

/UNREVISED/

No. 1 of 2012

RODRIGUES

THIRD REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 1 of 2012

Sitting of Saturday 11th February 2012

**TO PROCLAIM THE OPENING OF THE THIRD SESSION
OF THE RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

The Assembly met in the
Passenger Terminal Lounge at 3.30 p.m.

The National Anthem was played

Proclamation No. 4 of 2012

**TO FIX THE PLACE, DATE AND TIME AT WHICH THE
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY SHALL MEET FOR THE PURPOSE
OF SECTIONS 12, 13, AND 14 OF THE
RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY ACT 2001**

SIR ANEROOD JUGNAUTH
President of the Republic

The Right Honourable
SIR ANEROOD JUGNAUTH

- *By the Right Honourable SIR
ANEROOD JUGNAUTH, Grand
Commander of the Order of the Star and
Key of the Indian Ocean, Knight
Commander of the Order of Saint
Michael and Saint George, Queen's
Counsel, President of the Republic of
Mauritius.*

&c., &c., &c.

WHEREAS by section 71A of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2002, it is enacted that the President may, by Proclamation, fix the place, date and time at which the Regional Assembly shall meet for the purpose of sections 12, 13 and 14 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act.

NOW THEREFORE, I do hereby proclaim that the meeting to administer the oaths to the Members of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, and the election of and the administering of oaths to, the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, the Chief Commissioner and the Deputy Chief Commissioner, shall take place in the Passenger Terminal Lounge at Port Mathurin on Saturday 11 February 2012 as from 15.00 hours.

Given at State House, Le Réduit, this 9th day of February two thousand and twelve.

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The Clerk: We shall now proceed to item No. 2 on the Order Paper, which is Administration of Oath of Allegiance to, or Affirmation or Declaration by Members.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO MEMBERS

The following Members made and subscribed before the Assembly, the Oath of Allegiance as prescribed in the First Schedule of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 and signed the Roll of Membership:-

Mr. Jean Christian Agathe
Mr. Louis Daniel Baptiste
Mr. Louis Serge Clair
Mr. Arisona Edouard
Miss Marie Rose de Lima Edouard
Mr. Joseph Alan Ladd Emilien
Mrs. Rose Marie Franchette Gaspard Pierre Louis
Mr. Franceau Aubret Grandcourt
Mr. Désiré Laval Guillaume
Mr. Gaëtan Jabeemissar, G.O.S.K.
Mrs. Marie Désirée Lordana Chan Meunier
Mr. Joseph Louis Rosaire Perrine
Miss Marie Dieu Stellanina Perrine
Mr. Jean Rex Ramdally
Mrs. Jennifer Ravina
Mr. Jean Richard Payendee
Mr. Johnson Roussety, G.O.S.K.
Mr. Simon Pierre Roussety
Mr. Jean Daniel Spéville
Mr. Jean Stephen Swee
Mr. Ismael Valimamode

[Applause]

The First Local Region Member of Grande Montagne (Mr. Louis Daniel Baptiste) *(being the member having recorded the highest percentage of votes at the 5th February last election)* in the chair

(At this stage, the Mace is brought into the House by the Serjeant-at-Arms and is laid under the Table)

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CHAIRPERSON – ELECTION

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: In accordance with the provisions of Standing Orders and Rules of the Regional Assembly, the Assembly will now proceed with the election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

I will therefore, invite two members to move and second the election of a Member present in this House or otherwise to be nominated to the office of Chairperson and take the Chair of the House as such.

The Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne (Mr. Louis Serge Clair): I move that Mr. Soopramanien Sooprayen be elected Chairperson of the Regional Assembly.

The Second Local Region Member of Baie aux Huitres (Mr. J. Richard Payendee) rose and seconded.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Is there any other proposal?

The First Local Region Member of Marechal (Mr. J. Christian Agathe): I move that Mr. Nicolson Lisette be elected Chairperson of the Regional Assembly.

The Second Local Region Member of Marechal (Mr. Jean Daniel Speville) rose and seconded.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: In accordance with the provision of Standing Order 47 (3) of the Regional Assembly we shall now proceed with a secret ballot.

