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RODRIGUES

THIRD REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 4 of 2012

Sitting of Tuesday 15th May 2012

The Assembly met in the Assembly House,
Port Mathurin, at 10.30 hours

(Mr. Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

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Debate No. 4 of 15.05.2012

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 15 MAY 2012

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ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT MATTERS

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The Executive Council

(Formed by Mr. Louis Serge Clair, G.C.S.K.)

Mr. Louis Serge Clair, G.C.S.K.	Chief Commissioner, Commissioner responsible for Central Administration, Civil Aviation (Administration), Civil Status, Customs and Excise (Administration), Judicial (Administration), Legal Services, Marine Services (Administration), Meteorology (Administration), Education (Administration), Arts and Culture, Historical sites and Buildings, State Lands, Town and Country Planning, Fire Services, Prisons and Reform Institutions (Administration), Cooperatives, Agriculture, Food Production, Plant and Animal Quarantine, Statistics in respect of Rodrigues, Registration, Postal Services (Administration)
Mrs. Rose Marie Franchette Gaspard Pierre Louis	Deputy Chief Commissioner, Commissioner responsible Child Development, Family Welfare, Women's Affairs, Handicraft, Vocational Training, Information Technology and Telecommunications, Industrial Development
Mr. Simon Pierre Roussety	Commissioner responsible for Infrastructure including Highways and Roads and Public Buildings and Utilities, Housing, Transport, Water Resources
Mr. Louis Daniel Baptiste	Commissioner responsible for Social Security (Administration), Employment, Labour and Industrial Relations, Consumer Protection, Trade, Commerce and Licensing
Mr. Ismael Valimamode	Commissioner responsible for Health (Administration), Sports
Mr. Jean Richard Payendee	Commissioner responsible for Environment, Forestry, Tourism, Marine Parks, Fisheries
Ms. Marie Rose de Lima Edouard	Commissioner responsible for Youth, Community Development, Library Services, Archives, Museum

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PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Mr. Chairperson	-	Sooprayen, Mr. Soopramanien
Clerk	-	Parsooramen, Miss Marie Cristelle Joanna
Deputy Clerk	-	Legentil, Miss Marie Lyndia Yannick
Serjeant-at-Arms	-	Constant Perrine, Mr. Stenio

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME MANAGEMENT

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Members, I have two announcements to make. Today is the fourth ordinary meeting of this Assembly. It is roughly less than 100 days since the Oath Swearing Ceremony took place on the 11th February 2012. Today is but the very first sitting where respected Members will have time for questions. As you may surely have noticed, the number of questions is quite considerable and it would be fair to give every Member the time to get oral answers for the question set. Thus, because questions time shall not exceed three hours, I shall have to limit supplementary questions at time so as to facilitate required oral questions be answered.

Respected Members, we have in this Assembly both on the majority side as well as the minority one, Members who are accustomed to the running of public business and also newly elected Members who will learn a lot through patience and experiences. May I remind each and everyone that the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is an August House where order, discipline, loyalty and fairness amongst others should prevail. By now every Member has in his possession a copy of the Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. We should have to comply with these rules; so make good use of that. For instance, Section 65 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act provides, I quote: *“There shall be freedom of speech in the Chamber”*.

I have to emphasize that this freedom of speech can be exercised in conformity with Standing Orders and Rules of the Assembly. If one abides to these rules and orders, the running of public business in the House will ensue fairly well. To conclude, respected Members on both sides, I request you to give due respect to this institution, be responsible in your action, in your debate to show the right signal for the benefit and progress of Rodriguan people at large.

Thank you for your attention.

COMMITTEES – MEMBERS - APPOINTMENT

Respected Members of the Regional Assembly, I have discussed with the leaders of various parties in relation to membership of the three following committees namely the:-

- Public Accounts Committee;
- Standing Orders Committee; and
- House Committee.

Each party leaders have submitted names of members to sit on the above mentioned committees.

In accordance with Standing Orders 63(1), 64(1) and 65 respectively, I am pleased to inform the House that the following names have been proposed to sit on the different committees:-

I. PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

- (1) Mr. Stephen Swee;
- (2) Mr. Arisona Edouard;
- (3) Miss Marie Dieu Stelliania Perrine; and
- (4) Mr. Johnson Roussety, GOSK.

II. STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

- (1) Mrs. Marie Franchette Gaspard Pierre Louis;
- (2) Mr. Louis Daniel Baptiste; and
- (3) Mr. Gaetan Jabeemissar, GOSK

III. HOUSE COMMITTEE

- (1) Mr. Jean Richard Payendee;
- (2) Miss Marie Dieu Stelliania Perrine;
- (3) Mrs. Lordana Chan Meunier; and
- (4) Mr. Allan Ladd Emilien.

If there is no objection as to the names of members proposed by the leaders of various parties concerned, I declare the above members elected on the respective committees mentioned above.

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I further inform the House that in pursuance to Standing Order 63(1), I am hereby appointing the First Local Region Member No. 2, Mr. Jean Christian Agathe to chair the Public Accounts Committee.

I pray them to perform their duties diligently and be up to expectations. Thank you.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have a point of order regarding the House Committee. My attention was just being drawn through my papers on the fact that, the House Committee has to be elected by the Assembly. I do not think it is in order that you appoint the House Committee without a vote being sanctioned by the Assembly. Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: As I have said, I have discussed with the party leaders and I must inform you that it has also been a practiced of the National Assembly. There have been cases.

After having these names and having no proposal from the House, it has been agreed and decided and the party leaders have accepted. Therefore, I rule out the point of order accordingly. It has also been the practice of the National Assembly at times.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order. As regards to what the Member stated, the question has to be put to the Assembly first and then to proceed further.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I propose that you put a question that this Assembly to approve the names of the Members proposed to the House Committee that you have just mentioned. It is just a formality.

Question was put and agreed to.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

AGRICULTURAL LEASES

(No. B/1) Mr. J. S. Swee (Seventh Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the allocation of agricultural lease, he will for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) State the number of leases, permits, letters of intent or letters of reservations issued for the period 1st January 2010 to 3rd February 2012 and the total surface area thereof; and

(b) Table:-

- (i) The name, address and occupation of beneficiaries, stating the respective location and extent, together with the nature of activity to be carried out;
- (ii) The corresponding date of application and date of approval of same; and
- (iii) The name, address and occupation and date of application of applicants who have not yet received either lease/permit/letter of intent.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that for period 1st January 2010 to 3rd February 2012, 1240 agricultural permits, 38 agricultural leases and 7 letters of intent have been issued covering an approximate total area of 473 hectares of agricultural land throughout Rodrigues. Surprisingly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, most of the permits was issued without a proper plan attached.

I am tabling the details of persons who have benefited from an agricultural lease, letter of intent and permits, indicating the names, address, plot, size and location as Annex A, B and C respectively. Other details as requested in part (b) are being compiled by both the Agricultural Services and the Cadastral Office for submission in due course. **(Appendix I)**

Mr. J. Roussety: Can the Chief Commissioner tell the House what is the actual procedure for the issue of agricultural leases?

The Chief Commissioner: I have noticed, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that there is great problems. The Agricultural Officers have not been working with the Cadastral Office. Agricultural permits have been granted by Officers of the Commission for Agriculture signed by the Departmental Head. As I have said sometimes, most of the permits were issued without a proper plan attached. These permits are not a lease. There is a difference between a lease and a permit. We had a meeting with the Commission for Agriculture and the Cadastral Office. We have to work together so that order can be put in granting agricultural permits or agricultural leases.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Chief Commissioner if there is any active politician who have benefitted from such leases in Rodrigues during the said period?

The Chief Commissioner: During these periods, three active politicians have been issued with an agricultural permit. I will not name those politicians here. According to the dignity of the House, I will not name them. We have the names; we can table the names in the Library. Thank you.

Mr. J. Roussety: Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what is the extent of these three plots, which have been allocated to the three active politicians?

The Chief Commissioner: One is 8800 m² at Vangasaille for livestock production. The other one is 7550 m² at Chateau des Fleurs for crop production and the third one is 4699 m² at Cascade Jean Louis for crop production.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this means that the former Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr. Perrine has done a great job. He has been able to convince even politicians to apply for agricultural land. These agricultural land they are being cultivated. This is very good.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: On a point of order. The Member was making a speech rather than asking a question.

Mr. Chairperson: There should be no debate. I do not admit any debate now. The question is ruled out.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I was introducing the question. In the speech of the Chief Commissioner, he mentioned last time he will treat everybody equal. I do not see that now they come here and they are trying to treat politicians and other people differently.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether he has a target in terms of area within his mandate. Whether he has targeted an area to be allocated to those asking for agricultural land?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I said agricultural permits have been granted here and there without an attached plan. We have many cases where agricultural permits were given on another agricultural permit. We have also discovered that there have been houses built on agricultural land. We may say that we have to put order in all this. If we are aiming in 10 or 20 years to produce agricultural products we have to put order and decide on the extent of land to be given, either for mix farming or for agricultural land because many people have asked for agricultural land. We are also going to put order in what we call mix farming. Some people have received about 20000 m² for mix farming. I think there is a lot of order to be

put in the execution of utilisation of land. We are aiming at what we call community pastures and people should not let their animals stray around the island as we must also protect those who get involve in agricultural products.

**REHABILITATION, UPGRADING AND CONSTRUCTION
– DAMS/RESERVOIRS**

(No. B/2) Mr. J. S. Swee (Seventh Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Water and Others:-

Whether, in regard to the rehabilitation, upgrading and construction projects in connection with dams/reservoirs and other water structures, he will inform the House of the following:-

- (a) The list of all projects together with their respective costs from January 2011 to date;
- (b) Whether tendering/procurement exercise was carried out for each project? If in the affirmative, when?
- (c) Table the list of all bidders, together with the amount each tendered and a copy of contract of the successful bidder; and
- (d) The nature/scope of works for each project, together with the starting and completion date and status for each project.

The Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Water and others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling the details asked for part (a), (b) and (d) of the question. As regards to part (c), the information is being compiled and will be tabled at this Assembly shortly. Copies of contract where available and scopes of works for each contract are also being tabled for circulation. In cases where no contracts were signed, copies of letters of award are being submitted. **(Annex II)**

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, concerning the reservoir of L'Union, the 1000 concrete reservoirs, can the Commissioner informs the House whether any sources of water has been identified to feed same?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are now working on it because it was the former government who proposes for the sites, we found that the sites are not appropriate so we are working on another sites.

Mr. J. Roussety: It is a bit surprising that the Commissioner does not know where water will come from. Is there a project document or project write-up for the L'Union project?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. There are many sites where we can take water to L'Union reservoir, namely: St. Gabriel, Bassin Gallard, Le Chou and even the proposed dam to be constructed at Pavé la Bonté.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether he intends to treat water from the Cascade Pigeon dam to feed these reservoirs?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the project to pump water from Cascade Pigeon to L'Union is very expensive. My Commission is working on another project for that issue.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can we know which project the Commissioner is stating. He has stated that there will be another project can we get some more clarification on this project.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Your colleague asks the question. It was for the reservoir at L'Union.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, concerning the original reservoir of 1000 m² at Camp Pintade, can the Commissioner inform the House whether he is satisfied of the state of the rectangular reservoir.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the respected Member knows well what is happening at Camp Pintade reservoir. He was there last year and the reservoir is leaking but now we are taking appropriate measures to help for the distribution of water at Camp Pintade reservoir.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether he is satisfied that the defected reservoir will be replaced by another 1000 m² reservoir at Camp Pintade which is under construction now. Is he satisfied with that project?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, there is a reservoir of 1000 m² under construction and this project will end in July 2012.

Mr. Chairperson: Last supplementary question.

Mr. J. Roussety: Regarding the papers, which have been tabled, the 10 m³ reservoir of fibre glass at Camp du Roi, can we know whether this reservoir has ever been fed with water or whether it is providing water to the villagers because this does not seem to be the case.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, the respected Member is right. This reservoir was constructed and a 10 m³ fibre glass tank was placed there but connection has never been made during the mandate for the past years.

FISHING BOAT – IFAD PROJECT

(No. B/3) Mr. J. S. Swee (Seventh Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to the fishing boat financed under the International Food Agricultural Development (IFAD) project, he will state when the project was initiated and where matters stand to date?

