qui à un certain façon à l'époque on appelait un parent adoptive mais comme les procédures d'adoption étaient trop longues je suis restée toujours mademoiselle Claire mais j'ai habité dans une famille Roussety à Anse aux Anglais et si je dois mon parcours c'est en partie grâce à cette famille et je suis fier. Et cela me fait mal quand j'entends les Membres Mr. Lisette et Madame Gaspard Pierre-Louis qui essaient de diaboliser un peu ce projet de loi. Vous savez le foster care c'est à Rodrigues depuis belle lurette. Le foster care ce n'est pas quelque chose qu'on vient inventer on ne vient pas inventer cette roue aujourd'hui. Ça existe depuis bien longtemps Mr. Jabeemissar vient de nous en parler Mr. Emilien nous a parlé. Le foster existe depuis quand il y avait un décès dans la famille quand il y a des parents en difficultés il y avait les parents proches, les grands parents, la sœur, le frère et une grande sœur et qui prenait la responsabilité des enfants. Mais souvent comme vous dites tout à l'heure Madame a parlé du pain sec et des rotis. Les parents quand ils prennent la responsabilité de ces enfants les parents adoptifs comme en disant entre autres ils ont des difficultés à faire valoir leur droit sur ces enfants parce que ces enfants vont rester chez eux pendant longtemps parce que des fois les procédures d'adoption sont longues. Alors entretemps si le parent a besoin de faire voyager cet enfant il n'a pas le droit il y a plein de domaines que les parents peuvent intervenir dans le domaine du sport il y a des difficultés pourquoi on met ses règlements. Quand on vient dire que les parents je pense que les parents Rodriguais sont responsables. C'est vrai qu'il y a

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des problèmes par rapport a la pauvreté, a des parents qui sont partis a Maurice parce que pour force majeure mais c'est pas comme si Mr. Lisette même viens de dire sa parait simple mais les procédures n'est pas simple. Quand les parents viendra pour demander l'enregistrement de son noms pour être une famille d'accueille c'est pas quelque chose pour être donner très facilement donner un papier et dire voila. C'est tout une enquête qui est faite parce que déjà vous avez se comite et la je dois dire que le Comite, Le Rodrigues Family Welfare Committee comprends le social worker peut être vous ne savez pas peut être je vous inviterais de temps en temps venir dans les fonctions officielle, dans le programme qu'on fais on vous invite parce que le social worker dont on parle n'est pas quelqu'un qui va venir dans la Commission ce sont des gens qui travaille en droite collaboration en temps que responsable des ONG se sont eux qui sont les social worker et la je dois saluer tout le social worker qui ont travailler depuis 2006 Cette loi n'est pas venu out of the blue comme vous dite on a pas fais quelque chose en catimini la c'était le final workshop depuis 2006 on travaille sur cette loi. Il y avait des courants de penser qu'il fallait pas passer la loi, d'autre qui disait oui. Mais il y a besoin sérieux je ne sais pas si vous être conscient de se besoin sérieux , Je ne sais savais les raisons qui font que les enfants vont aux shelter maintenant C'est pas des raison simple c'est pas parce que le père a pris une bouteille de vin a coter de la boutique ou que sa maman est parti un soir danser dans un discothèque a laisser les enfants tout seul.

Il y a des enfants réellement abusé. Il y a des enfants qui sont victimes de la violence grave a l'intérieur du cercle familiale. Ses enfants se retrouvent pendant une année, deux années dans le shelter dans un environnement qu'on doit dire pour l'instant on essaye de faire de notre mieux pour le rendre agréable mais c'est pas l'environnement idéal. L'enfant ne peut pas retourner dans la famille tant que l'affaire n'a pas été classer. L'enfants ne peut pas retourner chez ses parents s'il a été abuser si le Magistrat a déclarer que l'enfants doit être il faut un protection order pour mettre l'enfant a l'abris l'enfants peut pas retourner chez ces parents jusqu'a ce que l'affaire soit régler. Et entre temps cette enfants doit subir ce qu'il a a subir parce que l'enfants. Le je vais parler d'un cas je ne vais pas citer le nom mais nous avons une fille qui va avoir deux ans bientôt qui ne sait pas parler au shelter mais pourquoi elle s'identifier a quoi a ces personne qui travaille la bas .La seul personne masculin qui est la bas c'est le secutiry guard et qui n'a pas aces a ces enfants. Les mamans se sont les travailleur ses filles qui travaillent la bas de bon coeur ils font se qu'elles peuvent. Un jour elle voit x demain elle voit un autre l'enfants ne peut pas identifier mais cette enfants c'est pas sa place mais pour l'instant cette enfant ne pourra pas retourner dans sa famille. On essaye de faire entre temps le suivi il y a tout un protocole qu'on respect ou on essaye de faire la

réunification mais tout doit se passer il faut qu'on soit sûr que quand l'enfant retourne dans sa famille il n'est plus en danger. C'est là qui réside ce problème. Que fais-t-on entre temps. Qu'est-ce qu'on fait de cette enfant on le laisse là bas qu'il subisse tout et que l'enfant ne reçoive pas cette affection, l'amour d'un parent un environnement favorable à son développement l'enfant de plus tard risque de plus tard finir mal. Alors on veut définir tout ça, il y a quand vous parlez quand vous parlez beaucoup de l'estime de soi. Vous savez dans nos programmes vous avez tout à l'heure parlé de parental and empowerment programme qu'on continue aux niveaux de la Commission. Il y a des activités qu'on organise dans nos villages où on parle de l'estime de soi. On ne fait pas seulement avec l'enfant, on fait aussi avec les parents. C'est high on the agenda et là je dois saluer les personnes comme par exemple Madame Noella Pierre Louis, Madame Marie Therese Samois, Madame Vinolia Ramanitrarivo qui travaille avec ses enfants là qui vont dans ses villages qui font les campagnes de sensibilisation qui écoute ses enfants là qui écoute les parents et en parlant des problèmes Mr. Lisette tout à l'heure a parlé qu'on attaque pas le problème à la source mais vous autre je ne sais pas si vous êtes réaliste. Moi je dis ça tous les jours, si on fait Vous savez que Rodrigues vous êtes dans un welfare state. On commence depuis que l'enfant qui la famille depuis qu'il quitte le ventre de sa mère Il a les soins gratuits, dès qu'il sort du ventre là aussi par exemple quand on a des jumeaux etc là aussi vous avez des pensions qui couvrent des gens qui sont en difficulté. Vous avez l'aide aux niveaux de l'éducation pour le transport.

Pour le School feeding project on a l'aide pour manger et il y a beaucoup d'autre organisation qui viennent en aide comme le trust fund, le DCP pour venir en aide aux enfants qui sont dans le besoin. On a des programmes de logement pour les parents, des programmes d'aide sociale, programme de logement pour les parents qui sont dans le besoin. Tout ça on fait est-ce qu'on attaque pas le problème à la source c'est vrai qu'il y a un problème d'emploi C'est pas qu'à Rodrigues vous autres Je ne sais pas vous regardez à télé, le problème de grossesse précoce c'est pas seulement à Rodrigues et à Maurice, C'est en France en Angleterre je me souviens à l'époque en Angleterre il y avait le problème de l'industrialisation où il y avait un problème les gens ne pouvaient pas trouver de l'emploi dans des industries où il y avait un collapse de l'industrie après qu'est-ce qui c'est passer après vous savez qu'elle est le résultat. Alors le gouvernement a essayé de mettre un Securiter Sociale pour aider ces gens là et toute suite vous savez qu'est-ce qu'il a eu baby boom. Tous les gens se sont retrouvés avec des enfants. Je me rappelle à l'époque du pension trois enfants ici à Maurice et à Rodrigues en Angleterre ce qui est arrivé. Alors il y a un système qui est là pour aider les gens je pense aussi que les parents vont abuser. Je ne crois pas qu'il

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auront l'occasion d'abuser parce que vous même vous contre disez c'est pas tout le monde qui va être la pour être une famille d'accueil Mais il y a des gens qui veulent, il a des gens qui sont la dans des famille d'accueil mais ils ne peuvent pas parce qu'ils sont pas couvert par des règlements. Comme il y a des gens qui ont décidé par exemple je connais un collègue a vous même a pris un enfant qui n'est pas couvert pas des règlements. Si jamais il y a un problème arrivé a des choses plus grave. Alors il faut que ses règlement cour il y a des gens de bonne volonté. Il y a des gens qui sont intéressé il y a des parents pour une raisons ou une autre que je ne vais pas énumérer la dessus. IL y a des parents qui ne pourront pas prendre la responsabilité de leur enfants par exemple de psychiatrique alors il ne peuvent pas prendre la responsabilité de l'enfant. Ces enfants ont besoin d'avoir une famille mais ce shelter n'est pas une famille. Ce shelter n'est pas un shelter seulement pour les enfants. Ce shelter au début pour victimes *of domestic violence* c'est a dire il prenait tout actuellement. Si on a trois, quatre personnes qui sont victimes violence domestique et qui veux être dans le shelter et on a pas de place. Et au fur et a mesure c'est un peu comme on vois a l'hôpital quand il y a trop de malade des fois on est obligé de donner au malade de décharge au malade qui est un peu mieux pour pouvoir donner la place pour d'autre qui a des problèmes et des fois on est obliger d'en arriver la. On a besoin un shelter qui met les jeunes d'un coter, les plus jeunes et les femme d'un autre coter jusqu'a parce que la ces temporaire parce que quand un enfants a été abuse un emergency protection order un enfant a été abuser on ne peut pas on ne l'emmener directement dans une famille d'accueil et le lendemain le magistrat dis épuisé en l'emmène dans une famille d'accueil toute suite automatiquement l'enfants doit passer au shelter avant pour un ou deux jours jusqu'a les procédures soit terminer pour que l'enfants puisse aller dans une famille d'accueil. Moi je crois que ces règlements même si je pense que de l'autre cote vous êtres convaincu que c'est bon mais malheureusement pour les raisons évidente vous aller dire le contraire je pense que ces règlement tombe a points parce que je vous inviterai messieurs parcequ'on aura bientôt célébrer la convention des droit de l'enfant a été proclamer le 20 at aussi on célébrera la journée domestique entre la violence domestique envers les femmes et les enfants. Je vous inviterai a venir et vous aller voir le travaille que fais le ONG a la Commission pendant toute l'année on va exposer toute le travaille fais. Des fois vous pensez que le travaille n'est pas être fais mais si vous être parti prenante vous participez vous saurez que le travaille est en train d'être fais mais malheureusement le résultat attendu n'arrive pas trop souvent comme on l'espère mais nous nous sommes satisfait au moins nous sommes en train de faire quelque chose pour ses enfants et la je pense avec ses règlements sa permettra de j'ai une petite penser spécial pour quelqu'une qui a pris un enfant sous sa responsabilité et qui m'a dis qu'il n'y a pas longtemps m'a dis j'espère que vous

aller supporter ma candidature quand je vais essayer adopter cette enfants et je pense que la elle va avoir le plaisir de savoir que ces règlements va être passer pour la soulager dans son combat pour les enfants. Merci beaucoup.

Mr. Chairperson: Thank you. I think your personal example is not alone. If am not wrong I think the President Obama the USA leave at his grandma place so. The debate is over. It is now for me to put the question.

On question put the motion was agreed to.

Mr. N. Lisette: I would have like to bring an amendment to the Regulations.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, It has been one of the previous habits that we go to analyse the regulations by but there have been in my view no particular mention to any section which need to the amendment this is why I did not complete the exercise. But before I gave my answer I look at you. You could have stopped me. I think that the first Member for Oyster Bay said that he try to stop me. Before I say the Ayes have it I look at him. Anything before adjournment.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I beg to move that the Assembly be adjourned to Tuesday 09 February, 2010 at 10.30 a.m.

The Commissioner F.A. Grandcourt seconded the motion.

On question put the motion was agreed to.

At 14.15 hrs the Assembly was adjourned.