At this stage the House proceeded with secret ballot and counting of votes

The Clerk: I declare Mr. Soopramanien Sooprayen, present in the House, elected by 10 against 8 with 2 abstentions. We will now proceed with the election of the Deputy Chairperson of the Assembly.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: I declare Mr. Soopramanien Sooprayen elected as Chairperson of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly

[Applause]

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON – ELECTION

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The First Local Region Member of Saint Gabriel (Mrs. Rose Marie Franchette Gaspard Pierre Louis): I move that the Second Island Region Member, Mr. Jean Rex Ramdally, be elected Deputy Chairperson of the Regional Assembly.

The Seventh Island Region Member (Mr. J. Stephen Swee) rose and seconded.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Is there any other proposal? There being no other proposal. I declare Mr. Jean Rex Ramdally, Deputy Chairperson.

[Applause]

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson then made and subscribed before the Assembly the Oath of Allegiance prescribed in Second Schedule of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 and signed the Roll of Membership.

Mr. Chairperson (Mr. Soopramanien Sooprayen): Members of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, I am very much honoured by the trust and confidence the Assembly has placed in me, and in accordance with custom, I am submitting myself to its will.

I wish to express my deep and sincere gratitude to the Chief Commissioner for having proposed my name as Chairperson of this Assembly. I would like to thank the Chief Commissioner for his kind thought and his words of encouragement. A special word of thanks to Mr. Richard PAYENDEE who has seconded the motion for my election as Chairperson.

Members of the Assembly, I am aware of the qualities that are required of a Chairperson. In the same manner, I am fully alive to the exacting tasks that await me in my new role, especially in ensuring and upholding the decorum and dignity of the Assembly.

I can reassure the Assembly that I will never falter in the discharge of my duties and responsibilities. Indeed, I will stand up to all the challenges with renewed vigour and confidence so that the interests of the Assembly prevail at all times. I will always demonstrate impartiality, fair play and mutual respect in the conduct of the business of the Assembly. These values and principles will certainly underpin the manner in which I will carry out my duties as Chairperson. I will also, be guided by the rules of fairness while being mindful of the need to protect the rights of the minority in the fulfillment of their responsibilities as representatives of our people.

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This Assembly is no doubt the repository of the will of the people of Rodrigues. In fact, it is the forum where the voices of the people are heard and their needs and aspirations realized.

I therefore, appeal to all Members, from both sides of the Assembly, to lend me their support in ensuring that the wishes of the Rodriguan population are fully respected and their ideals translated into meaningful actions.

I reiterate the commitment to serve this Assembly with utmost devotion, sincerity and seriousness of purpose.

Before I take the Chair, let me convey my heartfelt thanks and greetings to the Clerk of the Assembly and her staff for their continued collaboration and support.

I wish you all well and success in your endeavour.

Thank you.

[Applause]

(Mr. Chairperson then takes the Chair)

*(The Mace which was, up to that time, under the Table,
was place upon the Table)*

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Chairperson: I would now invite the newly elected Deputy Chairperson to come forward to take the oath of office.

The Deputy Chairperson then made and subscribed the oath of office prescribed in the Second Schedule to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 and signed the Register.

The Deputy Chairperson (Mr. Jean Rex Ramdally): Respected Members, I am greatly honoured by the confidence and trust the House has placed on me and according to customs, I submit myself to the will of the House.

In this House, fairness and impartiality must prevail. Therefore, to the best of my ability, I shall provide my undivided support to Mr. Chairperson to safeguard the right of each member to express himself.

UNREVISED

Let me thank, the OPR party, my Leader Louis Serge Clair and all Members for the confidence they have placed on me.

[Applause]

CHIEF COMMISSIONER – ELECTION

Mr. Chairperson: I now invite a Member of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to propose and another member to second, in turn, a nomination to the office of Chief Commissioner. Is there any proposal?

The First Local Region Member of Port Mathurin (Mr. Ismael Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson, I move that the Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne, Mr. Louis Serge Clair, be elected to the Office of Chief Commissioner.

The First Local Region Member of Baie aux Huitres (Mr. Simon Pierre Roussety) rose and seconded.

Mr. Chairperson: Is there any other proposals? There being no other proposal, I declare Mr. Louis Serge Clair elected to the office of Chief Commissioner.

[Applause]

The Chief Commissioner made and subscribed the oath of office prescribed in the Third Schedule to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 and signed the Register.

The Chief Commissioner (Mr. Louis Serge Clair):

Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Président de la République de Maurice
et Lady Jugnauth

M. Soopramanien Sooprayen, Président de l'Assemblée Régionale de Rodrigues

M. le Ministre des Collectivités Locales de l'île Maurice,
Hon. Hervé Aimée et Madame

Les Membres de l'Assemblée Régionale et Nationale et le Clerk de l'Assemblée Régionale

Les représentants des corps religieux

Les invités ici présents

Et un salut spécial à nos frères et sœurs de cette île Rodrigues bien-aimée qui nous regardent et nous écoutent.