The Commissioner responsible for Fisheries and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the decision to purchase community boats was first taken by IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) in collaboration with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in 2003 after it was noted that fishermen were encountering difficulties to get access to the FADS (Fish Aggregating Device). Thereafter, sensitisation campaigns have been carried out in view of encouraging fishermen to group themselves into co-operatives to benefit from the program. Five Fishing Societies were registered in December 2009 and the five fishing boats were delivered in December 2011.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since this Regional Government took office in February 2012, I took note of the following problems faced by the five Fishing Societies:-

- (i) Lack of working capital which was promised to the fishermen but not given. They have to pay an annual insurance fee of Rs 200,000 a year;
- (ii) Lack of adequate fishing equipment to operate on a professional basis. My predecessors did not see it important to look into this very important matter. A boat without professional fishing equipment cannot fish in a professional way;

- (iii) The fishing permit given to the fishermen by my predecessors allowed them to fish on banks only and not in the sea around Rodrigues. I do not understand that decision of my predecessors to prevent Rodriguans fishermen not to fish in the sea around Rodrigues.

I am proud to inform the house about the decisions of my Commission to help these Societies:-

- (i) A new fishing permit has been issued to the fisherman cooperatives on 9th April 2012 to enable them to fish both on banks and around Rodrigues;
- (ii) A sum of Rs 262,000 has being disbursed for the purchase of professional fishing materials and satellite phones;
- (iii) Negotiations are underway with the Smart Fish Project to make this project a success story;
- (iv) Interview for the post of Manager has already been completed. The Manager who will be appointed upon approval by IFAD will be of great support to these fisherman societies.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, despite the difficulties in which our predecessors have left these fishermen, we shall do our best to make their project profitable. We will work in collaboration with IFAD and Smart Fish to ensure that the fishermen can operate the vessels in a more professional way.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has been speaking about fishing around Rodrigues, can he tell us about the profitability for these types of boat for fishing around Rodrigues not on the banks?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not have the figures now but I can table it later. The point is, these people did not get any money to start their project, so going on the banks is difficult for them because of the cost of fuel is quite high.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I can tell from experience as a fisherman that for these types of boats fishing around Rodrigues is not profitable. With regard to the project itself, I am aware that there has been a lack of working capital for them to get diesel and to buy fishing equipments. Was it not included in the project cost? I remember when I was Commissioner for Fisheries that within the IFAD money that was to be allocated there was

provision about Rs 500,000 for buying equipments. I want to know what has happened to this provision and secondly, I want to know whether the facilities as regards the supply of ice for the chill rooms of these boats which are big chilled rooms, whether these ice is available actually at the '*Maison de Pêcheurs*' and if not why?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I said the working capital money was not given to these fishermen and this is the decision from the Ministry of Finance in Mauritius which I cannot answer. Secondly, concerning the facility of ice, yes, facilities are available for ice for these people and they have two big chilled rooms where they can put the ice before going fishing.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Commissioner whether since the launching of these boats there has been any fishing trips on the banks and what has been the output of such fishing trips?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the fact that we are trying to find figures and stuffs, I cannot give these figures but these will be tabled later on because my head is not a computer.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the fishermen have problems to go off-lagoon to fish, have the Commissioner met the Minister of Fisheries to discuss the matter where they can exchange their views about the fishermen in order that they can go off-lagoon?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I will not answer, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

INCIDENT – MANIQUE/LA FERME YOUTH CENTRE

(No. B/4) **Ms. M. D. S. Perrine (Ninth Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether he can inform the House if any incident has occurred in the Youth Centre of Manique, La Ferme in the month of March 2012, and in the affirmative, can he:-

- (i) Give the nature thereof; and
- (ii) Obtain from the Commissioner of Police information as to whether a police enquiry has been carried out thereinto and if so to state if any suspect has been arrested, their names and the charges lodged against them if any?

The Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports (Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed by the Divisional Commander that on the 18th March 2012, one Mr. T. W, Officer of the Commission for Health and Sports, reported a case at La Ferme Police Station to the effect that on Friday the 16th of March 2012 at about 10:30 hours...

Mr. J. C. Agathe: On a point of order. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the question relate to the Youth Centre of Manique and can the Commissioner states whether there is a Youth Centre at Manique first?

Mr. Chairperson: Can you make the correction, please.

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I was about to talk about it. In fact, it is in the Sports Complex according to the Divisional Commander. On the 16th March 2012 at about 10.30 hours he was on official duty at the Manique Sports Complex when he was informed by one of the General Worker Mrs. R. S, about the presence of an unknown man, to their surprised they came across Mr. J. C. A well-dressed under a bed.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am further informed by the Divisional Commander that no suspect has been arrested and after enquiry, the case will be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions for advice.

RODRIGUES WATER COMPANY LTD.

(No. B/5) Ms. M. D. S. Perrine (Ninth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water and Others whether, in regard to the financial status of the Rodrigues Water Company Ltd., he will inform the House whether provision was made in the 2012 budget, and if so, under which item vote, and if not, how are financial expenses being met?

The Commissioner responsible for Water and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Rodrigues Water Company, a fully Rodrigues Regional Assembly company was incorporated on 29th October 2007 and Rs 30M were invested by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in December 2009. The aim of the Rodrigues Water Company was to address specific problems in the management of water sector in Rodrigues. The Ministry of Finance required that the private company set up by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly complies inter-alia with the provisions of the Companies Act, that is, be financially sustainable and ensure judicious utilisation of funds. Another Rs 4M were invested again in 2010 in addition to that other the Rs 13M bringing the total to the tune of Rs 17M. An amount of Rs 8.6M was paid to

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Rodrigues Water Company as grant to meet the operational cost again in the year 2010 and this was made without the approval of the Executive Council. Despite that, no funds were made available in budget 2011; the former Regional Government continued to operate Rodrigues Water Company. More expenses including the salary of staffs were refunded from Item 2200956 - Rs 11M water distribution. The sum of Rs 11M were disbursed as follows:-

Period	Amount (Rs)
October to December 2010	4.3M (paid in 2011)
January to March 2011	3.8M
April to June 2011	2.8M
July to September 2011	2M

A sum of Rs 1,935,592 was reallocated by the Central Administration under the Consolidated Fund for fiscal year 2011. The payment of this additional fund has had to be approved by the Executive Council but no approval was seen. For period October to December 2011, payment to the Rodrigues Water Company was made at the level of Central Administration. No information is available at the Commission for Water Resources. It is regretful to inform this Assembly that again the former government did not make any provision in the budget for financial year 2012 in respect of the Rodrigues Water Company. Since the beginning of the year the amount to the tune of Rs 4,380,000 has been effected as follows to meet the expenses of the company:-

- January 2012 - Rs 1M from Programme Miscellaneous Expenses, Chief Commissioner's Office;

Rs 0.5M from Security Services, Commission for Water Resources;
- February 2012 - Rs 1M from Programme Miscellaneous Expenses, Chief Commissioner's Office;
- March 2012 - Rs 980,000 from Programme Industrial Development, Commission for Women and Industrial Development;
- April 2012 - Rs 600,000 from Programme Tourism Development, Commission for Tourism; and

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Rs 300,000 from Programme of Promotion for
Community Development

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, despite the fact that this present Regional Government wishes to safeguard the employment of the staff of the Rodrigues Water Company, it is becoming well near impossible to provide funding to meet the expenses of the company. Other Commissions is suffering from this reallocation of funds for paying the salary of the staffs and other expenses.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the Water Company was financed originally to the Item Vote of Equity Participation and that now the Ministry of Finance has instructed the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to remove same and that no Item Vote for financing of the company exist, does the Commissioner intend to close the company?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said we wish to safeguard the services of all staffs of the Rodrigues Water Company but I think that the closing of this company was well planned by the former government because they have not put any money in the budget.

[Applause]

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is quite surprising that the only motive mentioned by the Commissioner to try to save the Water Company would be the employment of the staffs. It is a motive. Can I ask the Commissioner whether he has gone through one the feasibility report of the Rodrigues Water Company done in 2009/2010, whether he has gone through the reports of the AFD (Agence Française du Développement) and the report of Mr. Jean Michel Cheney from UNDEZA (United Nation Department of Economic Affairs) from New York? There is a report in the files. Whether he has gone into these reports and whether he understands the whole process of reforming the water sector so that we have an autonomous body dealing with water distribution and, of course, getting funds/revenues from the collection of water fees. Whether he will take into consideration all these recommendations, which are not recommendations *‘à la légère’*, we have just seen the International Organisation has come to Rodrigues and they support this. There is a case to be made to the Ministry of Finance; the Water Company is like a child, whether the Commissioner is of the whole, policies set up before rushing to say, we have to close the Water Company?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have never said we are going to close the Water Company. I have gone through the reports and we are still studying ...

Mr. J. D. Spéville: I would like to ask the Commissioner whether the Water Rate Regulations, which has been worked out, will be reviewed by him so that the company become suffice.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this question has nothing to do with the previous one.

YOUTH COMMUNITY CAMP

(No. B/6) Ms. M. D. S. Perrine (Ninth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsibility for Youth and Others whether, in regard to the Youth Community Camp organised by her Commission at Roche Bon Dieu during the Easter Holiday 2012, she will give details of:-

- (i) the activities carried out;
- (ii) the main objectives; and
- (iii) the outcome of the said event?

The Commissioner responsible for Youth and Others (Ms. M. R. L. Edouard): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the first youth community camp was organised by the Commission for Youth during the Easter Holidays from the 19th to the 21st of April 2012 for youths aged between 16 and 29. Some 22 organisations dealing with youngsters and working for the betterment of the Rodriguan society were convened to participate in the activities. These are:-

- Tasks on voluntary and community works (l'engagement);
- Life skills management;
- Family and child protection;
- Environment protection; and
- Sexual and reproductive health.

It has to be pointed out that the training/information sessions were carried out by Rodriguan resource persons namely, *'La Brigade des Mineurs'*, *'Police de l'Environnement'*, members of the *'Action Familiale'* amongst others. Fresco painting at Hanning Bridge and Mont Lubin market on the 20th of April

2012 where slogans immersed, showing youngsters' awareness or their contribution and the role they have to play in the development of the island. There were cleaning operations and embellishment from St. François to Pointe Coton and at Mourouk, Anse Enfer. Recreational games for children of Roche Bon Dieu. Exhibition the following Saturday by the groups participating during the activities at Roche Bon Dieu itself and at the market.

Lastly, there was a cultural animation on the 21st of April by the youths participating in the camp. The main objectives of the camp were:-

- (a) To provide a platform where all stakeholders and organisations dealing with the youth in Rodrigues could meet and share ideas for the development and empowerment of the youth in Rodrigues; and
- (b) To sensitise youths and youth organisations on issues, such as, environment protection and embellishment, sexual and reproductive health, voluntary, social and community works, life skills management, community policing and other related issues.

The outcomes of the said event were:-

- (a) The youths present have been sensitised on the different topics delivered during the session;
- (b) Shared ideas for the development and empowerment of youths in Rodrigues;
- (c) Gained experiences in the organisation of leisure and camping activities;
- (d) Discovered how other youths are contributing in the development in other organisations;
- (e) A network has been created with the different organisations for future actions of youth development. My Commission will soon meet all the organisations for future collaboration. I am contemplating to provide a space at Malabar for adolescents' health and youth counselling centre to facilitate these organisations in delivering of their activities.

I must say that I am very satisfied with this first edition of the youth community camp. The youths involved were also very satisfied, motivated and are looking forwards for a second edition. I must also pay tribute to the

villagers of Roche Bon Dieu, St. Francois and Mourouk Anse Enfer as, through their actions they have played an active role and contributed to the success of this event. Indeed the youth community camp has been a source of motivation to them as well. Let me quote to the House that this activity is not an end in itself as other activities will follow whereby youngsters will indulge in voluntary and community works in collaboration with the villagers of the region targeted.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: J'aimerais demander au Commissaire comment il est arrivé à choisir la région de Roche Bon Dieu. Est-ce qu'il y a un problème particulier à Roche Bon Dieu ou bien dans le *immediate environment of Roche Bon Dieu*?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: We simply started with an area that we found most appropriate. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the newspaper of 'La Tribune', I took it from the Library, it relates to the question I am going to ask the Commissioner.

