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RODRIGUES

SECOND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 8 of 2011

Sitting of Tuesday 15th November 2011

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

(Mr. Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

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Debate No. 8 of 15.11.2011

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2011

CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

QUESTION (*Oral*)

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT MATTERS

QUESTIONS (*Written*)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (i) Request of leave – Second Local Region Member of Local Region No. 2
- (ii) Request for questions to be taken at an early time – Commissioner for Public Infrastructure

QUESTIONS (*Oral*)

- (No. B/26) - Finances of the RRA – Breakdown of Expenditure
- (No. B/27) - Local Government Bill 2011 – Consultation
- (No. B/38) - Construction of Road – Mt. Limon to Nassola
- (No. B/28) - Rodrigues Water Co. Ltd.
- (No. B/29) - Terre Rouge College – Opening
- (No. B/30) - Availability of Ration Rice
- (No. B/31) - Water Sector
- (No. B/32) - Commercial/Industrial Leases
- (No. B/33) - Grand Paté – Outcrop
- (No. B/34) - Job Creation, Private & Public Sectors
– Budget Estimates 2012
- (No. B/35) - Shelter for Women & Children
- (No. B/36) - Complaints/No. of Hospital Care Attendant – Gynaecologic
Orthopaedic Surgical Ward
- (No. B/37) - Onion Production – Number of Tons/Planters/Loss
- (No. B/40) - Cleaning of Rivers, Removal of Rocks & Debris
- (No. B/41) - Distribution/Sources/Frequency of Domestic Water & Supply
of Lorries

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

The Chief Commissioner

- Mont Charlot Community School

The Commissioner for Youth & Sports

- TIC à Rodrigues

The Commissioner for Agriculture

- Onion Production in Rodrigues

The Commissioner for Health

- Remembrance Day 2011

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT MATTERS

- Mr. J. H. Raffaut - «*Cable Optique*»
- Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Bégué - «*Remerciement and Proposition*»

QUESTIONS (*Written*)

- (No. B/26) - Low Cost Houses – Money Earmarked/Overview/Applications
- (No. B/27) - Camp du Roi Stadium
- (No. B/38) - Track Roads – Local Region, Baie aux Huitres
- (No. B/28) - Free Book Loan Scheme
- (No. B/29) - Newly Build Market – Port Mathurin

The Executive Council

(Formed by Mr. Gaetan Jabeemissar, G.O.S.K.)

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

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PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Mr. Chairperson	-	Lamvohee, Mr. Joseph Chenlye, C.S.K.
Clerk	-	Parsooramen, Miss Marie Cristelle Joanna
Serjeant-at-Arms	-	Louis, Mr. Jorgenson

Debate 15.11.2011

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Members in relation to questions I have two little announcements. The first one relates to the request made by the Second Local Region Member of Local Region No. 2. He has applied for leave to withdraw his question being given that he will not be in attendance today and I have withdrawn all of his questions which appear on today's Order Paper.

Secondly, Commissioner for Infrastructure has made a request to the Chairperson's Office that his questions be taken an early time today be given that he has to leave the Assembly during the day. At the appropriate time, I will change the order of the questions as set out in the Order Paper. Thank you.

Let us start with the first question Clerk. Yes Minority Leader.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FINANCES OF THE RRA – BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE

(No. B/26) The Minority Leader (Mr. J. Roussety) asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to the finances of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for financial year 2011 can he, for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) give a detailed breakdown of expenditure to date and commitments until 31st December, 2011 on "Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets", formerly capital expenditure, by Commission and by Programme as compared to their respected budgeted amounts;
- (b) state whether under any Programme, there has been or there is likely to be, voluntarily or involuntarily, an excess of expenditure and commitments made in 2011 over what has been originally budgeted; and
- (c) whether any works order has been or will be issued until 31st December 2011 and whether there is any financial provision existing regarding same in the current financial year?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, any government that takes over from an outgoing one always has to re-define its priorities according to its vision. Mr. Chairperson Sir, the House will recall that when the MR took over from the OPR regional government in July 2006, the budget estimates for financial year 2006/2007 had already been voted on 4th April 2006. Yet the Executive Council redefined the priorities according to the policies of the new ruling party.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, in the same way the budget voted in this assembly on 28th September 2010 with the resignation of the former Chief Commissioner had to be modified to adjust it to appropriated fund and to the vision of this Executive Council.

The detailed breakdowns of expenditure of “Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets” are as follows: -

Chief Commissioner’s Office

Central Administration – Prog 201

Vehicles, Machinery, Equipment and Launch. Voted amount Rs 5 M. Expenditure as at date Rs. 5.1 M. Commitments Nil.

National Disaster Emergency Expenditure. Voted amount Rs 0.3 M. Expenditure as at date Nil.

Computerisation of the RRA. Voted amount Rs 0.3 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 1.2 M.

Agricultural and Rural Development Project (Poverty Alleviation) IFAD. Voted amount Rs 1 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 0.8 M.

Civil Aviation - Prog 204

Improvements, renewals and Minor projects. Voted amount Rs 0.5 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 0.05 M. Commitments Nil.

Meteorological Services - Prog 205

Meteorological Equipment. Voted amount Rs. 0.2 M. Expenditure as at date Rs. 0.56 M.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes on a point of order.

The Minority Leader: A little remark, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I appreciate that the Chief Commissioner is answering the question but it may take the time of questions time if he could table all the information. If he would cite the Programme Vote for all the Commissions, this will take a lot of time.

Mr. Chairperson: It is a good question. This issue has been resolved as thus for long answers. Long answers depend on the way a question has been answered and the ambit of the questions. But it is now a rule that if there are long answers I would have to request either to table the whole answer or to make a speech and then table part of it. But this is a wish that I make, then it depends on the Commissioner who has to take a stand on what he feels the best way to give the answer being given that the answer is an oral answer which has been requested. But this is a rule for Assembly if the answer is so long that it will take more probably 30 minutes or so then it stands to reason that it is best to table it. Thank you.

The Chief Commissioner: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I think that it would not take that much because if the Member, the Minority Leader has requested for it to be tabled of course I would do so but I don't think I will take that much time in answering.

Mr. Chairperson: If you want to table it you can and if you want to continue the answer.

The Chief Commissioner: But if I have to table it, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would request not to have further questions on this because he asked for answers and I am giving the answer. Yes to part (a) only. So if I want to do so, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I just said that I won't take more than 30 minutes. He would have asked for it to be tabled then I would have done so, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. He specified to give a detailed answer.

Mr. Chairperson: Order please!

The Chief Commissioner: I am giving the details, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Marine Parks

Marine Protected Area. Voted amount Rs 9 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 8.2 M.

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Fisheries

Fisheries Development. Voted amount Rs 5 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 1.35 M.

Fishers Redeployment Scheme. Voted amount Rs 5 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 1.09 M.

Education - Prog 304

Construction/Extension of Secondary Schools, Equipment and Furniture. Voted amount Rs 35 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 35.88 M.

Prog 303 – Education Infrastructure Development Project. Voted amount Rs 10 M. Expenditure as at date Rs. 11.3 M.

Equipment, Furniture & Other School Requisites. Voted amount Rs 2 M. Expenditure as at date Rs. 1.97 M.

Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office

Women's Affairs

Construction of Shelter for victims of Abuse. Voted amount Rs 10 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 11.3 M.

Environment

Protection of the Environment. Voted amount Rs 27 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 19.09 M.

Building Division

Government Quarters. Voted amount Rs 0.5 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 0.48 M.

Buildings. Voted amount Rs 4 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 2.5 M.

Port Mathurin Market. Voted amount Rs 40 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 27.9 M. Commitments Rs 142,500.

Public Infrastructure

Roads. Voted amount Rs. 32.5 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 30.02 M.

/UNREVISED/

Improvements, renewals, Minor Projects and Infrastructural works in villages. Voted amount Rs 40 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 24.65 M. Commitments Rs 11.613 M.

Housing and rehabilitation Programme. Voted amount Rs. 20 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 2.66 M.

Commission for Youth and Sports

Youth Centres. Voted amount Rs 2.5 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 1 M.

Infrastructure, Equipment and Furniture - Prog 601. Voted amount Rs 2 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 1.972 M.

Sports Complexes. Voted amount Rs 2.5 M. Expenditure as at date Rs. 1.85 M.

Prog 603 – Voted amount Rs 0.5 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 0.495 M.

Community Development

Prog 709 – Minor works and improvement to community centres. Voted amount Rs 5 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 0.815 M.

Commission for Agriculture

Prog 801 – Research and Development. Voted amount Rs 0.2 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 22,770.

Prog 802 – Improvement of Food crop Productions. Voted amount Rs 10 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 9.1 M.

Water Distribution for Irrigation. Voted amount Rs 10 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 0.377 M.

Improvement of Livestock and Local poultry Productions. Voted amount Rs 2 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 2.4 M.

Forestry Services

Reafforestation – Community Forestry. Voted amount Rs 1 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 0.9 M.

/UNREVISED/

Botanical Garden, Nature and Golden Bat Reserves. Voted amount Rs 1 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 0.09 M.

Natural Resources Rehabilitation Programme. Voted amount Rs 0.5 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 0.42 M.

Cadastral Unit

Prog 202 – Acquisition of Property. Voted amount Rs 0.5 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 0.3 M.

Commission for Health and Ors

Health Infrastructure Development Project. Voted amount Rs 5.5 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 3.7 M. Commitments Rs 31,946.00

Equipment and Furniture for Hospitals and Health Centres. Voted amount Rs 2 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 1.16 M.

Equipment and Furniture. Voted amount Rs 1 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 0.57 M.

Fire Services

Prog 706 – Firefighting Equipment. Voted amount Rs 1M. Expenditure as at date Rs 0.17 M.

Commission for Water Resources and Ors

Water Resources

Prog 216 – Water supplies Development Project. Voted amount Rs. 10 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 11.6 M.

Construction and Rehabilitation of Dams and Reservoirs. Voted amount Rs 48 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 18.02 M.

Promotion of Rain Water Harvesting. Voted amount Rs 10 M. Expenditure as at date Rs 0.4 M.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, as regards to part (b) the answer is yes. As the Minority Leader should have known for having himself been Chief Commissioner and Commissioner for Finance, it is common practice for expenditures to be paid over two or more financial years depending on the nature of the projects whose implementation may at times rollover more or exceed the estimated costs than one

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Financial Year. For the last Fiscal year 2010 alone such multiyear expenditures were resorted to for instance, Purchase of 10 vehicles 4x4 – ordered on 2 September 2010 and paid in February 2011.

Construction of Creve Coeur Reservoir – started on 27th September 2010 and completed on 23rd May 2011.

Dredging works – started on 11th October 2010 and completed in May 2011.

New Port Mathurin Market – started on 24th February 2010 and completed on 10th March 2011.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, the list is endless and I will not abuse of the time of the House to lists all projects executed in this manner.

On the other hand, Mr. Chairperson Sir, where voted amount under one item is insufficient to fund approved projects financial procedure makes provisions for “*virement*”. During the last financial year many such reallocations occurred.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, as regards to part (c) of the question the answer is yes. Works Orders have been issued and may still be issued depending upon availability of funds and according to need, which may crop up.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Chief Commissioner aware that the Assembly will stand dissolve as from the 16th of December next and as from this date he will be a caretaker Chief Commissioner until the general assembly elections are organized. And whether he finds it as Commissioner for Finance normal and fair if ever this is the case that works order are being issued for the next incoming government/regional government to pay for the bills where the probability he will be Chief Commissioner is zero.

Mr. Chairperson: The last part of it is not allowed definitely. But the first part of it is allowed.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I mentioned it earlier. What happened in 2006 when the OPR government presented their budget they did not know that they would be taken over by the then Chief Commissioner Johnson Roussety. And I am at the head of this Executive Council and I am within

the budget, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that I redefined in January this year. And the law allows me as well, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to present the budget estimates for 2012. This is what I did. So if the Minority Leader thinks that I won't be here next time so I request him to come and do it in my place next time if he can do so.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Mr. Jabeemissar, Chief Commissioner *remplaçant* since January this year he has been replacing me. I have been elected and you know in what circumstances. I was elected as Chief Commissioner by the people. You are always rebuking the truth. You yourself you are nil – “*ki zot vo*”. Stop comparing yourself with me because you can't compare unlikes with me. Why do you have to compare yourself with me? Affirm yourself my friend. My question is, my fear is, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we all know that the Assembly will be dissolved ...

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order. It is question time, it is not time for fears or for asking for comparison. We are not here to compare with likes and unlikes, with Mr. Johnson Roussety as he is but as the Chief Commissioner.

Mr. Chairperson: Which point of order?

[Interruption]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: “*Hey ou Chairperson ou? Ou Chairperson ou? Laisse Chairperson rule si ou pas content aller matelot! Ki assizé? To pensé énan dimoune per toi ici?*”

Mr. Chairperson: Order please! When a Member is on a point of order he has to be listened without interruptions please. Yes, have you finished? Your point is well taken I have understood the first part of it. At question time, normally Members can ask questions on a matter of fact addressed to the Commissioners. Little introduction are allowed but nothing impudent or completely negative to the person addressed is allowed. Of course, we are a flexible Assembly where there are sometimes words, which come, but I believe that we have to take question time with a sense of restraint and that only questions are being put and answers given.

The Minority Leader: Thank you. I would like to know from Chief Commissioner whether there are item of expenditure, works order, items of expenditure which are being placed before the 31st of December 2011 and the major payment for which will be made in financial year 2012.

Mr. Chairperson: Well this is not too hypothetical or you have something in mind? Or you rephrase your question?

The Minority Leader: I mean from this date until 31st December this year. Are there going to be major items of expenditure on investment in goods and acquisition of non financial assets and where the payment will be made in the budget of 2012? I mean the present regional government cannot bind the may be incoming next regional government in term of expenditure. Will this ... *'yes when you will be here, when you will not be here it is another figure, another story'*. Will this be the case where the outgoing regional government will already commit all major items of expenditure for the new regional government in 2012?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this has always been the case previously. I have answered that such practices existed before. The Minority Leader himself he adopted such measures why is he preventing me to do same if any? Mr. Chairperson, Sir, all expenditures, all projects that we are going to do until December this year false within the budget of 2011 which was presented and it was modified by this Executive Council. Let me just informed the House, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. When the budget was prepared by the former Chief Commissioner on 28th September 2010, what was the budget presented in this House by the former Chief Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? It was a one-man show budget done according to the priority of the ex-Chief Commissioner himself without taking into consideration the views of his colleagues. As such the priorities did not reflect the vision of the MR government. So when I am here since January, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am doing what this Executive Council and my party decided to do. I am now Chief Commissioner. He was Chief Commissioner. I am not enjoying I am just doing my job, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as Chief Commissioner.

Mr. J. A. Flore: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't think that ...

Mr. Chairperson: Is it a point of order or a question?

Mr. J. A. Flore: It is a question. I am coming to my question ...

Mr. Chairperson: But you have to ask question. If you want to ... you can

Mr. J. A. Flore: The Chief Commissioner at that time in 2006 I was not a Member of this Assembly. The question of the Minority Leader he is asking

whether work orders will be issued on acquisition of non-financial assets by the end of this year. The answer is not clear. You are talking about 2006 ...

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order.

Mr. Chairperson: Allow him.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: He is not asking a question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am sorry, he is not asking a question he is repeating what the Minority Leader said. Ask your question! We have understood we understand English here. We have understood what the Minority Leader wants. Ask your question.

Mr. Chairperson: Put your question.

Mr. J. A. Flore: Will there be any work orders that will issued by the end of and major payment done in 2012 for work orders that will issued by the end of this year? This is the question.

The Chief Commissioner: Did you listen to my reply. This has already been answered. These practices have already been a practice before.

Mr. Chairperson: Let us move to the next Do you have a supplementary?

The Minority Leader: Does the Chief Commissioner think it that it is right that as an outgoing Chief Commissioner ...

Mr. Chairperson: That is not a fact. You can't assume or hypothesised.