Mo saluer nou banne frères ek sœurs Rodriguais ki dans l'île Maurice et tou nou banne frères ek sœurs Mauriciens qui travaillent à Rodrigues et qui habitent Maurice. Nou léker avec zotte tou.

La cérémonie de prestation de serment cet après-midi après les 3^{ème} élections régionales est la consécration d'une grande partie de la population rodriguaise qui a su montrer que l'homme rodriguais et la femme rodriguaise ont une dignité, des valeurs humaines et spirituelles. Ces hommes et ces femmes ne sont pas des objets. Ces hommes et ces femmes ont une conscience, une intelligence, un cœur et une volonté qu'il faut respecter.

L'autonomie de Rodrigues, c'est le plus beau cadeau que le Gouvernement de la République de Maurice a donné à chaque Rodriguais et à chaque Rodriguaise. *C'est ène lotte qualité la vie qui fine mette dans nou l'esprit, dans nou léker et dans nou volonté. L'autonomie de Rodrigues ne doit pas être défigurée, salie par une politique de faire de ce peuple, un peuple assisté, un peuple vivant dans l'ignorance. A nou change nou comportement, nou banne l'habitude ek nou mentalité. Nou besoin changer pour ki Rodrigues vinne ène zile vivante et fraternelle. Ene zile cotte le travail li besoin nou première préoccupation. Nou la terre besoin produire tou cé ki nou besoin. Pas compte lor manzé ki sorti dehors. A nou compte lor manzé ki sorti dans nou la terre.*

Mo lance ène lappel a tou banne Rodriguais et Rodriguaise de bonne volonté pou ki nou mette la main ensemble pou faire Rodrigues avancer dans la justice sociale, le respect des uns et des autres, dans le partage et pour un développement kotte chaque Rodriguais, chaque Rodriguaise li kontan vive dans so l'île Rodrigues. Nou besoin retrouve sa l'esprit de travail volontaire ki fine exister dans Rodrigues pendant des années. Anou redémarre sa lesprit volontaire là par nettoye Rodrigues après sa cyclone ki fine passé.

Bondié ti dire au premier homme et à la première femme: «Mo donne zotte sa la terre là. Faire li produire, proteze li et organise li».

Il y a dans ces trois mots tout un programme d'éducation, de formation et de transformation dans notre mentalité, notre esprit pour que Rodrigues soit une île vivante, fraternelle, vivant dans la paix et l'harmonie et pour que nous soyons un exemple dans la République de Maurice et dans le monde.

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Le gouvernement Régionale pou travaille pou tou dimoune, dans la vérité et la justice. Nou pou travaille pou l'intérêt du peuple Rodriguais. Mais la population Rodriguaise besoin appranne déboute lors so dé lipieds. Mo félicite nou banne frères ek sœurs Rodriguais, Rodriguaises qui fine comprend sa message ki nou ti lancer en 1976. Continuons à livrer notre bataille pour notre dignité et nos valeurs dans la discipline et non pas dans la haine.

Pou les cinq ans à venir, no oulé montrer que le pouvoir c'est pou servir la population Rodriguaise et son intérêt. «Je suis venu pour servir et non pas pour être servi» dit Jésus Christ.

Longtemps après, Mahatma Gandhi disait: «Le pouvoir fondé sur l'amour est mille fois plus efficace et plus durable que ce pouvoir qui crée la peur, le châtiment et la repression».

Et Martin Luther King dans son discours «J'ai fais un rêve» en Washington DC en 1963, disait ceci: «Je rêve que mes quatre petits enfants vivront un jour dans un pays où on ne les jugera pas à la couleur de leur peau mais à la nature de leur caractère. Telle est mon espérance. Telle est ma foi».

Nous devons avoir la volonté et la foi de transformer notre île Rodrigues discordante en une merveilleuse symphonie de fraternité entre nous d'abord et avec nos frères et sœurs de l'île Maurice.

Merci, M. le Président.

Merci à zotte tou ki fine écoute nou avec zotte léker et zotte la foi. Merci.

[Applause]

DEPUTY CHIEF COMMISSIONER – ELECTION

Mr. Chairperson: I now invite a Member of the Regional Assembly to propose and another Member of the Regional Assembly to second in turn a nomination for the office of the Deputy Chief Commissioner.