Mr. Chairperson: Mr. Daniel Spéville you should calm yourself when your friend is speaking otherwise I will have to take action.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at page 3 on Friday 11th May 2012, à Roche Bon Dieu dans un vieux quarters des jeunes s'envolent en l'air. I will quote one little sentence...

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: On a point of order, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This question has nothing to do with the main question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: What I am trying to say, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this problem regards youth...

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order. Why referring to an article to a specific newspaper? It is not the use in the Assembly to refer. Either you table the article or you put the question that is it.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I can table it, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. What is stated here, Mr. Chairperson, Sir ...

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

MONT CHARLOT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

(No. B/7) **Mr. A. Edouard (Eighth Island Region Member)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to Mont Charlot Community School, he will inform the House:-

- (i) When the project started and what was the expected completion date;
- (ii) When the school became operational; and
- (iii) What are the objectives of the projects?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson Sir, with respect to part one (i) of the question, the project was initiated by my first government in late 2005 and the commencement date was 22nd May 2006 and the then contractual completion date was 22nd May 2007. The contract was terminated on 28th March 2008 due to non performance of the initial contractor.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it took the then Commission for Education almost three years, three years Mr. Chairperson Sir, to start works anew on site. As such a contract was awarded to Ireko Construction Limited on 28th December 2010 and works were scheduled to start on site on 26th January 2011 with a view to open the school in January 2012. Moreover, the contract awarded to Ireko Construction Limited was limited in its scope and excluded most of the site works. It is only on 5th December 2011 that a works order was issued to Colas (Maurice) Ltée. for additional external works.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards part two (ii), the school was scheduled to be operational in January 2012. However, following complaints received from parents regarding the unsatisfactory condition and environment of the school as well as the lack of security, the former government has had to postpone the opening of the school for 24th January 2012. However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when my Regional Government took office in February 2012, the school was still not operational.

Subsequently, necessary actions were taken to expedite outstanding works on site and ensure that the school is open for the resumption of studies of the second term, scheduled for 23rd April.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to inform the House that the school became finally operational on 23rd April 2012.

Mr. Chairperson, with respect to part three (iii), the objective of the community schools project is not only to impart primary education to the pupils attending the school but also to integrate community participation as well as involvement of parents in the education of their children.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner inform the House whether together with the Mont Charlot project there was another similar project that was initiated by the time he was in power as he said?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there was two community schools, one at Araucaria and the second one at Mont Charlot. A contract was awarded to Future Builders Co. Ltd. for the construction of community schools at Araucaria and Mont Charlot for the sum of Rs 50,257,661 inclusive of VAT. The commencement date was 22nd July 2006 and the contractual completion date was 22nd May 2003 as I mentioned in my reply.

The Minority Leader: Therefore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, normally both projects had to be completed at the same period being given that the Araucaria Community School and the Mont Charlot Community Schools had the same contractor and it was also said that the contractor could not go ahead with the project and that it was determined sometimes after the completion date. Can the Chief Commissioner inform the House why during that period the contractor did not respect the scope of work/completion date and why is it that it is only now that the Chief Commissioner is saying that he is proud to have completed the school?

Mr. Chairperson: I think that this question is quite separate from the main one and we ruled that.

The Minority Leader: Let me make myself clear, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The question refers to Mont Charlot Community School but we all know that there were two similar projects when it was launched. We all know what the problems were during all that time when we took over prior to the opening of the school this year. We all know what were the different problems, determination of Future Builders contracting to complete the project...

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I have a point of order. It seems that the respected Member is making a speech.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I state to the question now. What contractor, in fact, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, had the contract of the enclosure of the school? Can the Chief Commissioner inform the House?

The Chief Commissioner: It seems that the question is not so clear; I cannot understand what the Member is saying. We had two schools constructed under the contractor Future Builders and then in August 2006, the construction was going on both sides, the Araucaria and Mont Charlot and it was not our duties to find out what was going on after that, that is all.

Mr. J. Roussety: Before August 2006, the contract had been allocated and then it was easy, the new Public Procurement Act was not in force yet. Would the Chief Commissioner agree that the choice of the contractor, Future Builders, I am not saying he is responsible, because we know there are tender procedures and these tender procedures at times they chose builders, contractors which may be are not in a capacity to perform these works. Would he agree now that he has seen the files that the choice of Future Builders has been, of course, I am not saying someone is responsible, has been a bad choice first, because we know that they had not been able to complete the works and secondly, on the same project ...

Mr. Chairperson: They think you are making something hypothetical.

Mr. J. Roussety: Would the Chief Commissioner, he was there when the contract was awarded, he knows, he has been following it, his has been putting a close eyes at it, we know it. Would he agree that Future Builders has not done its job properly? It is not hypothetical but it is a fact first and second, whether all the specifications when the projects were made whether the projects included the yard, the roof and everything or whether it included only the buildings?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, you do not decide who is going to have the contract. It was the Central Tender Board at that time.

FOOD SECURITY FUND

(No. B/8) **Mr. A. Edouard (Eighth Island Region Member)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the allocation of funds to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly under the Food Security Fund, he will for the benefit of the House, give details of the following:-

- (a) The total amount earmarked and the amount disbursed; and
- (b) The list of all projects approved, their project value and the status thereof?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as the House is aware, a Food Security Fund Committee was created by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development in the year 2008 under the Finance and Audit (Food Security Fund) Regulations 2008.

The main objectives of the Food Security Fund Committee were as follows:-

- to mobilise land and aquatic resource inputs for production, human resources technology and financial resources to optimise food and livestock production locally for domestic consumption;
- to promote the exportation of Food surplus to capture the maximum gains from economic scales;
- to undertake a sensitisation campaign to promote healthy eating.

Based on the above objectives, I am informed that eleven technical subcommittees were set up with the mandate of providing expert inputs and identify projects for the various fields of agriculture for funding consideration by the Food Security Fund Committee, which is now operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security.

I am informed that the Rodrigues Regional Assembly through the Commission for Agriculture participated in six of these technical subcommittees as follows:-

- Agricultural land
- Food Crop production
- Milk Production
- Meat Production
- Research and Development
- Staple crop Production

Based on the recommendations of the above subcommittees, the Food Security Fund Committee has developed a strategic plan for period 2008 to

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2011 where a list of 21 projects to the tune of Rs187M was approved to meet the targets of the Fund for Rodrigues.

These targets were:-

- Improving milk production;
- Increasing meat production;
- Boosting up production of staple crops;
- Setting up of special production zones;
- Emphasising on capacity building to enhance the agro-industry sector;
- Rehabilitating abandoned agricultural lands; and
- Promoting aquaculture.

The approved projects to meet the above targets were as follows:-

- Setting up of Model Dairy Farm to serve as model for farmers wishing to embark into milk production;
- Importation of 50 dairy cows to provide young animals of improved breed to farmers for milk production;
- Setting up of a Milk Pasteurisation Unit to provide facilities for fresh milk which is compliant to hygienic norms;
- Construction of a Feed Mix for the production of feed ration using locally available raw materials;
- Setting up of three Multiplier Farms for production of goat, sheep and cattle for breeding purposes;
- Setting up of 12 Model Production Farms for livestock production;
- Construction of one slaughter house to consolidate bio-security level of local herds and ensure quality products to consumers;
- Improvement of agricultural land for staple crop production;
- Construction of one maize plant;
- Upgrading facilities for onion production;
- Construction of one onion curing house;
- Setting up of a Chilli farm;
- Setting up to two lime villages;
- Setting up of two bean villages;
- Capacity building for extension support;
- Setting up of mini-laboratories;
- Rehabilitation of 250 arpents of abandoned agricultural land;
- Irrigation development;
- Setting up of an incubator centre;

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- Construction of three Community kitchens;
- Aquaculture development which does not fall under the purview of the Commission for Agriculture.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that out of the 21 projects identified for Rodrigues, six (6) have been completed, ten (10) are ongoing and four (4) have not yet started as release of fund has not been approved for these projects.

As at date, a total sum of Rs 70,211,931 has already been disbursed by the Food Security Fund. I am tabling the details concerning cost, amount disbursed and status of each project. **(Annex III)**

Mr. J. Roussety: Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards funds that have not been released for projects as he has said how has it been that these funds have not been released? What are these projects and what are their project amounts?

The Chief Commissioner: We have just started our work at the Commission and we are what we call making *un etat des lieux* to know exactly what has been done during those past years. We have a list there, we have a long list of ongoing projects, amounts disbursed for such and such projects, and not yet started, completed, everything is in the papers laid in the table. And this *etat des lieux* will lead us in the reorganisation of the different committees set up here and to also look in the different projects mentioned whether the 21 projects really need to be continued or to be stopped. This is a question that we will have to take with the Security Fund in Mauritius.

DECENTRALISED COOPERATION PROGRAMME I (DCP I)

(No. B/9) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the funding of projects under the Decentralised Cooperation Programme I submitted by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, he will:-

- (a) State and table the projects concerned together with the amount disbursed for each project; and
- (b) Give details about the status of the projects?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I am tabling the list of projects submitted by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA) under the

Decentralised Cooperation Programme with details on the amounts disbursed and status for each project.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a glance at the status of the projects confirms the lack of professionalism with which DCP I projects have been implemented under the outgoing fallen government. In one project Mr. Chairperson, Sir, an amount of Rs 843,778 has to be refunded to DCP with regards to a project on developing a sustainable pig farming sector.

As regards most projects, it appears that NGOs and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) have done very well, compared to commissions. They are still driven by the community spirit, with much humility and willingness to learn, and were more pro-active in handling problems and issues arising in the course of their projects. However, it is found that community based organisations need to be strengthened with respect to their internal administration, book-keeping and reporting.

As regards micro-projects managed by the outgoing government, there was little or no appreciation of the difference between a projects as opposed to the normal annual work programme, namely that projects are time-barred, with a specific objective, an agreed budget items and ceilings, deliverables and performance indicators. Thus projects were slow to start and soon ran out of time despite extensions.

Limited attention was paid to terms of the grant contract, obligations to donors and necessity to submit to audit. The not-for-profit nature of projects was often misunderstood.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, the focus on improving the lives of vulnerable people was often lost in the course of implementation as a project is not merely for acquisition of resources, enrichment of organizations or extra remuneration of staff.

The recourse to external consultants for preparation of application has not worked as expected. Good applications were developed but ownership and understanding of the project by commission's staff was lacking.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, beyond micro-projects, DCP also provided direct support to the Commission of Agriculture in several areas.

At the request of the technical head of department, geo-textile lining was installed for two water reservoirs, that is, Citronelle and Baie Topaze. Both were meant to irrigate the fields of small planters. Whilst the Citronelle one is

indeed collecting water, the water is now currently being used for the commission's own fields instead of planters. At Baie Topaze the upstream dam is not feeding water to the reservoir system, not even after recent heavy rains. No system has been devised/set up to irrigate farmers' bean plantations at Camp Pintade as originally planned.

As for the mini-laboratories for soil, plant and animals diagnostics at Citronelle, two years after the building was rehabilitated and equipment provided, the laboratories are not being effectively used except for soil testing.

Mr. J. R. Ramdally: Can we know from the Chief Commissioner if a project concerning the construction of toilets for needy family formed parts of his list and if so, can he state the number of toilets that were initially planned to be constructed and the actual number constructed in same.

The Chief Commissioner: The overall projects objectives were partly met as half of the toilet blocks were constructed. 151 in Regions No. 1, No. 3 and No. 6 instead of 300 toilets across Rodrigues as initially planned.

Projects suffered considerable delays to finalise the design in keeping with the environmental standards to finalise the list of beneficiaries and the awards of the work contracts. Finance wise the projects need to refund Rs 73,477 to DCP. Rs 73,477 had to be refunded to the DCP.

WHEELCHAIR TO HANDICAPPED

(No. B/10) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner responsible for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to the supply of wheelchair to the handicapped, he will state if he is aware of the prevailing situation in connection therewith and if so, will he indicate the actions he proposes to take to ensure a regular supply of same?

The Commissioner responsible for Social Security and Others: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, indeed, I am fully aware of the current prevailing situation relating to the supply of wheelchair and the difficulties faced by the disabled persons.

In fact, as I assumed office in February last and I received many complaints relating to the delay for the grant of a wheelchair and these came from people necessitating it and who applied for same to the Commission, on the basis of, a medical certificate.

I immediately requested for an audit about this issue and I was unfortunately, informed that the stock of wheelchair was nil. At the same there were already 52 applications pending for the period December 2010 to January 2012.

This waiting list is explained by the fact that, no request was made for the purchase of wheelchairs since 2010. It is very unfortunate to note that provisions had been made in the 2011 budget, but the fund was then used for other purposes. This is tantamount to irresponsible act on the part of the previous regime.

As a caring government, we have immediately given instruction to initiate procedures in accordance with the Public Procurement Act for the purchase of wheelchairs for the benefit of the disabled.

I am pleased to inform the House that a consignment of 85 adult wheelchairs and 15 junior wheelchairs is expected by mid-June and the list of all outstanding cases will be cleared.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, any new beneficiary will now be granted a wheelchair immediately after an application is filed in due form.

I also wish to point out that a better monitoring system will be set up so as to ensure that wheelchairs which are still in good working conditions, and no longer required by the beneficiaries are returned to the Commission as in practice is done in Mauritius.

10% DISCOUNT – AIRFARES TO PARENTS – GRADUATION CEREMONY

(No. B/11) Mr. J. A. L. Emilien (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the 25% discount on airfares offered to parents in the Republic of Mauritius travelling abroad on special events such as graduation ceremony of their wards studying outside the country, he will obtain information from the National Carrier Air Mauritius Ltd. as to:-

- (a) If that discount is extended to the air route between Rodrigues and Mauritius; and
- (b) If so, to indicate when it took effect and if not, to give the reasons thereof?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I have been informed Air Mauritius Ltd. (Rodrigues) that it is a policy of the company to grant a discount of 25% to parents accompanying their children for the first enrolment or graduation ceremony on the sector Rodrigues-Mauritius-Rodrigues. I am further informed that this measure is in force since 2009.

Mr J. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I also have been informed by Air Mauritius for such a situation but I would like to draw the attention of this House to the fact that some travel agencies in Mauritius informed parents that such facilities does not exist. I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether he intends to inform people in Rodrigues about this situation so that *des gens malintentionés comme on dit n’abusent pas de la confiance de ces parents concernés*”.

The Chief Commissioner: Je pense que, tout dépend, il faut voir avec Air Mauritius s’il faut que ces agences demandent un papier d’Air Mauritius de pour envoyer à l’agence. Nous allons essayer de voir Air Mauritius quel est la procédure, la manière de faire. Est-ce qu’il faut agir selon une demande des parents et qu’Air Mauritius donne un papier pour que ses 25% soit appliqué.

Mr J. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is not a rule as such, it is only an agreement that the National Carrier has accepted to help parents who has their wards abroad. But the problem is that the travel agents when they get into the information systems they do not get it because I have been told last week that this facility does not exist from two different travel agencies in Mauritius. I do not know, may be through colleges, PTA’s and Students Council the Chief Commissioner could see to it that these parents are aware of this situation because once they are informed by the travel agents that this facility does not exist most people will think that such facilities...

Mr. Chairperson: I think that the Chief Commissioner has already replied in a way. If the Chief Commissioner wants to give any more answer?

The Chief Commissioner: I think the Member has his rights. We are going to see with Air Mauritius if this can be put on website and everything will be automatical, when a travel agent go on the website will see whether these 25% are granted to the parents. We are going to look into the matter.

LOSS – LABORATORY ANALYSIS

(No. B/12) **Mr. J. A. L. Emilien (Fifth Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to the

loss or misdirecting of results of laboratory analysis of blood and other specimen in the Health Services in Rodrigues, remedial actions have been taken, and if so, what are they, and if not, why not?

The Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports:
Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the same question B/69 of Sitting 19 May 2009 was asked by the then Member of the Minority Side Mr. Roussety now Commissioner for Public Infrastructure. The then Commissioner for Health who by coincidence is the Member asking the same question replied, I quote –

“..... My office is not in the presence of any official complaint relating to the loss of blood test. However, I have personally come across a few verbal complaints from patients claiming that while attending Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Mont Lubin and La Ferme Area Health Centres, they have been told that their blood tests were untraceable”.

The then Commissioner for Health further added that an enquiry has revealed that certain blood results have been wrongly despatched to other Area Health Centres as the Pathological Results Forms were not properly filled.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the then Commissioner for Health took the decision to install a new type of “pigeon hole” with secured keys. This measure has had its merits over time, but by now as situation evolved, it has proved to have a few weaknesses.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my office is contemplating to implement the following in order to improve the present situation:-

- (i) With a view to avoid mixing and wrong despatched of results, it is proposed to adopt a different colour coding system for Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Area Health Centres.

Officers posted at different Community Health Centres are granted ½ day every week to collect their respective pathological results as well as x-rays at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and to ensure proper records of same.

- (ii) Different stamps for each Area Health Centres/Community Health Centres to prevent misdirecting of laboratory results.

- (iii) Health Records staffs have been instructed to collect results daily from the laboratory and insert in patient's file to prevent misplacement.
- (iv) A change in the format of the appointment cards where:-
 - the dates on which blood samples are taken for investigations are recorded to facilitate tracing of blood results;
 - also on the appointment card, diagnosis of chronic and non-communicable diseases and the medications they are on will be inserted to offer guidance.

I wish to add that since January 2012 to date more than 20,000 pathological tests have been carried out monthly.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is there a risk in all these mess of pathological test being sent to places where they should not be sent, that the result for a test be used in the treatment of a patient who is not the original patient?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to point out that even if there is misdirecting the name of the patient still appears on the request form as recorded. So, treating doctors will not use the result of someone else.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am happy to learn from the Commissioner for Health that things have been done to upgrade the situation in this specific case. But I would like to draw the attention of the House and especially the Commissioner for Health to an incident happened at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on the 3rd of March 2012 where a young girl (now I am referring to misdirecting of pathological results) of less than five years was carrying many files from the OPD upstairs and the Commissioner incidentally was there accompanied by his Departmental Head I draw their attention on the fact. Can I know from the Commissioner whether there has been an enquiry to determine whether this is usual practice at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, indeed there was that incident. I personally asked for an enquiry. The Senior Health Records Officer together with the Health Director they replied that it was a Records Clerk who brought her child at work. It was most unfortunate. However, all staffs have been given the following instruction that they should not bring their children with them whilst on duty, access to the library, that is, where most of our

records are kept should be strictly limited to authorised persons and that medical files should not be handed over to patients or their relatives.

OFF-LAGOON/IN-LAGOON FISHERMEN

(No. B/13) Mr. J. A. L. Emilien (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to off-lagoon and in-lagoon fisherman, he will inform the House of:-

- (a) The number of days of bad weather allowance paid to off-lagoon and in-lagoon fishermen for the months of January, February, March and April this year;
- (b) The amount of money paid per fisherman and per category each month for that period; and
- (c) The number of days the Meteorological Services has recommended fishermen not to venture at sea both for off and in-lagoon fishermen per month for the same period?

The Commissioner responsible for Fisheries and Others (Mr. J. R. PAYENDEE): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, the number of days of bad weather allowance paid to off-lagoon and in-lagoon fishermen for the period January to April, 2012 are as follows:-

Sn.	Month	No of bad weather days paid to fishermen:				
		Off-Lagoon	In-Lagoon			
			Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4
1	January 2012	9	4	4	4	4
2	February 2012	13	3	5	5	3
3	March 2012	18	1	6	6	1
4	April 2012	Bad Weather Allowance will be paid by the end of May 2012				

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b), the amount of money paid per fisherman and per category for the same period are as follows:-

Sn	Month	Amount of money paid per fisherman/category				
		Off-Lagoon (Rs)	In-Lagoon			
			Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4
1	January 2012	1,800	800	800	800	800

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2	February 2012	2,600	600	1,000	1,000	600
3	March 2012	3,600	200	1,200	1,200	200

Bad Weather Allowance paid this year:-

For the month of	Paid in	Amount (Rs)
December	January	1,691,200
January	February	1,097,400
February	March	1,572,400
March	April	2,191,800
TOTAL		6,552,800

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Commissioner, the state of the sea according to the Meteorological Services which is classified in six different categories mainly slight, moderate, moderate to rough, rough, rough to moderate and very rough. I would like to know from the Commissioner as from what category bad weather allowance is being paid to fishermen both in-lagoon and off-lagoon?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, normally the procedure is like this, the Meteorological Office send a report to the Fisheries Division and from this report the calculation is made. Let me also inform the House that Sundays and Public Holidays are not counted in this.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply because I have not been given a reply to my question, a specific reply which state of the sea being considered for payment of bad weather allowance from the six categories I mentioned earlier.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the categories are the same that has been in the past.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: What has been in the past? I have never been the Commissioner for Fisheries. I am a Member.

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: The Commissioner has replied. He has just given you an answer.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will see with the Meteorological Office and will table the answer later.

CABLE OPTIQUE

(No. B/14) Mr. J. A. L. Emilien (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the project of ‘cable optique’, she will state to the House where matters stand for the upgrading of information technology services in Rodrigues?

(No. B/28) Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether there is any development in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to date and state whether she has been on mission/s regarding same and the outcome thereof?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with your permission, I will reply questions B/14 and B/28 together because they are related.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that with regard to the project of “*cable optique*”:-

- (a) A project team has been set up at the level of the Ministry of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) to inter alia drive the process for the recruitment of consultants for the project.
- (b) An international Expression of Interest Exercise (EOI) was launched on 5th April 2012. The EOI:-
 - (i) appeared in the local press;
 - (ii) was sent to embassies; and
 - (iii) published in the specialized tendering site of AFD and the closing date for the EOI exercise was on 11th May 2012.
- (c) I am informed that once the EOI is completed, a short list of potential consultancy firms would be made and a tender would be launched to select the most responsive bidder.

- (d) It is expected to start the consultancy activity around September 2012. This activity will last some 15 weeks.
- (e) Depending on the outcome of the exercise, Government will consider implementing the project.

Furthermore, I would like to make it clear to all the respected Members here and to the youngsters of our population that, we as a responsible and dedicated government believe that ICT development will be a boost up for the economy in Rodrigues.

That is why in our electoral manifesto, it is clearly stipulated on page 10, line 22 that I quote:

“Ensemble nous voulons relancer le développement dans le domaine de la télécommunication pour assurer un service rapide et efficace et faciliter les échanges favorisant ainsi une meilleure ouverture sur le monde”.

In this same line, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to point out that the population has been misinformed on the project. Some people even make public déclaration saying that *“le projet de câble optique sera une réalité en Mars 2012”*.

Et dans ce même esprit de berner le peuple il y a eu la pose de la première pierre d'un cyber village.

M. le Président, je suis obligé de le dire ici que plusieurs professionnels dans le domaine se sont bien moqués de nous par rapport a cette action la. Cela a démontré une certaine ignorance ou même une mauvaise connaissance du projet « *cable optique* ».

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that there is a tender that has been launched on 5th April 2002 related to *“cable optique”* in Rodrigues, will the Commissioner states whether she has gone through the tender documents herself and whether she has sent queries regarding the tender.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I really cannot understand the point of the Member. Because tender has been launched by the Ministry of ICT, how can I look at the tender documents? May be, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to proceed by talking about my mission in Mauritius regarding my invitation on the ‘*Validation Workshop for Readiness*’, Question B/28 for ‘*e-commerce in the SADC countries*’.

During my mission in Mauritius, I seized the opportunity to discuss with the Minister of Information and Communication Technology, the Hon. Pillay Chedumbrum, and the officers working on the ICT projects concerned with the “*cable optique*”. I took the opportunity also to meet the Chairman and Director of the ICTA, where we have had fruitful discussions with regard to eventual development in ICT. I met the Chairman of the National Computer Board, where here also we have had discussions regarding the Memorandum of Understandings between the RRA and NCB and the IC3 programme in Rodrigues.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am surprise that the Commissioner does not know what have been stated in the status of interest regarding the consultancy launched by the Ministry of Information and Technology in the document itself at part 6 of the tender document it is said that clarification and queries about this project – anyone, all those who have clarification of queries relating to the project they can send their queries and clarification regarding that project. Have the Commissioner sent queries or clarification or is she satisfied with the tender document that have been launched.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this referred to work of professional and this is why exactly the Ministry has contracted consultants. I have got no query because we agreed with the project and this is a normal step that should be done, the contracting for consultancy services. So, I cannot see why should I come and query the Ministry with regard to the exercise.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, while going through the terms of reference it is mentioned about the engineering state, the technical and economic feasibility of this project. We all know that this project is not feasible economically. Has the Commissioner query about such state of ...