The Minority Leader: There is a probability. We wish he comes back but ... Is it normal, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for an outgoing government with may be a chance to come back, to bind – it may be him as Chief Commissioner with other people may be all of them won't be here. If it is all of them are here, it is very good for them and I wish it for them, the best for them. But I am asking if this is not the case, is it normal for him to allow that expenditure is made this year and for another team to inherit the debts which will be made until 31st December. Is it not necessary to ensure that we do not enter into the 2012 budget until there is a new team, which is there? Because as if the election has not been held until 31st

December as from the 1st of January there will be a caretaker government. So is it normal that a caretaker government keeps on may be until the 1st of January, before the end of financial year, for them to make major capital investments, major orders which will bind their successors, the next incoming Executive Council.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, first of all I would like to say that the views of the Minority Leader is just a personal one and he is quite hypothetical. In all countries, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, sometimes government succeeded themselves and I am sure we will succeed ourselves, we will be here next year so I don't see why the Minority Leader is afraid of that and all works order that have been issued, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, will be completed by the end of this year and as I said earlier it may be that some projects will have to roll over in the next financial year as it has always been the case previously.

Mr. Chairperson: We move to the next question.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL 2011 – CONSULTATION

(No. B/27) The Minority Leader (Mr. J. Roussety) asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to the provisions regarding Rodrigues in the Local Government Bill 2011, can he, for the benefit of the House state whether his office was consulted and the position of the Regional Government thereon?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer is yes. As a matter of fact before his resignation as Chief Commissioner, the Minority Leader was himself consulted by the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands who visited Rodrigues in March 2010 for wide consultation of relevant stakeholders in Rodrigues.

Again in July 2011, my office was consulted and the Executive Council considered the content concerning Rodrigues in the Local Government Bill and formally asked the Minister of Fisheries and Rodrigues to inform the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands that the setting up of any status for Port Mathurin and villages in Rodrigues will be taken by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in due time.

Following the introduction of the Local Government Bill in the National Assembly the Executive Council took cognizance of its contents and held a press conference to state the official position of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly with regard to Section 10-13 of the proposed Government Bill 2011 as follows:-

- The Executive Council is of view that as per Section 75(E) of the constitution, which relates to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, any law giving effect to Chapter VI A (Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act) and to matters incidental thereto shall not be altered without the concurrence of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.
- The Executive Council of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly stands by its position communicated to the Central Government through the Minister of Fisheries and Rodrigues via a letter dated 1st July 2011 that any setting up or change of status for Port Mathurin and other villages in Rodrigues as per Local Government Bill 2011 rests with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.
- The Executive Council is of view that Sections 10-13 of the proposed Local Government Bill 2011 are part of a law which needs the concurrence of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly or a majority of two thirds in the National Assembly, failing which it would be unconstitutional.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, I am pleased to table a self explanatory reply of the Hon. Prime Minister to the PNQ of the Leader of Opposition at the National Assembly sitting of Thursday 10th November 2011 in which the former stated among others that of quote *“Now that the objections of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to the proposed clauses of the Bill in relation to the RRA have become clear, we propose to make amendments to the Bill at Committee Stage to remove the said provisions. In fact, the Hon. Minister of Local Government has already made a statement to the press to that effect last month.”*

The Minority Leader: In July 2011, the Chief Commissioner has stated that his office was consulted. Can we know about the nature of the consultation and whether at this time he had a draft/he was given a draft of the Local Government Bill 2011?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the nature – I personally and I my colleague Mrs. Lordana Meunier we met the Honourable Minister of Local Government in Mauritius where we were presented the provision to be added in the Bill as regards Port Mathurin and other villages in Rodrigues. And

there in his office we made our proposal and after that the matter was taken up at the level of our Council. That is where I just mention correspondences were dealt with the Ministry concerned about that issue.

The Minority Leader: So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner was fully aware in July 2010 of the proposed provisions in the Local Government Bill 2011. Can I ask it why is it that only when the bill has been introduced in the National Assembly and that ourselves in the minority and other stake holders including the RCSS, other political parties has expressed their opposition to it, it was only after that that he said these provisions were in contradiction to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act. Why has he taken so much time to give his official reaction and why is it that after the bill was introduced, why didn't he reacted before the bill was introduced?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I reacted because previously as I said prior to that with negotiations, during negotiations with the Minister all these issues have been addressed. And as I just mentioned, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in July again because prior to that there was consultation with the Minister and again in July my office was consulted and the Executive Council considered the content concerning Rodrigues in the Bill. Formerly, asked the Minister of Fisheries and Rodrigues to inform the Minister of Local Government of the stand of the Executive Council. As I mentioned in the press conference, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the way the opposition, the way the civil societies reacted with respect to the Local Government Bill should not necessarily be the same as we the Executive Council because we have had close negotiations with the said Ministry before I eventually, my Executive Council took the decision and finally we held the press conference. It is an idyllic way for them to react and then I reacted. No it was not the case, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Bill was introduced in the National Assembly on Tuesday the 18th of October 2011. Had the Chief Commissioner and the Executive Council before the 18th of October 2011 had the opportunity to have looked at the draft of this Bill which was introduced in the National Assembly?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The Minority Leader: Its is astonishing, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that he had seen the Bill before its introduction and can I ask why did not he reacted officially before the Bill was taken to the National Assembly by that Minister. Why is it that

he did not react? Officially, was there a letter sent? And if yes, on which points did he – *“to envi prend mo place, to Deputy Chief Commissioner to pa content, quelques mois encore, quelques jours, case to pose, roule to BM”*. On which points – I understand before the 18th of October he made protests – on which specific points did he make protests? Did he make proposals for these changes and if yes, what were these proposals? Which points, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? He said he disagrees with the Bill but on which specific points?

The Chief Commissioner: I have already answered, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will repeat – Sections 10-13 of the Bill all that is contained in these sections.

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait Minority Leader. Mr. Flore please waits. I knew that the First Member for Local Region No. 3 request me to allow her to ask question but the Minority Leader was on a series of connected questions so I had to.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Bégué: In fact the Minority Leader has already asked some of part of the question I wanted to put to the Chief Commissioner but I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner why he sent a letter of protest or at least to ask for the removal for some of the sections through the Minister for Rodrigues while the law does not include him from communicating directly with the Ministry of Local Government. I would like to know whether there was any direct answer as to that letter that was sent through the Ministry for Rodrigues regarding the sections with which the Executive Council did not agree.

The Chief Commissioner: It was sent to the Ministry for Fisheries and Rodrigues, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to be transmitted to Cabinet because I already had consultations with the Minister of Local Government prior to that.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have a series of small questions to that, to understand. When I listened to the Chief Commissioner, I assured that – can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House as to whether there was a formal Draft Bill, which was sent with all these sections to the Executive Council or at least to his office prior to his meeting along with the Commissioner of Health, the Minister of Local Government. Discussing and negotiating on the sub-sections and if that is yes, can we know when exactly after July?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is why we have been made aware of the content as regards Port Mathurin and the other Village Community of Rodrigues. It is because we were aware what the Local

Government Bill provides for Rodrigues that is why we reacted. That is why we met the Minister. It was before July.

The Minority Leader: Did the Chief Commissioner at any time considered the option of referring the Draft Bill, which he already have in his possession, after July during his consultation with the Minister; he has had Draft of the Bill. Why did not he send the draft of this Bill to the Legal Adviser of the Regional Assembly for these points of view?

The Chief Commissioner: This draft has been consulted, has been reworked out with our Legal Adviser, Mr. Chairperson, Sir

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, but the Chief Commissioner is contradicting himself. How is it that before the Bill was introduce on the 18th of October 2011, consultations were made including with the Legal Adviser of the Regional Assembly, let us say it is a connection because it has not worked, the connection through the Minister for Rodrigues was used. Even this did not work. How does he explain that the Bill has come with such clauses, which are constitutionally not respecting the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act? How does he explain this cause of event? His Legal Advisers were consulted. He contacted the Minister to tell the Minister, we do not know what, how is it that the Bill itself came to the National Assembly in the form that it came.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think the Minority Leader should ask this question to the Minister of Local Government because I have already explained the views and the stands of the Executive Council on that issue. He is making as if I am the Minister concerned to be able to give him that answer, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The Minority Leader: The fact is, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, he remained silent and he let the Bill go to the Assembly as it is and then when we reacted, other people reacted in Rodrigues to preserve the assets of the autonomy of Rodrigues then he joined the party as usual – *‘ill chest joint à la banded pour protester et faire come toes le monde’*. My another question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, does he consider that all the clauses that he has cited are wrong in the Local Government Bill 2011? Is the position of the Executive Council that all these clauses should be removed or are there thinks that should be kept?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I cited section 75 (E) of the Constitution as regards Rodrigues. It is clear for anybody, Mr. Chairperson,

Sir, that anything, especially in that section of the law which concerned Rodrigues without the concurrence of the RRA or unless they have a majority of $\frac{2}{3}$ in the National Assembly no clauses in the RRA should be altered. As regards what has been mentioned concerning Rodrigues and Port Mathurin and so on, I did not say that we don't agree with the contents as it is but we say that all this should not be done by the Ministry in Mauritius but by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to reply to the Minority Leader, he said that we waited from reactions from the opposition, civil society and so on and according to him it is because the opposition at the civil society reacted that the Minister reviews his stands. Let me quote, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, part of the answer of the Prime Minister to the PNQ in Mauritius. He said the OPR organized a peaceful march, which was attended by about 250 persons, and another party, the FPR organized a meeting with only 50 persons. If we are more than 40,000 people now, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, *"50 dimounes, 250 dimounes protester ça ki fer change la loi? Et ou la assez rêver camarade!"*

The Minority Leader: My question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, ...

Mr. Chairperson: Minority Leader after that we have to give opportunity others, the lady just behind ..

The Minority Leader: We are in the field of something I would like to ...

Mr. Chairperson: Yes proceed.

The Minority Leader: Can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether there are clauses that the District Council considers should be kept and we know that the Bill has been introduced in some way since the 18th of October. What has he done? We are sitting in this House today. What has he done to engage consultation: (1) with the Minister of Local Government; (2) with the stake holders in Rodrigues to see what should be kept because there are good things the concept of making Port Mathurin a Town Council is something which is good. The concept only but the way, the boundary, for example, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the numbers of Counsellors etc. The whole is not good but the concept, Rodriguans accept that their town Port Mathurin, the capital of Rodrigues be raised to the status of a town council. Has he had discussions? Has the Executive Council been meeting people, organized 'concret'. Has he consulted the Minister to engage discussion with the Minister, with RCSS, with local parties, with everybody in Rodrigues, *'les acteurs sociaux'*? To see that the idea of making of Port Mathurin

to raise Port Mathurin to the status of town be kept and the accepted modalities be (this is a golden opportunity that the concept is there and accepted by government). What is he doing on this issue? The issue to seize the opportunity of making Port Mathurin a town.

The Chief Commissioner: Pour faire de Port Mathurin un Town Council je l'ai discuté avec le Ministre de Rodrigues. Pour décider des boundaries de Port Mathurin j'ai dit au Ministre Aimee c'est l'affaire de L'Assemblée Régionale, que c'est nous qui devrions décider de notre boundaries. Et bien sûre en consultation avec le 'Local Boundaries Commission'. The number of Counsellors cela aussi nous avons discuté. Les autres local stake holders, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, il y a RCSS, j'ai rencontré le RCSS à mon bureau. Nous sommes sur la même longueur d'onde. Vous croyez que le RCSS ne veut pas qu'il continue à avoir des comités de villages à Rodrigues? Pourquoi le Ministre Aimee la mentionnée? Parceque depuis l'année dernière quand le Ministre Aimee est venu ici il avait des rencontres avec le RCSS. But the way it was done in the Bill, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is where, not only the opposition but the Executive Council as well, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, *'pour une fois, M. le Président, il faut reconnaître que tous le monde à Rodrigues sont sur la même longueur d'onde. Finalement c'est l'intérêt de Rodrigues que nous défendons'*.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Bégué: When the Chief Commissioner realized having a formal draft of the Bill in his hands, of the gravity of the proposals to the Minister as well as the unconstitutional ... of it, why did not the Chief Commissioner asked the Minister for Rodrigues to cause the Bill to be seen by those whom he consulted priorly to hear all the voices of Rodrigues not just the RRA's views, especially the opposition's or the opposition groups and prominent figures as well as other militant de Rodrigues? Can we know whether the Chief Commissioner did that, at what moment and why is it that the Minister did not listen to that?

The Chief Commissioner: The Bill, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, was available for everybody to see on the internet.

Mr. Chairperson: I will allow only one last supplementary question. We have exhausted more that one hour.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Bégué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner being given that since the autonomy the three regional governments of Rodrigues never came with any initiatives as regard to

Port Mathurin and its status and that this national initiative cause ... to go at least one century backwards because for me the Minister wanted Port Mathurin to become a village as you know and there were major outcry in the 'combat parlementaire' which was made. I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether he considers that reviewing legally the status of Port Mathurin is a priority for the regional government here even if it is at the end of its mandate and if it is so how does he propose to go about it.

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, it is a priority, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. If we miss that golden opportunity the Bill is passed in Mauritius the law does not provide any status for Port Mathurin then we would have missed this opportunity. Et laissez-moi revenir au point de la Membre respecté, M. le Président, je me rappelle quand elle avait dans cette Chambre fait un statement/speech on the initial decision of the Local Government to make Port Mathurin become a village. Et ça je lui dis bravo, c'est depuis à ce moment la que, M. le Président, que nous entamons des discussions avec le Ministre à Maurice pour lui dire qu'il veut reculer Rodrigues une année en arrière, des années 'centuries back' because Port Mathurin already had the status of a village. Et nous avons défendu, M. le Président, pour que Port Mathurin soit reconnu à sa juste valeur. Mais dans la façon de le faire, la façon de décider pour Rodrigues, parcequ'il y a une Assemblée Régionale qui décide de tout ce qui est pour Rodrigues. C'est pourquoi, M. le Président, nous avons dit que nous ne sommes pas d'accord dans la façon dont ça a été présenter dans le Bill sans prendre en considération ce que nous avons proposé au Ministre à cette époque.

Mr. Chairperson: We move to the next question. As I said earlier in my announcement, I will allow a question address to the Commissioner for Public Infrastructure. May we start with B38?

CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD - MT. LIMON TO NASSOLA

(No. B/38) The Second Local Region Member of Baie aux Huitres (Mr. Raffaut) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Others with regard to the construction of the road from Mt. Limon to Nassola (the Nassola Road), can he for the benefit of the House state:-

- (i) the initial estimated cost for this road project;

- (ii) the amount of money in the budget, which was available for roads at the time of the issue of the works order and the original amount budgeted for this specific project; and
- (iii) the reasons as to why the road has not been completed to date?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the construction of the roads from Mont Limon to Nassola I am informed that the initial estimated cost for the Phase I and II are Rs 12.7M and Rs 13M respectively.

The Phase I consist mainly of earth works, masonry works

The Minority Leader: On a point of order! We know that the Commissioner may be in a rush I do not know for what but please we want clear answers. He is reading too rapidly the questions we cannot even follow what he is saying. So please, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can he please go normally not rapidly.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, nobody can control the way a person has to speak to express himself.

Mr. Chairperson: This is why I kept silent.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: The Phase I consists mainly of earth works, masonry works and laying of plums whereas Phase II consists of laying of crusher run and asphaltic concrete and the installation of guard rail.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I insist as Minority Leader, a Member, Mr. Raffaut has put a question and the Commissioner is answering deliberately for us not to understand what he is saying. Therefore, unless we have a clear, oral answer I do not think that we are going to understand and to do our job correctly on behalf of the people of Rodrigues. Therefore, we insist that the question be read correctly. He is not reading it correctly.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Budget for Phase I was within the budget provision for the construction of roads. Phase I is scheduled to be completed by 25th November 2011. The budget for Phase II will be paid under anticipated savings under the capital budget. Phase II is scheduled to be completed by 10th December 2011.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as stated the contractual completion date is 25th November and 10th December for Phase I and II respectively, therefore the question of d does not arise.