The First Local Region Member of Grande Montagne (Mr. Louis Daniel Baptiste): Mr. Chairperson, I move that Mrs. Rose Marie Franchette Gaspard Pierre Louis be elected to the office of Deputy Chief Commissioner.

The Second Local Region Member of Port Mathurin (Miss Marie Rose de Lima Edouard) rose and seconded.

Mr. Chairperson: There being no other proposal, I declare Mrs. Rose Marie Franchette Gaspard Pierre Louis elected to the office of the Deputy Chief Commissioner.

[Applause]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner made and subscribed the oath of office prescribed in the Third Schedule to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner (Mrs. Rose Marie Franchette Gaspard Pierre Louis):

Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Président de la République de Maurice et Lady Jugnauth

M. Soopramanien Sooprayen, Président de l'Assemblée Régionale de Rodrigues

M. le Ministre des Collectivités Locales de l'île Maurice

Les Membres de l'Assemblée Régionale et Nationale

Les représentants des corps religieux

Distingués invités

C'est un grand privilège pour moi de pouvoir vous adresser ces quelques mots en ce jour solennel. Tout d'abord, je veux exprimer ma profonde reconnaissance et ma gratitude à mon Leader, Serge Clair, fraîchement élu Chef Commissaire. Ce grand homme en qui le peuple de Rodrigues a voulu placer sa confiance une nouvelle fois pour conduire les affaires du pays pour les cinq ans à venir.

Quand le Chef Commissaire Serge Clair m'a désignée pour être son adjointe, je dois admettre que j'étais dans un état de choc, je ne m'y attendais pas car je trouvais qu'au sein de l'équipe il y avait d'autres collègues aussi capables.

Et c'est avec beaucoup d'humilité et de simplicité que j'accepte cette responsabilité. Je note aussi avec beaucoup de fierté que c'est la 3^{ème} fois qu'une femme rodriguaise prête serment comme Chef Commissaire Adjointe. Cela démontre que nous les femmes rodriguisiennes «*Nou Kapav*». Je m'engage donc avec détermination pour continuer à prouver que nous les femmes rodriguisiennes, même si nous venons d'une petite île, nous avons de grande capacité pour diriger notre pays dans la justice, la transparence et dans la méritocratie.

Permettez-moi de remercier tous ces hommes et toutes ces femmes qui ont choisi librement en leur âme et conscience de placer leur confiance dans l'OPR. Je salue tous les militants et toutes les militantes, et tous les artisans de la grande victoire de l'OPR. Ce fut un travail colossal car tout le monde entier avait les yeux braqué sur Rodrigues en cette période électorale. Hommes et femmes de bonne volonté et de conviction, vous avez su tenir la pression, vous avez su restez digne dans la lutte jusqu'à la dernière seconde. Nous n'allons pas vous décevoir.

Ceci dit, je suis très consciente de l'immense responsabilité que je suis appelée à prendre en tant qu'Adjointe au Chef Commissaire et Commissaire ayant des responsabilités très importantes pour le pays. Comme dit l'anglais: *"with Great Power comes Great responsibilities"*.

Nous savons pertinemment bien que les défis que nous avons à relever sont immenses, et ceci dans tous les domaines. D'ailleurs nous en avons bien fait comprendre au peuple de Rodrigues pendant la campagne électorale, et c'est là où nous avons été témoin de ce grand désir du peuple de Rodrigues de reconduire l'OPR aux affaires du pays. C'est ainsi que nous avons constaté qu'il est impératif de créer à partir d'aujourd'hui un nouveau climat de confiance dans le pays et travailler pour rebâtir l'unité et l'harmonie au sein de la population.

Avec toute l'équipe nous prenons l'engagement de mettre en œuvre une politique que garantira l'épanouissement des plus pauvres et de convertir toutes ces idées que nous avons proposé dans notre manifeste électoral en projets.

En tant que femme, adjointe au Chef Commissaire, il est de mon devoir de veiller à ce que les attentes de la femme et de la famille rodriguaise soient prises en compte dans tous ce que notre gouvernement entreprendra. Nous allons travailler pour faire renaître ou développer le goût de la responsabilité dans l'esprit de chaque rodriguais et rodriguaise et que chacun, à sa manière, et selon ses capacités puissent montrer ce qu'il peut faire pour son pays.