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, how can I have the answer of the result of the consultancy, so there is no need then to make the consultancy. The result will be known and accordingly we will discuss on what is the outcome.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I have a last supplementary question, please? Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we all know that Mauritius is connected to the cable safe since April 2002 with Lyon I *en 2009 et Lyon II il y a quelques jours de cela*. Being given that the present government, we all know that the present government is here only in February but they say they have developed good relation with Port Louis, with the Central Government, which is a good thing for Rodrigues. I would like to know from the Commissioner whether, because in newspaper we see within three years back that this project will be a reality. Can we know from the Commissioner whether we can expect it a bit earlier?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I really happy that the respected Member they were in government when they talked about this project, that they know the length of the project. This is why I was asking myself why they come on radio, everywhere and saying that this project will be a reality in 2012. Because effectively, I have been discussing with the persons concerning this project and they have assured me that what they are doing is the normal procedure. The consultancy has to be done. We cannot go out of this. The Member was talking about clause applied to queries, the queries applies to tenderers and not to RRA.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are meetings in Mauritius dealing with the “*cable fibre optique*” for Rodrigues. First of all, I would like to ask the Commissioner how many times she has attended such meetings in Mauritius. And secondly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what about the project of “*balade telecom*” and what about the project WIFI Zone for Marechal which has to be place at Marechal Youth Centre.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I cannot give reply on behalf of a private company but I can say that we are working – there is the possibility that we have new projects regarding telecommunication in Rodrigues. But I cannot come here and name a private company. Moreover, with regard to ... Yes, we have had fruitful discussions ... They came to meet us but by the time I cannot come and disclose the discussions that we had with this person.

Moreover, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask, to add with regards to the WIFI Zone in Marechal. This also has been a masquerade because what has happened people has requested that Marechal Youth Centre be doted with a WIFI Zone, the contractor came, they sorted the installation and I was informed by the contractor that the a certain Mr. Agathé come to supervise the programme. I do not know who is this Mr. Agathé and the person informed me that what have happened afterwards to be able to have WIFI Zone we should have ADSL line network there. And in Marechal this does not exist. We have

been forced to move the project elsewhere. Again we see, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, things are done like this.

Mr. Chairperson: I suspend the Assembly for lunch.

At 12.19 hours, the Assembly was suspended.

On resuming at 13.20 hours with the Chairperson in the Chair.

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Members before proceeding I would like to convey my deepest sympathy and that of this House to Miss Julienne Meunier who has worked in this Assembly since 2007 and to her family following the passing away of her father this morning.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le President, je voudrais presenter à Mlle. Meunier et à toute sa famille nos sinceres condolence et toute notre encouragement pour l'année à venir.

The Minority Leader: M. le President, je voudrais m'associer à vous-même et au Chef Commissaire pour presenter à la famille de Julienne au nom de la minorité et au nom de toute la Chambre nos plus vives sympathy suite au décès de son père.

Mr. J. Roussety: M. le President, au nom de mon parti je voudrais m'associer à vous-même, au Chef Commissaire et au Chef de la Minorité et presenter nos sinceres condolence à notre collegue qui apporte une contribution dans le besoin pour le bon deroulement de cette Assemblée.

Mr. Chairperson: Before proceeding with the questions, I have got a request from the Minority Leader that the following questions B/16, B/19, B/22, B/24, B/25, B/26, B/27, B/30, B/32, B/33, B/35, B/38, B/39, B/40, B/41, B/42, B/44 and B/45 respectively are withdrawn.

PROGRAMME BASED BUDGETING 2012 (PBB)

(No. B/15) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to Programme Based Budgeting 2012 (PBB) – Capital Investment Projects he will state:-

- (a) The amount of money disbursed since the beginning of this financial year to date; and

- (b) Whether he intends to undertake any new project and, if so, to give details thereof?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at the very outset I would like to quote the definition of the term appropriation which is defined under the PBB as follows:-

“authority granted under a law by the legislative to the executive to spend funds up to a set limit and for the specified purpose during the fiscal year”

Section (2a) of the Finance and Audit Act read as follows:-

“Estimates of expenditure, means the annual estimates of expenditure based on Programme and Sub-programmes (Programme Based Budgeting) prepared on a three-fiscal year rolling basis, specifying the resources to be allocated and the outcomes to be achieved and outputs to be delivered, the estimates for the year of every such period of three fiscal years requiring appropriation by the National Assembly”

Mr. Chairperson Sir, a simpler definition of the above can be simply read as follows: no commitment should be taken over and above the voted provision during any fiscal year.

As I stated in this Assembly in last February out of a voted provision of Rs 360M for 2012, as much as Rs 280M was committed by the previous government as at the end of December 2011, in term of contracts allocated by different commissions. Not only have the then government committed fund not appropriated for fiscal year 2011, but they have been to the extent of over committing some voted provision for fiscal year 2012 by an amount of Rs 106M and this without receiving any financial clearances

Mr. Chairperson Sir, a few of the major over commitment are as follows

(a) Construction of Roads

Out of a voted provision of Rs 70M for 2012, an amount of Rs 112M has been committed, hence an over commitment of Rs 40M; Rs 65M have already been paid under this item vote.

(b) Construction and Rehabilitation of Dams and Reservoir

An amount of Rs 57.9M has been committed out of a voted provision of Rs 17.2M for 2012, which represent a shortfall of some Rs 40.7M; Rs 29M have already been paid under this item vote.

(c) Education Sector

As at 31st December 2011 an amount of Rs 41.3M was still outstanding for the payment of claims for the construction of (a) Montagne Charlot Government School and (b) Terre Rouge Secondary School (Phase I). Unfortunately an amount of Rs 29M only has been provided under the 2012 budget. Thus an amount of Rs 12.3M have to be reallocated from other Programmes. Rs 24M have already been paid up to now.

As at 10th May 2012, an amount of Rs 133M has already been disbursed and moreover request for the disbursement of funds to meet outstanding bills amounting to some Rs 30M has already been transmitted to the Prime Minister's Office.

Because of the over commitments, the whole budget for Investment Project had to be revisited. Consequently, funds have been reallocated to cater for these over commitment, leaving an amount of Rs 20M only for this government to meet its normal expenditure up to December 2012.

Indeed, this government would have been much delighted to undertake much more new projects as laid down in our manifesto, but due to the chaotic state of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly's finance we will not be in a position to proceed in time.

We have approached the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development for the release of additional funds to meet urgent expenditure in certain specific areas such as roads, education and water sector and discussions thereto are ongoing.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner informs the House what does his government intend to do with the amount that remains out of the total voted items that he has just mentioned?

The Chief Commissioner: It is a big joke! When they have millions of rupees in budget 2012 which is I can say not according to the PBB and the Appropriation now they are going to ask us what we are going to do with Rs 70M or Rs 25M? We are trying to do what we can. That is all I shall say

and we are trying to do a lot of things, small petty things. How can we go ahead with big projects with Rs 70M or Rs 20M? We are trying to execute more projects on track roads, roads, schools, even schools we do not have anymore money to go ahead with the Terre Rouge Primary School and Roche Bon Dieu government schools. I may say, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is very regretful that we have come to such a situation. We should have known exactly that the PBB with money which is earmarked in one year or second or third year they say we have to use all this money in fiscal year 2011. As I said we are trying, we have approached the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development for the release of additional funds to meet urgent expenditure in a certain specific areas such as roads, education and water sector and discussions thereof are going.

The Minority Leader: M. le Président, le Chef Commissaire sera d'accord avec moi jamais au grand jamais le budget alloué au projet capital de Rodrigues est suffisant pour venir à bout de tous les projets qu'un gouvernement compte initiait pendant une année. Quand je suis allé voir les budgets précédents en 2004, 2005, le gouvernement d'alors avait un budget capital de Rs 450M. Depuis 2006, M. le Président, jamais l'Assemblée Régionale de Rodrigues n'a eu plus que Rs 360M pour les projets capitaux pendant chaque année. Donc nous aussi auparavant nous avions notre priorité, c'est pourquoi je demande ...

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: On a point of order please. I still think that the Minority Leader is making a speech rather than asking a question.

[Interruption]

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it takes a little time to ask a question. That is why, Mr. Chairperson, Sir,.....

The Chief Commissioner: Je réponds à la question. Est-ce une raison pour aller contre la loi que j'ai cité tout à l'heure. Est-ce que ceux qui était là – have they got financial clearances from Mauritius to go ahead in a next year? This is the question. This is not autonomy. This is a question of regulations and laws. Sound management! what we have done.

Excusez-moi, M. le Président, j'arrête là, je ne répondrai pas plus que cela.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have a supplementary question. From the amount of money that has been committed, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner state how much money; the total amount has been spent today?

The Chief Commissioner: J'ai répondu *about this*.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Dans tous cela il y a la permanence de l'état, je demanderai au Chef Commissaire, est-ce que si un projet a commencé est-ce qu'il ne faut pas la terminée, je prend l'exemple de l'école Terre Rouge, il avait commencé l'école Terre Rouge et c'est cette gouvernement qui a terminé l'école après. Est-ce qu'on a commencé avec un projet ne faut-il pas la terminé ? On sait déjà qu'à Rodrigues on a un problème de fonctionnaire dans la fonction publique pour préparer le tender documents, pour l'évaluer. Est-ce que ce n'est pas comme rose sur plateau, ils ont commencé leur mandat avec les travaux en cours.

The Chief Commissioner: Ils ne connaissent même pas les projets qu'ils ont lancés. Ils ont commencé un projet avec Terre Rouge, Collège Terre Rouge Phase I. Now we have to look for tender for the second phase. Where is the money?

TERRE ROUGE/MARC ETIENNE GOVT SCHOOL

(No. B/16) **Mr. J. A. L. Emilien (Fifth Island Region Member)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to improving and upgrading of infrastructure of Terre Rouge and Marc Etienne Government school as spelt out in 2012 budget, he will inform the House where matters stand?

[Withdrawn]

TRANSFER – PUBLIC OFFICERS

(No. B/17) **Mr. J. A. L. Emilien (Fifth Island Region Member)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the transfer of Public Officers since February this year, he will inform the House:-

- (i) How many officers have been transferred to date; and
- (ii) Their respective grades; and
- (iii) On which grounds?

Mr. Chairperson Sir, as previously stated by the ex- Chief Commissioner in his reply to Question B/23 at the sitting of 13 February 2007, I also concur

that it is not in the interest of the Public Service to give the name of Public Officers who are subject to a change in posting.

The change in posting of employees of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly from one Commission to another or between Divisions of the same Commission is a normal and continuous administrative process that takes place from time to time.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I understand the Chief Commissioner but he confirms to this House that in certain cases there has been an abuse of such transfers, posting from Commission to Commission.

The Chief Commissioner: I am not aware of this kind of abuse. This is a question of administrative convenience.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if so, how is it that certain officers have been transferred more than once within a month.

Mr. Chairperson: I think the Chief Commissioner has already replied.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have already replied to this question, it is for administrative purposes.

SIR GAETAN DUVAL AIRPORT

(No. B/18) Mr. J. A. L. Emilien (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to airport development at Sir Gaetan Duval Airport, he will inform the House of his policy and of any infrastructural projects thereat during this financial year?

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regards to Airport development at Sir Gaetan Duval Airport Plaine Corail, I wish to refer to paragraph 109 of my Government five-year programme which stipulates clearly that “*mon gouvernement poursuivra le développement et la modernization de l’aéroport en prenant en compte l’aspect humain, environnement, économique et géologique.*”

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have been made aware of the recommendations of the Consultant Ecorys Ltd and Partners. The Consultant has proposed the four following options:-

Option 1

Develop the existing facilities to enable unrestricted operation of the ATR 72. This will require a 50m long extension into the lagoon together with other associated works.

Option 2

Develop the existing facilities to accept larger aircraft (A319 type) on short hand routes (that is, Mauritius and Reunion). This will require extension of the new runway by means of stilts resulting in an 1800m long x 30m wide runway.

Option 3

Option 3 is a further extension of Option 2. The runway width will be increased to 45m and length increased to 200m. This will enable the existing facilities to accept larger aircraft (A319) on medium land routes (for example, South Africa).

Option 4

Construct a runway on a new heading. An initial length of 2000m will be provided with further possible extension to 3000m.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that despite the consultant recommended to seriously consider Option 2 in a first instance as this option offers stronger future opportunities, the precedent regional government has decided to proceed with Option 4.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the question that I have just asked, can the Chief Commissioner inform the House whether he intends to relocate the inhabitants of Ste. Marie village which is within the airport area of Sir Gaetan Airport.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, no decision has been taken concerning the different options, either Option 1, 2, 3 and 4. Therefore, we cannot give an answer concerning the relocation of those people/families there. It will be at a higher level, in a committee where we are going to decide.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to have this information whether he has had meetings with the inhabitants – M. Collet – Ste. Marie since he is opting for a participatory approach in decision making so I am asking whether he has met these villagers.

The Chief Commissioner: No, we have not yet started to have meeting with people. I must say we must decide on what option the government will adopt.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have got a last supplementary question on that. Is the Chief Commissioner aware that in PBB 2012 page 228 and Programme 204 provision has been made concerning Ste. Marie village?

The Chief Commissioner: I repeat once more again. We have not yet decided on what option we are going ahead with the airport of Rodrigues, the runway. This is decision which is going to be taken in collaboration with different stakeholders and the government. For the time being this question of relocation of the inhabitants of Ste. Marie does not arise.

INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS

(No. B/19) Mr. J. D. Spéville (Second Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to infrastructural project, he will give a state of progress on all the infrastructural ongoing projects awarded by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly?

[Withdrawn]

HOUSING MATERIAL AVAILABLE

(No. B/20) Mr. J. D. Speville (Second Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether he will state the amount of different housing materials available at the level of his Commission and state, what he intends to do with same?

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am advised that the following materials are available in stock at my Commission:-

- | | | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|---|-------------|
| (i) | Corrugated iron sheets 6ft | - | 449 sheets |
| (ii) | Corrugated iron sheets 7ft | - | 4351 sheets |
| (iii) | Corrugated iron sheets 8 ft | - | 3412 sheets |
| (iv) | Timber 4 x 4 | - | 801 units |
| (v) | Battens of 12, 14 and 15 ft long | - | 9722 fts |

It is to be deplored that during the electoral campaign the outgoing Executive Council attempted to distribute these materials without ascertaining eligibility of any beneficiaries. Some person having already a corrugated iron sheet house or even those having a concrete house have been delivered with materials of elderly just before the elections and they know why.

A technical team comprising officers of my Commission of the Social Security ...

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: On a point of order. I was the Commissioner for Public Infrastructure. The Commissioner is imputing motives. He cannot come here and say that we have granted beneficiaries those having concrete houses with iron sheets. He is imputing motives to the previous government. I would like the Commissioner to remove his words.

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: I will not tolerate this in this Assembly. Just wait I shall give my ruling. I shall give my ruling now. The Commissioner has not mentioned any name of any Member and as in my opinion has not imputed any motives but I will request the Commissioner to restraint from making allegation. You may proceed.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: A technical team comprising officers of my Commission of the Social Security and one Inspector of Works of my Commission has been set up to visit eligible beneficiaries and the inspections have already been started. Necessary delivery will be effected as soon as the first report will be submitted to the Commission for Social Security.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the housing development in a country is a dynamic one and that some citizens still need rehabilitation and upgrading of their houses and at the time being it is raining putting them in increasing housing difficulties. Does the Commissioner not feel that there is a state of urgency in this affair to deliver materials to the pin pointed beneficiaries?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have already done the work as I have said and the delivery will be started soon.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether there is an established list at the Commission?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: It is a new government we are establishing a new list, new criteria that we will follow.

350 CONCRETE WATER TANKS

(No. B/21) Mr. J. D. Speville (Second Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others whether he will inform the House on the state of progress of the project concerning the construction of 350 concrete water tanks for Rain Water Harvesting at household level, launched in December 2011 and which was to be financed by the Central Government under a re-formulation of the Water-tank Grant Scheme for Rodrigues?

The Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the project of construction of 350 concrete water tanks for Rain Water Harvesting launched in December 2011; I wish to inform the house that the bidding process has been cancelled and the bidders were informed accordingly. One of the reasons that the money has not been disbursed by the Ministry of Public Utilities was that the former government, that is, the Commission for Water Resources did not submit the criteria as requested by this Ministry.

Instead, my Commission intends to:-

- (i) purchase 101 fibre glass moulds for the construction of round concrete water tanks of a capacity of 4 m³;
- (ii) with the collaboration of the Rodrigues Council of Social Services one set of mould will be put at the disposal of to each of the 101 village communities for Rodrigues for the use by beneficiaries in their respective villages;
- (iii) The Rodrigues Council of Social Services will act as a go-between agent between the Commission for Water Resources and the village communities.
- (iv) The RCSS will distribute materials to eligible beneficiaries for the construction of water tanks on a self help basis.

Our proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities and their clearance is being awaited to proceed with the project.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, from the concern of the House whether there has been a correspondence from the Ministry of Public Utilities stipulating that the project will be reformulated and that Rs 10M will be granted to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the construction of these concrete water tanks?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. During our mission from Mauritius at the beginning of February we met the Minister of Public Utilities and all the staffs. He made us aware that the fund is there but they are waiting for the criteria from the Commission for Water Resources. On our arrival in Rodrigues we informed them about the criteria and we are awaiting their reply to start the project.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner states to the House on which date this contract was launched?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The contract has not been awarded. The contract was launched on 6th December 2011.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: If the contract has been launched, can the Commissioner informs the House whether we can launch a contract without financial instruction saying that finance is available and that same will be credited to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Account.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I have not seen any letter in the file, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has informed the House that his Commission will embark into the purchase of 101 moulds to be operated under the aegis of the village communities. There is presently an ongoing project under the aegis of the Rodrigues Council of Social Services. I would like to know from the Commissioner whether it has made an assessment of the ongoing project before embarking into another one.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is for this project that we met with the Rodrigues Council of Social Services not long ago and we will work together in collaboration with RCSS who have the same project that the respected Member is talking about.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner did talk about cancellation of a contract due to criteria not being specified. I do not see how he can cancel a contract/a bidding process because of criteria. He can launch the tender and afterwards he draws the list of beneficiaries as per criteria.

This has nothing to do with the contract. How come as a reason to cancel the contract he comes here and say because of criteria. There is no correlation between these two, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: There is no cancellation of contract, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. It is the bidding process that has been cancelled not the contract. Contract has not been awarded.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: It is the same thing! Launching, awarding of contract, it is a process. He has cancelled the bidding exercise, is it not? How can he cancel the bidding exercise when the criteria for the drawing a list of beneficiaries. This has nothing to do, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are a new government, we have new policies and we have found there is no need for us to continue what the previous one has established. So we have to establish a new process, new criteria and that is what we are doing.

ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE STIMULUS FUND

(No. B/22) Mr. J. D. Speville (Second Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the creation of an Economic and Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, he will state how same would be implemented giving the different deadlines related to same thereof?

[Withdrawn]

SOCIAL AID/UNEMPLOYMENT HARDSHIP RELIEF FUND

(No. B/23) Mrs. J. Ravina (Second Local Region Member of La Ferme) asked the Commissioner responsible for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to beneficiaries of social aid or unemployment hardship relief, he will state if their allowance have been reduced, and if so, table the list of beneficiaries who have had their social aids decreased and the reasons thereof.

The Commissioner responsible for the Commission for Social Security and others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the question put to me is too vague. It is an open-ended one and therefore it is not possible for me to guess for which period the information are required. I do not know that it is dated back to 1983, 1984 I do not know.

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However, Mr. Chairperson Sir, I wish to remind the House that the Commission for Social Security is only responsible for the administration of Social Security and the policy lies with the Ministry for Social Security.

Social Aid is paid according to the Social Aid Act 1983 and under well-established criteria. I should note here that there can be an increase or decrease and or even disallowance of claim, as it has always been the case, for social aid or Unemployment Hardship Relief depending on the situation of the beneficiary.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether since the beginning of this year there has been any beneficiaries of either Social Aid or Unemployment Hardship Relief who has found their allowances being reduced and to give reason thereof.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: I do not have the information, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I said the question was too vague so I could not comply any answer.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/24) Mrs. J. Ravina (Second Local Region Member of La Ferme) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the situation of teenage pregnancy prevailing in Rodrigues, she will state her policy concerning same?

[Withdrawn]

MALABAR GYMNASIUM

(No. B/25) Mrs. J. Ravina (Second Local Region Member of La Ferme) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to the management of Malabar Gymnasium, he will state if there has been any incident lately, and if so, whether same has happened since February to date?

[Withdrawn]

DISTRIBUTION OF WATER

(No. B/26) Mrs. J. Ravina (Second Local Region Member of La Ferme) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and

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Others whether, in regard of the distribution of water, he will state if there has been any disruption:-

- (i) in the vicinity of 'La Ferme Health Centre' and if so, to give the reasons; and
- (ii) in the western region?

[Withdrawn]

JOINT MEMORANDUM - PRB

(No. B/27) Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the joint memorandum sent to the Pay Research Bureau (PRB) delegation by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and trade union lately, he will state the main proposals thereof?

[Withdrawn]

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

(No. B/28) Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether there is any development in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to date and state whether she has been on mission/s regarding same and the outcome thereof?

(Vide Question B/14)

PROMOTION OF YOUTHS

(No. B/29) Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth and Others whether, in regard to the promotion of youth in Rodrigues, she will state:-

- (a) Where matters stand as regards to musical instruments purchased since 2011 for the setting up of youth bands;
- (b) The policy regarding youth counselling centre; and

(c) Where does matter stand as regards to '*Fond D'Insertion Jeune*'?

The Commissioner responsible for the Commission for Youth and others (Ms. M. R. L. Edouard): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, procedures were made in 2011 for the purchase of musical instruments and setting up of youth bands in the different youth centres. Musical instruments have been received, tested and commissioned and they are presently available in youth centres.

It has been noted with deep regret however, that there was no proper structure or planning as regards the purchase of the different musical instruments. As such, it becomes important, if not crucial, to set up appropriate structures for the effective use of the above mentioned and for the maintenance of same so that the youngsters can excel in the musical field. Added to that, the youngsters' in the youth bands are now given the chance to perform in activities organised by the different Commissions of this present Government, so that members of the public appreciate and enjoy their talents. For example, the youngsters performed for the Commission for Fisheries on the occasion of "*La Fête du Poisson*" at Baie du Nord on 1st March 2012, the Commission for Women Affairs at Anse aux Anglais on 12th April 2012, the Youth Camp on 21st of April 2012 and National Youth Achievement Award on 5th May 2012. Yet, during the past years, the Youth Bands have not been given the chance to promote their talents and their savoir faire, as other artists from Mauritius were sought instead.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it has to be highlighted that the work undertaken and the framework that are to be put in place will consolidate the work which has already started in 1992. My Commission is contemplating the possibility of setting up a committee for management and a technician for maintenance of the instruments before putting same at the disposal of the youth for use. Indeed, the Commission for Youth has a long term vision for the youth and every action undertaken will have clearly set objectives that will enable youngsters to shape their future.

When it comes to part (b), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to date the policy regarding the Youth Counselling Centre has remained unchanged since its implementation, in 1995, that is, the promotion of the health and well-being of young people in Rodrigues with emphasis on the physical, psychological, social, emotional and environmental factors affecting their health.

As its beginning, the centre provided an integrated, multi-disciplinary range of health services, creative arts and recreational programmes, including nursing care, medical service and health education. Services were provided to

target specific groups: adolescent and teenage mothers, out-of-school youths, those with low literacy, unemployed youth and isolated young people. The centre was an example in the region and it is heartrending to note that the previous government has devoted lots of energy and money in popular activities hence failing to provide a long term plan for the youth, empowering them and catering for their well-being via the Youth Counselling Centre.

It has to be pointed out also, that nothing has been done to strengthen the existing structures and groups coaching young people recently. Some of these groups have even disappeared namely the Young People Committee and the Animadoss Committee amongst others during the last five years.

In our programme, we demonstrated our interest in the youth and their capacity through the motto “*zenne to kapave*”. There is, therefore the urgent need to resettle the different committees composed of the youngsters themselves so that there is a better management of and variety in the activities of the centre. As such, the Organising Officer will act as a facilitator in the organisation of the activities and the latter will ensure that information is disseminated in the different youth centres. Our decision to relocate the Youth Counselling Centre to its original location with its original mission and vision was reinforced by the youngsters’ statement on the 8th of March 2012 during an elocution contest organised by the Commission for Women Affairs together with the Commission for Youth whereby the latter voiced out the need for a better coaching and guidance via the Youth Counselling Centre. In fact, during their visit on the 7th and 8th of May, the representatives of the UNFPA showed that they are fully satisfied with this relocation.

Adolescent Health and Youth Counselling centre needs to become more dynamic to respond to the present needs and aspirations of the youths. The following actions are being taken to achieve such objectives:-

- (i) As mentioned previous, the Young People Committee and the “Animadoss” Committee will be set up to manage the activities of the centre.
- (ii) Secondly, my Commission in collaboration with the Commissions of Women’s Affairs and Health are contemplating on the possibility of posting on a sessional basis of a Psychologist at the centre and the reintroduction of the medical services every Saturday at the centre.
- (iii) Thirdly, a refresher course for some 20 Peer Educators, four representatives of the “Atelier de Savoir” and member of the

Rodrigues Regional Youth Task Force will be organised shortly by my Commission to equip them with the appropriate knowledge and skills to become Peer Counsellors to enable them to deliver counselling services in youth centres, community centres and colleges.

- (iv) Lastly, the Commission will work in close collaboration with the youth groups present at the Youth Community Camp so that there is greater impact in the action undertaken by the Youth Counselling Centre.

When it comes to part (c), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House that there was no funds provided under any recurrent item under any Youth Programme. Hence, the “Fond D’Insertion Jeunes” was not budgeted by the previous government.

Interestingly though, even if there is nothing concrete, as to the project of “Fond D’Insertion Jeunes” out of the 364 youths who applied in that connection, 181, that is, 49.7% are from Region 2, 62 (17%) from Region 1 and the remaining four other regions showing that the above mentioned project was a purely electoral measure.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the equipment purchased for the youth band I understand that we are going to place all the equipment in La Ferme Youth Centre, Grande Montagne Youth Centre and quarters used by the previous Chairperson of this Assembly. When will the youths be able to operate this equipment? When will it be installed?

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: As I have said earlier the proposed structures have to be put in place first and a maintenance committee or resource person will have to be catered for before the youths have accessed to this because no structures have been put at their disposal till now.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the Youth Counselling Centre they have taken decision to replace the Youth Counselling Centre adjacent to the Malabar Gymnasium so as to have privacy because the Youth Counselling Centre you have counselling service and all. It has been relocated elsewhere where I think there will be no privacy there and also I understand that the officer working there has no telephone line.

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: I wish to draw the attention of the House that the actual location where the Youth Counselling Centre is now it is a project initiated by the UNFPA first of all and it is the decision of the youngsters

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themselves to go to its original location for more activities and better implementation of the project.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: When we were in power, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a sum of Rs 12.5M has been earmarked for this project in order so that the youths can start their project by ...

Ms. M. R. L. Edouard: As I said earlier there is no item under '*Fond D'Insertion Jeune*' but I think that the Member is referring to the Rs 12.5M under Capital Budget Item Youth Centre. This has nothing to do with the main point, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: We have been informed by the Finance Officers...

The Chief Commissioner: On a point of order. You have said next question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: *Qui Chairperson la dans la!*

Mr. Chairperson: Next question. I will not accept this now. I am the Chairperson, I am taking rule. I rule out that it was the last question. There is only one Chairperson in this Assembly.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(No. B/30) **Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member of Maréchal)** asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the development of entrepreneurship in Rodrigues, she will state her policy?

[Withdrawn]

IMPORTATION – VEHICLES IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/31) **Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (Third Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to the importation of vehicles in Rodrigues, he will state his policy thereof?

The Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with a view to improve public transport and road safety and to prevent road accident as the one which occurred on 12th February 2012, the Executive Council has approved the introduction of the following measures with effect from 01st August 2012:-

- (a) Import Permits will be issued in respect of private vehicle of less than ten (10) years only;
- (b) Public “A” Carrier License will be granted to vehicles less than seven (7) years with a maximum lifespan of 18 years;
- (c) Private “B” Carrier License will be granted to vehicles less than (10) years with a maximum lifespan of 18 years; and
- (d) Public Service Vehicles (bus) License will be granted to new or vehicles of less than seven (7) years to operate up to 16 years. Exceptional consideration may be given to buses to operate above 16 years up to 18 years provided that they are found to be mechanically fit on public roads.

Press communiqué will be issued to advise the public accordingly.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Before taking such decision I would like to ask the Commissioner whether he has talked to the bus owners, he has carried a survey around the island, he has talked to the people, as they always talked about *democratie participative*, whatever has this been the case?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on two or three occasions we have met the bus owners and over the radio we have passed the message.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we do have the Road Traffic Act. In the Road Traffic Act, Section 20 – Power to fix age limit of vehicles, I quote “*the Minister may having regard to public safety conveyance and objects of ... by regulations specify life time of a motor vehicle or trailer after ...*”. How come the Commissioner goes to the Council with a paper and the Council approved to fix age limit of vehicles. We know that age limit of vehicles of private ... having Public Service Vehicles it is fixed by law. Buses 18 years, lorries and Taxies and so on. But as far as public vehicles are concerned there is no age limit. How come that the Commissioner goes to the Council and gets the approval of the Council to fix age limit of vehicles without a regulation?

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Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a new policy decision from our Executive Council.

[Interruption]

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I understand the Commissioner said it is a policy thus will the Commissioner abide by the provision of the law before such policy is being applied.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we will look into the matter.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT – PROBLEM BY GENERAL PUBLIC

(No. B/32) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to public transport in Rodrigues he will give details of the problems encountered by the general public, if any, on the various bus routes around the island, and the reasons thereof?

[Withdrawn]

CONSTRUCTION – TRACK ROAD/FOOTPATH

(No. B/33) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to the construction of track road/footpath in Rodrigues, he will give details as follows:-

- (a) The date on which the tender was launched;
- (b) To whom the tender was awarded; and
- (c) Table the list of beneficiaries per electoral regions?

[Withdrawn]

RODCLEAN CO. LTD. - EMPLOYEES

(No. B/34) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Environment and Others whether, in regard to the employees of Rodclean Ltd., he will give details as follows:-

- (a) Whether there has been any change in the management of the company;
- (b) The reasons for the late payment of salaries to them; and
- (c) Whether there has been any change in their working time schedule?

The Commissioner responsible for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a), I wish to inform the House that the contract of the former Manager of Rod Clean Co. Ltd. expired on 9th February 2012. He was a Public Officer on leave without pay. He did not apply for any contract extension and return to the Public Service upon expiry of his leave without pay. The Board of Directors of the Company is currently in the process of appointing a new Managing Director as per Section 13 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Investment Management) Regulations 2008.

In the meantime, the Board has appointed a Field Supervisor with adequate knowledge and experience for the overall supervision of the field activities carried out by the Company.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b), the reason for lateness in payment of salaries to the employees of Rod Clean was due to the difficulties which the company had with the outgoing Chairman, Secretary and Accountant who did not collaborate for proper handing over procedures.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (c), of course there has been some changes in their working time. As per contract signed between the Employees of Rod Clean Co. Ltd. and the company just one week before this government took office, an employee has to complete 45-hours work each week.

Nevertheless, when our predecessors were in power, the employees of Rod Clean were working for less than 35 hours per week. Most of them were working from 6 to 13 hours during weekdays with 1 hour lunch per day.

When we took office, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have started to bring some discipline in the management of the company. Following the appointment of the Field Supervisor, employees work from 6.00 to 15.00 hours on weekdays

with 1 hour lunch time and from 6.00 to 11.00 hours on Saturdays. This makes a total of 45 hours in accordance with their contractual obligations.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the point is that this government wants Rodrigues to become an ecological island and we will achieve it. We therefore cannot and will not tolerate indiscipline at the level of Rod Clean. The Employees have to work for what they are paid for. We shall do our best to establish good working practices throughout the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. We believe that through discipline and hard work, we shall achieve our objectives.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I know they are appointing a new Manager but I will like to ask the Commissioner concerning the nomination of the Field Supervisor. What was the job of the Field Supervisor before he has been nominated as Field Supervisor.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have already answered this question because I said, I repeat myself – the Board has appointed a Field Supervisor with adequate knowledge and experience for the overall supervision.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Was he not the driver, a driver because with great astonishment we have learnt that somebody who was the driver he has been nominated Field Supervisor hereby since the creation of Rod Clean we do have Supervisors. As there been equal chance in this process, can I ask the Commissioner whether there have been equal opportunity for all the Supervisors while only this guy, I have nothing against this guy, but because we believe that there has been '*anguille sous roche*' and how can he explain this?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Rod Clean when we took over the government, there was a big slogan saying "go slow", "stop working". We have seen politicians here taking the members of Rod Clean taking them aside just to speak to them and to say "stop working", "go slow" and we have proof for this. In the meantime, I repeat myself this is the decision of the Board and this guy has got enough knowledge and experience to manage this organisation.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not agree. Supposedly the guy has enough experience. With 30 employees at a time of La Voirie! Now you know Rod Clean is the largest private company in Rodrigues with 150 employees. We have had Supervisors in Rodclean who worked with all staffs. I will like to ask the Commissioner whether he will give later on to other Supervisors to be nominated. If the Board has done something wrong it is his duty to call the Board to order.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not think the Board has taken a wrong decision because last itself someone from Mauritius was telling me that Rodrigues is clean. This means that this guy is doing his job.

POINTE LA GUEULE PRISON

(No. B/35) Mrs. M.D.L. Chan Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the prevailing conditions at the Pointe La Gueule Prison, he will inform the House:-

- (a) About the number of detainees who have committed suicide there; and
- (b) If any, to state what measures have been taken by the Commission pertaining to same?

[Withdrawn]

DIALYSIS UNIT – QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

(No. B/36) Mrs. M. D. L. Chan Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to the Dialysis Unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, he will inform the House:-

- (a) Whether there has been any breakdown of dialysis machine recently; and
- (b) If so, to state how many and what measures were taken?

The Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports (Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that there has been no breakdown of dialysis machine at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It appears that some people here do not make the difference between the dialysis machine and an osmoser. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there exist four haemodialysis machines make Nefro at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and one reverse osmoser make Fresinus. The haemodialysis machine never broke down but rather osmoser. The reverse osmoser dated back from 1999 and was donated by the World Health Organisation to the Ministry of Health who installed at Jewaralall Nehroo Hospital. However, after some years of service in Mauritius it was transferred to Rodrigues as second hand equipment by the Ministry of Health

and Quality of Life that was in 2001. The two reverse osmoser which broke down in 2012 are as follows:-

- On 19th January 2012, the reverse osmoser broke down and was repaired by the Acting Biomedical Technician.
- On 13th March 2012, the reverse osmoser broke down again and was repaired by the Acting Biomedical Technician the same day.
- On 26th April 2012, the reverse osmoser broke down and repaired by the Acting Medical Technician the same day.
- On 7th May 2012, the reverse osmoser broke down and despite attempts by the Acting Medical Technician same was not successful.
- The advice of Technicians from Kentec Ltd. was sought by phone and again attempts to repair were unsuccessful. A decision was taken to transfer haemodialysis patients to Mauritius in order of priority so as to avoid loss of life as in the past. The next day the first batch of nine patients were sent to Mauritius for haemodialysis. The same day the Kentec Technician, Mr. Lotun arrived at the airport at 5.00 in the morning to come to Rodrigues but was unable to secure a seat. However, through my personal intervention he was able to catch the 19.40 hours flight and started repairs straight away and the reverse osmoser was back in working condition by midnight.
- On 9th May 2012 haemodialysis was back in service at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and patients planned to travel to Mauritius was rescheduled haemodialysis at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Rodrigues.

My Commission is presently preparing a fresh tender exercise for the purchase of new equipment of haemodialysis including a reverse osmoser with the capacity to supply 10 plus haemodialysis machine simultaneously. If corrective measures were taken in January 2012 we would not have been in that situation now.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Can I ask the Commissioner, in January we had a break down but we have had another two breakdowns after that. Why has it taken so long to take a decision to have someone from Mauritius to repair the reverse osmosis and if at present as he has just stated that it has been repaired

and in good working condition why has the nine patients sent to Mauritius going to be repatriated to Rodrigues?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in fact, Kentec was contacted after the several break downs and the necessary spare parts were ordered in Germany. They were not available in Mauritius and were ordered in Germany.

As to the second part of the question, the fact that the repair equipment was under trial basis we were not in a hurry to repatriate all the patients in Mauritius. Arrangement is being made presently to have them returned to Rodrigues soon.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Can the Commissioner inform the House is it really - because they are not in a hurry to get the patients back to Rodrigues or is it because within that week there has been other break downs of the osmosis systems.

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have not been aware of any other break downs.

Mr. Chairperson: One last question.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has been talking about attempts to repair the osmosis apparatus. Can I ask him whether during the attempts to repair same, technician from the Water Company were solicited to repair the reverse osmosis apparatus?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, indeed the technician who is by nature an Engineer, he was contacted who is a specialist in that field because he is the one who has been repairing our treatment plant at the swimming pool.

CELEBRATION - WORLD HEALTH DAY 2012

(No. B/37) Mrs. M. D. L. Chan Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to the celebration of World Health Day 2012, he will state the activities carried out by his Commission to commemorate same?

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Regional Government worked with the participatory approach philosophy and actions are carried out in consultation and collaboration of all stakeholders involved. Actions and activities carried

out in isolation always resulted in targeting a small number whereas well coordinated actions and activities reached the mass.

The World Health Day 2012 as declared by the World Health Organisation, focused on Ageing and Health. Over the past century, life expectancy has increased dramatically and the world will soon have more elderly people than children. Ageing populations occur everywhere, but less-developed countries are witnessing the biggest challenge.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission together with the Commission for Social Security have decided to coordinate our actions and to celebrate both the World Health Day 2012 and the International Day for Older Persons on 7th October 2012.

Sensitization campaign has already started on issues concerning respect to the elderly and my Commission is also ensuring that all health ailments associated with ageing are properly looked after (for example, NCDs). A Committee will be set up comprising of all stakeholders to ensure that this activity be a success.

Mrs. M. D. L. Chan Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am happy that the Commission for Health will organise together with the Commission for Social Security activities in October this year. In the meantime what is the Commission going to do because as the Commissioner well stated it, the world will have more older people than young people in the years to come and in Rodrigues we are faced with new challenges with regard to the health condition of old people why wait until October to do sensitisation program, educational program which do not cost much, awareness on the radio and we do not do anything and yet wait for October. I would like the Commissioner to inform the House why they are waiting for October to do these activities.

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think I did not make myself understood clearly. I said sensitisation campaign has already started on issues concerning respect to the elderly and my Commission is also ensuring that health ailment associated ageing are properly looked after.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: When did these campaigns started and where they are being done because I have not heard about anything up until now and as for NCD we know it is an ongoing project.

Mr. I. Valimamode: The campagne has already started. All our personnel they have been aware of the change how to talk everywhere around the island in the Health Services.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: As the Commissioner just mentioned Health Providers. Can I know from the Commissioner whether he intends in the future to have specific training for Health Providers so that they can actually meet the needs of the old people in our society?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Indeed, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are working on that.

VACCINATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST FLU

(No. B/38) Mrs. M. D. L. Chan Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Social Security and others whether, in regard to vaccination campaign against flu amongst senior citizens and other vulnerable groups, he will state to the House:-

- (a) When did the campaign start;
- (b) The number of persons vaccinated so far; and
- (c) The program of vaccination planned?

[Withdrawn]

STRATEGY - SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD

(No B/39) Mr. D. L. Guillaume (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to food consumed by the inhabitants of Rodrigues, he will inform the House about his strategy to make Rodriguans self-sufficient in food?

[Withdrawn]

RODRIGUES – ECOLOGICAL ISLAND

(No. B/40) Mr. D. L. Guillaume (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Environment and Others whether, in regard to his policy to make Rodrigues an ecological island, he will state what measures he is contemplating?

[Withdrawn]

PAYMENT – SC/HSC EXAMINATION FEES

(No. B/41) Mr. D. L. Guillaume (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to the payment of School Certificate and Higher School Certificate examination fees to beneficiaries, he will inform the House of:-

- (a) The criteria used thereof;
- (b) The number of request received at the Commission for School Certificate and Higher School Certificate respectively;
- (c) The number of pending cases, if any, for School Certificate and/or Higher School Certificate respectively;
- (d) The number of private candidates having applied for payment of School Certificate/Higher School Certificate respectively; and
- (e) The estimated cost of this project.

[Withdrawn]

RETAINING WALL – RIVIERE ANSE AUX ANGLAIS/ROSEAUX

(No. B/42) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the construction of retaining wall in Rivière Anse Aux Anglais/Roseaux, he will inform the House why the work has stopped?

[Withdrawn]

PROMOTION OF TOURISM

(No. B/43) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Environment and Others whether, in regard to the promotion of tourism, he will inform the House:-

- (a) of his strategy thereof; and
- (b) if there has been any recent cut in the budget allocated to the promotion of tourism.

The Commissioner responsible for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this government want to promote Rodrigues as an ecological island.

In line with this, we will put our promotional efforts on up-market clientele and discourage mass tourism. As I said before the election this government did not have the solution for the promotion of tourism in Rodrigues, we will find it together with our partners working in the tourism sector through participatory approach. A Master Plan will be worked out through different workshops to be started soon with all Tourist Operators of Rodrigues.

A first fruitful mission comprising of myself jointly with members of Associations du Tourisme Reunies was organised recently. The team met with Air Mauritius, the Minister for Tourism and the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority.

The Tourism Advisory Committee has already been set up. We will review the website of the office du tourism.

We are negotiating re-establishment of direct flights between Rodrigues and Reunion Island. We want to reposition our island on the global market as a relaxing and serene destination.

We will develop a label that would cater for the local specialities of Rodrigues. This would enhance the visibility of the various accommodation segments to fulfil the needs and aspirations of our visitors and encourage a sustainable demand.

We will expand our tourism product throughout the setting-up and elaboration of new tourism attractions. We want to develop a virtual map for Rodrigues which would help the visitors in their choice of holiday destination.

We will consolidate the local branch of l'école hôtelière for the empowerment of our staff working in the tourism sector to face new increasing challenges in view to guaranty a quality service and repeated guests. We will encourage the "*Approche Participative*" with the various actors of the tourism sector in view to pulse the markets.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b), a sum of Rs 600,000 has been transferred from Programme 203 -Tourism Development to Sub Programme 21602 - Water Distribution on 25th April, 2012. The reason behind this Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is because our predecessors failed to make

financial provisions for the payment of salaries of employees of Water Company.

However, I wish to point out that the budget earmarked for the promotion of tourism will still be Rs 5 million as in the past two years.

Mr. R. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether he intends to participate in promotional campaign abroad, if yes, state when and the composition of his delegation?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, definitely, my Commission intends to participate in these promotions but the fact that this question is technical I do not have the budget in front of me. I do not have all the series of questions of promotion which will follow. I will table to this the Member.

SYNTHETIC TRACK – CAMP DU ROI STADIUM

(No. B/44) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to the renovation of the synthetic track at Camp du Roi Stadium, he will inform the House where matters stand to date?

[Withdrawn]

FOOTBALL IN RODRIGUES - POLICY

(No. B/45) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to football in Rodrigues, he will state the policy of his Commission in relation thereto?

[Withdrawn]

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I move that the House do now adjourn to Tuesday 3rd July 2012 at 10.30 a.m.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT MATTERS

POLICE SECURITY

Mr. J. D. Spéville: M. le Président, hier le 14 mai vers le 7 heure du matin une jeune fille a été agressée par un individu mal intentionné au abord du collège de Le Chou. Cette étudiante de Forme III se rendait au collège de Le Chou où elle a l'habitude d'arrivée tôt étant donné qu'elle habite loin de son lieu d'étude elle doit prendre le premier bus. L'homme en question à profiter du fait qu'il n'y avait personne dans le parage pour surprendre la jeune fille d'une façon en lui ôtant toute possibilité de le voir ou de crier. Il a utilisé une main pour lui cacher les yeux et la victime a subit des attouchements sexuelle. L'Homme c'est alors enfuit laissant une jeune fille traumatiser, profondément bouleversée surtout en quête de poursuivre ces études. C'est d'ôtant plus grave, M. le Président, car depuis quelques temps on a souvent signalé la présence de ces exhibitionnistes qu'interpelle les filles dans les environs de ces collèges. La question qui se pose, M. le Président, s'agirait-il d'un seul et même homme?

M. le Président, de ce côté de la Chambre nous faisons un pressant appel aux autorités concernés et au force policière pour qu'elles renforcent la sécurité des élèves dans toutes les institutions éducatives de l'île. Beaucoup d'élèves doivent marcher pour venir à l'école, au collège tôt le matin et dorénavant l'inquiétude sera omniprésente. Les forces devraient peut être, être au aguets plus tôt vers les 6hrs30 au lieu de 7hrs30 sur les routes au environ de ces institutions quand la situation demande une vigilance exceptionnelle.

360 CYLINDRICAL CONCRETE TANKS

Secondly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, concerning the contract of construction of 360 cylindrical concrete water tanks all around Rodrigues to be financed by the Central Government - I am making a statement – I want to inform the House that the tender was launched on 6th December closing on 20th January 2012 with a validity period of 90 days. The different bidders obtained the letter of cancellation nearly after the validity period; this means that the contract was cancelled instead of the Commissioner answering that the bidding process was cancelled.

Merci, M. le Président.

Mr. Chairperson: The House stands adjourn.

At 16.48 hours the Assembly stands adjourned.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PLAN D'AMENAGEMENT DU TERRITOIRE

(No. B/46) **Mr. J. Roussety (First Island Region Member)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the 'Plan d'Aménagement du Territoire' prepared in 2010 by the Commission for Lands with the assistance of the Decentralised Cooperation Programme/European Union, he will state:-

- (a) what has been done afterwards; and
- (b) which steps are being taken to finalise a '*Plan d'Aménagement du Territoire*' for Rodrigues?
- (c) Mr. Chairperson Sir, I am informed that two reports have been submitted in March 2010 by two consultants in relation to the town and country Planning of the Island. The two reports are the Rodrigues Local Plan and the Rodrigues Physical Development Strategy as well as a draft planning regulations.
- (d) It appears that the two reports have been lying in a drawer somewhere. I have had a quick glance at the reports and I am of the opinion that the reports might be useful for the future. However there is a need for a careful review to ensure its successful implementation bearing in mind the lack of human resources attached to the Planning Section of the Cadastral Unit and the complexity of the recommendation thereof.
- (e) Mr. Chairperson Sir, after the review exercise I mentioned earlier, a revised regulation will be introduced in this house as appropriate.

Reply: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I am informed that two reports have been submitted in March 2010 by two consultants in relation to the town and country Planning of the Island. The two reports are the Rodrigues Local Plan and the Rodrigues Physical Development Strategy as well as a draft planning regulations.

It appears that the two reports have been lying in a drawer somewhere. I have had a quick glance at the reports and I am of the opinion that the reports might be useful for the future. However there is a need for a careful review to ensure its successful implementation bearing in mind the lack of human

resources attached to the Planning Section of the Cadastral Unit and the complexity of the recommendation thereof.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, after the review exercise I mentioned earlier, a revised regulation will be introduced in this house as appropriate.

**RODRIGUES HOUSING AND PROPERTY
DEVELOPMENT CO. LTD (RHPDC)**

(No. B/47) Mr. J. Roussety (First Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Housing and Others whether, in regard to the Rodrigues Housing and Property Development Co. Ltd. (RHPDC) owned by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, he will state if the company has been wound up, and if so, give details and the reasons of such a decision.

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a policy decision has been taken by the Executive Council to wind up the Rodrigues Housing Property Development Company Ltd. It is considered that the responsibilities entrusted to the Company could be more efficiently discharged by various Commission of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly as was the case prior to the setting up of the Company.

As the respected member is aware, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development has informed that provision for capital expenditure should not be allocated to finance equity participation or increase the equity capital of a Company.

During the financial year 2010 the Company has made a net loss of Rs. 1,167,814 and has made use of arrears collected amounting to Rs. 365,905 to finance the recurrent operating expenses for the financial year 2011 and its financial situation continued to deteriorate.

It is deplored that the former Regional Government did not carry out any assessment of the financial situation which continues to deteriorate in 2011.