Mr. Chairperson: d?

The Minority Leader: *“Ine gagne part ladan”?*

Mr. Chairperson: If there are no supplementary we move to the next question? Anybody for B39? The question is over. B43? Nobody? Question is over. And B45? Just to remind when the time for a question is arrived at, if nobody asked the question then the question falls to the ground. That be all for the Commissioner for Public Infrastructure. Let us be back Minority Leader. We turn back to the questions asked by you, which appear on the second page of the list of the Order Paper.

The Minority Leader: I hope that you have taken note of the fact that we did not answer of Mr. Grandcourt, the answers, this is why, because you said that the answers were correct we told you that the answers he was reading deliberately rapidly we could not note anything you have allowed this. This is why we have removed our questions. Therefore, you are to be put in cause also on this issue on this side of the House.

Mr. Chairperson: I am always in cause when I preside this Assembly. I am not frightened by any threats or menace whatever. I do my job, as I know it and I will continue my job. I do not think I have listened to any challenge or have been afraid over the years. What I said when I said just to repeat my ruling is that ... I never said I allowed the speech. You know the practice has been developed in England and we know that the English that we speak here cannot be even compared to the normal language the BBC language they speak there. I had been able to attend a session in Westinsire and even the speak is in higher speed than us here. But I stand to reason that for the Commissioner if they want to understand the role of the Minority when he asked questions we have to give answers in a speed that we think appropriate. I stop here there is nothing else that I want to add and as I said earlier all the questions addressed to the Commissioner for Public Infrastructure is over and we return back to B28.

RODRIGUES WATER COMPANY LTD.

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(No. B/28) The Minority Leader (Mr. J. Roussety) asked the the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others with regard to the Rodrigues Water Company Ltd., can he for the benefit of the House state:-

- (a) whether there has been any change in the organigram or management structure of the company, and, in the affirmative, the nature thereof;
- (b) whether there has been any termination or non renewal of contract of employment of any employee since January 2011 to date, their names and reasons for termination of contract, if any;
- (c) whether the Company has appointed any legal professional or other person in advisory role to assist it in its functions, and in the affirmative, his/her name and the nature of the appointment; and
- (d) the remuneration and terms and conditions presently applicable to the Chairman and Directors.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is presently an inquiry carried out by the Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC) on the same issue and we consider it would not be proper to give any information on the case and the more so there are documents, which have been over to ICAC.

TERRE ROUGE COLLEGE - OPENING

(No. B/29) The Minority Leader (Mr. J. Roussety) asked the Chief Commissionerd with regard to the construction of the Terre Rouge College, whether he can, for the benefit of the House, report on progress and state whether the College will be ready for opening in January, 2012?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the construction of Terre Rouge College started on 17 January 2011. The initial completion date was scheduled for 16 November 2011 as per contract signed between my Commission and a contractor. As at to date, the structure of the building is complete and the overall completion rate of the works is 75% as per the report of the consultant.

The following works already in progress have not yet been fully completed:-

- (i) External works (Leaching field, sceptic tank, asphaltting of parking area, retaining walls and placing of interlocking blocks);

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- (ii) Finishes to main building (Rendering, tilling and painting);
- (iii) Fixation of aluminium openings;
- (iv) Mechanical and engineering works (wiring, fixation of sockets, luminaires, switches, plumbing connection and water tanks).

It is now expected that the completion date of the project will be 15th December 2011 as per submission by the consultant.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the access road towards the college which is estimated at about Rs 9M inclusive of VAT has already been stated and will be completed on 10th December 2011 as per the contractual agreement with the contractor, Colas (Mauritius) Ltée.

My Commission, in collaboration with REDCO has already undertaken procedures with the PSSA and the Ministry of Education and Human Resources for the opening of the school in January 2012. If there is no “force majeure” and the works are completed by 15th December 2011, Terre Rouge College will be operational in January 2012.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, REDCO is also looking into all aspects for the smooth operating of the college in terms of availability of teaching and non teaching staffs, furniture and equipment and my Commission is entertaining all their requests. I am also pleased to inform the house that the Badge, logo and motto of the college have already been finalized and the transfer of students from the Marechal College annex have all been effected, both parents and students are aware of their respective schools for year 2012. The corresponding transfer documents were delivered to parents on 9th November 2011. It is to be noted that meetings preceded their transfer with parents concerned on 27th and 29th September 2011.

Mr. J. A. Raffaut: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner tell the House what are the special rooms that will be ready by the beginning of the ... year 2012.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the scope of work consist of the following:-

- 11 classrooms of about 48 m2 each;

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- 1 library, communication and design room;
- Complete staff room, administration and so on.

Mr. J. A. Raffaut: Do you mean that the school would be autonomous. It would have the authorization to run without for example a science lab or a home economics lab that we did not mention?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the House may recall that the Terre Rouge College is done in phases. We are thus implementing the first phase to be operational in January 2012 and in may be after that we have to start the second phase so that when both phases are completed all the required infrastructures will be included in the two phases.

AVAILABILITY OF RATION RICE

(No. B/30) The Second Local Region Member of Marechal (Mr. Emilien) asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to the availability of 'ration rice' on the market in Rodrigues, can he inform the House whether there has been any shortage in the supply of same and, if yes, to state:-

- (a) the nature thereof;
- (b) the duration;
- (c) the reasons thereof; and
- (d) any actions taken, if any, to remedy the situation and avoid recurrence of same?

(Withdrawn)

WATER SECTOR

(No. B/31) The Second Local Region Member of Marechal (Mr. Emilien) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others with regard to the water sector in Rodrigues can he:-

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- (a) inform the House whether, since he has assumed office in January 2011, there has been any policy in so far as the use of private lorries for water distribution is concerned;
- (b) for the benefit of the House give a breakdown of all expenses incurred since January 2011 up to date, stating
 - (i) the amount of money paid to each lorry;
 - (ii) the number of trips effected by each lorry, with dates and regions/villages concerned with the distribution;
- (c) state, for the benefit of the House the amount of money earmarked for the use of private lorries for water distribution in the 2011 budget; and
- (d) state for the benefit of the House, the total amount of money spent so far under this item?

(Withdrawn)

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL LEASES

(No. B/32) The Second Local Region Member of Marechal (Mr. Emilien) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture & Others with regard to the allocation of state lands for Commercial/Industrial leases since 15th January 2011 to date, can he table the list of persons, companies, to which leases, letters of intent or letters of reservations have been issued, stating:-

- (a) the names of the applicants;
- (b) the location of land applied for;
- (c) the purpose; and
- (d) the extent of land granted?

(Withdrawn)

GRAND PATE - OUTCROP

(No. B/33) The Second Local Region Member of Marechal (**Mr. Emilien**) asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to the Port Development in Rodrigues, can he for the benefit of the House, state whether the local authorities intend to dynamite or use other ways to get rid of the outcrop at the entrance of the channel of Port Mathurin, commonly known as Grand Paté, and, in the affirmative, whether he can give details thereon?

(Withdrawn)

**JOB CREATION, PRIVATE & PUBLIC SECTORS
– BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012**

(No. B/34) The First Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (**Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begue**) asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to the Regional Assembly Budget Estimates for the year 2012, can he:-

- (a) inform the House of the projected job creation, both by the private and public sectors during the next financial year, if any, through the different budgetary measures;
- (b) state the sectors which are concerned with generating employment in Rodrigues and the time frame estimated for the effective job creation both direct and indirect for 2012 with regard to government investment?

Mr Chairperson, Sir, through the budgetary measures, it is estimated that employment would be created in both the public and the private sectors of the economy. With regard to the public sector, we propose to fill 100 posts approved in the PBB of 2012. As far as the private sector is concerned, I wish to mention that we are a facilitator to investors and creating employment is not directly under our control.

Based on the budgetary measures I presented on the 23rd of September and the National budget just presented by Prime Minister, Honourable Xavier Luc Duval, we are expecting the creation of many new jobs during the year 2012. Already in textile sector, two export oriented enterprises with more than 15 workers each have started operating as from this month. Moreover, with the introduction of the freight rebate scheme which will provide a subsidy on sea freight charges on imported raw materials and exported finished goods, more

business models will become financially viable and yield a reasonable financial return thus stimulating private sector investment.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the medium term as from 2013 we expect the creation of

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: In the middle of an answer, you want to make a point of order? If you want to make a point of order you have to be clear. Do you want me to rule?

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I do not want to pin point anybody what I am saying is that there is noise and that I am not hearing properly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: If you want me to rule properly then you have to be precise also. I understand your point. In future, you have to pin point so that I can at least maintain order and save your right here in this Assembly.

The Chief Commissioner: ... in the medium term as from 2013 we expect the creation of numerous employment with the establishment of call centres resulting from the positive effect of connecting Rodrigues to the international optical fibre cable network. These trends will be maintained through the coming years with further improvement of the infrastructure such as the sea port, the airport runway and the slaughter house.

In fact, Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have a vision for the sustainable development of our economy. This is why my budget focused principally on the theme of economic take-off towards sustainable industrialisation with the optimum use of the prevailing resources. My office has already kick started the process by recruiting an additional Adviser in October 2011 and the setting up of a Steering Committee under my Chairmanship.

Mr, Chairperson, Sir, our budgetary measures are not meant to replace existing institutions for enterprise development but to complement their actions by ensuring an enabling environment that provides for an attractive investment climate and dynamic entrepreneurship. This responsibility will be spear headed by the Steering committee for enterprise development.

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A milestone in our strategies will be the establishment of a one-stop shop for enterprise development with the aims of reducing all red tape that hinders enterprise development. This initiative will bring all Commissions and other institutions such as SMEDA, DBM and NEF to work together in a synergistic manner to make the economic miracle happen. The ease of Doing Business in Rodrigues will be greatly improved.

Mr, Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (b) of the question, this regional government is mobilising all existing resources with a view to propelling the private sector into a new dimension. For this year alone, we have validated more than a hundred projects in a wide array of sectors from business promoters of various backgrounds. This regional government is giving to each and every individual having the potential and determination, the opportunity to start his/her business.

The aggregate of Government and private sector investment will however have an impact on almost all concerned sectors of the economy and most Commissions are in one way or another involved in promoting entrepreneurship.

The sectors which are likely to create immediate employment during financial year 2012 include tourism, agriculture, handicrafts, commercial activities, small and medium enterprises and outer lagoon fishing.

The SIDPR report has already highlighted the huge potential of the productive sectors of the economy such as agri-business, tourism and fishing. The report also set insights on other sectors of the economy such as the seaweed and aquaculture industry and the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). With the new infrastructure, we will no longer restrict ourselves to the traditional sectors of our economy and thus diversify to other emerging sectors where we are expecting further economic expansion.

Firstly, the sea food hub; a good example is the work of Rodrigues General Fishing Company, which is creating much interest of private investors in bringing additional fleets of commercial fishing vessel for outer lagoonal fishing. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, five demersal fishing vessels of 45 feet length each are expected in Port Mathurin by early December

[Interruptions]

Mr. Chairperson: Order please!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I heard a very unparliamentary word on sitting position '*cot in dire banne couyon*'. I will ask the Minority Leader ...

Mr. Chairperson: Is it addressed to you? I heard this, I know who said this. I do not know to whom it is addressed? This is not allowed may be we will ask the person to withdraw but we know that when he said 'banne' he means whom? Who said that?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The Minority Leader.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, I have heard him saying that but I want him to say to whom it was addressed?

The Minority Leader: It was not addressed to anybody in this House, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: For the future, this is not a language to be used in this House. Proceed please.

The Chief Commissioner: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I have just mentioned five demersal fishing vessels of 45 feet length each are expected in Port Mathurin by early December and this will create 50 direct employments instantly. The fishing industry has a huge potential to generate many productive employment. That is why during 2012 we are planning to support the setting up of a modern fish processing plant in order to increase value addition and employment generation from the fishing industry.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, secondly, the alternative livelihood programs to the poor are being developed. Different business models to suit this purpose are currently being studied; they include the seaweed culture, coconut-livestock system and other integrated production systems. These programs are expected to absorb a large majority of the unemployed women.

Thirdly, the industrial textile sector, which was almost inexistent, has been introduced in Rodrigues. This sector has the potential to develop many productive employment.

Fourth, the connection of Rodrigues to the existing optical fibre network will create unlimited opportunities in the tertiary sector of our economy such as ICT and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sector including the Call Centres. It will be able to absorb our talented and bi-lingual youth. The ICT industry, which presents no major environmental implication, will bring plenty of employment opportunities for the future.

Fifth, the agricultural sector, through various programmes, including projects funded under the Food Security Fund has proved that we can produce what we consume. The high import of food is a harbinger of the huge potential that can be tapped in this sector.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, these new opportunities will supplement existing development in the tourism, agro-processing and artisanal sectors.

However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are quite aware that the demand for labour is a derived demand which depends on Investment. We will therefore mobilise all strata of the population as well as investors from Mauritius and abroad for the take-off, which was the theme of my budget.

With the additional investment made in the sectors mentioned additional labour force will be required.

We will therefore not leave any stone unturned to ensure that all new ideas and private sector led investment proposals fructify.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begu : Mr. Chairperson Sir, there is a sort of traffic in my head as far as questions is concerned, sub-questions because if that is so, I means, so many measures and prospective that the Chief Commissioner has just initiated I am tempted to ask the Chief Commissioner whether job creation was a former area of negotiation during the budget process? And why is it that such a chapter was not included being given that a state of our social situation, that is, *‘l’exode massif’*, social instability with regard to family being disconnected etc.? Job creation was not a formal chapter in his budget because when I listened to the Chief Commissioner I have been up that this is a better budget speech that the other one because we can now figure out what is it that in terms of prospective of jobs that the regional government is proposing. I would like to ask the Chief

Commissioner why is it job creation and these details as regards to the perspective in job creation was not given to the public, directly I mean?

The Chief Commissioner: Because I consider, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when presenting the budget just to broadly mentioned the measures how to state these funds to be allocated for these measures. Now because the question is being asked because by the time I presented the budget all these have already been planned and implemented in due course. That is why now that the question is being asked I am in a position to clearly define what I presented.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, the Chief Commissioner mentioned 100 posts as regard to RRA services and the PBB Programs can we have a broad detailed I mean not details but an idea of where there would be a larger promotion of employment as regards to these 100 and then the Chief Commissioner has given '*des pistes*' where jobs will be coming but has the Executive Council with regard to these measures already totalled the possibilities of job and can we have a broad figure?

The Chief Commissioner: This is under consideration, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and may be tabled at any time upon request, of course.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, coming to what the Chief Commissioner mentioned, that is, the Rs 600M with regard to the installing of the setting up of the sub-marine fibre cable linking Mauritius to Rodrigues. Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether Rodrigues will effectively ... employment benefit or job creation from this. Because you have not been clear enough in your answer to that. In this financial year 2012 is the projection of jobs in term of calls centres being left for consecutive years?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since it has recently been announced by the Minister of Finance I consider that everything will start by early next year and of course it will go on until the mandate of the present government. Because do not forget the investment is at national level. And the preliminary works, consultations and so on have already started so that we just do not wait and see. Things are going on, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in relation to that project. As it is my colleague and friend the Commissioner Agathe who is responsible for that specific project in Rodrigues if ever there is a formal question, being asked on this he will be in a position to answer.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: M. le Président, ma question concerne une raison directe à savoir si ce projet concerne cette année financière 2012. J'aimerais savoir si les calls centres vont pouvoir commencer? Je ne dis pas, M. le Président, que ce projet ne va pas être on going, ce que j'aimerais savoir est-ce-que *right from 2012 et ça c'est un gouvernement qui le sait* not just the Commissioner or that sector. I would like the Chief Commissioner to highlight to the House to whether during the next financial year there will be employment benefit directly which will come out of it?

The Chief Commissioner: There is a time frame for implementation of that optical fibre. If this time frame is respected in 2012 to find concrete outputs/results of this project.

Mr. J. A. Flore: Can we know the other thing about time frame for connecting Mauritius to Rodrigues to this optic fibre? Can we know how much time it will take for this installation?

The Chief Commissioner: It has already been mentioned by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. There is a planned time frame. In March next year.

The Minority Leader: Being given a Member has asked a question on budget and they have entered into fibre optic issue, which the Commissioner has mentioned. Can I know whether this cable, at this lever, if ever it is known will be just a cable between Rodrigues and Mauritius and then we will connect to the outer world through Mauritius, which means that they can restrict the connection bandwidth, the speed or will it be from Rodrigues to Mauritius and directly on a network? Because if it is only a cable between Mauritius and Rodrigues and then we have to connect through Mauritius to the outer global network, there will be a risk that they can limit the connection. Does the Commissioner have information on this?

The Chief Commissioner: I do not have specific information, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, but as far as I know, Rodrigues will be at par with Mauritius. This cable will give the same facilities that exist in Mauritius right now. Because Mauritius has other connection to the rest of the world. I think this will be an extension of existing network in Mauritius to Rodrigues.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, in terms of boosting industrial job/development the Chief Commissioner speaks in his budget of

initiating discussion with MPCC and SMEDA. But we know that these institutions have already had some operations in Rodrigues. SMEDA, for example, is installed here. When we see for example the of high profiles professional agencies which regard job creation boosting development like l'EOA, Enterprise Mauritius. I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner, being given that these institutions are being regovirated in this actual budget whether there has been any at any pointing time discussions with such organisations to give a helping hand to Rodrigues as far as facilitating investment both local intra Rodrigues and intra national?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, negotiations have already been started prior to the presentation of the budget with the Director of the MPCC but the SMEDA in Mauritius not yet.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: My question related specifically of EOA of investment and Enterprise Mauritius which as I said are very high profile and are being restyled to give more boost to development in Mauritius Investment and Rodrigues may speak in that job creation were part in the contribution of such national agencies to Rodrigues.

The Chief Commissioner: In fact, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I had consultation with the Minister of Finance himself. He himself he said that he was restructuring all the business climate environment in Mauritius this is why he mentioned also the SMEDA, bank for entrepreneurs and so on. We have had discussions on all these in which Rodrigues also will have the same benefit as in Mauritius.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I would ask one more question. The Chief Commissioner in his budget as well regarding jobs, investments, he spoke about the reenergizing institution for the delivery of high quality public service. Can the Chief Commissioner gave details of which institutions that he was speaking about in his economic policies, which institutions that are going to be reenergize and how he intends to go about it?

The Chief Commissioner: I mean the Invest Rodrigues, all those concerned with delivery of permits and so on, for example, the Cadastral Office, at my office where licences will have to be delivered. That is why they are setting up a one-stop-shop with a concurrence collaboration of all the others, eventually, SMEDA, NEF. I also mentioned a steering committee comprising of all these and all the Commissions because I said all the Commissions are directly involved in one way or another with business enterprises. That is why we have to synergize everything because to avoid

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: we see that the Minister of Finance is speaking very hard on that, he believes in that. As far as Rodrigues you are speaking now of finally coming up with the one-stop-shop, are you aware that people are having lot of hurdles on their way to be able to get access to the necessary permits within the time frame while Mauritius rank first in ... in different organisations as a very good business facilitator. What does the Chief Commissioner intends to do not just connecting all the services together. Can the Chief Commissioner inform the House that he has also another vision as far as the operation itself of that one-stop-shop?

The Chief Commissioner: I know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a very hard struggle this cannot be done overnight. First of all, we need to set up the right mind set. People need to understand that we cannot continue to operate as it has always been especially in our services. That is why I made a plea to all officers concerned in all different Commissions to have a change of mind set in adopting new attitudes, to work together to promote that entrepreneurship spirit to facilitate entrepreneurs. All those who need and who have the merit of having their dues will be respected.

Mr. J. A. Raffaut: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, coming to the fibre optical cable again if we have to connect to Mauritius and then to the world the band width will be certainly limited. Why and how will BPO's invested in Rodrigues and thus create jobs when you will have about a transfer rate of about 30 KB/second?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a technical question which I cannot reply right now.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, the Chief Commissioner spoke in his budget of a multi department committee with regard to the creation of business friendly environment I would like the Chief Commissioner to give more details as regards to this multi department committee, about its composition and its role with regard to business facilitation and job creation because the Chief Commissioner mentioned that this mechanism as being already operational.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is being worked out and I will come with clearly defined strategies in earlier future.

SHELTER FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN

(No. B/35) The First Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mrs. M.A. Perrine-Begue) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner with regard to the shelter for women and children with social and family problems in Rodrigues, can she:-

- (a) inform the House when will the shelter under construction at Baladirou become operational and the total cost to be incurred for both the infrastructure, furniture and staffing of same;
- (b) give the number of children and women actually in the shelter at Oyster Bay, the categories and number of staff looking after them;
- (c) inform the House whether any new recruitment is being considered for posting at the new shelter and in the affirmative to state the number and the categories; and
- (d) inform the House how many persons have been placed in placement home in Rodrigues since the related Rodrigues Regional Assembly Child Protection (Placement Home) Regulations 2009 have been passed and whether any of them was previously at the shelter of Baie aux Huitres?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, concerning the shelter for women and children under construction at Baladirou, the inauguration of the building is scheduled for Saturday 26th November 2011 and it will be operational immediately after. The project cost for this shelter at Baladirou was Rs 22,589,555 inclusive of VAT and the furniture is estimated at about Rs 250,589.

As regards to part (b), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, presently the number of children placed to the shelter at Oyster Bay has raised to 23. There are eight between 1 and 16 years old, there are 6 boys and 17 boys and there are five Shelter Care Attendant assist by three temporary General Workers headed by one Acting Matron who are working presently now at the shelter.

As regards to part (c), the filling of vacancies of 10 Shelter Care Attendant will be initiated shortly and the scheme of service for the new grade will be prescribed. The document is presently seen under consideration by the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms. The post of Matron is still vacant. Action is being initiated to fill the vacancy. Meanwhile a Hospital Care Attendant is being paid an ad-hoc allowance to perform the duties of Matron.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (d), the number of persons placed in placement home in Rodrigues since the related Regional Assembly Child Protection Placement Home Regulations 2009 have been passed are passed. Four persons have applied for registration of a placement home up to now. Unfortunately, or fortunately we should say, the application had to be set aside as at the same time the person has made application for adoption and two persons were granted adoption on 5th August 2011 and the two other applications are under consideration and will be submitted in due course to the Family Welfare Committee.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner if she could give information to the House as to the number of Shelter Care Attendants on Roster per day looking at the 23 inmates in the shelter?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, presently we have a great problems of staffing as you may know because the Shelter Care Attendants as I said before are being helped by three General Workers. There are only two persons who are on roster each day.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: And is the Deputy Chief Commissioner aware that this ration 2:23 for 24 hours '*est une situation intenable*' for these persons and is she aware that these persons are not having their offs and that they must sometimes continue working all and above the 24 hours and what does she consider to do about this situation?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am in fact aware of the situation and we have tried to do a lot of things to ask, for example, from the Commission for Health so that we can post Hospital Care Attendant there in meantime that the recruitment of additional Shelter Care Attendant are done but in fact in the whole of the RRA, the all service there is a problem of staffing and we have had to manage with this situation and we are trying to find other solution. In fact, we had the General Workers there, the new General Workers on contract but according to the Public Service Commission they are not allow to work overtime or to work at night. This is why the situation is so drastic now. I know the situation is very difficult to these workers but we cannot do anything about it right now until this recruitment has been done.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, if that is so then can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House what is the time frame for the recruitment of these Shelter Care Attendants?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: As I said earlier, the file is still at the Ministry for Administrative Reforms. We have been pestering them. I know Mrs. Raffaut and also the ICE have been writing letters, calling on them to do that as fast as possible but we are still working. In fact, we do not hold the key to this situation and we hope that the time we move in to the shelter at Baladirou this situation would be settled and by next year, at least we can start with the required staff. It is very painful to notice this situation but in fact we do not really have the means at your hand to do something and we feel a little helpless but we try to manage with the staff we have and to help them around. This is the case and we have to wait unfortunately.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: M. le Président, *is the Commissioner aware que ça c'est une état d'urgence sociale in the sense, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that these persons are not being well taken care of at their family level et c'est le gouvernement qui doit prendre soins du personne pour 23 enfants à problème. Est-ce-que ce n'est pas finalement les maltraitaient quelque part. Ils ne sont pas bien traités. C'est cela que j'aimerais demander au Deputy Chief Commissioner, has she taken this issue with the Executive Council, pressing the Executive Council of the situation, the Ministry of Civil Service and what was the outcome? How far she is pressing on the situation?*

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am pressing on the situation because the Minister himself came here I do not know if you are aware, the Minister for Administrative Reforms and we have exposed – he had a meeting with all Commissioners and members of the Executive Council and the Chief Commissioner as well. We exposed the situation to him and even the ICE made a plea for this situation and we have been since pestering on them so that they can really – there has been a manpower assessment and the report himself said that this situation is not good at all and have to be remedied. But we are still waiting for the documents so that we can recruit these persons. When we say that the children are being ill-treated because we have only two persons, I do not think so. Because they are doing their best. But still we should say it would be much better if we have more people to take care of these children. In fact, the shelter at Oyster Bay is infact for about 10 persons and here we have 23. It has been more than doubled the number of children there. It is the Court, which commits these children to the shelter, and we have talked to the District Magistrate here to tell her

about the situation. Because sometime people come and just say that this children is not going to school and they report and we have to go and look into the matter and when this come to Court then the Magistrate commit the children to the shelter because the children have nowhere else to go. The officers have tried to talk to the Magistrate about this situation because we cannot take any more children but each time somebody saw a child on the street or not going to school then they report it to us and we have to take necessary action to bring them there. Unfortunately, the situation is like this. We cross fingers, we try to do our job, we try to press on the Ministry for Administrative Reforms so that the situation can be attended to and we hope by the beginning of next year we would be able to settle this situation.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, coming onto the recruitment I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner if she has not already said it I cannot realise about the number of Shelter Care Attendants that she is proposing to recruit for the next shelter and also what would be the mode of recruitment. Will it be in house, partially for those persons who are already working who have the experience of taking care of those children? Or will it be totally addressed to the public for recruitment?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: In fact, I have already said it in my answer we are recruiting 10 Shelter Care Attendants for the new shelter and the mode will be both – in house and it would be opened to others also. So that those in house get the opportunity because they have the experienced to work there.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I would like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner if she is aware that the situation of managing young boys and young girls under the same roof by two Attendants per day and night is becoming more and more difficult and whether these young persons who are not having enough *encadrement parentale ou encadrement institutionnel pourrais échapper à la vigilance de ces deux pauvre Attendants et éventuellement se retrouver tout seul*. I do think that they should not be doing under the care of the government. Is she aware of incidents that might have happened at the level of the shelter?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. It is difficult to manage but where do you put these children. Leave them with their abuse outside? And the mother leave them and go out to the discotheques at night with a risk? So we have to put them somewhere. Until we go to the new shelter where there will be a separate place for boys where boys will be manager by other people and girls managed. At least we can say that there has been incidents but not

so bad. It is just as you have children at home and there are things that they should not do. It is just like that. You do not deplore any bad incidents.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: One last question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. With regard to the Act which governed this Placement Regulations we note that in the Child Protection Act there is allowance of Rs 1,500 which is supposed to be given to families who received those children on placement while this provision has been omitted in the Regulations. Can I ask why? And why is it that the Commission which drafted this Regulations judge it better that it would be under the discretion of the Departmental Head to chose to whom family to give Rs 1,500 and to whom not to give?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: In fact, when we worked at these Regulations, which we worked out with the stakeholders as well, who report that in Rodrigues it would be better to leave it as that because some people might be tempted just to apply for this placement of children just because of the Rs 1,500. We do not want that to happen. We wanted these people to take these children because they want and they love the children. Because these children are deprived of many things back at their home and when we put them in families, we cannot put them in families who are motivated by the money. Gradually of course, the Departmental Head would see the situation of the families whether the family needs this Rs 1,500 or more or less to take care to these children.

Mr. Chairperson: It is a good time to have a break. I therefore, suspend the Assembly for one hour.

At 12.24 hours, the Assembly was suspended.

On resuming at 13.30 hours with the Chairperson in the Chair.

COMPLAINTS/NO. OF HOSPITAL CARE ATTENDANT – GYNAECOLOGIC ORTHOPAEDIC SURGICAL WARD

(No. B/36) The First Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Bégué) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and others with regard to the Hospital Care Attendant posted at the Gynaecologic Orthopaedic Surgical (GOS) Ward of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Rodrigues, can she state for the benefit of the House:-

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- (a) the number of complaints concerning their working conditions registered at the level of her Commission and the hospital;
- (b) what has been done to remedy their situation;
- (c) the number of Hospital Care Attendant posted per day at the GOS Ward?

Mrs. M. D. L. Chan Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with respect to part (a) of the question, I am informed that no complaint has been received regarding the working conditions of the Hospital Care Attendant posted to the Gynaecologic, Orthopaedic and Surgical wards at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

As regards part (b), the question does not arise since there has been no complaint registered to date.

With respect to part (c), at times two or three Hospital Care Attendants are posted on a daily basis at the ward.

Thank you.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begu : Mr. Chairperson Sir, I would like to ask the Comissioner whether she has been informed that or I will rephrase this question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Because I know, the situation is not what it seems. I would like to ask the Commissioner whether she is aware of any complaints may be not written but informal at least made to her personally and to other high level officials with regard to the situation to the Hospital Care Attendants.

Mrs. M. D. L. Chan Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the Hospital Care Attendants and other staffs at the Commission we regularly have representations from the staffs themselves but they have not formally come either to the office make verbally or officially writing to their superior to report about any problems. But we do agree that there are problems which occur at the level of the staff but no complaint has been as such registered.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begu : Mr. Chairperson Sir, if that is so, can I ask the Commissioner why were some general purpose workers, labourers were sent to assist those HCA's if no complaint or no remarks or any grievances were being heard by authorities at the level of hospital.

Mrs. M. D. L. Chan Meunier: It is due to the fact that presently we have only 111 persons posted as HCA and it is not enough already. So may be there were absences that is why the General Workers have been sent there for support. And actually the General Workers they are posted in different wards to help out because we do realise that the number of HCA that we have we are working under staff. So that is why the General Workers were sent and they are regularly sent to different wards to help out because we do not have the ideal number of HCA working presently working at the hospital.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begu : Does the Commissioner acknowledge the fact that some HCA may have come to the office or to see high level official. This is what she said. She has been made aware of such situation such as other problems at the hospital. We are given to understand that there may have been verbal complaints or reports that have been made to her. Is she concerned of the situation? Is she aware that HCAs are feeling very great hardship as far as their working condition is concerned and in fact if so is she aware of that and what has she been doing to alleviate the situation?

Mrs. M. D. L. Chan Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at the hospital we have the general attitude, people/we are never happy with our situation so there are regular complaints that they do not have enough time to do this, that they have to do a lot of work but they are just working to their scheme of work and we cannot do anything about that so they keep on complaining. That is what I have said at the beginning. But as such from the ward you are mentioning we have not had any official complaint as such. When people say that we are under staff we worked too much and we do not have enough time we cannot do much about it. The only solution to the problem is to recruit more people. To add additional staff to the ward but so far we have posted in each ward at Queen Elizabeth Hospital 8 HCA who works on roster, for example, at we have two posted and sometimes three also during the day and therefore I do not know why complaints are coming because it is not the ideal situation as I have been saying. The solution would be to recruit but recruitment does not rest with us as you are all aware. Even if we have been sending our representation to the ICE we need authority to recruit new ones. If there has been recruitment so far it has been within the service. Because there has been recruitment since January but it has been within the service itself. People has passed away, others has gone on retirement so we have had to replace them, we have had exactly three specific exercise of recruitment HCAs, Senior HCAs and Cook on Roster regarding the HCA but I do not why people are still complaining because we cannot do much we have to do with the situation. This is a general issue at the Commission actually.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Can I ask the Commissioner whether it is not because there is a general complaining attitude that some of the situation which are quite frustrating are being considered nonchalantly?

Mrs. M. D. L. Chan Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because we do give the attention required to all the complaints it is not because there is a general attitude. Actually because of this general attitude to say that we are under staff we do take it as a matter of concern and see whether we really have a problem or not and how can we solve the problem. As I have just said solving the problem of under staffing does not solely rest with the goodwill of the Commission or the staff at the Commission, it depends on having the possibility to actually recruit/top up not within the service itself but top up additional persons. Because for us for the HCA case it would be the ideal number would be 120 and we are now at 111 and we are topping this up with the General Workers and as Mrs. Clair just mentioned it earlier the General Workers they cannot work during week ends, they cannot do night duties so they are there only during day time to cover up where need be.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Is the Commissioner aware that after some representations made and that those labourers were actually sent to assist those HCAs that some of them managed to be reposted where they were initially because of the load of work. The number of labourer who was sent at a pointing time to assist those HCAs is still the same or they finally less than what was initially sent at a pointing time.

Mrs. M. D. L. Chan Meunier: Not to my knowledge it has been the same. There has been reshufflement but we have been able to keep the number of General Workers who are helping in the wards the same so far.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: May I ask the Commissioner to look into the situation because this is the opinion of those who are working at this level. They think that some of them are being able to manage to be reposted *ailleurs* or *pou marron*, this is the word during the day. My question is the Commissioner aware that there is a quota of number of beds and patients per HCA's and that they have some specific scheme of duty to do and that in Rodrigues over and above the quota people are pushing the trolleys from far away up to two storeys which is not the case in Mauritius and the number of operated people at the three sections which are put together at the GOS, the Gynaecologic Orthopaedic and Surgical, three of them all the number of operated persons night and day are being pushed by those HCAs. And they are two in the morning they have to run around they have to go to the

pharmacy, they have to wash the clothes, they have to clean toilet, they have to do the general cleaning. Is the Commissioner aware that it is well above as different in terms of load of work from those who are working in Mauritius and definitely and a lot as regards to their scheme of duty?

Mrs. M. D. L. Chan Meunier: According to their scheme of duty, they are supposed to do all that you have just mentioned actually. So far, the two or three persons posted in the Gynaecologic Orthopaedic and Surgical Ward is for us so far *emplement suffissant* and I do agree that they have long distances to push trolleys and everything. There was supposed to have an operating theatre in the block itself which is not being used right now. We cannot stop that we have to push the trolleys to the operating theatre. It is part of their duty we cannot say that they should not be doing it. We know that there have been representations saying that they should not be doing it but they have to do it. As far as Mauritius is concerned, we cannot really compare. In the GOS ward, they are working for two HCA for 20 beds so average 10 beds per HCA. In Mauritius they work, one HCA for 30 may be more beds. Therefore, we cannot compare Rodrigues with Mauritius.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether she is aware that some of that HCAs are hold to continue on their roster because of the lack of staff. So many times to work on holidays and to work for other time which is normal but that they are not duly paid on time. And why is such a situation when we are asking them to put more time, more energy and to give away their holidays, their time off and that finally they are being paid.

Mrs. M. D. L. Chan Meunier: As you said, we do call upon them to stay after normal working hours some time because we cannot stop people from taking their leave. They are sick, they take their casual leave and they take vacation leave. Therefore, this is actually the real issue with HCAs and other staff is this. It is not that we are this short but do not have them less. We could work with the situation but if people did not absent themselves regularly. However, cannot stop people from taking leave from work. So when we asked them to work after hours other time. Of course some time you know how it is depending on the financial procedures and sometimes there may be delay but they can rest assure that those who have not been paid are going to be paid and that we do pay everybody who has been working overtime. This is not the problem.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: My final question to say, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that I have spoken to some of them the general impression is the same for many of

them. That is why I would like to ask/appeal to the Commissioner for Health whether she would consider meeting these as well as the person who are in charge of them, the Supervising Officers etc. to put them around the table, to see whether there is any reasons for the frustrating mood that they are feeling actually at this level. Whether she would accept, meet and listen to those persons, to a grasp to what the situation is really and if possible to bring remedies.

Mrs. M. D. L. Chan Meunier: You know I am always very prepared, I do not know if I can call it a strength or a weakness I am a very open person to everybody who want to come to see me for representations. I have received so many people and people always call me ifever they have a problem or when I go to the hospital they do talk to me. Ifever they need to express their problems they can feel free to ask for a meeting through the Departmental Head, we are there to help and you know we have taken as motto since the beginning of this year, since I took office quality services. Quality services does not only mean giving to patients quality services but also to ensuring that the staff receive all the necessary requirements to work in an acceptable conditions in order to give the quality services to our patients. We are open to proposal, if they think they have the solution I am open to proposals but we want to base on facts we are there to base ... on *les on dit, ce que les gens pensent ou non*. If they feel there is something for concern they come to see us we are open to discussion.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, my appeal was not that these persons come over to see the authorities that the authorities take the initiative being given that this problem is being sent in front of this August House whether the Commissioner who says that she is always willing to listen to people would be willing to call for a meeting and meet those persons who are working under her.

Mrs. M. D. L. Chan Meunier: Unless I get an official representation I am not going to seek for trouble where there is not. So far for me there is not any trouble because I go to the hospital quite often so if there is any matter of real deep/serious concern that they come and say you know madam we want to meet you to find a solution. I am ready for that but I cannot myself now tomorrow decide we go to the hospital and talk to them about a problem that we are not aware of.

**ONION PRODUCTION
– NUMBER OF TONS/PLANTERS/LOSS**

(No. B/37) The First Local Region Member for St. Gabriel **(Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Bégué)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture and others with regard to onion production in Rodrigues, can the Commissioner inform the House of:-

- (i) the number of tons of onion harvested and exported this year;
- (ii) the number of planters involved in the plantation of this crop;
- (iii) whether any such planters suffered any loss during this year's plantation campaign and in the affirmative to state the nature of the problem(s) they encountered;
- (iv) the programmes set to be financed under the Food Security Fund concerning onion production in Rodrigues, their total cost and whether they have been implemented; and
- (v) whether any project regarding the curing of onion is being contemplated for Rodrigues and in the affirmative, to state the frame and cost?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the House that onion harvest 2011 is ongoing and will be completed in early December 2011. Up to date, the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Co. Ltd. (RTMC) has exported some 145 tons of onion to Mauritius. The purchasing activity is still going on and the company has some 20 tons of onion in stock.

As regard to the amount exported to Mauritius, it is to be noted that the importation of onion has been liberalized and that there are individual buyers operating in Rodrigues since September 2011. In that respect, my Commission is liaising with the Mauritius Shipping Company to have the exact amount of onion exported by individual buyers to Mauritius. Same hopefully will be made available by Mauritius Shipping Co. Ltd.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (b) of the question, I am informed that some 420 planters have been involved in the cultivation of onion this year compared to 390 in 2010 and 289 in 2009.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (c) of the question, I am informed that some of the planters, particularly those who used the Red Creole seed variety have not been able to secure a good harvest in spite of an average of more than 90% germination rate.

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According to a survey conducted by officers working in the onion section, the poor yield for onion variety Red Creole is mainly due to:-

- (i) absence of irrigation as there were periodical drought during cropping season;
- (ii) storage losses due to early harvest. It is to be noted that Red Creole is of longer cycle than local Veronique and Bella Rose varieties and many planters harvested the crop before end of crop cycle; and
- (iii) poor pest and disease control.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, under the Food Security Fund, fence and access roads were provided to the following ten (10) onion growing areas:-

- St. Francois
- Anse Ally
- Pte Coton
- Graviars
- Port Sud Est
- Mourouk
- Anse Femie
- Riviere Banane
- Grand Var
- Anse Enfer

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (e) of the question, I would like to inform the House that procedures are being finalised with the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security for the vesting of the onion store at Citronelle belonging to the Agricultural Marketing Board (AMB) into my Commission to enable its repairs and upgrading and to be used as an Onion Curing Station for Rodrigues. In the mean time, we have submitted a request for funding of the project under the Food Security Fund for an amount of Rs 2.5 M. Once it is approved, we will proceed with the implementation of the project, hopefully in January 2012. We expect that the Curing Unit will be ready for the next planting season in 2012.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, can I ask the Commissioner because we see that the answers that he has been giving that there is

an increase in the number of planters. But I would like to know whether there has been – what is the lost quantify in terms of tons as regards to the problem with the seeds sold to the planters as Red Creole and the varieties?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at this stage it difficult to quantify the amount of loses. It will be at the end of the harvest. However, according to information gathered it is about 70% and those who used the Red Creole variety. Therefore, in general it is not the problem of seedling, the problem occur during the cropping period. As I have said, there was a problem of pest control, irrigation and storage. Many planters harvested the crop before the end of the crop cycle. For Red Creole, the development of the bulb is done at the very late stage, that is, one month before the crop cycle end. Many planters, especially Port Sud Est and Mourouk have harvested the crop in early September and that should have been done in the beginning of October.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is it true that there has been this early harvest because the onion was getting a sort of inflammation, that is, the cover of the onion was melting. That is what the planters were saying that is why they get scared and they removed their onion before it was completely destroyed and damaged under the ground. Are you aware of that?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: I am not aware, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, but according to my information some buyers coming from Mauritius has been offering higher prices in late August especially in Port Sud Est and Mourouk, and these people have accepted to start harvesting their onion and against the advice of officers from my Commission, just to avail themselves, supposedly the good price they are receiving and this was not true and I have seen that with the help of the Commission, the RRA and the subsidy on freight we have been offereing better price than the buyers coming from Mauritius. According to my information, the biggest problem was early harvest they have done before the end of the crop cycle.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: M. le Président, je voudrais demander au Commissaire puisqu'il a dit qu'il y a environ 70% sur le terrain on parle de 75%. Ceux qui ont acheté la semence de No et Red Creole qui ont connus une perte d'environ 75% et qui est conséquent. Ce qu'on aimait connaitre et savoir ici, M. le Président, c'est quel est le ratio de plantation d'autres variétés qui ont eu de bon rendement et en terme de planteur quel est le ratio de kilo de semence et Red Creole? Comme cela on sera l'étendue de la perte qu'a subit les planteurs.

Mr. L. A. Perrine: I think I will have to check with the technician. Anyway it depends on region, for instance, Red Creole has yielded a good return in some regions in Rodrigues, let say at Gravières. Therefore, it is difficult to compare and to make a comparison properly. We have to look to case-to-case. At Port Sud Est I can tell you the President of the association who himself used the variety he secured a very good crop return. I have said in general it is about 70% loss for the Red Creole seed variety. For the other variety, that is, local Veronique and Bella Rose the return have been as usual more than 90%.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: M. le Président, being given that ‘l’oignon Toupie’ which is our ‘endémique’ onion has its informal label already, is considered as a misproduct at national level. The planters are experiencing because as you have said of climate and other reasons, experiencing problems with the imported varieties what is the Commission doing to improve and to promote the seed of the ‘oignon toupie’ in Rodrigues?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in front of this situation my Commission have increased the area that we have for onion seeds production for next year, that is, for local onion ‘Toupie’ as it is called from 200 to 800 m³. We are increasing the surface that we produced and for Bella Rose 1600m³. What I am saying we are willing to produce seeds locally. All our demonstration plots that we have in Rodrigues will converted into seeds production unit. We have just signed a protocol with so that we can start this activity as from ... year. And the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Ltd. is also providing support to local seeds producers, we have about 20, and we are prepared to purchase there production as from next year. The company also has signed a commercial agreement with Medine Sugar State and the Agricultural Marketing Board to preferential training agreement with respect to onion seeds and bulbs.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: M. le Président, la campagne de plantation d’oignon a toujours été folclorique, un événement économique très important *because it brings cash crop to families up to sometimes to Rs 100,00/Rs 150,000 to families*. This is very important. Is the Commissioner aware that Mauritius is going very fast as far as self-sufficiency in onion is concerned. I would like to ask the Commissioner what is his strategy in order to keep Rodrigues’ onion competitive on the national market. What is his strategy being that as he has just said there is more and more a growing interest of planters to invest into onion plantation because they are sure of having a consequent envelope. So what will happen, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at the end of the day ...

Mr. L. A. Perrine: stipulated into our optional strategy for 2008/2011 now we are working on a new one 2011/2015 and focus will be laid on rate of production of onion. Firstly, for local market, we have to satisfy the market to cut importation, which stands about 250 tons per year. We will have to look on our local consumption first. Secondly, we have to look for strategies to export about 1000 tons of onion to Mauritius. This will be sufficient to satisfy market in Mauritius for one month. We will have to make it possible so that we harvest our production in September to satisfy the Mauritian market not to coincide with the harvesting period in Mauritius because the price will go down. We will go further with clustering. We have 10 onion villages. We are going to double it next year and then we are going to start a programme. We have started it at Montagne Goyaves and then we have the onion sowing machines therefore we are going to bring new technology. There is also harvesting machine. I hope that if we are here next year. If the Minority Leader will agree that, we are here next year. We hope to buy one harvesting machine for onion so that this problem of cycling cropping period will not come again. For seedling, we are having problem to produce all our seeds locally and to focus on local red. Red Creole have been imported from France and had some problems with this variety so we will focus on local variety, that is, Local Red or Bella Rose. Our strategies to come to 1000 tons of onions to be exported and also about 300/400 tons to be kept locally for local consumption.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, regarding the curing and the storage facilities we see that such projects are already set in the FSF but the projects are not already operational and the FSF is fading out. I would like to ask the Commissioner what *'qu'est-qu'il attend'* to set out these projects and why he has chosen the strategy to have centralized curing unit which will at the same be storage unit while you see that in Mauritius there is ignauration everyday of curing units at the level of the planters there?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: This strategy for Citronelle is that we already have a building which is not being used and that you can use it for two purposes, that is, to stock the onion for purchasing activity and also to store for our population ... We can also use it to store other communities that we import to Mauritius. It is the first phase if there is need we will come with other curing unit which we can start around the island.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner, we see that in the national budget there is an additional budget envelope which is Rs 22M which is being given to Rodrigues budgeted out of the Rs 150 M of the FSF for Mauritius. Is it a separate budget or is it an additional

one? Is it incorporated into your envelope throughout the whole FSF project or is it an additional Rs 22M which is given to Rodrigues and what is the part that will be dedicated to onion production?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to my information the Rs 22M has been earmarked as follows:-

- Rs 10M for the slaughter house
- Rs 8M for land rehabilitation
- Rs 4M for importation of 300 cows for St. Gabriel

You know with Food Security Fund it is not definite. During the course of the year we need additional fund then there will be no problem the committee will examine the project and then they will ask the Ministry for Finance to have funds. It is not definite you have to convince the Implementation Committee and come up with good projects. And they will show also your implementation rate if you have money you have not been able to implement your programme they will not give you any additional fund.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begu : I have one last question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I see that in the local budget – the budget speech 2012 I see that in the battery of agricultural measures announced no specification is made as far as onion and garlic productions for Rodrigues. Why is it so?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we do not want to do duplications. Food Security focus on onion and garlic for what fund we have in Rodrigues we will use the money for other sectors not for onion.

CLEANING OF RIVERS, REMOVAL OF ROCKS & DEBRIS

(No. B/40) The Second Local Region Member of Baie aux Huitres (Mr. Raffaut) asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to the many rivers in Rodrigues being obstructed by trees, rocks and other debris, can he state:-

- (a) when and where has there been the last exercise regarding the cleaning of rivers, removal of rocks and debris and the cutting of trees;
- (b) the number of workers and resources involved in such activity; and

- (c) whether he is aware of the fact that nearly all rivers in Rodrigues are obstructed by grown-up trees and other debris and what remedial actions he intends to take;

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I request to answer the question instead of the Chief Commissioner.

Mr. Chairperson: It is regular if you want to answer.

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (a) cleaning of rivers – I wish to inform the House that the following rivers have been cleaned and rehabilitated:

- Rivière Malgavhe;
- Rivière Bambous;
- Rivière Ile Michel;
- Rivière Baleine;
- Rivière Port Sud Est;
- Rivière Mourouk;
- Rivière Coco;
- Rivière Roseaux;
- Rivière Pistaches;
- Rivière Vanguard; and
- Rivière Letchis.

I wish to highlight that cleaning of rivers is an ongoing work and that presently work is being done at English Bay to rehabilitate river by constructing retaining walls on both sides and erection of a bridge to facilitate river crossing by villagers. Rehabilitation works are to start at Cascade Jean Louis by next week.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (b) to this question the number of persons and resources involved in such activity varies with the load of work to be done. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (c), I wish to inform the House that as per Section 9 of Forest and Reserves Act of 1983 most rivers in Rodrigues are being properly maintained.

Mr. J. H. Raffaut: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling pictures here ..

Mr. Chairperson: You cannot table there is a procedure for it you have to ask for leave and if there is nobody who objects then you can. But you can support your question by giving a visual aid.

Mr. J. H. Raffaut: Does the Commissioner not finding it necessary and urgent to cut trees and clean the Accacia River as we can see on these pictures. We have a lot of trees and debris in this river and especially at two important sites of this river where we have two bridges and *'par soucis et respect des gens vivant près de cette rivière, je crois que c'est bien nécessaire et bien urgent de nettoyer cette rivière'*.

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that the Member must understand if we have to do some work we must have first have a budget, a program. If there is a problem at Accacia there is also problem at Fond La Digue and at Grand Baie. Therefore, we have to set out our priority and then to start the work. As I have said, we have started. At Accacia, Fond La Digue and Grand Baie the time will come. They will have to wait because we have to do the work according to the budget that we have. We cannot do something just for the sake of doing it. We want to do something professional so that people and the villagers will appreciate.

The Minority Leader: It is visible, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as my friend has just stated at Accacia, Oyster Bay River and many other rivers in Rodrigues that there are trees, rocks and debris that with the arrival of the rainy seasons may be in January there is potential risk for flooding. Can I know from the Commissioner what measures, we know that there is an ongoing program for the cleaning of rivers but being given this extreme situation what measures would be contemplated to mobilize resources at the level of this Commission to tackle these problems. Can I know what has happened to the labourers, the General Workers on contract, which were supposedly posted in each local region? What, are they doing? Whether they are just involved in the political making of track roads and pathways etc.? Or whether they will fit the purpose to clean up these rivers?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I cannot answer for the labourers which have not been posted to my Commission. What I have to say is that at English Bay we have a labour force of 20 Labourers that has been posted to my Commission and they are doing the work. It is important to be prudent about saying there are trees in rivers. Catchment areas it is the policy of my Commission to plant trees in catchment area on river reserves and people should not make confusion about it that we should remove all trees, which are on riverbed. For the

information of the House, I must say that river reserves are only 15 metres that we have to remove trees. Moreover, along side, you must start planting trees and for riverlet, it is 8 metres. For fidder, it is 3 metres. So no question to remove all trees that we have in villages.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are speaking of trees which are not supposed to have grown where they have grown, that is, in the riverbed. At Oyster Bay and Accacia river and in many other rivers there are grown up trees which means that the Commission or some authority somewhere has failed to exercise their duties towards the population and this is increasing the risk of flooding when the cyclonic period will come and the flooding period will come. Oyster Bay is a low line area as well as Accacia. If we have to wait that he completes Anse aux Anglais, or I do not know where it may be too late. I am asking especially for these two rivers bearing in mind the security and the safety of the people living there what does he intends to do to clean up and to securize the fluid flow of river water to the sea?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I take good note and then we will look into the matter and see if we could start a program ...

DISTRIBUTION/SOURCES/FREQUENCY OF DOMESTIC WATER AND SUPPLY OF LORRIES

(No. B/41) The Second Local Region Member of Baie aux Huitres (Mr. Raffaut) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others with regard to the distribution of domestic water in Rodrigues, can he state for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) what immediate actions are being taken to ensure a fair distribution of water over the island in this dry period;
- (b) the sources of water available for distribution and the respective amount;
- (c) the frequency of water distribution currently in force in villages of L'Union, Jardin Mamzelle and Baie Malgache;

- (d) what is the policy of the Commission as regards to the supply of water by lorries under the monitoring of the Water Unit of the Rodrigues Water Company;

Mr. J. D. Spéville: M. le Président, avant de répondre à la question la situation dans laquelle se trouve le pays au niveau de la production et de la distribution d'eau à la population et aux différents secteurs économique passent par un moment difficile. A Maurice, à Rodrigues et même les autres pays de la région fait face à cette crise. A Maurice, Mare aux Vacoas le principale reservoir de l'île qui alimente environ un tiers de l'île Maurice, la nation mauricienne est à seulement 28% de taux de remplissage. Ce qui représente 62 jours de réserve. A Rodrigues la situation est inquiétante en raison de la baisse continue du débit d'eau dans nos rivières, les forages, les nappes souterraines, les réservoirs et nous notons que ce manque d'eau se fait sentir partout à travers le pays. La production a baissé par 50% les forages et celles des rivières d'une manière drastique. Nous sommes obligés de gérer prudemment la fourniture d'eau en réduisant davantage les heures d'approvisionnement. L'année hydrologique du 1^{er} novembre 2010 au 30 octobre 2011 a été déficitaire dû à un déséquilibre de notre pluviosité lié en grande partie au phénomène l'Amina. La Station Météorologique ne prévoyant pas des grosses pluies dans quelques semaines, à la Commission de l'Eau on est en train de tirer la sonnette d'alarme pour que la population prenne conscience de la gravité de la situation. Je crois que la communication devrait jouer un rôle déterminant dans une telle situation. A la Commission de l'Eau on vise à informer presque toutes les semaines. Nous jouons le jeu. Ils y a des gens qui ont constitué des réserves d'eau. Je crois qu'ils adhèrent plus facilement à un tel sacrifice lorsqu'il y a une véritable interaction avec les autorités mais pas quand il y a de la polémique.

Pour répondre à la question, M. le Président, la Commission de l'Eau a défini une série de mesures en termes de projet. Mais quand même on envisage de déclarer l'état d'urgence par sanctionner ceux qui gaspillent l'eau si la situation empire. M. le Président, je dois dire qu'il y a eu beaucoup de travaux qui ont été faits par le gouvernement successif et qui sont en train d'être faits par ce présent gouvernement. Félicitation à tous les décideurs, aux fonctionnaires et aux contracteurs mais il faut additionner le tout car le développement dans le secteur de l'eau est dynamique. On a commencé le réservoir de Creve Cœur, le gouvernement actuel le terminait, c'est dynamique. Parfois on ne voit pas les retombées positives car il y a deux variantes qui se contrarient, la production est en train de diminuer de jour en jour. On compte une demande grandissante qui est causée par un boost dans la construction des maisons, dans l'industrie touristique et aussi par un changement dans le mode de vie des Rodriguais. Je sais que vous allez me

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dire qu'il y a des endroits qui sont alimenté une fois par mois mais c'est indépendant de notre volonté. C'est pourquoi ma Commission c'est embarqué sur plusieurs projets pour mobiliser toute les ressources disponible.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the following actions have been taken to ensure a fair distribution of water over the whole island:-

- (i) the refurbishment of two mobile water treatment plants for the treatment of water in exploited sources for distribution, such as, Cascade Pigeon, Allée Tamarin and Cascade Jean Louis;
- (ii) On a augmenté de prise publique à Bigarade, Malabar et on a même connecté un reservoir à Mangues à la Source ...
- (iii) On vient de connecter le forrage de Mont Lubin au reservoir de Terre Rouge, il y a une forte demande dans la région nord.
- (iv) On a remplacé les pompes au forrage de Lataniers et Fond la Digue et on va bientôt remplacer la pompe submersible à la Station de désalement à Songes
- (v) On est en train de remplacer des tuyaux galvaniser par des tuyaux en PVC, rédimensionaient ces tuyaux pour *'stop leakage and promote better water distribution'*.
- (vi) On va dans les semaines qui viennent connecter les forrages qui se trouve chez la famille Grandcourt à un reservoir publique. La famille a donné leur accord c'est bien je les felicitent.
- (vii) The Fond Camp du Roi dam. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this project consist of the upgrading and the reallocation of the Fond Camp du Roi dam completed by us. C'est un développement dynamique. This project replies on the river has been rehabilitated and upgraded by the construction of retaining walls. This has eventually improved the water quality used by the inhabitants of Fond Camp du Roi.
- (viii) Supply, installation and commissioning of fibre glass tank at Camp du Roi. The project consists of the installation of the fibre glass tank in the Fond Camp du Roi village on a concrete basement. The project has already been completed. Water is being transferred from Fond

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Camp du Roi and Hauteur Accacia to increase water availability of better quality in the village.

- (ix) Procurement, installation and the commissioning of two fibre glass tanks at Pointe Venus. A similar contract has been awarded to install two 15m³ fibreglass tanks at Pointe Venus on the concrete basement constructed prior to the installation of a dissalination plant. This will enable people in the region to have potable water in their vicinity in the forthcoming month.
- (x) Preparation, commissioning of existing fibre glasses around the island. A contract has already been awarded to repair all the existing glass tanks around the island. The objective of this project is to bring water to the proximity of the villages by private water tanks and other means mainly during drought seasons.
- (xi) The procurement of two larry water tanks have already been finalized and delivery is expected soon before the end of this year this will enable a more ... distribution to consumers who faced difficulties with the distribution in their pipelines.
- (xii) Upgrading of water system at Dans Samy. The two main potable water sources have ben upgraded, fenced and covered to maintain the good quality of *'eau potable de ces deux sources. Les péritables des sources a été cloturer et des lavoirs ont été contruit pour permettre aux villageois de faire la lessive correctement'*.
- (xiii) Upgrading of water system at Tamarin.
- (xiv) Extension and drainage work for brackish water at Hauteur Accacia. This project has been completed and is enabling the brackish plant at Hauteur Accacia to operate fully without causing flood in the village.
- (xv) We have changed the control panel at the Mourouk pumping station to enable an efficient pumping of water.
- (xvi) Upgrading of water system at Eau Vannée. At the time being, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Eau Vannée qui a été laissé en abandon pendant plusieurs années. En ce moment dans le reservoir d'Eau Vannée il y a 420 m³ d'eau. On va commencer le pompage d'ici demain. Les

officiers sont en train de travailler sur le network pour voir s'il y a des leakages. This will in turn reduce the dependency of the Petit Gabriel Reservoir on the forrage of Bassin Gaillard which automatically will give *'un aport additionel'* of water to reservoir Malartic. Le reservoir de Malartic, M. le Président, est saturé. Il est alimenté par le forrage de Bassin Gaillard et de Le Chou. Le nombre de village qui est deservi par le reservoir de Malartic, il y a Le Chou, Jardin Mamzelle, Montagne Charlot and Hauteur Accacia. C'est pourquoi je pense que le projet d'Eau Vannée va donner plus de dependance. Le reservoir de Malartic va dependre plus du forrage du Bassin Gaillard et ça va aider à parlié le retard de la distribution d'eau dans les villages mentionaient comme Le Chou, Jardin Mamzelle, Montagne Charlot et Hauteur Accacia.

- (xvii) The two reservoirs 'Chapeau Tole' at Citron Donis and Montagne Goyaves was leaking have been repaired and painted. We have done this to prevent unexpected damage to better resist cyclone winds. My Commission has embarked on their test, repair and commissioning.
- (xix) Upgrading of the water system at Limon and at the time being we are constructing a 1000 m³ at Limon *'va aider a alimenté les villages l'Union, Jardin Mamzelle et'* – pendant tous ce temps le Minority Leader était la et il savait que le reservoir de Malartic est saturé c'est pourquoi moi j'ai pris la décision de construire un reservoir de 1000 m³ a l'Union. Ce reservoir serait alimenté par l'eau à Le Chou.
- (xx) Construction of 6 m³ domestic water tanks around the island. M. le Président, on est en train d'augmentait la capacité de sticjage des Rodriguais sur une base individuelle. Ma Commission a aloué un contrat pour la construction d'environ 400 bassins en block pour les familles vulnérable. Les travaux on déjà commencait sous le Rain Water Harvesting Project et vont se terminer à la fin de l'année. Dans cette optique je voudrais aussi saluer les autres bailleurs de fond à Rodrigues particulièrement le RCSS.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, concerning part (b) of the question ... et je dois dire qu'il y a encore des tender documents qu'on a préparé, il y a des contrats qui ont été lancé pour le refurbishment of the Songes Desalination Plant. Il y a un contrat qui a été lancé pour exploiter l'eau du Caverne Bouteille. On est en train de travailler sur la possibilité of setting up a desalination plant of 7000 m³ per day.

On a eu des contrats avec des bailleurs de fond (AFD). On a fait une réunion moi et le Chef Commissaire et les concernés mais le plus gros morceau c'est d'avoir une garantie avec le gouvernement centrale pour avoir un prêt d'environ 10 M d'Euro à travers le Ministre de Finance et c'est pour cela nous sommes déjà dans le train de négociation. Parallele à cela nous avons déjà préparé les draft Regulations pour le Water Tarif mais comme pense tous le monde cela doit être applicable dès qu'on augmente la fréquence de distribution. Nous sommes en train de négotier avec le gouvernement pour avoir la garantie d'un prêt de Rs 400M pour operer une station de désalement 7000 m³. A partir de cela on a déjà travaillé un règlement sur le water tariff et à partir que l'eau est disponible 6000 m³ par jour par nos sources de surface et forrage, plus 7000/8000 m³ eau désalinait cela nous amène vers les 15000 m3 par jour et à ces moments les Rodriguais va commencer à payer.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, concerning part (b) of the question the information is being compiled and will be tabled shortly. I will table for the benefit of the House the information asked for in respect of the village of l'Union, Jardin Mamzelle and Baie Malgache.

With respect of part (d) of the question, there is no water unit at the Rodrigues Water Company. Water Unit is situated at Malabar and the Rodrigues Water Company is situated in the south.

On the request of the supply of potable water by private lorries to the inhabitants of the southern region should have the prior approval of my Commission.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, suppose the member of the public who have not received water for months for domestic purpose what idea/procedure/possibility for that person to get some water through a lorry?

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson Sir, the person concerned should come to my Commission at Malabar and make application for him to be provided with water by lorries and depending on the number of applicants in he will be provided with.

The Minority Leader: Can we know what the cost, Mr. Chairperson, Sir is, of this and what is the backlog actually? What is the expected number of days that the person must wait to get water from lorry?

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson Sir, for the time being we can accommodate about more than 20 lorries but *'nous pa capave deshabille St. Paul pu habille St. Jacques'*. If 20 lorries goes to Mourouk therefore the production of Mourouk towards Petit Brulé there will be no production, no water feeding Petit Brulé from Mourouk. This is why we are fine tuning the number of lorries that should come to Mourouk, five to six per day so that we do not disrupt the whole distribution of the island from Mourouk to Petit Brulé which is considered as part of the water problem in Rodrigues.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, so there is a possibility for persons can come to the Commission applies for a water lorry and of course, they have to pay for this water lorry. Is there a recommended price for a water lorry? And what about those persons, for example, at Baie du Nord, Camp Pintade, Petite Butte and everywhere in Rodrigues who have not been receiving water for months. I am not exaggerating for months! For those persons, for example, pensioners, people who cannot pay what are you doing for those persons?

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson Sir, normally handicapped persons, pensioners have the priority but at the Commission we have one lorry for the central and northern region. At the Water Company we have two lorries. Now to accelerate this necessity so that people *'qui sont dans le besoin peut avoir l'eau un petit peu plus vite par* the lorries belonging Rodrigues Regional Assembly. We have launched tenders for two other water trucks. Evaluation has already been made. Award has already been given and we are waiting for the two lorries in the forthcoming days.

The Minority Leader: These lorries, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, who are collecting water from rivers is there a cost that they are paying? And anybody, for example, if there is a river where water is flowing collect this water?

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson Sir, according to Rivers and Canals Act no one have the right to pump water from rivers. We have received different complaints from inhabitants from Fond la Bonté and Baie aux Huitres. Stop orders have been given these persons and we are waiting about their behaviours in the forthcoming days.

The Minority Leader: Can he inform the House, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, about what is happening? I have been receiving a number of information/complaints about the arbitrary distribution of water to lorries at Source Tigomme where I think, I do not know, this is the information that I have received,

there is a discriminate supply of water to lorries. Only a sort of category of lorries who belong to a sort of party are given water at Source Tigomme and this has been frustrating the villages of Graviers. The planters also who I am being told – I am going to visit shortly are instead receiving muddy water in the back.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson Sir, on the case of discriminating among lorries I will look into the matter. But the case of Source Tigomme there has been *je crois un manifestation* at Graviers in the last days, the Minority Leader was there. The people of Graviers, Petit Graviers they do not want lorries to pump and take water at la Source Tigomme during week days. We have talked to the Valve Operators and we have talked to the villagers. We have solved the problem only on Saturdays lorries will be allowed to go and fetch water at La Source Tigomme. *Parski banne Graviers dir zot délo ça. J'ai du parler à la radio pour dire que l'eau appartient aux peuples. Et la ils sont d'accord et c'est seulement durant les samedis que les camions auront l'autorisation pour aller prendre de l'eau à la Source Tigomme mais dans le cas de discrimination envers certains propriétaire des camions* I will look into the matter.

The Minority Leader: As regards, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the dissalination plant at Songes, can we know what the state of production there is daily?

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson Sir, for the time being the production is about 200 m³ per day. There has been a problem with the pump, which has been repaired, and we have just purchased and received another submersible pump, which will be replaced if the one, which has been repaired, broke down. Concerning the whole refurbishment of the station a contract has already been launched. The contract is under evaluation, we will see that the whole plant be repaired, and the production should meet 500 m³ per day. In the tender, we have that an alternative bid can be accepted. If the reparation cost is about Rs 7M and if a bidder comes and say that I want to give you a new for Rs 9M. Given cost effectiveness I think that it will be *dans l'avantage du gouvernement régional de prendre un autre et de placer dans un autre régiion.*

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when I left office as Commissioner for Water in January, the desalination plants each of 250 m³ were fully operational. Can we know what has happended? What has the Commissioner done? He always says he is the specialist in water and if he thinks he knows everything what has happened. Water Company has taken over the desalination plant, the people; the technicians at the Water Company were trained to take over the desalination plant. So why is it now at the year he has been

Commissioner since January, one fact is that the desalination plant is not functioning only 200 m³ on 500, that is, only 40% of its capacity. What has he done so that we find ourself today with the desalination plant operating under capacity? What reasons is the additional plant operating at only 40% capacity during this critical period?

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson Sir, *‘kan ou tir la boue lor ou lédo ou zet lor pou ou camarade’*. Here, is a document in the Supreme Court of Mauritius saying that ‘Daniel Spéville takes office in January 2011’. Now *‘mo pou dir ou kine arrivé’*. ‘September 2010, ex-Chief Commissioner was Commissioner for Water Resources represented by Mr. Poonye, he is here, Departmental Head at the Chief Commissioner’s Office accompanied by an Inspector of Water Unit, in the presence of Police - Rivière Coco Police Station, requested applicant agent in chief namely; A.M. - I will cite his name to surrender the keys of the plants claiming that this was being done on the instruction of the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Johnson Roussety’. This is in breach with the maintenance contract mention at a paragraph. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a maintenance contract was given to BRTquatec. There has been a problem with BRT and the RRA and since the BRT has left the plant there. There has been dismantling of this plant and when I take, the Commission in January 2011 there was already many problems at this plant. J’ai même décidé de rapporter le case à L’ICAC mais dû à la secheresse pendant la période janvier/février j’ai dis qu’il faut laisser continuer produire quand même a 250 m³ par jour. Mais la il y a un procès en Cour avec tous les dates mentionaient dedans 2008, 2009. Comment il y a eu le passage de main entre RRA et le Water Unit et le Rodrigues Water Company le contracteur BRT Aquatec est venue sur le site pour voir les problèmes qu’il y a dans les plantes avant que je prête serment comme Commissaire. Je dois vous dire M. le Minority Leader que le problème c’est passé par le passage de BRT qui c’est retiré du plante et qui a passé la main à un agent local et puis la Police est venue sur les plantes avec je ne sais pas quoi pour repredre la clé et pour donner ça aux autorités local.

The Minority Leader: It is easy to speak and to blame others. There was a committee “Water Resources Management Committee” and upon legal advice. Still the same adviser! The contractor had abandoned the site. Legal adviser told us that this was the property of the Regional Assembly and there were water problem. The Commissioner Agathe was there, he himself accompanied to Mourouk, and we took the curatous decision to take what belong to the Regional Assembly and to operate it. Thereafter, within one month with the then Departmental Head and the then Officer in Charge of the Water Company, that you have sent away, Mr. Emile at the Water Company and some technical staff they

went to run the plan again 500 m³ per day. 500 m³ per day, Mr. Madanamootoo was running, he was able to run it together with the staff and we posted a company staff on a permanent basis there. You cannot blame the Court case for the technical problems. You are in charge of the plant today and the fact is that

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: What is the Minority Leader doing, justifying himself? It is question time. It is not time for statement. He can do that at adjournment if he does not know.

Mr. Chairperson: Question time is over so we move to the next item Clerk.

STATEMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

MONT CHARLOT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The Chief Commissioner (Mr. G. Jabeemissar): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me to make a statement on the Mont Charlot Community School. It is to be noted that nothing was mentioned regarding the school in the budget speech of the former Chief Commissioner on 24th September 2010 on pages 26/27 although I mentioned it in my own personal budget speech last year. It is only this year that this Regional Government met under my chairmanship as Chief Commissioner and Commissioner for Finance that consideration has been given to complete the school.

In line with the policies of the Government, the Commission for Education is playing its role for ensuring a world class quality education for the well-being of our population. The Commission for Education is making an immense effort to enhance the quality of education for our children. In this respect, a series of measures have been implemented. They include, amongst others, the improvement of infrastructure for suitable learning environment and the provision of facilities for a better quality of education to all our children.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, much has been said on this community school whose construction started before coming into office of the MR Government. In spite of the numerous difficulties encountered, this Regional Government is pleased to announce that Mont Charlot Community School will be operational by January 2012. This will reduce the pressure on pupils who had to walk over a long distance to attend schooling at the following institutions: Basile Allas primary school, Antoinette Prudence Sainte Famille RCA, Father Ronald Gandy RCA and Oyster

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Bay Government School. The catchment area of the pupils concerned are the villages of Mont Charlot, Montagne Fanal, Soupairs, Le Chou, L'Union and Jardin Mamzelle and the large majority of the 196 pupils are expected to enroll at the school are currently studying at Basile Allas Port Mathurin Government school.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commission for Education has been planning for the opening of the school and it is in this context the following actions have been initiated much beforehand so that things may start well in advance before the beginning of the year:-

- The procurement procedure for the acquisition of furniture, equipment and Computers for the schools;
- The application for electricity, telephone and other services;
- The survey of the pupils from the school's catchment area who are currently enrolled in other schools;
- Consultations with the Village committees, parents and Head Masters of other primary schools where the pupils are studying; and
- The provision of adequate human resources to operate the school.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the construction of the school is progressing smoothly. The contract is being executed by Ireko Construction Ltd. and the project management services rest with Servansing Yadav and partners. The scope of works for the school project comprises the completion of the building works together with associated mechanical and electrical installation. Moreover, in order to improve the school environment arrangements have already been made to complete all the masonry retaining walls so that they are completed much before the opening of the school in January 2012.

Once completed the Mont Charlot Community School will comprise adequate space for eleven classrooms of which eight would be used for two streams from Standard I to IV. It will also comprise offices for the Headmaster, the Deputy Head master, a library and the Computer room.

The school will be fully operational and opened in January 2012. It will have four classes started from Standard I to IV. The management staff and teachers of the school have already been identified.

With the completion of the project we are bringing the school closer to the pupils so that it is accessible with a few minutes of walk within their locality. This is yet another step forward in our vision for a better quality of life for all.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

TIC A RODRIGUES

Mr. J. C. Agathe: M. le Président, permettez-moi de faire ce statement concernant le TIC à Rodrigues. Tout d'abord lors du débat budgétaire la fois dernière j'ai énuméré pas mal de développement positive dans le domaine du TIC à Rodrigues. Par contre il y a le Membre Raffaut de la minorité, qui a passé pas mal de remarque et je voudrais tout d'abord prendre mot pour mot la phrase que notre ami de la minorité, M. Raffaut a dit dans son discours budgétaire du 26 septembre 2011, je cite:-

«Parlant de ce fameux câble, qu'on appelle comme le câble safe, comme le câble fil optique. Ça, M. le Président, je dois dire que c'est un rêve qu'on nous fait vivre, c'est un rêve en couleur qu'on nous fait vivre depuis beaucoup de temps maintenant. C'est une grande illusion utilisait à tout vent par le gouvernement régionale avec la complicité du Ministre de Rodrigues et du PPS».

Et encore, M. le Président, et la ce gouvernement régional vient télécommander, il vienne et nous dise qu'on a reunit sur table une étude de fésabilité. On attend toujours 'comme dit ban la nou atan toujours avec la bougie rouge'. Permettez-moi, M. le Président, de reveiller le Membre de la minorité de son someil. Personnellement en tant que Commissaire je suis sur le working group, regroupant LICTA, LOTAM, Ministère de TIC, Ministère de Finance, Ministère de Rodrigues et la RRA pour faire avancer l'implementation des PPO à Rodrigues. Lors de notre rencontre nous nous sommes buté a plusieurs reprises sur le financement du câble optique sous marins. Rs 600M, M. le Président, represente beaucoup d'argent mais avec la volonté de vouloir éliminer le problème de l'exode tant decrier par tous le monde à Rodrigues. Le problème sociale que font fassent les Rodriguais à Maurice, le problème de chomage, tout gouvernement responsable doit trouver des solutions à ce problème.

Le 4 novembre 2011 est une date à mémoriser pour toute l'île Rodrigues car il a été annoncé dans le budget de notre ami, l'Honorable Vice Premier Ministre et Ministre des Finance, l'Honorable Xavier Luc Duval, la connexion de Rodrigues à l'île Maurice par ce fameux câble optique que beaucoup de personnes pensaient que c'était un rêve. Mais aujourd'hui c'est une réalité, M. le Président.

Je tiens vivement à remercier le gouvernement central dirigé par l'Honorable Premier Ministre, le Dr Navin Ramgoolam pour cette mesure qui est une des plus frappantes du budget national. Cela montre qu'à travers de bonnes relations, on peut fructifier des mesures qui vont changer la vie des gens et le cours de l'histoire à Rodrigues.

M. le Président, la connexion de Rodrigues à Maurice à travers le câble optique sera une avancée historique dans l'histoire du pays. La visibilité de Rodrigues à travers le monde sera décuplée.

M. le Président, les avantages et bénéfices découlant de cette mesure budgétaire seront multiples et énormes donc:-

1. La creation d'emploi – il faut que le secteur informatique (ICT) devienne un pilier de l'économie de Rodrigues. Nous avons des jeunes capables qui n'attendent que ce développement pour entrer dans le secteur. M. le Président, un seul Call Centre peut absorber facilement 1000 à 1500 jeunes qui représentent la moitié de nos sans-emplois et deux ans de jeunes sur le marché de l'emploi.
2. Attirer investissement de l'étranger.
3. Améliorer la connectivité qui automatiquement va *boost up* les autres secteurs économiques de Rodrigues dont le secteur touristique et autres E-Government. Permettez-moi, M. le Président, de dire qu'avec l'arrivée de la fibre optique il y aura tous un changement à Rodrigues.
4. Rodrigues va atteindre un niveau supérieur en technologies de pointe dont le *medical hub*, *E-government*, dans le secteur éducatif (*online/distance education*), etc....
5. Secteur loisirs – Nous savons tous le phénomène Facebook. Le respectable Membre Raffaut parlait d'un WIFI zone à Marechal. M.

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le Président, je viens de recevoir un mail hier que très bientôt on aura notre zone de WIFI à Maréchal avec cinq chaises, cinq tables et cinq ordinateurs possiblement d'ici le 20 décembre se sera chose faites.

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de remercier tous le monde au niveau LICTA, LOTAM, le Ministère de Rodrigues, le Ministère TIC, qui ont contribué pour arriver jusqu'à la aujourd'hui. Je vais saisir cette occasion pour inviter tous les jeunes, tous les Rodriguais pour une rencontre d'explication demain à 11 heures qui sera fait dans le Gymnase de Malabar.

Merci, Monsieur le Président.

[Applause]

ONION PRODUCTION IN RODRIGUES

Mr. L. A. Perrine: With your permission, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to make a short statement concerning onion production in Rodrigues.

With a view to support onion planters who have sustained losses, I am pleased to announce that the Executive Council has already decided to refund 50% the amount of seed cost of Red Creole variety incurred by the planters. Approximately, 250 planters are concerned. The refund will imply an amount of Rs 170,284.40 to be met under the Chief Commissioner's Relief Fund. The refund will be effected through Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Co. Ltd. in early December

It is expected that this measure will be appreciated by onion growers and will encourage them to invest further in onion production in Rodrigues.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

[Applause]

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2011

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me to make a statement in connection with Remembrance Day 2011.

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Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it has been with great pleasure that I welcome the decision of the Executive Council to approve that the memorial monument be erected on the occasion of Remembrance Day 2011. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as you are aware Remembrance Day is usually marked on the 11th of November and this year it has been observed on Sunday the 13th of November at Pte Canon.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have been able to mark the day this year in a historical way through the unveiling of a memorial monument in addition to the usual parade and lunch offered to the Ex-Servicemen.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I recall that the Ex-Servicemen through their President, Mr. Georgy Tolbize have always requested that a memorial monument be erected in their honour and in the honour of those who lost their lives at the different world war that took place.

However, up to Sunday 13th November 2011, for one reason or another project has not been able to be implemented.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, despite the other major areas of responsibilities such as Health, Prisons, Cooperatives and others attached to the Commission we have taken it as a priority to make the dreams of the Ex-Servicemen become true on Sunday 13th November through the unveiling of a memorial monument at Pte. Canon.

Mr. Chairperson, it is clear that through the erection of this monument, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly wants to honour all Rodriguan Ex-Servicemen who served at the war and who died at the battlefield. Indeed, 29 Ex-Servicemen were enrolled in the First World War during the period 1914 to 1918 and the Second World War from 1939 to 1945. In addition, 349 were enrolled from 1946 to 1956 to give a helping hand to establish peacetime which is the period which is not really taken into consideration but we have taken the opportunity to honour those servicemen who serve during that period of peacetime also.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am sure that the 13th of November will remain a historical, emotional and touching moment for all Rodriguan population especially the Ex-Servicemen. Indeed, on that day, it is with much pride and gratitude that we remember all those who have lost their lives to serve the world and those who contributed to peacetime and subsequently ensuring that we all present in this August Assembly enjoy a peaceful lifetime today. Furthermore, the monument will also be *“un lieu ou les parents pourront aller se recevoir, surtout les parents*

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qui ont perdu un membre de la famille lors de la guerre, pour aller se recueillir, se rappeler de ce membre”.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me, to reiterate my sincere thanks to all who have help to made of this project a successful one and I think especially of the Deputy Chief Commissioner who has held this project at heart, all the staff of my Commission, who have worked very hard in a very short period of time to realise this project and also the Executive Council for accepting and supporting this project but I deplore the absence of the Minority Leader at the celebration. This envailing of the monument, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, will be a minestone in the history of Rodriguans.

I thank you, for your attention.

Mr. J. H. Raffaut: Concerning what the Commissioner Agathe said because he mentioned my name I would like

Mr. Chairperson: We are not in debate. I would like to hear you but it is not the procedure. You can have it after adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn to Wednesday 14th December 2011, at 3.00 p.m.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

At 15.05 hours, the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Wednesday 14th December 2011 at 3.00 p.m.

Mr. Chairperson: I understand that there are some persons who wish to intervene at this point of time. Let us start with the explanation.

ADJOURNMENT MATTERS

CABLE OPTIQUE

Mr. J. H. Raffaut: Tout d'abord concernant ce que le Commissaire a mentionné tout à l'heure nous on ne demande pas que Rodrigues soit raccorder à Maurice par un câble optique mais on demande que Rodrigues soit directement relia à un câble optique précisément dans l'Océan Indien. Ce n'est pas qu'on soit raccorder à Maurice directement et ensuite la connection va passer par Maurice et ensuite on va aller vers le monde. Quelques chose d'important moi je considère ...

Mr. Chairperson: When you make an explanation at this particular point you have to refer to what you said was misunderstood by him and not what you want to say or what you want to add new. But if you want to take at this point of time do not make an explanation you make a statement.

Mr. J. H. Raffaut: Concernant surtout les WIFI zones donc le Commissaire prévoit set up d'un WIFI zone à Maréchal avant l'installation du câble moi je dis qu'on va aller vers un bottleneck ou la connectivité va être plus grandement affecter et surtout concernant l'arrivé des Calls Centres à Rodrigues mais qu'est-ce-qu'ils vont venir faire à Rodrigues si Rodrigues est connecté à Maurice et comme on dit dans le langage courant *«robinet la trouve Maurice»*. C'est Maurice qui va dicter tel sera le debit qui sera proposé à Rodrigues et comme on sait Maurice va être prochainement relié au Câble Lion Phase II ou la connectivité va être plus grandement amélioré à Maurice et ce n'est qu'après cela qu'on a décidé de venir proposer le câble optique à Rodrigues. Donc le band width va être grandement diminué si on connecte Rodrigues à Maurice et ensuite Rodrigues va être connecté donc vers le monde. Maurice se trouve environ à la 204^{eme} place sur la connectivité dans le monde sur les pays qu'on a et c'est la Corée du Sud qui est à la première place avec une connectivité de 2.2 MB/seconde et dans le budget ici on à mentionné clairement que la connectivité à Rodrigues va être de 16 GB/seconde. Je ne sais pas si on comprend ce que veux dire Giga Byte et Mega Byte. 16 GB, même en Corée du Sud c'est le pays qui a la plus grande vitesse de connection à l'internet on n'a pas cette vitesse la comme j'ai dis dans mon discours pour le budget en France la Compagnie Numerica c'est une des compagnies qui propose l'internet à haut debit à 100 MB/seconde la vitesse mais ici on va avoir une vitesse de 16 GB et cela je considère un très grand mensonge venant de l'équipe dirigeante pour embêter le peuple.

Mr. Chairperson: You are not entitled to say that this is a lie. You may say that this is not true, the word is not normally used.

[Interruptions]

MATTERS RAISED

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Bégué: Je voudrais remercier de nous permettre après l'ajournement d'intervenir. D'abord remercier le Commissaire de l'Agriculture d'avoir rapidement réagit à nos questions. Les interpellations par les parlementaires de ce matin sur le sort des planteurs qui ont fait jusqu'à comme on a dit 75% de perte. Donc c'est la preuve que quand il y a une démocratie vivante et que le parlement est plus actif se sera plus dans l'intérêt de Rodrigues. A ce titre, M. le Président, je crois que Rodrigues sortira gagnante si les sessions parlementaire étaient plus courante. Et donc je fais cette appel vibrant a n'importe qu'elle parti politique parcequ'on est en fin de mandat, que l'on prenne cette decision parcequ'il y a autant de transactions. C'est faux de dire, M. le Président, qu'il n'y a pas de transaction, qu'il n'y a pas de question et que pour cela il faudra le mettre sur une semaine. Cela au debut en 2010 peut être, M. le Président, cela nous arranger de dire que la loi nous permet jusqu'à trois mois. C'est pareil comme à Maurice sauf qu'ils ont autant de transactions et moi je trouve qu'il y a autant de transaction qu'on peut parler et qu'on peut discuter, faire avancer cette île Rodrigues démocratique. Je fais cette proposition, M. le Président, pour que les sessions parlementaires soient plus courante et cela permettez au Commissaires qui ont le devoir justement de regarder les situations, de discuter avec leurs collaborateurs et de prendre des bonnes dispositions et cela je trouve que c'est une bonne decision et aussi que le parlement d'ici a permit à cela chez les planteurs. Je vais même plus loin, M. le Président, j'en profite, j'ai été Membre, comme vous le savez dès le départ ensemble avec vous pour decider des reglements interne de ce parlement et je suis toujours Membre cela fait presque 10 ans que je suis Membre des reglements interne du parlement. Et je reste sur cette proposition initial a savoir qu'il y a un PNQ pour Rodrigues chaque mois et s'il y a des transactions chaque semaine. Des PNQ chaque semaine cela fera déloquer les choses, cela fera les gens devenir plus democrate, plus responsable, plus transparent et Rodrigues se developpera encore plus vite. Donc je fais un appel comme on est presque à la fin du mandat de ce parlement. La fin de cette session. Eventuellement on ne sait pas parceque c'est le Premier Ministre qui decide mais moi je fais cette appel pour qu'il est grand temps qu'on a des transactions parlementaire qui soit solide qui font bouger Rodrigues et un PNQ et plus que jamais nécessaire. Rodrigues est déjà dans le vent pour cela, Rodrigues est déjà prête pour cela. Et nos parlementaire, que ce soit vous qui soit des Commissaires puisque vous tenez bien le dossier. Vous n'avez pas peur pour repondre aux questions PNQs qui est soumis le jour

même et que ce soit à nous d'être plus rapide et donc d'être sur le terrain et d'être plus actif.

Après ces deux propositions, M. le Président, j'aimerais quand même tout en vous remerciant vous demandez puisqu'ils sont perdu 75% d'après mes information 90 kilos d'oignons – de et de Red Creole, cela fait environ 200 tonnes de perte. Moi je vous aurez fait la recommandation de ne pas rembourser que la semence. Mais de voir qu'ils ont tous perdu. Il y a certain qui compte dessus pour faire leurs programmation financière pour toute l'année et de voir comment vous pouvez un petit pas en pensant qu'ils ont perdu la récolte mais pas juste la semence.

Merci, M. le Président.

Mr. Chairperson: We have had two speeches Commissioners concerned would like to respond to these speeches?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the Member that I will have to take the matter with the Executive Council for a decision and I will report back hopefully on the 14th of December.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

At 15.15 hours the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Wednesday 14th December 2011, at 15.00 hours.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LOW COST HOUSES

– MONEY EARMARKED/OVERVIEW/APPLICATIONS

(No. B/39) The Second Local Region Member of Baie aux Huitres (Mr. Raffaut) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Others with regard to the construction of low-cost houses adopted in the budget estimates for 2011, can he:-

- (a) inform the House of the amount of money which was earmarked in the current budget for this housing project;

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- (b) give an overview of how many of these low-cost houses have been built to date;
- (c) state how many applications regarding same were received at the Commission or at the Rodrigues Housing and Property Development Company Ltd. and the number of applications which have been attended to?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, following approval of the executive council, my Commission has decided to proceed ahead with the construction of 60 unit's low cost housing scheme. The budget provision for social housing this year is Rs 20M which includes also expenses to be met for the elderly housing scheme. The bid document for the construction of low cost housing has already been sent to the Central Procurement Board for vetting and launching of tender. Once the contract would have been awarded by the Central Procurement Board, the construction will thereafter start.

About 1135 applications have been received up to now and the Rodrigues Housing and Property Development Company Ltd. is finalizing the list of those eligible.

Additional Information

The Executive Council, at its meeting of the 9th September 2011 has decided to approve, "Séance tenante", that the Commission constructs 60 housing units for the low to medium income families under the "Build and Rent" Scheme which will be managed by the Rodrigues Housing and Property Development Company Ltd. (RHPDC), instead of the 25 units approved by the Executive Council on 18 March 2011.

The 60 housing units will be constructed islandwise and 10 units will be given to eligible beneficiaries in each Local Region as selected by the RHPDC under the approved criteria as follows:

- (i) the applicant should not be the owner of a housing unit, priority will be given to married couples without houses and to single headed household families;
- (ii) the total earnings of the family should be between Rs 5,000.00 and Rs 14,000.00 monthly; and

- (iii) households earning below Rs 5,000.00 would be considered on a case to case basis.

CAMP DU ROI STADIUM

(No. B/42) The First Local Region Member of Baie aux Huitres (Mr. Flore) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth and Sports & Others with regard to the use of the Camp du Roi Stadium for concerts, can he inform the House as to:-

- (a) the dates on which the stadium was made available for concert for the period 1st January 2011 to date;
- (b) whom and under what conditions and price the stadium was rented;
- (c) whether the same facility will be granted to other persons or organizations for organizing concert in the stadium;
- (d) whether any equipment or any other items have been damaged during any concert organized;
- (e) whether any complaints have been received by the neighbours for noise pollution and nuisance caused?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson Sir, with regard to part (a), the answer is the 27th August and 12th November 2011 respectively.

As regards part (b), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that the stadium was rented to Mr. Joseph Duguesling EMILIEN, Managing Director of Rodsakilla Musical group and to Mr. Teddy Robby AUGUSTE, Director of *Les Cocotiers Night Club* respectively under the following conditions:

- (i) Police clearance and relevant approval from MASA are first obtained before holding of the event;
- (ii) the promoter to arrange for their own security services;
- (iii) the promoter to arrange for the provision of electricity at their costs;

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- (iv) No alcoholic drinks to be sold or consumed within the complex;
- (v) No holes are dug on the football ground;
- (vi) No vehicles are allowed on the synthetic track;
- (vii) A deposit of Rs 10,000 is made and to be forfeited in case of any damage to the infrastructure;
- (viii) A fee of Rs 5,000 is made for the rental of the complex;
- (ix) The complex is cleaned and restored immediately after the show;
- (x) Payment is made at least 7 days before the date of the concert failing which permission for the concert will be automatically cancelled; and
- (xi) Any damage caused to the amenities shall be made good by the promoter.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (c), the stadium may be made available on a case to case basis.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (d) of the question, I am informed that in one of the two concerts held, there has been damage to electrical accessories.

As regards part (e), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as at date, no complaints have been received at the level of my Commission with regard to noise pollution and nuisance.

TRACK ROADS – LOCAL REGION, BAIE AUX HUITRES

(No. B/43) The Second Local Region Member of Baie aux Huitres **(Mr. Flore)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Others with regard to the construction of track roads in Local Region of Baie aux Huitres, can he for the benefit of the House state:-

- which portion of track road and in what village (s) and of what length he intends to build track roads for the next six months;

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- through which modalities these track roads will be built, whether on contract, self-help or else;
- whether he intends to consult village communities and stakeholders at village level before finalizing the choice of where to build the track roads; and
- the total length of track roads he intends to build giving the breakdown and its location?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the construction of track roads in Rodrigues for the next six months, I wish to inform the House that about 16 km of track roads will be built both on a contract basis and self help basis. The 16 km of track roads will be equally shared amongst the six electoral regions.

The final choice on the track road to be constructed rest on the Executive Council after having taken cognizance of all requests made to date by the village committees, villagers and others and on the priority list available at my Commission.

The list of all track roads constructed will be tabled in this assembly after completion of the works.

FREE BOOK LOAN SCHEME

(No. B/44) The First Local Region Member of Baie Aux Huitres (Mr. Flore) asked ask the Chief Commissioner with regard to the “Free Book Loan Scheme”, can he for the benefit of the House state:-

- (a) The modalities adopted for such scheme;
- (b) Whether all the newly text-books prescribed by the different educational institutions will be purchased before the start of the incoming academic year;
- (c) What will be the budget allocated for same; and
- (d) What will be done with the old text-books

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

As regards part (a) at its sitting on 20 December 2006, the Executive Council had decided to set up a Book Loan Scheme for all secondary schools in Rodrigues. The aim of the project was to alleviate the financial hardship faced by most parents in funding the school textbooks and requisites for their wards.

Every year, a correspondence is issued to all rectors of secondary schools to request them to submit their list of textbooks required for the following academic year. The lists were thereafter scrutinized and compiled into one list. The list was then sent to all Rectors for a last adjustments/verification.

In case there are textbooks requested by other schools but which are available at some schools, the Rectors informed my Commission accordingly and a transfer of textbooks exercise is performed in the spirit of cost savings.

Quotations are then launched by my Commission through the request for sealed method of procurement whereby about five suppliers are invited to submit their bids. The bids are evaluated at the level of my Commission and contracts are awarded to successful bidders. Delivery is done at my Commission and each school arranges to collect the textbooks for distribution to all students concerned.

As regards part (b), this year, quotations have been launched on 24 October 2011 for the procurement of textbooks for all secondary schools. The closing date for the submission of bids is 21 November 2011 and the delivery period is 30 days from the issue of letters of awards. It is expected that the evaluation exercise and award of tenders will be completed by November 2011. In that respect, my Commission has arranged for textbooks to be made available prior to the start of the next academic year. However, it may happen unfortunately that some textbooks are not available on the local market. This may lead to some delays.

In addition, after the publication of the SC and HSC results early next year, depending on the pass rate and the number of students promoted or who have to repeat, additional textbooks may be required.

As regards part (c) Rs 3.0 has been earmarked for the Book Loan Scheme in fiscal year 2012.

As regards part (d) It is unfortunate that as a result of a change in edition of textbooks, schools found themselves with excess stocks of old textbooks. Discussions are being held with REDCO and Rodrigues College to see what to do with same. Some books will have to be kept since these may be used in the future. Others can be provided to private candidates who benefit from the free courses offered by my Commission. A final decision will be taken in due course with all stakeholders concerned.

NEWLY BUILT MARKET – PORT MATHURIN

(No. B/45) The Second Local Region Member of Baie aux Huitres **(Mr. Flore)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & Others with regard to the newly-built market at Port Mathurin, can he for the benefit of the House state:-

- whether the project has been completed and handed over to the Commission;
- the initial cost of the market at the time of award of contract and its final cost at handing over;
- whether there has been any modifications in the structure and/or fittings or other amenities;
- whether there has been any meeting with planters and handicraft operators and the outcomes thereof;
- what rental bill has been proposed to the market gardeners; and
- the expected date on which the market will be opened?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the newly built market at, I am informing that:

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- the project was substantially completed on 9th September 2011 and the handing over to Rodrigues Housing and Property Development Company Ltd. completed on 4th October 2011.
- the initial cost of the project at the time of award was Rs 85,653,893.92 inclusive of VAT. The final account has not yet been prepared and it is estimated that the final cost will be around Rs 86,144,500.00 inclusive of VAT.
- The major variations in the scope of works are as follows:
 - Modifications in site works due to the redefining of the site by the Cadastral Department.
 - Manual roller shutter instead of motorized roller shutter.
 - The water feature in the entrance has been removed.
 - Timber beams in hawkers shed has been replaced by concrete beams.
 - Stainless steel handrail provided on the pedestrian bridge.
 - Vegetable stalls constructed in concrete instead of steel.
 - Additional aluminium openings have been provided.
 - Increase in stone cladding from 170 to 275 m².
 - Additional pergolas at level 4500 and 7370.

As regards to (d) and (e) following the meeting held with the market gardeners on 12 July, 2 August and 12 September 2011, it was mutually agreed that the rental fee be fixed at Rs 4,000 per annum payable monthly or quarterly as per the wishes of the occupiers. The occupiers will moreover keep the same number as their stalls as in the old market. 170 out of the 178 occupiers have already effected payment.

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A meeting was also held with the sellers of agro processing and handicraft product is 2nd August and it was agreed that a sum of Rs 3,600 per annum i.e. Rs 10 per day will be payable.

Part (f) the official opening of the market is scheduled on the 23rd November 2011.