Nous allons travailler dans la sérénité pour toute la population, et non pas seulement *«pou juste céki ine vote pou nou»*. J'invite toute la population à mettre de côté nos divergences. Ensemble travaillons pour montrer au monde ce à quoi nous rodriguais nous sommes capable. Ensemble, travaillons pour garantir un meilleur avenir aux enfants de notre pays.

Vive l'Autonomie de Rodrigues.
Vive la République de Maurice.

UNREVISED

[Applause]

APPOINTMENT OF MINORITY LEADER

The President of the Republic of Mauritius (Sir Anerood Jugnauth, G.C.S.K, K.C.M.G, PC, QC): Distinguish Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen as President of the Republic of Mauritius in pursuance of the provision of Section 16(1) of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001, I am appointing Mr. Gaetan Jabeemissar, Minority Leader of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Mr. Chairperson: I will invite the appointed Minority leader to come forward to receive his letter of appointment.

[Applause]

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH (OR AFFIRMATION) OF OFFICE TO COMMISSIONERS

The President of the Republic of Mauritius (Sir Anerood Jugnauth, G.C.S.K, K.C.M.G, PC, QC): In pursuance of the provision of Section 34 (2) (c) of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 and acting on the advice of the Chief Commissioner, I am appointing as Commissioners the following Members:-

Mr. Simon Pierre Roussety
Mr. Louis Daniel Baptiste
Mr. Ismael Valimamode
Mr. Jean Richard Payendee
Miss Rose de Lima Edouard

Mr. Chairperson: I will invite Mr. Simon Pierre Roussety, Mr. Louis Daniel Baptiste, Mr. Ismael Valimamode, Mr. Jean Richard Payendee and Miss Rose de Lima Edouard to move forward in turn to receive their respective letter of appointment and to subscribe the oath of office.

[Applause]

The following Members made and subscribed the oath of office prescribed in the Third Schedule to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 and signed the Register.

Mr. Simon Pierre Roussety
Mr. Louis Daniel Baptiste
Mr. Ismael Valimamode
Mr. Jean Richard Payendee

UNREVISED

Miss Rose de Lima Edouard

[Applause]

The President of the Republic (Sir Anerood Jugnauth, G.C.S.K, K.C.M.G, PC, QC):

The Chairperson

Hon. Minister

Hon. Members of the National Assembly

The Deputy Chairperson

The Chief Commissioner

The Deputy Chief Commissioner

The Commissioners

Members of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly

Distinguish Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon to all of you. I am pleased to be here for this swearing-in ceremony.

Free and fair elections are an inevitable process in the democratic set up, the world over. Through elections, the voice and wish of the people are materialised. We Mauritians, we have always believed in a democratically elected Government, and in Rodrigues, since the setting up of the Regional Assembly, we have witnessed that the holding of elections have worked in meeting the aspirations of the people.

This is the third time regional elections have been held and I am happy that there was no major incident reported and that all the political parties are satisfied with the process.

I am informed, that the campaign was held in the pure traditional Rodriguan style, with the whole island mobilised with the respective political parties. Now that the results are known, the Assembly has been constituted; I have the pleasure to wish good luck to all the elected and nominated members, who will have the honour to form part of the Government and the opposition in this august Assembly.

I wish that the new Regional Government will meet the aspirations and expectation of the Rodriguan people. The aim is to work for the progress of the island, and I am confident that under the leadership of the new Chief Commissioner, the whole team will give the best of their abilities. As you all know, serious challenges are lying ahead, both on the domestic front and at

UNREVISED

international level. For the time being, the Republic of Mauritius has been able to contain these challenges. But we can anticipate that the situation will not improve in the short term in our principal market. The Central Government is working seriously in exploring new export markets, as well as new markets for our tourism Industry, and I suggest that the new Regional Government works in the same direction.

Rodriguans, are known for their courage and perseverance. I have no doubt that you will rise up to the expectations, and make of Rodrigues a still better place to live.

Before ending, I congratulate the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner and the Commissioners, as well as all the other elected members and wish you all good luck in your new assignments.

I thank you all for your attention.

Long live the Republic of Mauritius
Long live Rodrigues

[Applause]

VOTE OF THANKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Chairperson: Distinguish Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you again for your presence and now before the adjournment I would invite His Excellency the President of the Republic of Mauritius and you all for a cocktail.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn to 24th February 2012 at 15.00 hours.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

At 16.30 hours, the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Friday 24th February 2012 at 15.00 hours.

At 16.30 hours, the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned.