

**RODRIGUES
THIRD REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Debate No. 5 of 2012

Sitting of Tuesday 03 July 2012

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

(Mr. Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 03 JULY 2012

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MOTION

“That this Assembly is of opinion that, by virtue of section 31 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001, there is passed the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Octopus Closed Season) Regulations 2012”

ADJOURNMENT

MATTERS RAISED ON ADJOURNEMENT

- Véhicules à Rodrigues – Mr. A. F. Grandcourt
- Rodrigues Water Company Ltd. – Mr. J. D. Spéville
- Rodrigues Water Company Ltd. – Mr. J. Roussety

QUESTIONS (Written)

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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

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The Minority Leader (Mr. G. Jabeemissar): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, before I proceed with the answers to the questions allow me, I have just been informed that the Respected Member on the other side of the House, Mr. Valimamode, has just lost one of his relative it is understood that it is his brother. On behalf of the minority side and on behalf of the House I would like to extend to him and his family our deepest condolences.

FREE PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION PROJECT

(No. B/48) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (The Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Free Pre-Primary Education project he proposes to undertake as mentioned in the five year programme 2012-2017, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) What action plan/mechanisms have been or will be put in place to implement same?
- (b) Whether this policy has been discussed with the appropriate authorities in Mauritius, namely the Ministry of Education and Human Resources and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and, if so, to give details on (i) the outcome thereof, (ii) the start of the project; (iii) the cost implication of the project in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly budget?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with respect to part (a) and part (b) of Question B/48, I would like to point out that my Regional Government is laying much emphasis on the development and reengineering of the education sector in Rodrigues so as to have a highly qualified and skilled workforce.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as the Members of this August Assembly are aware, education at primary and secondary levels is completely free whereas parents have to pay for the pre-primary education of their children, which are offered by private providers, although it must be admitted that many parents cannot afford to do so.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it has been noted that there is a disparity in pre-primary education in terms of cost of schooling, teacher's salaries and pupils/teacher ratio thus leading only to a few children who can afford better

equipped and staffed schools. In addition, since pre-primary schooling is not free and though Government is partly financing the school fees, there are still children from poor socio-economic background who are deprived of access to pre-primary education.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Regional Government through its action and commitment wants to ensure that all children start primary schooling on the same footing. As such, we believe that pre-primary education plays a pivotal role in building the foundations of all future education and is therefore essential to ensure readiness for primary schooling.

This is why, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that there is a need to render pre-primary education free so as to give all children of Rodrigues the opportunity to have access to early childhood education and develop their intellectual and social emotional skills.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to note that the Central Government is also on the same wavelength as my Regional Government. Indeed as announced in the Central Government Programme, with a view, I quote: *“To ensure that no single child is denied the opportunity for early self development, pre-primary education will be made compulsory for the age group of 3 to 5 as from January 2013”*.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, though we have been in office since only February 2012, that is, only 5 months and that our Government Programme depicts our actions over a period of five years, I am pleased to inform the House that consultations have already started and are ongoing with all stakeholders concerned to discuss the modalities thereof.

Furthermore, the Legal Adviser is working on a proper regulatory framework, which will address disparity in pre-primary education in Rodrigues itself and between Rodrigues and the mainland in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority. Indeed, we need a distinct mechanism to provide pre-primary education and care to our young children from the age of 3 to 5 years old.

At this stage, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are of opinion that it is too early to discuss the cost implication of the project. In fact, we are working on various scenarios and once we have selected the most appropriate in terms of cost and standards, we are going to devise the most effective mechanism to attain the overarching goal of ensuring that all our children have access to pre-primary education.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, will the Chief Commissioner agree with me, he has quoted a government decision stating that education will be made compulsory. Does he mean that compulsory education means free education for pre-primary? That is why I have been asking that question and secondly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has only the administration of education. Does not the Chief Commissioner think that it is high time that consultations is made so that the first schedule is amended to give Rodrigues full autonomy in the education sector before he embarks on this project of free education?

The Chief Commissioner: The reply of the question of the Minority Leader is in my reply. Free education to pre-primary has already been discussed with the Ministry of Education since before 2006 and it is after five years/five and a half years that we are going ahead with what we have decided before 2006. As I said, we had many discussions with the Ministry through the Minister of Education. I must say that the Minister of Education is someone who can listen to our specificity in Rodrigues and we are looking forward as there will be by the end of this month I think amendments, which will be brought to the Education Act, and all this will be discussed with the Ministry of Education.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Chief Commissioner for the time being given that there is disparity as he has said between all those attending the pre-school and especially that this affect the salary of teachers. Can I ask him what he is doing or what he is completing to do now in order to address the disparity between teachers' salary?

Mr. Chairperson: I think the Chief Commissioner has already replied by saying that consultation is ongoing if he wants to reply.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I precise I said in the meantime/until decision is taken at higher level, this might take a long because teachers has always been complaining of the disparity in their salary. Certain measures have already been initiated when we were in office. Whether such measures will be continued or whether new, measures will be taken?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Minority Leader no doubt, heard what I have said in my reply. Furthermore, the Legal Advisor is working on a proper regulatory framework, which will address disparity in pre-primary education in Rodrigues itself and between Rodrigues and the main land in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the early childhood care and the education authority. Indeed, we need a distinct mechanism to provide pre-primary education and care to our young children from the age 3 to 5 years old.

The Minority Leader: I understand. Can I know what is the time frame for this mechanism that is being worked out for the time frame in implementing what the Legal Advisor is working out?

The Chief Commissioner: I repeat once again. The Legal Advisor is working on a proper regulatory framework, which will address the disparity in pre-primary education. When this will come, we will have to vote in this House

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have one question with three parts. First, I would like to know from the Chief Commissioner and Commissioner for Education as regards pre-primary schools what is free for parents, for the child and what is not free, that is, what they have to pay.

Second, I would like to know what is happening as regards to the “*Discours Programme*” mentioned of creating a trust, which is mentioned at page 7 for pre-primary schoolteachers.

Third, I would like to know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether the Chief Commissioner, being given that he has stated himself that we do not have autonomy in education and that this will be addressed in former forthcoming amendments in Education Act. Whether it is normal and sound for the Legal Adviser to start working on the proper regulatory framework, I understand to bring regulations here, which this House will not be able to vote because we do not have autonomy in education. Thank you.

The Chief Commissioner: I am talking for pre-primary education, pre-primary regulatory framework. We are aware whenever there is amendment to the Education Act it will be voted as agreed and then in the National Assembly.

Mr. Chairperson: One last question, please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to the fourth schedule of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly we have only the have only the administration of education. Education means pre-primary, primary and secondary. We have only administration, which falls under this schedule, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Will it be possible for us to have two curriculums, four curriculums, different curriculums from Mauritius? Will it be possible for us here in Rodrigues, being given that we have autonomy only in administration of education?

Mr. Chairperson: I think that the Chief Commissioner has already given the reply. Next, question please.

EDUCATION SYSTEM IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/49) **Mr. G. Jabeemissar (The Minority Leader)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the new Education System he proposes to put in place in Rodrigues, he will inform the House what actions have been initiated or he intends to initiate so as to reach the objectives *“permettre aux Rodriguais déboute lor so 2lipieds”*?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with respect to question B/49, I would like to thank the Minority Leader for giving me the opportunity to highlight my Regional Government’s vision and policy for the Education Sector.

As Members of the House are aware, the policy for education rests with the Central Government through the Ministry of Education and Human Resources whereas the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has the responsibility of the administration of the sector. Thus, Rodrigues shares the same education system as in Mauritius, which consists of the pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary education. However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, while being part of this education system, Rodrigues has its own specificities.

As identified in the Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues (SIDPR), Rodrigues is facing a number of challenges related to the education sector that affects the island capacity to retain labour force and ensure a sustainable and inclusive growth. Moreover, the overall present education system does not foster an entrepreneurial mentality that is crucial for the sustainable development of Rodrigues in terms of employment creation and income generation.

Subsequently, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in an endeavour to improve employment prospects, reduce human resources dependency and to widen the education route, I have highlighted in my Government Programme that the education sector should be the lever for a profound transformation of Rodrigues society. My government programme also identifies entrepreneurship and employment as priorities of Rodrigues and indicates the need to improve alignment of the education sector to the economic needs of the island.

As such, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, education and training are viewed as critical components of my Regional Government overall policy for the socio economic development of Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a need to strengthen the linkages between education, training and labour market in order to both reduce the skills gap in technical sectors and professionalise youth to enter the agriculture and fishing labour market as well as acquire entrepreneurship skills.

M. le président, comme je l'ai dit dans mon discours programme, mon gouvernement mettra l'accent sur un système d'éducation et de la formation réinventé, au service de la réussite en tenant compte des réalités du pays pour permettre aux Rodriguais de *"deboute lors zot 2 lipieds"*.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my government aims through this system of education to arm our children with values first, then at knowledge and then skills so as to have not only *"débrouillard"* but highly skilled, reliable, productive, specialized, imaginative, creative citizens and labour force that are above all versatile.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my government is fully conscious that this is a long-term process that will require the participation and involvement of all stakeholders concerned. Nevertheless, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are leaving, no stone unturned, to fulfill our vision to have an education system which is responsive to the needs of the population in Rodrigues. As such, all possibilities are being explored to enable us to meet our goal.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have had the opportunity to discuss the matter with the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Hon. Vasant Bunwaree who is willing to assist Rodrigues in developing an education system related to its specific context.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, during the retreat meeting with the United Nation Country Team and other development partners, which was held in May last in Rodrigues, my government's vision to develop an education system related to the specific context of Rodrigues, was discussed. I can say that all those high-powered delegates present at the meeting were appreciative of our bold initiative, commitment and determination to work for the interest of Rodrigues and ensure the socio economic development of our island.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to announce that one of the positive outcomes of this fruitful meeting was the proposal to submit a request for Bilateral Technical Cooperation Funds to carry out a study to analyse the present education and training system in Rodrigues with a specific focus on having a competent and skilled human resource base.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is expected that the findings of the study will provide all the necessary analysis to carry out effective reforms of the various aspects of the education and training sector including curriculum, assessment strategies, teaching, training and learning methods in Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, these results will also enable my Government to ensure informed decision making for the reengineering of the education sector in Rodrigues.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I congratulate the Chief Commissioner for having taken such bold measures to review the education system in Rodrigues but however, I have to ask him instead of coming with consultation with stakeholders and so on. May I ask him whether he is aware of the recommendation of the SIDPR, education for sustainable future while there is a summary of strategies for Rodrigues and some of the strategies that are mentioned are already highlighted in SIDPR? May I ask him how far he is going to implement all these because this has been through various consultations with all the stakeholders of Rodrigues? I do not think that we reinvent, *réinventé comme il a dit, réinventé l'éducation. Ce n'est pas possible de réinventer puisque tout est là, il ne nous suffit que de suivre ce qui a été préconisé dans le short term action plan of the SIDPR.* It seems that the Chief Commissioner has missed what I have said. Is he aware, first of all, of all the recommendations in the summary of strategies that is mentioned in the SIDPR and if so, how far is he going to implement because this already formed part of the short-term action plan. No need to come up again with further consultations to so on because it is already mentioned in the SIDPR.

The Chief Commissioner: *M. le président, nous sommes au courant ce qu'il y a dans le SIDPR et eux même ils ont soulevé une question tout à l'heure.* We have the administration of education. We know that, that is why the mission there will be an amendment in the Education Act but at the same time, there must be an amendment also of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act. We have thought about it. These are recommendations of the SIDPR but at the end, there must be law of regulations to apply the recommendations of the Assembly here. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me a last supplementary question on that. I repeat again what is the mentioned in the SIDPR require that we go first through amendments of Education Act or the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act. This are thinks that we can implement right now in the short-term. In the long-term vision then we will see but for the short-term, please go through it and see what has been mentioned can easily be applied right now.

The Chief Commissioner: But what have you done during these five years? What have you done? Please tell us!

[Applause]

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will refer to new education system. We must also think about the tertiary education. Many students who are in Mauritius now are facing many problems to study in Mauritius and I know that the Hon. Jeetah is coming with a university campus in Rodrigues especially at Mt. Malgache; I will ask the Commissioner where does matter stands as regards to this?

The Chief Commissioner: We are not aware of this project, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question, please.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether in respect to the different committees to be put in place in colleges, whether there would be a change in the timetable scheduled to cater for same?

The Chief Commissioner: I would like to know of which committees the Member is talking of.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it has been said that different committees will be put in colleges. I am asking the Chief Commissioner whether there will be a change in the time-time to cater for the students and teachers to participate in these committees.

The Chief Commissioner: There is no need to change the timetable.

STUDENTS HOSTEL

(No. B/50) **Mr. G. Jabeemissar (The Minority Leader)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the construction of a “Students Hostel” for Rodriguan students in Mauritius, he will state if any consultation/agreement has been undertaken with any authority in Mauritius and, if so, to give details thereof and, if not, to inform the House how and when he intends to proceed with the implementation of the project?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, as spelled out at paragraph 16 of the Discours Programme 2012-2017, my government is

committed to the construction of a student hostel in Mauritius by the end of our mandate and most probably well before 2017. We are currently looking at the different modes of financing of the project. At this stage, it would be premature to give details thereof since negotiations are ongoing.

Allow me, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to point out the amateurism attitude of the previous government in handling this issue. They have been in power for six years and not even a plan for the building has been drawn.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order. It is not correct for the Chief Commissioner to throw mud on previous government because he has mentioned in his *Discours Programme*. We did not mention at all. We did not mention any hostel in our previous *Discours Programme*. That is why I ask this question. In fact, certain negotiations have been initiated when we were in office. I have to ask the Chief Commissioner whether he can tell the House in the plan to set up this hostel in Mauritius, out of negotiations, he has told us those negotiations is still under way. However, has any land, site been identified for the construction of same, Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there was an item in the budget of 2005/2006 for construction of a hostel in Mauritius. The land has already been vested to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly situated at Route du Club, Vacoas.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: *Fek gagner ça*

The Chief Commissioner: *“Eh ou la ferme ou la bouche do”*

Mr. J. Roussety: This is not appropriate; it is too far from the university. We obtained this. I obtained this. *Al lire ou dossier madame, ou pas kone dossier ou fek vine la ou. Vine koze n'import! Blame ancien gouvernement. Connait ki pé dir, lire dossier...*

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: I will not accept such things here.

Mr. J. Roussety: Which things?

Mr. Chairperson: The way you are speaking.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: *Li fek dir bouche la bouche ou pa dir narnien.*

Mr. Chairperson: You keep quiet please! I know what I am doing. Next, question, please.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I withdraw “*bouche ou la bouche*”.

SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SIDPR)

(No. B/51) The Minority Leader (Mr. G. Jabeemissar) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the updating (réactualiser) and implementation of the Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues (SIDPR) by his regional government, he will inform the House what actions he has undertaken so far and give details regarding the implementation thereof?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as stated in the “Discours Programme 2012–2017” our vision aims at making Rodrigues an ecological island. Sustainability is at the core of the vision whereby a balance is sought between the diverging economic, social and environmental interests. It is along this line that the Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues (SIDPR) was initiated by the OPR Regional Government in 2004. It was meant to provide Rodrigues with a planning framework to guide its development in the long run. The plan was launched in December 2009 by the former government.

While the SIDPR is a long-term plan, in order to ensure its implementation, a Short-Term Action Plan (STPA) covering the short period from July 2009 to December 2011 was also designed. A Programme-Based Budgeting (PBB) was also designed and developed for the implementation of the STPA. I wish to point out that more than 95% of the targets of the STPA have not been reached by the former government.

Four Thematic Working Groups and the *Table Ronde de Rodrigues* were set to serve as a major participation mechanism of the SIPDR. However, these structures were not working properly. Moreover, from information gathered, the *Table Ronde de Rodrigues* was not meeting regularly. It has met only four times in two years while it was supposed to meet at least on a quarterly basis. The Thematic Working Groups, on their side, were meeting regularly but, on the exception of an anti-erosion project being implemented in Mourouck, no other concrete action has resulted from them.

An evaluation of their effectiveness will be conducted and from their lessons will be learnt to decide on the mode of participatory approach that will be developed.

The five-year programme of my regional government is based on a democratic participatory approach. We want our fellow citizens to fully participate in the development process of our island. It is in this context that we will reinvigorate the SIDPR and the participatory approach of the civil society in the development, planning and management process in Rodrigues.

The Regional Government is actually conducting a long-term planning exercise for the next ten years through the elaboration of an Economic and Social Transformation Plan (ESTP). The elaboration of the ESTP is based on the recommendations and strategies developed in the SIDPR. The visions and targets of the ESTP are being translated into a practical PBB Strategic Plan for the 2013-2015 periods. This, PBB Strategic Plan will be vetted by the Ministry of Finance and approved by the Central Government and will thus be incorporated into the incoming annual budgets. The financial dimension of the plan will be thus satisfied to allow its implementation.

The ESTP will then be finalized through a process involving the participation of both state and non-state actors. This process will usefully contribute to the revision of the SIDPR.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner has mentioned in his five-year plan that he is going to update (*réactualiser*) the SIDPR. Does he mean that by so doing that there will be a change in the initial structure of the SIDPR?

The Chief Commissioner: C'est une question de réactualiser une étude qui a été fait. Il y a d'autres facteurs qui sont entré en jeu. Mais la base du SIDPR et là. C'est une question simplement de regarder le SIDPR et de réactualiser par rapport au nouvelle décision que nous allons prendre et la nouvelle vision concernant Rodrigues, île écologique.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have under my eyes here the SIDPR document and under the abbreviations and acronyms of the SIDPR I do not find anything which is ESTP. Can I know what the Chief Commissioner means by ESTP first, and second I would like to know whether the *Table Ronde de Rodrigues* still exist, who is its Chairman and how many times it has met since February this year?

The Chief Commissioner: We have not yet gone through the SIDPR. We have been five months in power and we have not yet look into the SIDPR, how to reactualize and to reorganize it. We have just said even information

concerning those thematic groups, whether we are going to change and give them another way of working. We have not yet come to that.

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is not good to come here and just to criticize. The *Table Ronde de Rodrigues* has met four times. I thought that the Chief Commissioner will come here and say that the *Table Ronde de Rodrigues*, all the structures, that is, the different thematic working group, all these structures has met and are ongoing. How is it? I am coming to the question. Why, if he agrees, with the basic principles of the SIDPR that such structures have not been functioning, and whether he is aware that the mandate of the different thematic working groups, the different participants have lapsed?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have not come yet to the SIDPR fully inside. Just five months! We have to put order in lots of things. The SIDPR will come and while we tackle the SIDPR, we will see what is working and what is not working concerning the working groups. We will see what they have decided during the meetings.

The Minority Leader: A last supplementary, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Cependant je voudrais demander au Chef commissaire, M. le président, je crois qu'il y a eu une structure de SIDPR qui a été modifié et touché. Je parle de l'EPMU. *Has there any change in the EPMU in terms of officers responsible for it on item of staff. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner if such is the case? Whether there has been any change in the staff of the EPMU and how is the EPMU is functioning right now?*

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not know what the EPMU has to do in the debate but we have not yet tackled the SIDPR. There is lot of things where we are putting order. Order in disorder where there are lots of things we are trying to do and then we will come to the SIDPR. We have mentioned the SIDPR, we will come to it, and we have already tackled the SIDPR concerning the economic and social formation plan, a ten-year plan with effect from 2013. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, five months, the SIDPR is about say about 400 pages so we have to get through.

[Interruption]

PUBLIC TRANSPORT – PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

(No. B/52) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (The Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to public transport in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the

House, give details of the problems encountered by the general public, if any, on the various bus routes around the island and the reasons thereof?

The Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I stated in a statement I made at our sitting of 24 February 2012, sixty-eight (68) buses are licensed to operate along the 11 bus routes of Rodrigues. Unfortunately, most of these buses are over 15 years of age and therefore prone to frequent breakdowns, hence impacting negatively on the availability of transport on bus routes all around the island. This situation is particularly affecting students who have to wait for long time and turn up late at school or to reach their home after school hours and all workers attending work in the morning and when returning home. Every day five to seven buses are on breakdowns regularly. Public travellers face difficulties on all routes. Buses are off road due to mechanical problems, faulty starters or even non-availability of diesel.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner seems to be well aware of the problems. He has been here since five months. I want to ask him what he is completing to do to remedy the situation given that we are in this mid-year exams period many students arrived late to sit for the exams. What he is doing? What are the solutions for this problem?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I must point out that the transport is not a recent one. Problems have been accumulating for the past years when no solution was found to tackle it. What have you done since the past six years? No action was taken to ameliorate the system. The Executive Council has proposed to increase bus licences for certain routes where problems exist. The last Rodrigues Transport Committee held on the 10 and 11 May 2012 has not approved any additional licences after analyzing the situation. They found that sixty-eight buses are enough to cater for the public transport in Rodrigues. The committee has given three months grace to the bus operators to improve the situation regarding public transport. May I point out, also, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, during its last meeting last year the Rodrigues Transport Committee, the previous government also recommended for additional licences but nothing has been done!

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, he has put question and I have to answer. Nothing has been done since our taking office in 2006, Mr. Chairperson, Sir! We have granted nine (9) bus licences and after that last year, we have initiated action to grant more bus licences in Rodrigues because we know that problem. I am coming to my question. The question is why you as Commissioner, you know the problem (there is a committee who has just met I think it was on May) and they turned down. If you had set up proper policy,

they should have abided to it. So, where is the problem? You have just mentioned that there are problems. You have enumerated all the problems and as if the committee is dictating you to tell you what to say, what to do or whether to turn down or not the possibility of granting more Rodriguans bus licences.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I suppose the Rodrigues Transport Committee also dictated the former Commissioner for Transport during the last meeting last year.

[Interruption]

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to point that this year on the day the respected Member from the other side assumed office there has been one serious bus accident which I heard this morning is the subject of a question in the National Assembly. We have had another accident last week at Montagne du Sable. I would like to ask the Commissioner whether he considers these occurrences of accidents as being serious enough so that he takes action. We have had death of person at Solitudes because of deficient mechanical issues on buses. This is my first question, whether this is serious enough to warrant a case of action from him and from his Commission.

Second, we have to look at the problem from the point of view of the bus owners who are always complaining that they are making losses. That with the system of compensation for free transport they are not able to sustain their activity and that you have seen there is a tendency that most of them are selling their buses to Mauritian bus owners. There is a Mauritianisation of the bus industry in Rodrigues and this is not good for local business. First, I want to know what is being done at the level of the Commission to ensure safety of passengers. Second whether he can consider, being given the problems that I have mentioned, I do not know how, may be going to Mauritius again or trying with the Chief Commissioner and the Commissioner for Finance, to have financial incentive, may be through the Development Bank of Mauritius for these persons to improve their buses. Thank you.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I fully agree with the respected Member that the situation is serious regarding the accident that occurred on 11 February 2012. We are considering in the forthcoming sitting to review the aging of the buses so that as we have seen all the accidents are caused by old buses over 15 years. As for the financing to help the bus owners we will look into the matter with the Chief Commissioner.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I propose something. There are 68 buses in Rodrigues having Public Service Licences but there are also other buses in Rodrigues. There are, for example, contract buses. I will ask the Commissioner if he will agree with me that he can see to it with the owners of the contract buses, arrange with them and see to it that these bus owners they participate in public transport in Rodrigues. I have met some of them and they are very willing to accept transporting passengers in Rodrigues.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we will look into the matter for the proposition of the respected Member.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in a statement in this Assembly, the Commissioner stated that more bus licences will be granted on bus routes. Can he inform the House who advises him on that issue and whether he will go in this direction?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are waiting for the next Rodrigues Transport Committee to finalise the additional buses.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the central government for free transport in Rodrigues, they pay for children and old aged persons in Rodrigues and I see every morning children coming to school they are walking coming to school. I will ask the Commissioner whether he see this situation as fair and normal that the government is paying for transport and we see children walking every day.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I agree with the respected Member but there are some buses which pass through without collecting old aged persons and students going to school but this has always been the case but we will look into the matter with the National Transport Authority and the Police.

ONGOING/COMPLETED WATER PROJECTS – UNSETTLED CLAIMS/PROJECTS

(No. B/53) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to ongoing/completed water projects since February 2012 in his Commission, he will table and give a breakdown of any unsettled claims per project including the dates on which the last claims were sent to his commission?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am hereby tabling the information regarding the ongoing completed water projects since February 2012. **(Appendix I)**

- (i) The first project is the Upgrading of water system at Le Chou, the last date of submission of claim to Commission was on 11 February 2012 for the sum of Rs 3,719,714.
- (ii) The second project the upgrading of springs at Citron Donis/Coromandel. The date of submission of claim to Commission was on 25 January 2012 for the sum of Rs 2,711,617.06.
- (iii) For test, repair and commissioning of steel reservoir at Citron Donis and Montagne Goyaves the date of submission of claim to Commission was on 22 March 2012 for the sum of Rs 437,546.25.
- (iv) For construction of 150m³ reservoir at Mt Fanale, the date of submission of claim to Commission was 09 February 2012 for the sum of Rs 2,874,804.85.
- (v) For the supply of spare parts, repairs and commissioning of Songes Desalination Plant, the date of submission of claim to Commission was 03 May 2012 for the sum of Rs 411,557.35.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, regarding the upgrading of water system at Le Chou no completion certificate has been signed by the Commission and the contractor. The project has been delayed. Extension of time is being assessed in line with the provision of the contract with a view to prepare the final account.

Test, repair and commissioning of steel reservoir at Citron Donis and Montagne Goyaves there are defects in the reparation works. The contractor has been instructed to take remedial action after which the application for payment will be considered.

Regarding the upgrading of springs at Citron Donis/Coromandel construction of 150m³ reservoir at Montagne Fanale supplied of spare parts, repairs and commissioning of desalination plant payment has already been prepared.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to what has been tabled I see that there is an amount of approximately Rs 7 m. which has not yet been paid. Can I ask the Commissioner when he is contemplating to finalise all these claims as far as the projects are concerned?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have already answered this question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner state what are the procedures for settlement of claims.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The procedure is that, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, after the completion certificate signed by the Civil Engineer then payment is going to be effected but up to now, some completion certificate has not been signed.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to my information I heard that the Engineer has already certified some claims but no settlement have been effected until now.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not aware that the Engineer has signed the claim. How can this Member know about this?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner state how many bills has been returned from the Central Administration to his Commission.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not have the answer. This is an administrative procedure I cannot answer this question.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I see item 5 on the paper which has been tabled that there has been supplied of spare parts, repairs and commissioning of Songes Desalination Plant and that the claims have been submitted on 03 May 2012 for an amount of Rs 411,000. Can I ask the Commissioner whether following these repairs and commissioning, I do not know what commissioning is being done because this plant is already existed since long, whether the plant is in a state of operation?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: On a point of order, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I refer to Standing Order 17(6). It says, *“When any paper is laid on the Table of the Assembly, no opinion shall be expressed, no debate shall take place and no question shall be put”*.

[Interruption]

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let me give a Standing Order lesson to the Member. This is not a paper. Paper is paper which is tabled at the beginning at the sitting my friend. Go and learn your Standing Orders. This is not a paper of which he speaks. This is a paper which is tabled which formed part of the question.

Mr. Chairperson: Do you want to give an answer, Commissioner?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The Songes Desalination Plant is still not working due to a faulty electric motor. We are receiving the motor tomorrow and it will be operational by Friday or Saturday.

APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORS

- SALARY/TERMS & CONDITIONS, POSTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

(No. B/54) **Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member of Maréchal)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the appointment of advisors and any other recruitment done on contract or on sessional basis from February 2012 to date in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, he will, for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) Table the name/s and salary paid to each of them and their terms and conditions of appointment/employment including their respective duties;
- (b) State where each of them is posted including their respective office place; and
- (c) State to whom are they are accountable.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I am tabling the required information as per part (a) to (c) of the question with respect of the employment of Advisors and other recruitment done on contract in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly as from February 2012 to date. **(Appendix II)**

As regards employment on a sessional basis, I wish to inform this House that no additional recruitment has been made as from February 2012 except for the extension of the employment of those already in post up to 31 December 2012 as follows:-

- 8 Trainers for National Youth Award Scheme
- 3 Cultural Animators

- 47 Sports Animators
- 2 Trainers for Youth/Adolescent Health Counselling
- 9 Trainers in Women Centres

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner state whether among the Advisors are there people from abroad which is being recruited.

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, there is Mr. Jean Pierre Soussigne, a French national and he has been recruited as Advisor in Arts and Culture. He was already in Rodrigues for years and he has already made a study, financed by the French Embassy on culture and industrial culture in Rodrigues.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Can the Chief Commissioner states if his *permit de séjour* coincide with his employment?

The Chief Commissioner: I must say that all Advisors are approved by the Prime Minister's Office. The Prime Minister has looked for information concerning Mr. Jean Pierre Soussigne.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at times the Prime Minister may be misled, may be. According to my information, the advisor mentioned by the Chief Commissioner his *permit de séjour* will lapse in September this year and he has a contract for two years with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are not in September. It will depend on the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Civil Service. When September will come, we will see what will happen.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether being given that attitudes and qualifications of different advisors he has just appointed whether he is satisfied with the work being done. Because we must not forget that, they are paid by government money and whether he is satisfied with their experience and their work.

The Chief Commissioner: If the Member looks at the list of the criteria's, they are all competent people with experience. They are all graduated and I think they are delivering their duties successfully. All these advisors salaries have been approved by the Ministry of Civil Service and by the Prime Minister.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will come back again with the advisor from abroad. How is it that the *permit de séjour* of this person will

lapse in September and Rodrigues Regional Assembly has taken his advice up to two years?

Mr. Chairperson: The Chief Commissioner has already given his reply.

The Chief Commissioner: I have just given an answer to that. *The permit de séjour de ce monsieur peut être renouvelé pour deux ans. Cela se fait à Maurice. On demande un permit de séjour. Il y a même ici à Rodrigues qui demande et travail ici et qui demande un renouvellement d'un permit de séjour. Donc cela peut se faire. Si demain il demande un permit séjour et que le gouvernement voit qu'il peut étendre son permit de séjour et qu'il continue son travail comme Conseiller d'Arts et de la Culture.*

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I will ask the Chief Commissioner whether the Legal Advisor of this Assembly he has advised the office of the Chief Commissioner as regards to this case.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, le service de l'immigration qui dépend du bureau du Premier ministre a surement été approché. C'est le Service de l'Immigration qui doit informer/conseiller le Premier ministre sur l'emploi de M. Jean Pierre Soussigne comme Conseiller.

PROGRAMME CODE 601 – YOUTH & SPORTS PBB - EXPENSES

(No. B/55) **Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member of Maréchal)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the programme code 601. Youth and Sports for financial year ending 31 December 2012 of the Programme Based Budgeting, he will state how the expenses are being accounted for.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the present PBB for 2012 voted last year the Youth and Sport Division was under the same commission and Programme 601 caters for both the Sport and Youth activities.

The programme 601 is further submitted into three sub-programmes as follows:-

- (a) Sub-Programme 60102: Promotion of Sports and Sports for all. This sub programme is specific to item of expenditure purporting to sports only.

- (b) Sub-Programme 60103: Youth Empowerment, and Youth Recreational and Community Based Programme. This item cater for activities related to the Youth only and consequently Expenditure is met accordingly
- (c) Sub-Programme 60101: Youth and Sports (Policy and Management). Budget allocated under this Sub-programme caters for the recurrent day-to-day business for both Youth and Sport sectors as follows:-
 - Compensation to Employees, that is, salaries, allowances, travelling and overtime.
 - Goods and Services, that is, electricity, fuel, printing and stationery, uniforms, etc.

As from February this year, the portfolio of Youth and sports falls under two commissions. However, on a purely technical and administrative convenience, the sub-programme 60101 is being accounted by the two commissions. To ensure proper control, one finance officer monitors all expenses under this item vote. Any way expenses under this sub-programme pertains mainly to salaries and normal recurrent expenditure

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Item Vote Code 601 Youth and Sports are one item from the PBB. The Chief Commissioner mentioned that the accounting officer is the two Commissioners. How is it that a Commissioner is accounting for expenses in this programme vote?

The Chief Commissioner: As I said, it is a question of responsibilities. I said as from this year the portfolio of Youth and Sports falls under two commissions. However, on a purely technical and administrative convenience the sub-programme 60101 is being accounted for by the two commissions. To ensure proper control one Finance Officer monitors all expenses under this item vote. Any way expenses under this sub programme pertain mainly to salaries and normal recurrent expenditure.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner state where is the Finance Officer. Is he in the office of the Commission for Health and Sports or in the Commission of Youth and Others?

The Chief Commissioner: Peu importe qu'il soit ici ou la bas ce qui importe est que l'argent est bien géré.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I would point, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that it is the Departmental Head who is the accounting officer for finance. I would ask the Chief Commissioner whether some items from sports have been disbursed from items of Health.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, tous ceux que nous sommes en train de faire avec l'argent de l'état. On peut réallouer d'une commission à une autre, d'un département à une autre. Qu'est-ce-qu'on a fait pour le Water Company on n'a pas prit l'argent d'un peu partout, des millions. Ce qui fait ce qui est important, c'est vrai que le Departmental Head est responsable des finances mais dans les cas ou, ici c'est la jeunesse, le sports, et bien le cas est envoyé au Departmental Head concerner.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERING BY BREEDERS – REMEDIAL ACTIONS

(No. B/56) Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to breeders in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state (a) the problem they are encountering and (b) his policy to remedy same?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as you are aware this regional government is in office since less than five months only, however, during our consultation meeting with breeders the following problems were highlighted:-

- High price of pigs feed;
- Scarcity of fodder during the dry seasons;
- With the fall in export of light pigs to Mauritius from 1073 in 2009 to 93 in 2011 the price offered by the local butchers have fallen down from the local market to Rs 35 to Rs 38 of kilo to Rs 25 to Rs 30 of kilo. This is also causing problem of marketing as the offer exceeds the demand.

My commission is undertaking the following remedial solutions:-

- Research initiated in the possibility of formulating the local feed when available raw materials may be used to lower the final cost of feed will be pursued;

- We will also consider the possibility of fixing the retail price of feeds to ensure that the farmers effectively benefit from the existing freight rebate scheme;
- Modification has been brought to the slaughterhouse under construction to include a wrap and cut section for protection of choice cuts be cooked which will add value to pork and favour the export of cut choices. It is expected that this measure will encourage the processing of pork meat hence contributing to improve market price of pigs;
- In order to increase the production of fodder in the island my commission will rehabilitate additional critarias and create community pastures round the island;
- The concept of cut and carry system will be promoted where farmers will have their stable around the fences that fenced civil pastoral areas. This will reduce the problem of over grazing and hence increasing productivity of pastures.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is this policy of cut and carry system be advantageous and applicable in Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Rodrigues Ile Durable, République de Maurice – Ile Durable, il nous faut aller dans ce sens pour protéger la terre contre les animaux qui va se nourrir partout et protéger aussi les plantations des planteurs. Tout un système a été étudié et nous aurons bientôt la délégation de l'AREU et du Ministère de l'Agriculture que ce système marche à Maurice et en train d'être pratiquer. Je pense qu'ici c'est toute une question de rééducation de la population. La question des pâturages communautaire ou nous allons planter des arbres pas comme une forêt mais simplement pour attirer la pluie et permettre la pousse de l'herbe. C'est toute une technique qui est appliqué un peu partout et je pense que Rodrigues appliquant cette technique va permettre justement vers Rodrigues Ile Durable et dans ce cas là la population doit apporter un changement de mentalité et c'est pourquoi tout un programme de formation va être établi et cela commence déjà. Tout un programme formation va permettre aux éleveurs de comprendre exactement le bénéfice de ce système.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, one are main problems that the breeders are facing now is the problem of water. Cut and carry method also need a lot of water and I heard the Commissioner for Water stated that the

availability of water has decreased to 50%, the level of water. How will the Chief Commissioner cater for the problem of water shortage for irrigation?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, tout les pâturages dépendent de la pluie. Pour qu'il y est de la pluie si vous allez dans certains endroits de Rodrigues c'est dessert il n'y a plus d'arbres et les animaux qui va se nourrir par ici et là il n'y a plus d'herbes. Donc il faut trouver une méthode qui va permettre justement le pays lui-même de régénérer de l'herbe et pas n'importe quelle herbe. Nous avons eu quelques jeune éleveurs qui ont compris cette manière justement de planter de l'herbe et cela est très intéressant. Ils sont suivis par des techniciens agricoles. Si nous continuons a ce que l'éleveur soit le maître de la terre et que le soir les animaux sont lâchés même dans Mont Lubin partout pour aller manger les plantations des gens alors on se pose la question qui est le roi de cette terre l'Ile Rodrigues ? Tout le monde doit être traité de la même façon et avec beaucoup plus de justice. C'est cela justement qu'on est en train de voir toute les côtes sont désertiques, pas d'arbres et c'est pourquoi il faut venir avec tout un projet de reboisement et le pâturage, la manière donc les arbres seront planté ne sera pas comme des forêts mais en ligne qui va permettre à la pluie de tomber et ensuite de permettre aux éleveurs d'aller couper. Cette pratique se fait dans pas mal de pays, le *cut and carry*. Et justement il y a autre chose que le Food Security va entrer dans ce projet et ce qui fait que les animaux eux même seront bien garder. A ce moment il y a toute la question de fumier. Que le fumier soit ramasser, que l'eau qui tombe soit ramasser dans des bassins pour les animaux. Donc, il y aura toute une méthode qu'il faudra mettre en place afin que vraiment qu'on puisse arriver à cette île Rodrigues durable.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: M. le président, c'est vrai que le Chef commissaire a dit qu'on va venir avec un nouveau système. Mais je pense qu'il faudra plus particulièrement continuer ce que M. Perrine a déjà commencé, c'est-à-dire faire des *pastoral areas*, donner aux gens/éleveurs la possibilité de faire pousser leurs propre herbes, fencing etc. M. le président, il y a un composant très important à Rodrigues qui touche directement les éleveurs je veux parler du breeding de St. Gabriel. Quel sera le rôle de ce breeding de St. Gabriel étant donné que ce breeding a été un genre de *démonstration area* pour les éleveurs et qu'est-ce qu'il compte faire de ce breeding centre.

The Chief Commissioner: This remark needs a substantive question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I heard from the radio que la porte de Madagascar est ouverte. M. le président, cela aura un impact direct, important sur l'élevage à Rodrigues et qu'est-ce que le Chef commissaire est en train de faire pour attirer les acheteurs à venir acheter les animaux de Rodrigues ?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, nous sommes au départ. Il y a tout un travail qu'il faudra faire pour justement prendre contact avec les acheteurs. Nous avons mit en place un Trade and Marketing Company qui a mit la charrue devant les bœufs – importait n'importe quoi car ils auront voir et exportait les produits. Nous avons changé et mit de l'ordre dans le Trade and Marketing. Mettre une équipe assez solide à la tête et aussi des les personnes très compétentes pour pouvoir se déplacer et aller faire le marketing des produits de Rodrigues. Nous ne sommes qu'au début et je suis en train de voir les structures qui existent. Si ses structures misent en place marchent convenablement mais la nous sommes en train de revoir toute la question de Trade and Marketing Company pour l'avenir de Rodrigues.

**STRAY DOGS – ACTION TAKEN, KEEPING OF ANIMALS,
NO. OF CAPTURED/EUTHANIZED AND IN CUSTODY**

(No. B/57) Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to stray dogs in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) What action is being taken to remedy same?
- (b) Where these animals are kept after seizure?
- (c) How many dogs has been captured/euthanized/re-posessed by the owner?
- (d) The number in the custody of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the problem of stray dogs in Rodrigues arises due to the fact that many dogs' owners do not feed their dogs properly resulting in dogs straying around. In order to combat the problem of stray dogs my commission is running sensitisation meetings with the public to teach them how to take care of their dogs properly.

Catchers stray dogs in public places and roads registers dogs at the seat of the veterinary office to control the number of dogs on the island. A dog sterilization caravan will be procured to carry dog sterilization at village level. We will seek the collaboration of the Mauritius Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA) and the Minister of Agro Industry to deal with this problem.

/UNREVISED/

Dogs caught are kept in the impound site for a period three days according to Regulations Control of Stray Dogs Act 2000. Unless claimed by the owners the animals are humanly put down – euthanized by the Veterinary Unit. The number of dogs caught/euthanized/ re-possessed is as follows:-

	Caught	Re-possessed	Euthanized
May 2008	326	7	319

Presently, there are no dogs in the impounding site.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner states why there are no dogs in impounding site.

The Chief Commissioner: I have been told, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the lorry, which are used for the catching of dogs, is not in good conditions and the lorry indicated for dog catching is prone to break down and need replacement. We are looking into all that so that we can start again the catching of dogs and as I said we are looking for steralisation for dogs instead of euthanizing dogs.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am surprised. I myself saw the vehicle on the road since last week up to now. How is it that the Chief Commissioner said that the lorry is out of order? I think that he has been mistaken.

The Chief Commissioner: We will find out.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is a good job to catch the stray dogs but also these dogs that has been caught is left in the open at Montagne Plate. They are not in the compound they are in the open at Montagne Plate.

The Chief Commissioner: I have taken note of that.

Mr. Chairperson: Since the Second Island Region Member, Mrs. Meunier is not here as per Erskine May she is not here so Commissioner to whom the address causes an answer to be printed, that is, a written answer. We come to question B/61.

**SURFACE AND UNDERGROUND WATER AVAILABILITY/
NO. & NAMES OF PROJECTS**

(No. B/61) Mr. J. D. Spéville (Second Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others whether, in regard to surface and underground water, he will inform the House:-

- (a) on the actual production of surface and underground water available in Rodrigues to date; and
- (b) the number and names of different projects that have been set up since January 2011 to January 2012 to increase same as compared from February 2012 to date.

The Commissioner responsible for Water Resources (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson Sir, the actual production of surface and underground water are estimated at about 2448m³ and 2800m³ daily respectively. There have been 14 projects for the increase of water production as follows:-

- (1) Upgrading of water system at Dans Samy and Tamarin;
- (2) Supply, installation and commissioning of fibre glass tank at Camp du Roi;
- (3) Supply, installation and commissioning of control panel at Mourouck Pumping Station;
- (4) Control of 6m³ domestic concrete water tanks around the island for rain water harvesting;
- (5) Upgrading of water system at Eau Vannée;
- (6) Construction of 1000m³ reservoir at L'Union;
- (7) Test, repairs and commissioning of steel reservoir at Citron Donis and Mt Goyaves;
- (8) Construction of 150m³ reservoir at Mt Fanal;
- (9) Upgrading of water system at Dans Limon;

/UNREVISED/

- (10) Upgrading of water system at Le Chou;
- (11) Upgrading of reservoir at Mourouck;
- (12) Supply of spare parts, repairs and commissioning of Songes desalination plants;
- (13) Upgrading of springs at Citron Donis/Coromandel;
- (14) Upgrading of works at Anse Raffin treatment plant.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, out of these 14 projects, six have nothing to do with the increase of production of water, projects numbers (2), (3), (6), (7), (8) and (12) respectively. We are also not satisfied regarding the eight remaining projects, which were supposed to increase water. The production of water is the same as it was before the upgrading of the springs and reservoir. We can say that it was a loss of money for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Some of these projects are like White Elephants. How can a caring government commit the budget of year 2012, in year 2011 thus, flouting the basic principle of the finance of the Programmed Based Budgeting?

An amount of Rs 29.2 m. was earmarked in the 2012 budget for water development. The previous regime, with the respected Member, who was then the Commissioner for Water Resources squander Rs 29.2 m. and committed up to Rs 57 m. for water development for projects with no worth value. The Regional Assembly is making reallocation for the payment of additional amount to contractors. The respected Member is well aware that for the water development no fund is available as all has been used and over committed since year 2011. I cannot understand why such question for projects from February 2012 to date, is being asked by him.

Mr. J. Roussety: that projects which have not improved the water supply are not justified. This is not a cause of action, which should be justified by the Executive Council. For example, you have maintained the panel at Mourouck but if you had not maintained the panel, would there be water today? The panel would have gone. This is called maintenance. We should not politicize on all this issues. I would like to know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, precisely, I have the question that the desalination plant at Mourouck is not working as has been said formerly. We also have the answer that Rs 411,000 have been paid for repairs etc. We are aware that the Water Company is going to close down and that the Water Unit does not have the capacity, human capacity to manage this plant. I want to know being given the actual situation of water supply on the island where people are already severely affected by

water shortage. I am speaking of my place at Baie du Nord where there is no water since more than three months even when they give the water it does not reach my residence. I will give this to this Member to present his own paper I see there is a number of leakages. The Songes desalination project will be our savour during the dry season, which unfortunately I see, has already started. What is the Commissioner doing to ensure that **urgently** the desalination plant be restored to a working capacity of 500m³ per day.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for the Songes desalination plant, the electric pump is arriving in Rodrigues tomorrow and this will help for the production of water for the southern and western regions of Rodrigues by the end of this week.

Mr. J. Roussety: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. So we have an indication that there is a problem on an electric pump. Has there been a survey, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, recently by the Commissioner or by someone, an authority, Water Company or Water Unit, to know whether this is the only problem and will the Commissioner confirm to this House. I am speaking here on behalf of people who have voted for me and trusted me and I have to speak here. I am sorry if I have to speak on harsh term on this issue of water. I want to know if this is the only issue and whether the arrival of that salted water pump will make the two-contenerised plants will be operational so that we can get water.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, actually we are in a dry season with only 21mm of rain for the month of June. Regarding the salt desalination plant, this will help, as I have said, for the production of water and we are working on other projects for a big scale of desalination plant, which will come into operation during our mandate up to 2017.

Mr. J. Roussety: I repeat my question with your permission, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. We are aware; the Commissioner is speaking of big desalination plant, which is coming. This has not even reached L'île aux Fou to come into the port, not even make in the zone where it has to be made. The desalination plant is still in the blue. We know that the *Agence Française de Développement* was to finance two desalination plants of 5000m³ or one of 8000m³.

Mr. Chairperson: Come to your question, please.

J. Roussety: I am instructing my question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. My question I repeat is, when will the desalination plant, which is at Mourouck, be operational?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have said it will be operational by the end of this week.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in his programme the Commissioner states in the regional government programme, it has been stated that there will be the construction of the Pavé la Bonté dam. Can the Commissioner state to the House which reservoir will be the service reservoir which will help the north if ever, this dam is constructed?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are tackling the water problem in a holistic approach for the entire island.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner state what are the frequency of distribution of water around Rodrigues?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Not 24 hours on 24 hours, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, but it is on a fortnight basis and even a monthly basis for the regions west and south.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Can the Commissioner inform the House whether he is satisfied with the upgrading; the rehabilitation of the desalination plant at the Mourouck as he has said it is a loss of money. If yes, whether this rehabilitation is a loss of money as he has said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Sir, there is no desalination plant at Mourouck.

**TRANSPORT OF PATIENTS – RODRIGUES/MAURITIUS
- NUMBER, NAMES & DATES SENT**

(No. B/62) Mr. J. D. Spéville (Second Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to the transfer of patients from Rodrigues to Mauritius, he will, for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) Give the number of patients who have been sent to Mauritius from February 2012 to date per category of illness;
- (b) Table the names of the patients and the cost incurred thereof per each patient together with the names of the medical institutions they attended;

- (c) The date each patient was sent to Mauritius stating whether each of them was sent with relatives or medical officers and the date each of them returned to Rodrigues; and
- (d) State the present policy regarding same?

The Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports (Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (a) of the question, the answer is as follows:-

• Cardiology	- 13
• ENT	- 06
• Gynaecology and Obstetrics	- 05
• Medical	- 51
• Neurosurgery	- 04
• Oncology	- 16
• Ophthalmology	- 16
• Orthopaedic	- 27
• Paediatric	- 16
• Psychiatric	- 03
• Surgical	- 18

A total of 175 patients has been referred for treatment/further management in Mauritius since February 2012.

As regards to part (b) and (c) of the questions, I am not prepared to state same as it will be contrary to existing law protecting patients confidentiality.

However, I am informed that since January 2012, out of an amount of Rs 4.6 m., some Rs 2.6 m. has been spent.

I am also informed that the 175 patients have travelled as follows:-

• Patients sent alone	- 51
• Patients with accompany relative	- 67
• Patients with relative and Nursing Officer	- 34
• Patients with relative and Medical officer	- 03
• Patients with relative & SAMU staff	- 04
• Patient with Nursing Officer alone	- 13
• Patients with Nursing Officer and Police Officer	- 02
• Patient with Nursing Officer and Medical Officer	- 01

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that the protocol used by the previous government is still being used by this present government. However, discussions have already been held with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life to amend the existing protocol whereby patients sent to Mauritius will be given the choice to be admitted at hospital of their choice, provided the related specialized care are available at such hospital. In addition, patients will also be allowed to be admitted in hospital close to the residency place of their relative. This will reduce the burden of the relative having to travel long distances. Moreover, with a view to reduce the number of patients being sent to Mauritius for further treatment, this regional government intends to construct a modern hospital in the centre of the island.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner state whether as from last year, there has been an increase in the number of patients that has been sent to Mauritius?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to say that we are midway, say six months already and last year 395 patients were sent to Mauritius and today 175 patients have been sent to Mauritius. There is a long way to go to answer to this question.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a big issue of patients being transferred to Mauritius and there is much human hardship on this issues. I would like to know, from the Commissioner whether he is aware that when a person is transferred to Mauritius for medical care and at times is accompanied, that these persons faced severe difficulties in terms of lodging and in terms of finance (living expenses, for example, to travel by bus in Mauritius from the place of residence to the hospital)? This is a very big difficulty we are aware for patients and their parents.

Secondly, there is no person, no officer and no authority to which these persons may direct their worries. Whether he can consider, first the project that my colleague who is absent today, Mr. Emilien, who was to convert a flat which is owned by the Regional Assembly in Mauritius which my former regional government negotiated together with the land for the student hostel. Whether this project can be reactualised and started again? Second, whether as a symbolic gesture for specific cases and persons who are poor he can consider paying a stipend per day, Rs 100 may be, and whether he can look into this issue of providing a sort of Welfare Officer to help these persons.

Mr. I. Valimamode: I would like to thank the respected Member for his suggestions. I wish to say that actually there is what we called the Medical

Social Worker in Mauritius. Whenever a patient is sent to Mauritius, the Medical Social Worker takes over the person. He/she can direct his/her complaints to this officer. I agree that being a Mauritian is not the same as a Rodriguan officer. As far as the hostel is concerned, I wish to point out that this is ongoing. It is a good suggestion but it is already ongoing. This is one of the reasons why patients who are sent to Mauritius have to go to Jewahalall Nehru Hospital because of the proximity of the airport as most of our people's relatives here are based in a suburb or in Port Louis. We intended at first to send these patients to Jeetoo Hospital as it was in the past when they used to travel by boat and then whereto to change our mind because of this hostel which will be situated somewhere around Vacoas. I was in Mauritius last week, I discussed with the Ministry of Health and the Permanent Secretary, and we are working on this protocol to allow these patients to go to a hospital of their choice provided the services are available.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether there has been patients sent to Mauritius, patients suffering from dialysis sent to Mauritius and why?

Mr. I. Valimamode: I think I have already answered this question in the previous session concerning dialysis. Nevertheless, among this list there were patients from the dialysis section.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: The question is why, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. I. Valimamode: I replied to the question in the last session.

The Minority Leader: I heard the Commissioner stating that in order to cater for the long-term vision of patient in Rodrigues the government will come with a hospital in the centre of the island. Can he inform the House whether it will be a new structure/hospital or will the Mont Lubin Area Health Centre be converted into that the new hospital?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is not yet finalised but we are completing on a brand new hospital.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner state whether there has been a survey as regards to the number of patients sent to Mauritius. Whether there has been a survey carried out according to the category of illnesses. What has been the high tendency? Whether it is possible

to have these equipments here in Rodrigues instead of sending the patients to Mauritius.

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this will come in the new project, however, I wish to inform this House, for example, patients suffering from fits they need to go to Mauritius for Electroencephalogram (EEG). I will look into the matter personally and we are receiving our own EEG machine shortly. This will help in reducing patients being sent to Mauritius and in the same way, we are looking at other specialities as well.

PRODUCTION OF ONIONS & BEANS

(No. B/63) Mr. J. D. Spéville (Second Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the production of onion and bean, he will, for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) Give the actual area under cultivation island wise and the projected production for both crops;
- (b) State how the planters of these commodities are dealing with their crops during the actual period of drought;
- (c) State if he intends to give an incentive to those planters to cater for their loss in production if any/and, if so, what and how?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, areas under cultivation for onions and beans as at 10 May 2012 is 81.6 hectares and 166.5 hectares respectively. At the end of May 2012 planting of onion was not completed at Port Sud Est, Mourouk, Anse Raffin and Grand Var for onion. Based on the above figures the estimated production for the crops is as follows:-

Beans	Onions
58.3 tons for an estimated yield of 0.85 tons per hectares	650 tons at an estimate yield of 19 tons per hectares

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in order to mitigate the adverse effect of present draught, planters is erecting windbreaks where it is possible to reduce the drying effect of wind. In areas where irrigation water is available drip irrigation, system and watering can be used to irrigate the crops. Manures and compost have been added to maximise water retention in soil. To date no cases of loses in these two crops have been recorded at my Commission. However, it is

expected that the draught will have a negative impact on the harvest of these two crops. The situation caused is being monitored.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can Chief Commissioner state to the House whether there has been correspondences, meetings between the Meteorological Services and the Agricultural Services to make projections about the weather, the forthcoming season to see whether plantation of beans and onion can be made and at which extent. Secondly, can he state to the House whether the outcomes of these meetings, if any, if there has been meetings has been addressed to the planters so that they can prepare themselves according to these news.

The Chief Commissioner: No meeting has been held at the Meteorological Services and the Commission of Agriculture but the Meteorological Services could be asked to go on radio and to explain to the population at large what is the problem and what can effectively happen in the future.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner said that answered that no loses was recorded as far as onions and beans are concerned but I would like to ask him what are the fields workers doing? They are supposed to go in the fields, to meet farmers. What are they doing? What is happening to the agricultural sector in Rodrigues? I would like to ask him how is it that we are facing a very dry season - draught. We also know that there are loses. We have to be frank with ourselves. We know there are loses so how is it that the Chief Commissioner comes here and said no loses has been recorded.

The Chief Commissioner: The situation is being monitored by our Agricultural Technicians.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner state when there will be meeting between the Mateo and the Agricultural Services, before the harvest or after the harvest?

The Chief Commissioner: I said that the Meteorological Services will be asked to go on radio and to give information not only to planters but also to the whole population. I think this is the way to go.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have met some onion and bean planters around Rodrigues and *le constat est que la récolte est diminué à 50% peut être plus même*. As regards to incentive to the cases that I am mentioning and we have heard Rodriguans on television stating that they have lost. There has been 50% lost. All Rodriguans know except the Chief

Commissioner did not know. Will there be any incentive/compensation regarding this decrease in yield.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I said what could be incentives if there is not any report of breeders of agriculturists, planters gone to the different offices in the different, either in Port Sud Est or at Mont Lubin or at La Ferme or at Trèfles. Those planters should go there and then they would be visited but I said the Technicians have received instructions to monitor the situation and to report back. At that time we have to see whether incentive or compensation should be given to those planters but till now no report, no planters have reported their loss of their crops at the different stations in Rodrigues.

LAND MECHANIZATION

(No. B/64) Mr. D. L. Guillaume (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to land mechanization in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state (a) how many hectares of land have been mechanized around the island from February 2012 to date; and (b) table a list of applicants for the same period?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for the period February 2012 to date a total area of 96.67 hectares of land belonging to 287 planters has been ploughed mechanically. Some applications are yet to be attended. It will not be appropriate to disclose the list of planters who have benefited from land mechanization. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to streamline the land mechanization service applications will be attended on chronological order and this will ensure more transparency and equity in the provision of this essential support service.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can we know how many tractors are involved in land mechanization presently and second, how do they refuel.

The Chief Commissioner: There are five tractors. Two broken down and awaiting repairs (spare parts). It seems that it is being refuelled around spot, I think so and there is no refuelling spot at either at Citronelle but they have to be refuelled by the Agricultural Services.

Mr. J. Roussety: I will not challenge the words of the Chief Commissioner but I would like him to be aware that as a witness I often see the tractors at the filling station at 9.00 in the morning, at 10.00, at every time of the day we see the big tractor, the big one. When I travel on the road in town, in Port Mathurin, at 9.00 o'clock, at 1.00 p.m., the tractor is in the streets and even on the road, I travelled from Baie du Nord to Port Mathurin, the tractor often I

overtake it or the tractor pass by me. Is this we are speaking about productivity - Rodrigues Ile Durable? Will the Chief Commissioner see to it that this tractor, at least this one, who is a very big consumer of diesel when it is on the street. It stays on the spot and ensures that it concentrates. This is a capital. In economics, we call it this is a capital. It should work all day and not be on the streets and the diesel should be brought to it. Of course, we know that they will steal the diesel but at least put in place a system that will maximize the use of all these equipments in the fields instead of them having to travel to the filling station or elsewhere losing time and losing working capacity.

The Chief Commissioner: With the cost of those big tractors, we could have two or three tractors. There are also problems with those drivers of tractors, it has been reported to us but even one or two drivers; there is a problem of drivers and this is a problem we have to solve for the next budget. Some planters have also reported that there are many problems concerning ploughing, how to choose planters to plough their land. There is also a problem of drivers. I will not mention here what they do but it seems we have to put lots of way of change, reshuffled the Technicians in the different sites so that there is a lot of control. Not even tractors but even Technicians instead of being on their site they are elsewhere. This agricultural section should be reorganized and there will be a lot of training with those people. This is the problem.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, many planters have been complaining that they have incurred losses to their crops because they have not been able to be provided with mechanization facilities in due time. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner what is the current practice/procedures in getting access to mechanization facilities.

The Chief Commissioner: I already said that in my reply. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to streamline the land mechanization service, applications will be attended on chronological order. This will ensure more transparency and equity in the provision of this essential support service. No interference of anybody on this list, there must be justice for everybody. Everybody in Rodrigues they are planters and there should be justice for everybody.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is a pity for the agricultural sector to see there is one big tractor in the compound at La Ferme which stayed idle every day since last week and when these persons enquired what are the problems of these tractors they say that there is a shortage of driver. I will ask the Chief Commissioner whether this is true, whether there has been a shortage of driver for mechanization.

The Chief Commissioner: It is true. That is what I said. We look into the matter and then by the next budget, it seems that in the past they have not put additional posts in the budget for drivers of tractors. I think that this is true there need to be more drivers for tractors.

FENCED PERIMETERS

(No. B/65) Mr. D. L. Guillaume (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to Government fenced perimeters in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) How many officers are posted for the management of each fenced perimeter; and
- (b) Whether all fences around these perimeters are in good state?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the fenced perimeters have been established as from mid eighteenth by the EDF project with objectives to have the green cover and to provide farmers with fodders to improve livestock production. The last two at the Grenade and Montagne Croupier have been fenced under the Decentralized Cooperation Project. Trees and fodder plants have been planted to provide fodder during dry periods. These areas are under the responsibilities of the Agricultural Division, Pasture Unit in terms of maintenance, fencing and crop cover while the watchmanship and the enforcement as such lies with the Forestry Division. The Pasture Unit is run with one Scientific Officer, one Technical Officer, one Consultant, 10 General Workers headed by one Gangman. The watchmanship of these fenced areas is ensured by 12 Watchmen and 10 Forest Guards and ensures the enforcement side under the supervision of three Foresters.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as for part (b) of the questions the answer is no. Some of these fenced areas are not in a good state as no repairs have been effected during the last few years. We are proposing to take necessary action to rehabilitate same whenever required. Frequent larceny and vandalism has been recorded at Montagne Plate where 120 metres of fence has been stolen. The matter was referred to the Police and contract security services have been replaced by government Watchmen.

Mr. L. Guillaume: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner inform the House whether some permits have been issued to allow cattle and goat breeders to rear their animals in these perimeters.

The Chief Commissioner: No permits have been issued but some people seem to have the power to do what they want to do.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is a fact. The Chief Commissioner has said some people *sont en train de faire la loi*. Can I ask him whether any action is being initiated to track these people and if so what is he contemplating to do?

The Chief Commissioner: When we took over the Commission for Agricultural, we have noticed lots of problems in this sector. That is why I tabled briefing every fortnight to raise these problems and whenever the next briefing we raised the problems of Watchmen and people who have stolen, fencing the case will be put to the Police. The problem is how the Police act in order to look for those who have stolen the fencing.

At 12.42 hours, the Assembly was suspended for one hour.

On resuming at 13.45 hours, with the Chairperson in the Chair.

Mr. Chairperson: Before proceeding with the questions, I would like to express my deepest sympathy to Commissioner Valimamode and his family for the passing away of this brother.

NAMES OF OFFICERS – GRADE OF ACTING DEPARTMENTAL HEAD/DEPARTMENTAL HEAD – VEHICLE ATTACHED

(No. B/66) **Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth and others whether, in regard to higher officers in the grade of Acting Departmental Head/Departmental Head, she will, for the benefit of the House, state the names of officers where government vehicle is attached to his/her personal service?

The Commissioner responsible for Youth and others (Ms R. D. L. Edouard): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in regards to higher officers in the grade of Acting Departmental Head/Departmental Head, there are no officers at my Commission where government vehicle is attached to his/her personal service.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is surprising to note that the Commissioner is stating that the Acting Departmental Head is not using the office vehicle but in many occasions we have seen the officer named here travelling in 16RRA0806.

Ms. R. D. L. Edouard: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, having a car attached to an officer would mean that the car is exclusively at the disposal of the said officer. Then I wish to add further according to the logbooks all the vehicles posted at the Commission undertake the itinerary scheduled by the officer responsible for transport, which include official visits and attending meetings by the Acting Departmental Head, but there is definitely no itinerary specific to the Acting Departmental Head as such. Of course, at times when the Acting Departmental Head is working at odd hours, public holidays and attending official meetings ending at times when public transport is no longer available arrangements are made by the officer responsible for transport to have her conveyed accordingly.

I wish to point out to the House that when one Advisor of the former government has his licence suspended last year he did arrange himself to have a government vehicle attached to his personal service while he was still drawing his travelling allowance. The car was even used for the then Advisor to go and fix bunting at sites where his political party held meetings. There are many other examples, which could be cited whereby government vehicles have been misused when the actual opposition was in power.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner is mentioning about overtime. She is mentioning that the Acting Departmental Head is performing overtime. We have seen that vehicle coming to take the officer at 4.00 o'clock near Alfred North Coombes Building to her house. How is it?

Ms. R. D. L. Edouard: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to tell you as I said earlier that according to log books all the vehicles posted at the Commission undertakes the itinerary scheduled by the officer responsible for transport which includes the official visits and attending meetings by the Acting Departmental Head. I repeat there is definitely no itinerary specific to the Acting Departmental Head as such.

RETAINING WALL – RIVIERE ANSE AUX ANGLAIS/ROSEAUX

(No. B/67) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regards to the construction of retaining wall in Rivière Anse Aux Anglais/Roseaux, he will inform the House why the work has stopped.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the rehabilitation of river at Anse aux Anglais started in October 2011 upon a decision of the previous Executive Council. The project is being executed partly in house by the labour force of the Agricultural Services for the construction of 1350 metres

retaining walls and partly AJ Maurel Mauritius Ltd. to which a works order has been awarded under the rate contract on 04 October 2011 to the tune of Rs 2,065, 342 for the construction of a tribble box convert across the river. I am informed that due to lack of labour at the Agricultural Services since the first week of March this year, the team of workers posted to the project had to move to execute other priority tasks such as the completion of the water harvesting structure at Baie Topaze. Unfortunately, the latter project has been on negative remarks from the ... which conduct it under the Decentralized Cooperation Program. The project was left in an abandon and uncompleted state by the previous regime. Once the urgent tasks are completed, the rehabilitation works along the river of Anse aux Anglais will resume.

**DEAD ANIMALS CORPSE – WATER COMPOUND
– COMMISSION FOR AGRICULTURE**

(No. B/68) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the water compound structure found in the compound of the Commission for Agriculture at Citronelle, he will, for the benefit of the House, state whether there has been any dead animals corpse reported or found there?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that since its completion in 2010 dead bodies of animals have been removed on various occasions from the water harvesting structure situated at Citronelle. In spite of installation of a fence around this perimeter the problem of drowning of animals was persisting. At the beginning of last month, the corpse of a dog was removed from the water harvesting structure and sometime later, the dead body of a cat was also removed from the same structure. A few gaps left in the fence of the water structure will be closed to prevent animals from having access to it.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten the House about the causes of the death of these animals.

The Chief Commissioner: Ils se sont noyés. Ils sont entrés dans le dam et ne pouvaient pas s'en sortir et avec le temps ils meurent.

RENOVATION - SYNTHETIC TRACK - CAMP DU ROI STADIUM

(No. B/69) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Sports and Others 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.

The Commissioner responsible for Sports and Others (Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with your permission I will brief the House of the history of Camp du Roi Stadium: -

- (i) The stadium was built in the 1980s with debris and marine sands with local expertise.
- (ii) In 1998, a synthetic track was laid which since then has reached an advanced state of degradation before its ten years guarantee period.
- (iii) The issue of renovation of existing worn out synthetic track was first raised during a visit of a delegation of the Ministry of Youth and Sports led by the Minister from 20 to 22 March 2010.
- (iv) A delegation comprising of two officers from the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Principal Engineer (from the Ministry of Public Infrastructure visited Rodrigues from 30 April to 02 May 2010. It was agreed that the project would be funded by the Ministry of Youth and Sports under the Loto Fund.
- (v) From 27 to 29 August 2010 a delegation led by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports accompanied with technician of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure undertook a mission and make the following findings/recommendations: -
 - That the existing athletic track does not meet the required IAAF (International Association of Athletic Federation) standard and cannot be homologated to international norms.
 - That the eight lanes running track be redesigned to meet the requirement of international norms (that is, a new straight track of 120 metres compared to the existing 78.625 metres).
 - That a new curve track of radius 35.014 metres be redesigned compared to the existing radius of 39.48 metres.
 - That the track be re-positioned within boundary limits.
 - That a new football ground of 110m x 60m with a reserve of 5m around the pitch be re-designed.
 - That the entrance gate on the northern side be pulled down as it impedes over the track area.

- (vi) The Ministry of Youth and Sports therefore entrusted the defining of scope of works to the Consultant Mr. S. Fatadin who made the following recommendations: -
- The repair and upgrading of the whole track so as to meet international norms will require the intervention of a technician specialized in the field of sports surfacing to undertake the following works:-
 - (1) Demarcate the zones requiring repairs
 - (2) Use of mechanical equipment to remove the existing layer of non-sticking synthetic surface in areas highlighted above.
 - (3) Complete wash out of tarmac areas, where synthetic surface will be removed, with high pressure washing equipment.
 - (4) Complete wash out of whole synthetic track, where topping of 4/5 mm will be applied, with high pressure washing equipment.
 - (5) Shipping to the site of synthetic raw materials, aluminium curbing and other equipments highlighted above.
 - (6) Re-application of a topping of 4/5 mm thick of impermeable synthetic surface (Full PU System) over the whole track.
 - (7) Intervention of an expert technician specialized in athletics line markings for re-implanting of same and other markings such as hurdles positioning lines relay zones etc....
 - (8) Supply of homologation documents from same expert technician for:-
 - Level of track
 - Certificate of measurements
 - Plan of line markings
 - Warming up track to be provided

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Acting Principal Architect, Mrs. Callychurn fielded a mission to Rodrigues from 18 to 20 January 2012. On 29 February she submitted the layout plans for renovation works of the synthetic track and informed that the absence of proper drainage system (French drains) at the football ground of Camp du Roi stadium may adversely affect the upgrading of the synthetic track. She recommended that the upgrading works should include a complete drainage system comprising the storm drains for the tract and French drains for the football ground.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in my capacity of newly appointed Commissioner of Sports, I accompanied the Chief Commissioner on mission to Mauritius during which a meeting was held in the office of the Hon. Minister of Youth and Sports on 28 February 2012. Amongst others, the renovation of Camp du Roi Stadium was discussed and the Ministry of Sports technicians were requested to speed up matters. Immediately a delegation from the Ministry fielded a mission from 28 to 31 March 2012 and several meetings were held to finalize the works to be carried out.

I went on another mission to Mauritius in the context of Jeux de L'Espoir from 10 to 14 April 2012 and again another meeting was held at the Ministry of Youth and Sports where matters were finalized concerning the resurfacing of the track and "drain" works to be carried out. The Acting Principal Architect was requested to submit the cost estimate of the project.

In a letter dated 25 April 2012, the Acting Principal Architect submitted the revised Preliminary cost estimate of the project as at April 2012 estimated at more than Rs 36.5 m.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, the Ministry for Youth and Sports will secure funding for works pertaining to resurfacing of the synthetic track estimated at Rs 29.3 m.

Other civil works related to:

- (i) construction of soak away, main hole, storm drain and French drain; and
- (ii) construction of pond, relocation of hammer cage and sand through

will be financed by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to an estimated cost of Rs 7.2 m.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are now awaiting the final and official scope of work from the Ministry of Public Infrastructure to start procurement procedures.

CONSTRUCTION – TRACK ROADS/FOOTPATHS

(No. B/70) Mrs. J. Ravina (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to the construction of track roads/footpaths in Rodrigues for the current financial year, 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 region?

The Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the construction of track roads/footpaths in Rodrigues I am informed that the tender document was launched on 24 November 2011 with closing date on Tuesday 17 January 2012. The contract has been awarded to Luchmunbhai & Co. Ltd. Mauritius for the amount of Rs 24,575,592.58 inclusive of VAT on the 26 March 2012.

As regards to part (c) of the question in view of the budget construct a first recorder was issued on the 26 June 2012 estimated cost of about Rs 3,753,566.65 inclusive of VAT as per priority list of beneficiaries which has been identifies. I am hereby tabling the list. **(Appendix III)**

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the tender was launched on 24 November 2011, that is, by this former government. The tender was closed on 17 January 2012 and it is only in June that it has been able to issue a work order. Can we know what has happened, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? Why there has been such a delay in the issuing of the work order?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, before issuing the first priority list we have examined the situation well and out Rs 25 m., which was earmarked, for the track roads there has been expenses and reallocation of works as at 30 June 2012. A payment of Rs 3,517,243 has been paid for track roads. Last certificate and retention money for completion projects – Rs 8,700,000. Reallocation for patching of roads around the island – Rs 1,619,705. Reallocation for bus shelters – Rs 700,000. Purchased of a road-marking machine – Rs 500,000. Minor works – Rs 450,000. Supply for purchased of pipes – Rs 2 m. The remaining balance for construction of tract roads was therefore – Rs 7,513,052. We have well thought before the issuing of the first work order and this for the reasons I mentioned.

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it cannot take so many months to decide to see which money to be reallocated to which project. It is a question of will and of a few days to do it but one thing, I would like to draw the attention of the Commissioner in the list he has been talking. Do you know how many track roads have been constructed, Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

Mr. Chairperson: Come to the question.

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: I am coming. I ask you a question. Only 11, Mr. Chairperson, Sir! He has taken months to finalise on only 11 and one of which from Grenade to field. I cannot understand. Are there families there? I know we have thefield, it has to be Is this according to you a priority? He has been talking about priorities.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. It is our government. It is our priority to do a piece of track road to the ... fields because there may be caused of accident there.

OBJECTIVES/OUTCOME

– “LE SALON DE LA FORMATION ET DES METIERS”

(No. B/71) Ms. M. D. S. Perrine (Ninth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Training and Others whether, in regard to the first edition of “*Le Salon de la Formation et des Metiers*” organized in May 2012, she will, for the benefit of the House, state the main objectives and the outcome thereof?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have the pleasure to inform the House that my Commission has organized a first edition of “*Le Salon de la Formation et des Métiers*” on the 24, 25 and 26 of May 2012 at the “Le Chou Multipurpose Training Centre”.

The aim of the fair was to provide students out of schools youths and job seekers with necessary information on study opportunities as well as promoting an entrepreneurial culture among youths in Rodrigues. For the first edition, my Commission has decided to lay emphasis on vocational and technical training, that is, an instrument for job creation. Some 50 exhibitors have participated in the fair among which training institutions from Mauritius and Rodrigues, entrepreneurs in the field of agriculture and farming, agro processing, repairs and maintenance, apiculture and handicraft and specialized institutions offering advice on entrepreneurship development and study opportunities.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the outcome of the activity is as follows:-

- Les jeunes étaient émerveillés de découvrir les différents métiers existant à Rodrigues.
- Les entrepreneurs ont chaleureusement remercient la commission pour cette belle initiative qui a permit au grand publique de découvrir leurs produits et de mettre en valeurs leurs travaux.
- Students have been able to discover the different income generating activities that exist in Rodrigues and meet representatives of training institutions to discuss about the future study plan.
- Entrepreneurs have been able to show case their products and established fruitful contacts with potential clients.
- The activity was such a success that the visitors and exhibitors who have participated in the fair has requested that the activity become an annual event.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what is the follow up following the organization of the “*Salon de la Formation et des Métiers*” as I must tell the Deputy Chief Commissioner may be she can enquire with the Mauritius Shipping Co. Ltd. the boat that is leaving Rodrigues for Mauritius now are full of students going for Mauritius by boat. They are going some of them with Rs 10,000 some with Rs 50,000 for a whole course of study for may be three years or four years. Whether she is aware of this and what is being done to help these students.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are well aware that students are going to Mauritius and this is very good because they want to study further. “*Le Salon de la Formation et des Métiers*” is one of the initiatives of the Commission, which in the long run will help to inculcate in the Rodriguans citizens, students an entrepreneurial culture, and after the salon, we have been meeting all the persons who have been participating in the salon where we have had debriefings. We have seen that it has been fruitful. We have seen that we have had recommendations following the debate we organized at *Centre de Loisir de Mon Plaisir* regarding effectively the entrepreneurial culture in our students. This is only one step and we are contemplating ways and means to try *d’encadrer les jeunes dans leurs formations et surtout aussi on a pu commencer à établir des contacts pour permettre à nos jeunes d’avoir des formations dans des enterprises à Maurice. Mais il faudrait qu’on définisse ensemble avec des entreprises comment aller*

dans ce sens et comment établir un contrat dans lequel ces jeunes vont pouvoir apprendre et étudier et en même temps avoir le contact avec le travail.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the question has not been answered. My question is that the *Salon de la Formation et des Métiers* creates a desire in students and they want to go but they do not have the means, the money to go. They have to go by boats, which is not good. Why not, for example, introduce measures to pay air tickets of students and to help students with a financial stipend, for example, the former regional government under my direction we introduce, for example, scholarship. Needy students they have access to Rs 3000, for example. Have these measure today still in place and, if yes what is being done to explain to students, to sensitize students on different means, which are available. Because I have met, some students and they tell me they do not know whom to go and see at Malabar. There is nobody there to help them and direct them.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, on doit dire qu'on continue d'encadrer les jeunes. D'ailleurs dans notre programme électorale on met beaucoup d'emphase la dessus pour l'encadrement des jeunes pour leurs études universitaire. Cependant je dois informer la Chambre que effectivement on va continuer d'encadrer les jeunes à travers le stipend de Rs 3000 mais on a remarqué que déjà que le programme avait été mal ficeler. Quand il avait mit le budget il croyait que c'était sur une année seulement et finalement les jeunes qui vont étudier pendant trois année et la on a vu qu'il y a un short fall pour Rs 2 m. pour jusqu'à la fin de décembre. Cela veut dire que déjà il nous manque de l'argent mais on va essayer de voir comment réallouer parce que nous croyons que les jeunes aient la formation qu'il faut pour avoir un travail. Donc on va continuer à les encadrer et on va aussi mettre d'autre mesure pour les inciter. Mais la pratique courante c'est que les jeunes ils ont leurs admission à l'université il part à l'université, ils font leurs applications et *it is on process they will get the money those who are eligible.*

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me one last question. The problem is that, I repeat myself, that the students they do not know to whom to address themselves to get scholarship, to get such and such facilities. May I propose to the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Commissioner for Training that she produces a sort of booklet, which can explain in one document how to proceed. What are the eligibility criteria and how you should proceed if you want to have help from the Regional Assembly and the Regional Assembly itself has a website, whether she can consider producing this booklet and putting everything on the website?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, je ne sais pas qui le *respected Member has met*. En fait ce qu'on a fait une de nos première

rencontre qu'on a fait au début de l'année quand on a prit le pouvoir c'est de rencontrer tous les *ex-HSC students who would like to go to the universities to explain to them the different facilities of the Commission offered and still they can come at the Human Resource Centre and obtain information. This is an ongoing process. Sometimes the parents come and their demands are addressed.*

Mr. J. Roussety: What about the different financial assistances, which were given to students? I am aware there were students loans at the empowerment programme formerly Trust Fund and I met one person again and this person has gone there to ask whether they are eligible and they said this does no longer exist. You see there is a sort of situation where the students he wants to study, his parents are prepared to make some sacrifice but they need assistance. Here we see, for example, the empowerment programme or other banks schemes, which were announced – it is very cozy when they announced different schemes but when people come to them for the scheme it seems that nobody knows. Can you please, Mrs. Deputy Chief Commissioner enquire about this issue of financial assistance, which was given. Loan to students, which were reimbursed when they start working. I think it was from the Trust Fund now it is the Empowerment Programme for Rodriguans students because it seems that for some of them, which I have met there, is no issue and these students they have very good results and very good object aims.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je dois informer que personnellement moi j'ai eu des contacts avec des banquiers justement parce qu'il y a des *schemes* qui sont annoncés au niveau national ou les jeunes peuvent emprunter au niveau des banques commercial et d'autres institutions comme la Banque de Développement pour leur étude et suite à notre conversations les jeunes ont été référés dans ces institutions et ont n'a pas eu des jeunes qui sont retournés vers nous cela veut dire que les jeunes ils ont été satisfaits de ce qu'on leur a dit. Mais s'il y a des problèmes j'essaierai de m'enquérir.

UPGRADING OF ROAD – COOPERATIVE TO PORT SUD EST

(No. B/72) Ms. M. D. S. Perrine (Ninth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to the upgrading of road from Cooperative to Port Sud Est, he will inform the House about:-

- (i) The scope of works and its costs; and
- (ii) If there is any delay in the completion of the work, and, if so, the reasons thereof.

The Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the alignment for 3 kms of roads from Cooperatives towards Port Sud Est was awarded on 20 October 2011 by the former Regional Government. The scope of works consist of earth works for visibility, realignment of curves, masonry works supply, based and compact bituminous base and wearing course. Supply and fixing of ward rails and chain-link fencing and cleaning our pen drains. The cost of the project is Rs 3,299,300 excluding of VAT. The expected date of completion was 25 February 2012 with effect from 25 October 2011. The work has reached 95% of completion and is to be completed in one-week time. It appears that the project cost has been underestimated. The wearing cost of the road from Cooperatives to Port Sud Est will be effected at a second stage in view of the financial constraints have been laid on security aspect. The delay of the work is a cause of bad weather according to the contractor but the overrun will be assessed at the completion by the Commission in line with the different conditions of the contract and liquidated damage will be applied.

Mr. J. Roussety: Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given we are speaking of upgrading of roads, I know it is on the portion of Cooperatives to Port Sud Est whether there is any forthcoming projects coming this year?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Can the respected member convey a substantive question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. It does not relate to this question.

SLAUGHTER HOUSE PROJECT – SCALING DOWN - IMPLICATION

(No. B/73) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (Third Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the proposed scaling down of the slaughter house project, if any, he will inform the House, taking into consideration that the initial project aimed at the export of Rodriguan livestock products in the region and the emerging upmarkets, if a study has been carried out on the implication thereof and, if so to give details thereto?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there will be no scaling down of the slaughterhouse as upon our assumption of office in February 2012 a contract for this construction has already been awarded by the outgoing government. However, it is to be deplored that the project has been implemented without any proper feasibility study. The project was initially designed for implementation of two phases.

- Phase I, comprising interalia of the construction of a pig slaughter section, a goat and sheep slaughter section, ancillary facilities and an administrative block.
- Phase II, comprising mainly the construction of a beef slaughtering hall and holding pen for beef. For Phase I the contract has been awarded to Como Ltd. in January 2012 for the cost of Rs 56,512,885 and the estimated cost for the Phase II was Rs 15,127,008. Over and above the construction, cost equipments and furniture have been estimated at Rs 30 m. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I chaired a high-level committee on 19 April 2012 in the presence of the consultant to study the possibility of optimizing the space available in the building under construction. Following the said meeting the consultant proposed modification to the initial project designed as follows:-
 - (1) The pig slaughter hall has been modified to include a cut and wrap section;
 - (2) The sheep and goat slaughter hall has been modified to include a cattle slaughter section. For unknown reasons no provision was made for the slaughter of cattle in the building under construction.

With the above modification, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the final construction cost is now Rs 62,552,375, that is, an increase of Rs 6,339,490. However, there will be overall saving of about Rs 8,787,518 as the second phase of the project will be no longer required.

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner has been talking of feasibility study. There has been a feasibility study. We had the help of a technical assistance of authorities in Reunion Island. By so doing, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we wanted to give this project, to build the slaughterhouse according to EU norms. According to the answer of the Chief Commissioner, the slaughterhouse is no longer according to EU norms. Therefore, we cannot export meat to Reunion Island and to other countries. Why is it not now according to EU norms? Who will manage this slaughterhouse? The Chief Commissioner has been talking about saving.

The Chief Commissioner: Has there been any study for the exportation of meat from Rodrigues? How? We will find out in their files whether there has been any study. When we look about the information, we have slaughtering capacity for pig, 30 heads per hour. Sheeps and goats, 10 heads per hour. This

is for everyday. Beef, two to three heads per hour. Has there any made before going ahead with the slaughter house to know exactly how many cattles we have in Rodrigues, how many pigs, goats, sheeps. Have there been any study made in order to build a slaughter house, even if you want under European norms, to build a slaughter house according to European norms and to export, how to export, by what means to export. This has to be study. We are not saying that we are not going ahead we will see in the future when we start whether in the future and when we say that the equipments to be installed there it is Rs 30 m. The Food Security has only given Rs 20 m. We have to look for money to complete the slaughterhouse and also to find out in the future how to find Rs 30 m. for the equipments. Now we have in the sum of money we have equipments for what we are going for Rodrigues slaughtering pigs, animals and cattles and everything will be plan for the future for the export of meat to Mauritius and other countries.

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that is what we did. I will invite the Chief Commissioner to talk to the architect who has been to Reunion Island. He has been visiting slaughtering there. I would like to ask him whether before modifying the whole slaughterhouse whether he has got approval from the Ministry of Agro Industry or whether any correspondence from Ministry for Agro Industry has been sent to his Commission.

The Chief Commissioner: There will be authorization from elsewhere if the project would exceed the contract of the slaughterhouse. There has not been more money on the contract. That is why we have not modified the contract we have changed inside the slaughterhouse the disposition of how to slaughter cattles, sheeps, goats and pigs.

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my question was whether being given that the money has been disbursed and the project being funded by the Food Security Fund whether before carrying any change and modifying the plan (I do not know what has happened there), whether he had the approval of the Ministry of Agro Industry and whether any correspondences have been sent to his Commission concerning same?

The Chief Commissioner: As I said on a contract of fixing Rs 56 m., the Food Security provides only Rs 20 m. There are millions of rupees we had to put from our own budget to finance the slaughterhouse.

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether the Permanent Secretary has request the copy of all the documents relating to the contract. Whether he has received any correspondences concerning same in his Commission.

Mr. Chairperson: You want to say the Permanent Secretary.

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: Yes, Ministry of Agro Industry.

The Chief Commissioner: They will come in a few days so they will find out.

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling a letter. A letter coming from the Permanent Secretary, construction of ... of the house at Baie Diamant. They are asking for the complete set of relevant documents concerning this project. How is it that you come here and tell me that there has is no correspondence and that they will come. **(Appendix IV)**

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: This is an official document, which should not have gone out from any file.

Mr. Chairperson: We have 12 minutes for question times.

“RODRIGUS ILE ECOLOGIQUE” – ACTIONS TAKEN

(No. B/74) Mr. J. S. Swee (Seventh Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Environment and Others whether, in regard to his vision “Rodrigues Ile Ecologique”, he will inform the House about the actions that his Commission is taking to achieve same?

The Commissioner responsible for Environment and Others (Mr. R. Payendee): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, one of the peak priorities of this government is to make Rodrigues an ecological island with sustainable development in line with the Maurice Ile Durable project. Ecological island means management of the eco systems of Rodrigues in a sustainable way. We recognized that it is a very challenging project but with determination, hard work, the collaboration of stakeholders and the population at large we strongly believe that the objectives will be achieved.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since assuming duty in February this year my Commission has taken a number of measures in view of making Rodrigues an ecological island. The shredder, which was lying idle at Citronelle, is now being fully used to shred green wastes. The materials are provided to farmers to be used as compost to promote organic agriculture. We are working in collaboration with local entrepreneurs for the compacting of aluminum cans and

plastic bottles to be shift to Mauritius for recycling. Action are being initiated so as to ban plastic bags and encourage the population to use substitute such as “*tante vacoas, cornet papier*” etc. We are requesting firms to provide all unused wheels, to road builders such as Colas Maurice Ltd. to be used in building terraces to prevent soil erosion rather than being dump at Montagne Plate and Roche Bon Dieu dumping sites. We are working with local entrepreneurs for the collection of glass bottles to return to Mauritius for recycling. Cleaning campaigns at village levels have already been started at Grand Baie, Petit Gabriel, Petite Butte, Dans Bébé, Roche Bon Dieu and will be extended to other villages. Our aim is to clean all the villages in Rodrigues. In view of minimizing import of pack fruits and drinks, we are promoting the use local fruits and drinks. This is already a common practice in all the Commissions of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, some additional measures as spelt out in our electoral manifesto and the discours programme will be taken during our mandate include:-

- Provision of waste sorting facilities at household level;
- Decommissioning and rehabilitation of the existing Roche Bon Dieu dumping site;
- Extensive sensitization campaigns on good environmental practices;
- Strict enforcement of existing legislation to control littering and illegal dumping;
- A proper waste water management plan;
- Development of renewable energy, such as, solar, wind and wave energy;
- Regulations to control coastal development;
- Constant monitoring of coastal erosion;
- A feasibility study for the sustainability of the actual stock lagoonal sand and potential alternatives;
- Institutional set up for implanting and observing climate change issues and natural disasters;
- Eradication of *piquant loulou*, *acacias lilotica* and replace by useful trees, such as, fruits trees, meliphorous trees, endogenous endemic species;
- Natural biodiversity conservation at terrestrial and marine level as well, example, coral farming, octopus closed season, which is coming and agricultural biodiversity conservation, such as, *ti piment Rodrigues*, *to onions*, *zaricots*, *maïs* etc.;

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, waste segregation, recycling in all schools and colleges will be launched shortly. The project is an initiative of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in Mauritius. Composts and waste segregating bins have already been shift to Rodrigues. Paper, plastic and wheel wastes will be sorted accordingly. All paper generated will be exported to Mauritius for recycling. Provision has been made for the eco-villages project to three villages, Rivière Coco, Port Sud Est and Mourouck. Training of stakeholders involving oil spill combat and review of Rodrigues oil spill contingency plan, that is, better preparedness to oil spill.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, all these measures will not be possible without the collaboration of all people living on this little paradise. This is why we will communicate fully with the local population and will include them in all aspects of our mission to make Rodrigues an ecological island.

Mr. Chairperson: There is only five minutes for question time.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to Rodrigues Ile écologique *ramassage des bouteilles en verre, j'ai écouté la radio et j'ai entendu la commission parlait de* there are private phone numbers relating to *ramassage des bouteilles en verre*. Will the Commissioner state whether at his Commission there are private cellular mobile phones?

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at my Commission there is no private phones but as we said, we work in collaboration with the public. These people who are willing to take all these bottles to Mauritius they go through our Commission. Of course, the fact that there is only one person, for the time being, who is doing this job, we have given his number so that people can either contact him directly if they have got lots of bottles or they can go through the Commission.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the announcement being paid by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Mr. R. Payendee: It does not matter who is paying for this announcement. What matters is most importantly these bottles have to leave this island. This is the objective of the Commission.

UPGRADING – RESERVOIR AT LE CHOU

(No. B/75) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water and Others

/UNREVISED/

whether, in regard to the construction pertaining to the upgrading of the reservoir at Le Chou, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) When tender was launched, the list of bidders, the amount quoted and the name of the successful bidder;
- (b) When works started and were completed; and
- (c) If there has been any delay in the completion of the project, and if so, to give the reasons thereof?

The Commissioner responsible for Water and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the tender was launched on 26 August 2011 and the list of bidders and amount quoted are as follows:-

- Aqua Co. Ltd. - Rs 10,530,205
- ADDC Co. Ltd. - Rs 13,418,171.25
- Adakalum Enterprise Ltd. - Rs 7,089,980
- Luchmun Bhai Co. Ltd. - Rs 5,510,364.33

After arithmetical during evaluation exercise Luchmun Bhai should read Rs 7,726,430 instead of Rs 5,510,364.33. Adakalum Enterprise Ltd. was Rs 7,070,430 instead of Rs 7,089,980. The successful bidder was Adakalum Enterprise Ltd.

As regards to part (b) works started on 15 November 2011 and expected completion date was 13 February 2012.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there has been delays in the completion of the work and the contractor is claiming extension time for heavy rainfall in a letter addressed to the Commission on 09 March 2012. On 15 March 2012, the contractor was requested to submit the monthly return of rainfall for the month of January to 25 February and same has not been received at the Commission for the assessment of his works. As at today the document shows that, the work has been completed. No completion certificate has been signed.

Mr. Chairperson: Question time is over.

MOTION

The Commissioner for Environment and Others (Mr. R. Payendee): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move the motion standing in my name, which reads as follows:-

“That this Assembly is of opinion that, by virtue of section 31 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001, there is passed the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Octopus Closed Season) Regulations 2012”

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I understanding that a copy of the Regulations has already been circulated to each and every Member of this House. First and foremost, I would like to refer to Sections 26 and 31 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act, which empowers this Assembly to pass Regulations.

... be responsible for all formulations and implementation of policy in respect to matters set out in the fourth schedule of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the fisheries sector under which the Regulations purpose is an area of responsibility listed in the mentioned fourth schedule.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since the coming in power of this government last February 2012 we said that we want Rodrigues to become an ecological island which include a sound management of marine eco-system. Everyone in this House is fully aware that octopus is a very important marine resource in Rodrigues for the following reasons:-

- Fishing octopus has always been an important economic activity for hundred of fishermen/fisherwomen in Rodrigues;
- Octopus is highly used in the Rodriguan cuisines, restaurants, hotels etc. and apart from *curry and salad ourites* our traditional way of cooking ourites has evolved. Different new recipes is added to the list like *piment ourites, ourites safrané, gratin ourites* etc.;
- Octopus from Rodrigues is highly appreciated by the people living in Mauritius and a lot of it is being exported;
- Octopus is considered to be part and parcel of our culture.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the respected Members are fully aware of the peculiar situation of our lagoon. There is not a single day that goes by when fishermen/fisherwomen stopped complaining about the rarity of octopus. Recent scientific research and monitoring in Rodrigues regarding octopus, stock assessment with a view to determining total annual change in local production led by the Fisheries Research Training Unit (FRTU) funded by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly during the period 1994 to 2008. It concerns all the 23 fish landing stations around Rodrigues. The result has shown a drastic decline in

octopus catch from 800 tons per year 1994 to an estimated 200 tons per year in 2012. It is a decrease of up to 400%, which is not good.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if no option is taken now there is more than 30% of probability of complete extinction of the octopus by the year 2015. This would be a real tragedy if we allow such a state of things to happen. The future generation might well face a situation they will not even know what octopus is all about. In Creole, we say "*ou trouve zis dan foto*". Let me please remind the House what have been the fate of the Dodo in Mauritius and the Solitaire in Rodrigues. Surely, we do not want this to happen here to our local octopus. There has been even more studies carried out with regard to in-depth octopus population dynamics, that is, about their sex and weights. The objectives were to determine when female migration occurs and juvenile recruit into the lagoon as well as their growth rate and catch per unit effort.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this government did not sleep and the next morning decided to come with such a Regulations. It is the result of various studies done by different stakeholders here in Rodrigues and I am thankful to them.

A first project was funded by the Decentralized Cooperation Program (DCP) and the RICOMAP during the period 2008 to 2012. It was led by Shoals Rodrigues and concerned six (6) fish landing stations. Those of Rivière Banane, Pointe Monier, Baie du Nord, Pointe ..., Port Sud Est and Gravières.

A second project was funded by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly itself, UNDP, GEF during the period 2010/2012. It was led by the SEMPA and concerned eight (8) fish landing stations. It was at Dans Coco, Petite Butte, Ile Michel, Rivière Coco, Tamarin, Anse Baleine, Songes and Mourouck.

The result showed that in Rodrigues around 87% of female octopuses are caught before they had the chance to reproduce. This is inadmissible. Adult female octopuses migrate to off lagoon to lay eggs during the winter season, that is, between normally August and beginning of October. Juvenile octopus recruit in the lagoon as the water begins to warm in summer and if given the chance to its maturity and reproduce octopuses can recover rapidly.

Another study concerning the genetic study of octopus in the south west Indian Ocean region funded by RICOMAP in 2001 led by Shoals Rodrigues and which concerned two (2) fish landing stations, Pointe Monier and Port Sud Est revealed the following:-

- Rodrigues has only one single octopus *Cyanea* population that is genetically similar;

- Rodrigues stock diverges genetically from other regional octopus stock and if the octopus stock continues to decline Rodrigues will lose the species of octopus for good before the end of this decade.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the light of what has been said earlier. What is the way forward? The House would be glad to note that female octopus reproduce only once in their lifetime before dying. The great philosopher Harris Turtle rightly said: *“either we adapt or we perish”*. Today the situation in Rodrigues is an alarming one. Either we let things go as they are and we fail the very soon or we decide to reengineer and to adapt to the changing circumstances.

This caring government has opted for action, which is in line with our vision. This project of temporary closure of octopus fishery started well before this new government came into power. The previous regional government talked a lot about it, organized meetings to see how it was done in Madagascar but they did not have the political guts to implement it. At least it must be recognized that this presently elected government has the political will not to let things stay loose.

This regional government has decided that as soon as the Regulations is in force which is expected for the beginning of August 2012, female octopus will get the chance to lay their eggs. It would have been great if it could start on 01 August as I proposed and for a period of two months but due to normal procedures I am afraid it will not be possible but one thing is sure is that it will be for two months as from the date the legislation comes into power. By so doing, we are not inventing the wheel we are simply following success stories of other countries which has decided to do so, doing the same things some years back, for example, Madagascar, Kenya, Tanzania and Zanzibar.

The temporary closure for a period of two months will allow the female octopus to lay their eggs. Let me inform the House that up to maximum of 500,000 eggs per female octopus normally is laid thus enable lagoon to regenerate. More eggs mean more octopus babies, which in turn will grow up. Those who are small will during the two months closure period, become big. Those fishers can catch octopus of bigger size and hence have a bigger market value for their products.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, many people who are concerned with octopus fishing have asked a series of questions namely, what will happen to these fishermen during these two months? Indeed, this government has not left any stone unturned. Octopus fishermen/fisherwomen will be given the chance

to work against payment for the time they will not be allowed to fish octopus. It has to be noted that after these two months the fishermen will get more revenue for longer period of time. Is this time frame to implement this project enough? It is true that we could have given more time before coming with this Regulations. There is a very important for that. Asking fishermen not to fish octopus for two months implies very important economic and social issues. We have contacted different funded agencies to help with alternative livelihood but they have said that they can help this year only due to their budget. My Commission has to seize the occasion and I apologies for any inconveniences caused. Like the song, itself said: "*it is now or never*". Does the fishermen community understand why this is being done? The fishermen community themselves during meetings with Shoals, SEMPA and FRTU a long ago have expressed their worries regarding their decrease in catch per head over the years and were in favour of such action. Even though my Commission in collaboration with different non-governmental organizations concerned have embarked themselves in a thorough series of sensitization campaigns throughout the whole island to *justement dissiper tout malentendu*.

This Regulation is for the sole benefit of the fishermen and all the other stakeholders in value change of octopus fishery. The octopus will still be there in a greater quantity and bigger sizes.

To ensure the protection of octopus during these two months, all Enforcement Officers will be mobilized to make sure the legislation is dully enforced. It is the time for unsubordinated officers to prove themselves. Apart from that some responsible fishermen in different regions will given the task of going at sea to make sure that the law is respected because in any way if it is not respected they will be the one to lose at the reopening of the season. In addition, the attention of all people over the world will be on us for these two months. We do not have the right to fail. This is why I am asking everybody, all the users of the sea, Enforcement Officers and the general public at large to cooperate with my Commission to make this project work.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this Regulations will help to safeguard of the professional octopus fisher, to prevent octopus from becoming like our Solitaire, to increase the production as well as sizes of octopus being caught, to sell Rodrigues as an ecological island, an ecological tourists attraction on the international market. No magic can be done to remedy the situation. The only way is through this action, which I want all of us in this House today to support and approve for the benefit of the island. We will all learn a lot from this Regulation and same can then be applied to other species in the future.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to get a clearer picture on the octopus closed season, which is being proposed which just need to go back in time. Just imagined no one got the idea and the gut to close net fishing during the period that fish lay their eggs. How will it be today? Our lagoon would have become like a desert. This Regulation is in line of course with the closure of net fishing.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let us like true patriot seize this golden opportunity and give the chance to our lagoon to regenerate. Let us not be selfish by looking at our political implication to the project. The objectives of my Commission are not to complete a single destination but rather embark itself on an everlasting journey. Therefore, a change in our mindset is the most important thing that should happen. As from now if we love this island, let me share a dream with you, I am in love with this island and everyday my love for it keeps increasing and I will do anything to protect it. I deeply hope that this is contagious, that those who think differently get infested today with this passion and love for this island. Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with these words I command the motion to the House.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, first of all I am of the view that the motion in the Order Paper should have been reworked out by replacing instead of section 31 only section 26 (1), 31 and item 16 of the fourth schedule of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. If we do not that, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the motion will not go further, the motion will lapse.

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: I give my ruling please. This has been the practice and I rule this motion is all right. Just have a look at other Order Paper.

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: I suspend the Assembly for five minutes.

At 15.00 hours, the Assembly was suspended.

On resuming at 15.05, with the Chairperson in the Chair.

Mr. Chairperson: My rule is that the motion is okay. Therefore, we can carry the motion because section 31 covers section 36 and it has been done in the past.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: M. le président, merci de m'avoir accordé l'occasion de m'adresser à cette assemblée sur ce règlement. Pour moi ce n'est pas un règlement qui nous inspire et qui va résoudre le problème de surexploitation de la pêche d'ourites. C'est un travail bâclé et manque du sérieux. Il y a une incohérence avec le règlement que nous allons voter aujourd'hui pour interdire la pêche d'ourites le 1^{er} aout 2012. Le Commissaire de la Pêche à sa descente d'avion a dit haut et fort sur l'antenne de la locale et nationale qu'il a déjà prit la décision pour clôturer la pêche pour deux mois à partir du 1^{er} aout 2012. Je me suis posé la question, M. le président, comment est-ce possible ? Au moins le commissaire aurait du avoir l'audace d'inclure dans ce règlement le *commencement date*, c'est-à-dire, il aurait du inclure *a commencement date*, le 1^{er} aout 2012. Il n'a pas osé le faire.

M. le président, je vois que le commissaire c'est rendu compte de ces bêtises vue qu'il a enduit la population en erreur et pour cela il doit des excuses. En parlant de ce règlement le commissaire est en train de nous lancer un SOS, *dans la langue maritime on dit « Médé Médé »*. Toute en croyant qu'il y est eu une panne de moteur en y accostant on a vue qu'il a prit la décision « *tire mangé dans la bouche de 2500 pêcheurs non-professionnelle* » aussi bien que les artisans et les revendeurs d'ourites le 1^{er} aout 2012. Il est en train de nous forcer à donner notre accord pour un tel acte. Au moment de voter je demanderai la *division of vote*. J'ai ce sentiment que nous sommes obligés de dire oui sinon, M. le président, « *to dire oui to dire non, le commissaire ira de l'avant avec ou sans nous* » car sa décision était déjà prise. Il a prit même ces collègues par surprise. Il a organisé une conférence de presse le mardi 28 juin 2012 sur l'implémentation de la fermeture saisonnière de la pêche d'ourites. Toutefois ce n'est que vendredi dernier que le Conseil a prit connaissance du contenu. Comment expliquez-vous, M. le président, que des Advisers grâcement payer par l'Assemblée Régionale avec logement, billet d'avion, transport on pu venir devant notre Assemblée présentait un telle règlement. Je pense qu'un telle Adviser mérite d'être blâmer. Pour qui on nous prend ? Après dix ans de l'autonomie au lieu que nous progressons on donne l'impression qu'on est en train de régresser. Jamais au grand jamais, M. le président, dans le passé un tel papier aurait pu atterrir sur la table de cette assemblée. Regardez cela un cout ! Deux pages ! A ma connaissance c'est le plus mauvais règlement qu'on a vu à ce jour. Le Chef commissaire disait sur les ondes de la radio qu'on a besoin de professionnel et non des amateurs pour développer notre île. Ne voyez-vous pas, M. le Chef commissaire que c'est un travail bâcler, non professionnel, qui

ne fait pas honneur à notre assemblée. Je veux revenir en détail dans quelques instant, M. le président, sur le manquement de ce règlement point par point.

Permettez-moi, M. le président, de parler au non des aspirations et des interrogations des pêcheurs professionnels et non professionnels qui sont en train de poser en ce moment. Il y a consultation, à ma grande surprise jamais le Commissaire responsable de la Pêche n'a été présent aux cours de la rencontre. M. le président, c'est indéniable de relater que la mer est une de notre principale ressources naturelle. Personne ne connaît et ne finira de connaître l'immensité de trésor qui se cache dans notre fond marin. Certain le considère comme l'or bleu d'autre notre maman nourricière et tant d'autres noms encore pour qualifier son importance dans la vie économique d'un pays. A Rodrigues nous avons la chance d'avoir un aussi immense lagon sans oublier notre zone et exclusive maritime de 200 km². Ajouter à cela la République de Maurice à travers le Premier Ministre de Maurice, le Président Seychellois ont ratifié un accord sur l'élargissement de notre territoire maritime qui sera soumis au Nation Unis sur une superficie de 396 mille km².

M. le président, venir de l'avant avec une réforme dans le secteur de la pêche à Rodrigues est fort louable car personne ne niera que la prise d'antan est différente de l'actuel. Pour le faire il faut prendre en considération l'avis des partenaires, comme des pêcheurs, le Ministère la Pêche, les Gardes Pêches, les Gardes Cotes, les consommateurs, les *banians* entre autres. En parlant de règlement concernant les activités liées à la mer il nous faut pour une fois nous mettre dans la peau d'un pêcheur. Tous les matins en se réveillant toutes ménagères se questionne de quoi cuire pour nourrir la famille. Une petite anecdote, M. le président, à Rodrigues même si toutes les freezers ménagères sont remplis de légumes, de viandes mais point de poisson, dans le jargon Rodriguais on appelle cela « *pénan cari* ». Cette tâche de trouver un *cari* et transmet indirectement aux pêcheurs. Le pêcheur a eu le message et par n'importe quel moyen même allé risquer leurs vies, le pêcheur brave le temps dès fois très tôt le matin pour remplir le panier ménager de poissons. J'ai été moi-même une fois en haute mer. Pourtant la mer n'était pas si mauvaise j'ai prié tous les Saints connues et inconnues pour pouvoir retourner à terre sain et sauf. J'ai donné le dos au vague qui défait sur la pirogue au lieu de regarder en face tellement j'avais peur, M. le président. Ceci est pour vous emmener à comprendre l'importance du métier d'un pêcheur quotidienne de Rodrigues. Toute action limitant a exercé son métier pleinement sans prendre en compte son avis profond. C'est un pas en arrière qu'on met dans démocratie participative et on est en train de jouer avec le tissu social de notre île.

Actuellement des officiers sont envoyés sur plusieurs régions de Rodrigues. Ils sont à Baie du Nord pour sensibiliser les pêcheurs d'ourites.

C'est bien ! Mais quand même j'aurais aimé voir le Conseil Exécutif descendre sur le terrain avec les officiers pour répondre aux l'interrogation des ces pêcheurs. Comment on est arrivé là jusqu'à règlementait, M. le président, la fermeture saisonnière de la pêche d'ourites. M. le président, il nous faut aussi vite que possible modifier notre manière de penser vis-à-vis de la pêche sinon toute réforme nous continuera vers un résultat médiocre. Dans le passé un pêcheur été considéré comme un chasseur de la mer mais aujourd'hui il nous faut le transformer en un apiculteur de la mer ou une cultivateur de la mer. Avant de passer un règlement je pense qu'il nous faut impérativement trouver des alternatives, par exemple, développer l'élevage des poissons en cage ou autre types d'élevage. Développer la pêche hauturière avec bateaux déjà acquis. Développer la l'aquaculture, par exemple, Barbara, cono cono et autres crustacés sinon la fraude existera et le saura pour toujours. En parlant de fraude, M. le président, cela ne m'empêche de parler de ce qui se passe actuellement dans nos lagons. Car ce sont ces hommes là qui vont aidés à implémenter ce règlement. Bien souvent la radio annonce qu'on a ramassé tant mètres de seine dans telle localité. Bravo à ces hommes qui font un bon travail. Mais le hic dedans, M. le président, à chaque fois personne n'est arrêté. La Commission en question a ouvert une enquête. On enquête toujours. Ce n'est pas fini, M. le président, ce même syndrome a atterri chez les gardes côtes. Cela est grave. Un inspecteur de la garde côtes avec son équipe a retiré la seine illégale dans une cabane de pêcheur récemment et la radio annonce que personne n'est arrêté. On a retiré la seine illégale dans une cabane de pêcheur et personne n'est arrêté !

La Commission de la pêche est à blâmer dans cette affaire car on a voulu faire un *reshufflement* dans le secteur de la pêche. Ce qui est plus dramatique, M. le président, *the commission was hop hopping with this reshufflement. I came to understand that there has been three transferred from this office. Do you know why, Mr. Chairperson, Sir?* Un premier a premier a été fait par le commissaire et un groupe de préférer et a eu la revendication de syndicalistes le 1^{er} mai de cette année, fête du travail. Je peux vous dire que tout ce chamboulement à causer beaucoup de malaise parmi les gardes pêche. Il y a deux officiers, M. le président, qui sont actuellement, comparé à d'autre gardes pêche sont obligés de rester au Headquarters, comme punition, M. le président, « *pas gagne droit kit buro* ». Le Commissaire de la Pêche à sa descente d'avion dit haut et fort sur l'antenne de la radio locale et nationale qu'il a déjà prit la décision pour clôturer la pêche pour deux mois à partir le 1^{er} aout 2012.

M. le président, pour mettre à exécution toute réforme à Rodrigues il y a des lois, une procédure qu'on doit prendre en compte comme dans le cas précis la fermeture de la pêche d'ourites. Il y a le Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act, la Fisheries Act ou toute autre acte qui vont ensemble pour appliquer un tel act

ou règlements. Franchement vous dire, M. le président, j'arrive difficilement à admettre comment le commissaire concernait va pouvoir interdire les pêcheurs d'ourites d'aller « *pique so ourite* » le 1^{er} aout pour plusieurs raisons que je énumérer. Il y a la question de timing, le financement et tant d'autres problèmes encore. Tout d'abord c'est aujourd'hui le 3 juillet, moins qu'un mois, que ce règlement est débattu dans cette assemblée bien que la date de la clôture est connue. A aucun moment dans ce règlement la date du 1^{er} aout est mentionnée. Il ne faut pas oublier que ce même règlement doit être gazetté avant de passer à l'action et je vois que le commissaire semble presser. Avant de prendre une quelconque décision qui aura un impacte sur la vie de la population cela doit être avalisé par l'Assemblée Régionale de Rodrigues ou le Conseil Exécutif. Or le commissaire a déjà prit la décision avant même d'avoir l'aveu de ces collègues. Vous savez quand il la fait, M. le président, ce n'est que vendredi dernier que le Conseil a prit connaissance de son intention. D'après mon information l'argent ont requis pour implémenter un tel projet n'est pas acquis car celui coutera la somme de Rs 30 million que pour ces deux mois pour les pêcheurs professionnelles et non professionnelles sans compter les *banians* et autres groupes y liés. Or, M. le président, dans le papier du conseil le commissaire a proposé la somme de Rs 200 à Rs 250 comme compensation et ce pour une durer varier entre 15 à 20 jours maximum. Cette mesure prendra en compte que les 541 pêcheurs d'ourites professionnelles. Qu'advient-il, M. le président, aux 2500 autres pêcheurs non professionnelles. Rien n'est proposé dans ce papier. Qu'advient-il, M. le président, aux artisans qui a un contrat pour fournir des piments d'ourites à un fournisseur à l'étranger ?

Parlant des financements de l'étranger. Mardi dernier le commissaire a convoqué tous ces officiers supérieures à venir l'encadrer l'or d'une conférence de presse pour dire qu'il a eu le soutien financier des associations de l'étranger pour mettre à exécution son projet à partir le 1^{er} aout. Or à ce jour, seulement l'organisation internationale Smart Fish a financé la somme de 30,000 Euro à ce jour. Cette somme sera transitée à travers la Commission de l'Océan Indien qui sera alloué à trois ONG, nommément, Wild Life, RCSS et Shoals of Rodrigues. Chacun aura la somme de 10,000 Euro. Ce qui me laisse comprendre que l'argent sera alloué à ces ONG et non à l'Assemblée Régionale. Il y a une coïncidence avec la date du 1^{er} aout, M. le président. Si pour trouver Rs 30 m pour implémenter la clôture de la pêche d'ourites saisonnière est possible comment expliquer vous qu'à cette date égale la fermeture de la Water Company par manque d'argent. Je suis encore estomaqué d'entendre les démarcheurs venir dire aux pêcheurs présent lors de la campagne d'explication qu'ils ne sont pas concerné par l'affaire de compensation. M. le président, je vais qualifier ce règlement d'amateurisme et *piece meal* qui contient plusieurs lacunes.

Almost everything, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, should be written in a Regulation so that in a court of justice the penalties can be sanctioned. It should be clear and not ambiguous and this is why the central government has come up with the Law Reform Commission. There should be loophole in the Regulations.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as we are dealing with Octopus Closed Season Regulations being given that we are autonomous we have the power according to Section 26(1), 31 and Item 16 of the Fourth Schedule of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001. Nothing prevents us to have the blessing of our counterpart in Mauritius. There we can obtain the advice and service of the State Law Office, Ministry of Fisheries and so on. In one way, we are fortunate that such regulation has not been to the State Law Office as I am sure it would have been returned back. So many times, we would have been blamed after ten years of autonomy we come up with such a regulations.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the regulations refer to octopus closed season and Part III – Management of Octopus Fishery relates to closed period. Which is which, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? The word-closed period should be interpreted. It should refer to the period of time. What period of time there will be a closed season/period? It is not mentioned here and the closed period also has not been interpreted in section 2 interpretation.

In the interpretation of the word, “Officer” should be interpreted as the officers who will enforce that law. We have to interpret the word officers. It means any fisheries officer and includes police officer, custom officer and even forest officer. Same for Departmental Head, the Departmental Head should include also any person deputed by him. Not only has the Departmental Head here meant the Departmental Head or the Commission responsible for the subject of fisheries. It can be included any person deputed by him. Licence, there should be lots of interpretation regarding licence also. The form of the licence.

In the arrangement of sections, the following should have been included. First of all restriction on import of octopus during closed period. This should be included in that regulation, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. There should be a restriction on import and export. There should be also the sale of octopus. I have a look at the Fisheries Act – Sale of fishing, here also we could include in this Regulation – Sale of Fish. The protection of octopus and the environment. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is important for us not only to look to the closed season only but also to look at the aspect of the environment. We have *de l’huile. Les pêcheurs se servent de l’huile. Qui va implémenter cela, M. le président ?*

« *Craze corail* » ? Rien est mentionné dans ce règlement, M. le président ? Power to search boats and vehicles. This also should be included here. The powers to search for boats and vehicles. Power of entry and search. Search warrant may be issued by the Departmental Head. Power to arrest and detain. Origin of source of octopus, fishing outside. If someone fish outside the boundary, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and come in the main land, what will they do? The seizure also, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. There must be a paragraph regarding the seizure and also the disposal of those articles seized. All these aspects should be looked into. There is nothing stated here what the officer have to do.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I stated when time will come I will move for a division of vote in order to know what we want in this House. Whether we are against or we are for. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Other Member of the minority side, please.

Mrs. J. Ravina: M. le président, en tant que femme je me sens concerné interpellé par ce règlement parce ceci implique beaucoup de femme. Je parle principalement des piqueuses d'ourites.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to intervene following the speech of Mr. Payendee, Commissioner responsible for Fisheries on the issue of Octopus Closed Season. The closure period for octopus in itself is not a bad decision but there are many issues that need to be discussed and clarified before the House goes further with this motion.

I actually have many questions and my first question is: I wonder whether an appropriate evaluative survey has been conducted to know the impact of such a decision on the economic and social life of the fishermen. Are these fishermen prepared and ready to face in such short notice for a lack/reduction of income in a period where labour is scarce? Has the Commissioner taken into consideration those fishermen who earn a living by collecting octopuses and do not possess a *carte pêcheur*? In the same line, has the Commissioner made provision to financially help those who do not possess a *carte pêcheur* and what about those in retailing? Retailing of such product, that is, the banian, for example, will they receive any financial help also? With regard to paragraph 3 section 4, beginning with "*any person who has in possession*" I want to ask do people who have in their possession derived products from octopus fall in this category because it is not mentioned. I mean those people, for example, sell *piment ourite* or *ourite en barquette*, which has been grilled. Do we therefore need to report to the Departmental Head? Again, with regard to this section, paragraph 4 where it begins with "*no persons shall export ...*"

- (i) Does the export mentioned in the said paragraph mean export of fresh, frozen and dried octopus only? What about the export of a derived product? For example, grilled octopus in barquette. Will these people need a licence too?
- (ii) Will there be enforcement officers appointed to carry out checks regarding quantity that is being exported and to check with the amount declared so that there is a consistency in what has been declared. I believe that this section is too vague and since those exporters we will be able to trade freely thus encouraging illegal fishing of octopus despite the closed season.

I would therefore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if the Commissioner can take into consideration these points before proceeding ahead with these Regulations. I, thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: The Deputy Chief Commissioner, please.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, before proceeding with my speech, I would like to congratulate the respected Member who has just made her maiden speech.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will start my intervention on this Rodrigues Regional Assembly Octopus Closed Season Regulations 2012 by a quote on environment and sustainable development, which says: *“It is only when the last tree will be cut down, the last river dried and the last fish removed from the sea that men will realize that money cannot be eaten”*. This quote testifies the essentiality of this piece of regulations which come unfortunately very lately, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, but as we always say better late than never. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is known that human has used and have an impact on marine ecosystem throughout history as human population and the economic activity increase the impact intensified. However, our awareness on the long-term effect on the marine life is relatively recent and quite incomplete. A study published and supported in the past by the Ocean Programme revealed that human activity over the centuries has depleted 90% of marine species, eliminated 65% of sea growth and ... habitat. Degraded water quality tends to 1000 fall and accelerated species in region in 12 major series and coastal seas around the world. However, it is also known that in areas where conservations have been implemented in the twentieth century signs of recovery are apparent.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in a time when we are talking about climate change, bleaching of corals we urgently need to try to mitigate human impact on the

marine ecosystem. This regulation comes at a time when our reefs are depleted and the catch of octopus is on the decrease each year. History will note that three years ago mostly in November 2009 my colleague just told this the-then Chief Commissioner led a delegation to Madagascar to assess the potential of introducing sea cucumber in Rodrigues and the benefit of introducing closed season of octopus fishing as per mentioned in the press release following the Executive Council meeting of 15 January 2010. Who will forget about the periods when our Barbara were excessively exploited and sold without taking into consideration its vital roles in our lagoons? Instead of protecting what we had they allowed same to be depleted legally by passing regulations and afterwards wanted to import same from abroad. The House will further note that one week after, that is, on 22 January 2010, the-then Executive Council took note of the draft management plan of the octopus fishery in Rodrigues submitted by consultants of the RICOMAP. The main recommendations proposed were the importance to recognize at the highest political level that the octopus fishery is in crisis and that immediate intervention is required to halt the decline and rebuilt stocks. Unfortunately, nothing has been done at these moments and it is only now that my colleague who is an ecole, *qui est un défenseur et amoureux de la nature, maitrisant parfaitement ce domaine et forme en partie d'un parti qui a le soucis de l'avenir, de l'avenir a son future et qui ne pense pas uniquement à l'aspect électoraliste et qui n'a pas peur de faire la rupture avec les mauvaise pratique pour léguer une meilleure île Rodrigues à la génération future.*

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are doing exactly the contrary, the regulated to allow exploitation. We regulate to ensure protection and conservation. *Les grandes personnes dans leurs sagesse souvent nous répète que l'économie « faire ler ou énan pas ler na pas, pas gaspillé ler ou énan ou bizin toujours mazine demain ».*

The Regulations we are introducing in this Assembly today is paying tribute to our elderly for their wisdom. In lots of cases, we have that when people only bother about the present “*amusé créole comme on dit*” and not bothering about what might happen tomorrow, this is often fatal. What we are doing today will not be beneficial to the fisher community only but crucial for the whole population, for the republic though unfortunately, some people responsible for the fisheries sector at national level state that it is not a priority to cater for octopus management now.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is also of common knowledge that humans living near the coast has always used the ocean as a source of food. Aside from reducing fish stocks and sustainable fisheries, practices can have other negative impact on marine environment.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the introduction of this regulation is an action forming part of a whole series of courageous ones that our government will undergo. Moreover, it is also known, to our soul that as usually said people in the fisher community themselves “*dans la mer nepli énan la vie*”.

This regulations which is a stepping stone in involving the community and the conservation will not only arouse the generation in the lagoon as per recommended by the study made RICOMAP and all stakeholders concerned. it is also a great opportunity for the fishers and the whole population to be aware and sensitize on the importance of taking care of our natural resources both the sea, which their *gagne pain* and the land where they will be posted during the closed season for rehabilitation and conservation activities.

Alors qu’auparavant on prenait l’ourite de la mer directement à la marmite aujourd’hui l’ourites forment parti des produits a qui on a donné des valeurs ajouter et ces grâce aux femmes engagés dans les domaines de l’agro-alimentaire et qu’on a le fameux piment ourites qui est apprécié par beaucoup surtout des gens venues de Maurice. Appart les piqueurs et les piqueuses d’ourites il y a toute une chaine de personne qui gagne leur vie grâce aux ourites. Ceux qui sont payé pour les laver, les nettoyer, l’emballer, ceux qui les achètent pour les faire sécher et d’autres pour les faire griller donc l’ourite fait partie intégrante de l’entrepreneuriat. Cette clôture d’une petite durer de deux mois ne sera que reculer pour mieux sauter avec comme objectif d’en avoir d’avantage dans l’avenir. Devant l’ourite qui devient un produit de lux qui se vend à pas moins de Rs 60 la livre. Les consommateurs souhaitent dans un prochain avenir grâce a une plus grande quantité d’ourites le prix sera réviser a la baisse afin que tous les enfants de cette île connaissent le gout de ce produit qui a toujours été incontournable dans les assiettes de nos grands parents.

M. le président, je suis élue dans une région ou il y a une grande partie de la population qui vit de la mer, Mourouck, Port Sud Est, Songes, Eau Vannée. Je félicite mon collègue pour avoir fait un travail extraordinaire conjointement avec les partenaires et les ONG travaillant pour la protection de nos ressources marines. Grace a ce formidable travail ils ont pu mettre *on board* même ces professionnelles qui ne détiennent de carte mais qui gagnent leurs vies de la mer. Même les personnes qui n’ont pas une carte il y a un travail qui a été fait par les stakeholders, par la Commission de Tourisme pour savoir combien de personne qui gagne leur vie de la mer. Etant un gouvernement responsable on a prit tout cela en considération. Dans ce programme, d’*alternative livelihood*, à la Commission de la formation et de l’artisanat nous allons aussi donner la possibilité à ces personnes de poursuivre des programmes de formation pour

leur permettre d'avoir un métier d'alternatif. Tous cela dans le but à l'avenir de diminuer la pression de notre lagon.

M. le président, la population nous a donné un mandat de cinq ans pour apporter du vrai changement dans notre île Rodrigues. Nous sommes conscients que le défi est grand. Nous sommes conscients qu'il y en a qui s'organise pour nous mettre les bâtons dans les roues, pour encourager le *go slow*. Nous savons qu'il y en a qui voudrait à tout prix reprendre leur poste alors qu'ils avaient cinq ans et demi ils n'ont pas pu faire preuve de courage. Nous irons jusqu'au bout avec la même énergie avec pour seule objective de faire réussir notre pays. Je dois dire que je suis peiné/triste devant l'attitude du Membre qui a parlé juste avant ou au lieu de prendre ce sujet au sérieux il s'est comporté comme un *clown*, M. le président, parce que....

Mr. J. C. Agathe : On a point of order. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that the Member has used

[Interruption]

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je redire le mot *clown* que j'ai dit.

M. le président, je suis vraiment triste quand même parceque je trouve que la protection de notre lagon c'est quelques choses de très sérieux. On a parlé des fraudes. Mais depuis quand existe les fraudes, M. le Président. Est-ce que les fraudes ont existés depuis le 11 février ? Il ne faut pas qu'on accepte mais on a vu combien de temps à la radio on écoute les seines illégales sont collectés sans que personne soit arrêté et nous nous avons le courage on va aller jusqu'au bout, on va travailler ensemble avec les stakeholders, avec les enforcement officers pour renverser la situation mais nous savons que ce n'est pas donné. Effectivement on veut lancer un SOS parce que notre mer est en danger. C'est pourquoi c'est important qu'on puisse passer ce règlement dès maintenant. On a vu ce qu'on va faire avec les pêcheurs. Ces pêcheurs seront affecter dans différents, ils seront organiser pour les différents travaux. Ils n'auront qu'à travailler de 7 à 11 heures par jour comme ci ils allaient en mer pour piquer leurs ourites. Se sera pareil et on se demande aujourd'hui est-ce-qu'un piqueur d'ourite arrive à gagner Rs 400 par jour. On se pose la question. Qui équivaut à 10 livre d'ourites par jour. Il y en a qui parte et qui retourne bredouille.

[Interruption]

M. le président, nous on est conscient que le peuple nous a donné le mandat pour apporter le vrai changement alors qu'hier nous étions que des politiciens aujourd'hui le peuple nous a conférer la responsabilité d'homme et de femme d'état ayant a cœur toute la population alors que ceux avant nous ne jurer que pour les élections.

M. le président, je termine en faisant appel a la responsabilité des pêcheurs eux même et des officiers de la commission puisque c'est important que nous prenons en compte notre mer. Je termine ici en appuyant sur le fait que le leadership de notre Chef commissaire notre équipe va tout faire pour protéger cette terre que nous avons emprunté de nos enfants. Merci, M. le president.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will not be long. M. le président, ce règlement est une fatalité. C'est un document qui a été préparer a la va vite et qui contient beaucoup de manquement. Manquement dans la littérature qui rendra certaine pratique quotidienne illégale même s'ils ne le sont pas et qui demande des amendements ici dans cette Chambre pour que le dit document soit légale.

Du côté d'enforcement et qui est le côté le plus primordiale de ce document il y a rien qui a été prescrit dans ce document comment on va mettre en vigueur cette sous section qui demande quand même une certaine vigilance et efficacité.

Ce qui est grave, M. le président, on parle de démocratie participative. On est en train de commencer des réunions, on va faire des réunions après que ce règlement soit présenté dans cette Chambre et en même temps il y a le non présence des commissaires dans ces réunions.

Maintenant, M. le président, je vais aborder quelques parties que couvre de ce règlement. Des lacunes. Quelle partie de ce règlement concerne les pêcheurs qui vont pêcher des ourites dans les casiers et la ligne. Who will control these fishermen?

Point 2, M. le président, on parle de 5 kilos d'ourites, 10 livres d'ourites seulement. Cela veut dire on peut y avoir 6 kilos, 1000 kilos, 2000 kilos. On parle seulement 5 kilos ourites. Ça veut dire je peux avoir 5.5 kilos, 10 kilos, 20 kilos, 1000 kilos. Si moi j'ai 10 kilos d'ourite et le Membre Franceau a 10 kilos d'ourites je n'ai qu'à donner 0.5 g à Franceau il sera dans la légalité et moi aussi je serais légale. Et là, M. le président, dans ce document on a parlé *5 kg only*. Mais pour couvrir plus que 5 kg, M. le président, dans ce règlement il devrait y avoir le mot « *at least* » après le mot 5 kg. Ça c'est un amendement qu'on doit

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apporter à ce document. Il devrait y avoir “*at least*” *we will cover 6 kg, 10 kg, 1 million kg*. You have said only 5 kg. I can have 6 kg and more.

Autre point, M. le président, est-ce-que le Departmental Head à le pouvoir pour faire l'*enforcement*. Est-ce-que c'est le Departmental Head qui a le pouvoir de faire l'*enforcement* ou c'est un *responsible officer* dans la Commission de Fisheries.

On dit *on the first day of the closed season*, only on first day, cela veut dire le deuxième jour on peut y avoir 10 kilos d'ourites ou plus. On a dit seulement *on the first day*. Il devrait y avoir le mot “*onwards*”, “*till the end of the closed season*”. Ce mot là n'est pas incluse dans ce document là, M. le président.

On a dit si on a 5 kilos d'ourites chez nous il faut aller au bureau du chef de département pour l'enregistrement. Si c'est tous les 10,000 familles de Rodrigues ils ont dix livres d'ourites chez eux il y aura 10,000 personnes qui font la queue dans la route de Port Mathurin jusqu'au filling pour enregistrer. *How will the control be done* ? Comment on va savoir que chez Monsieur X et chez Monsieur Y il y a 10 livre d'ourites, M. le président. Comment on va savoir ? Avec quelle balance on va mesurer ça ? Combien de balance est-ce-qu'il y aura ? Est-ce-que la légale métrologie sera là ? On ne sait pas.

M. le président, moi je crois que le timing et l'application de ce règlement est non fondé surtout dans cette période de morosité économique qui traverse le pays. On a eu la fermeture de la Water Company.

MOTION

SUSPENSION OF S.O 9(3)

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move that all the business on today's Order Paper be exempted from the provision of Standing Order 9(3).

The Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: L'application de ce règlement est non fondée surtout dans cette période de morosité économique qui traverse le pays. Il a eu la fermeture de la maison de pêcheur, il y a la sécheresse qui sévis avec une agriculture morte, il y a la limitation des interventions des pêcheurs dans le parc

marins, les pêcheurs ne peut aller en dehors du lagon a cause d'une mauvaise gestion de nos bateaux de pêche disponible. Il y a coupure drastique des pensions et autres, M. le président. Je vous remercie.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I also congratulates new Members of this House who have had the opportunity to make their maiden speeches here. I would also like to praise the initiative of the Commissioner to come forward not with this regulation but with the concept of trying to introduce a closed season for octopus fishery in Rodrigues. I think that I have been the target of some unjust and unfair allegations here as I was the Chief Commissioner who led a mission in 2009 in Madagascar to look at several issues. Two of these issues being the introduction of *Holothuria scabra*, which is a sort of Barbara, which does not exist here. It is unfair and non-précis to say that we have destroyed here and then trying to import Barbara. When you look at a file, you must look at it extensively. *Holothuria scabra* which is called also *Barbara Blanc* exists and is bred in Madagascar and there they called it *l'or blanc* because when dried it has a very high price, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The second issue that we looked at in Madagascar was the issue of octopus fishery in the southern part of Madagascar in the region of Tulear and where we have seen there an integrated system where there is a cooperative of fishermen buying the octopus and having maximum value for fishermen. There are organizations like Blue Ventures working there and they are very active there in the promotion of the culture of sea cucumber. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when we think about this issue we tend to think that the problem in the sea, the whole problem of the marine eco-system in Rodrigues sums up only today to the issue of closed fishing for octopus. It is as if a doctor is looking who is looking at a patient who is ill and telling that patient okay I will take care of your left foot only whereas the whole problem has more implication, for example, the use of net fishing, *surveillance dans la mer*, the general framework for the exploitation of marine resources, the protection of coral etc. We have had regulations in this House, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have had the Fisheries and Marine Protection Regulations, Barbara and here we have to give a devil its due. When I assumed office on 04 August 2006 following what some people has said as been *coup d'état légale*, she is history. When we were reelected, I think it was after 04 August by the time I was reelected as Chief Commissioner in December 2006. What happened? There was nothing to control sea cucumber regulations. People from abroad from Japan, from Mauritius, Tahiti, everywhere, Madagascar has come to Rodrigues and because there was a loophole in the law. We had problems with the Fisheries Protection Services but they were right when they told us there was no law at that time which prevented the collection of sea cucumber according to them. It is me and the team that I had at that time, who came into this House where we are debating today and introduced regulations to band sea cucumber fishing in Rodrigues. The

previous government did nothing; they did not come here with regulations and now somebody who do not know anything about the story of the issue comes here and blames me, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This is unfair. This is unfair because it was me who introduced the regulations, to enable me as Commissioner for Fisheries to close it but we could not close it immediately because some people were protesting and there were risk of social unrest in the country. What has been said on me in the local newspaper, in the opposition paper at that time? All this is the truth. If Barbara fishing is illegal today it is because the-then regional government had the courage to pass the Regulations and not to issue anymore permit on the issue.

As I said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this regulation the issue is very well. The Commissioner is right to come forward with this regulations but I deplore there is not a general law, general regulations about protection of marine reserves, marine eco-system in the lagoon. Let me mentioned one example, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, have we not voted in this House some times in 2009 together with the stakeholders, the organization who is working in the same sector today. Have we not voted for the Fisheries and Marine Regulations here? Have we not set up reserves at Rivière Banane? Is there, I ask the Commissioner responsible for Fisheries, I am not blaming him, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am just asking question and maybe he can answer me. He loves ecology and I appreciate this. He is a very good person in ecology. I know he knows all the names of endemic plants and birds, etc. He has been very engaged. This is very good. He is for the time being the right man in the right place following the election. Can he tell us what is happening to the four marine reserves which exist by the law/regulation, Rivière Banane Marine Reserves, which when I was Chief Commissioner we set up a surveyance unit on the base there, there is a container still there. Have you gone and seen the container? It has rusted and there is nothing in it. It is closed now. You are speaking that we have done nothing. Do you know that we were congratulated by the fishers there telling us that they caught the biggest octopus since 20 years at Rivière Banane following the introduction of surveyance and the marine reserves. Is it true or not? It is true. There were results but after some time for reasons unknown to me the result there, surveyance was dismantled and nobody was watching on the reserves according to the law. We had a post at Baladirou. I put in place a post at Baladirou and at Baie du Nord; some people hated me because I put a post at Baie du Nord. The two containers, it is me and some people there they tell when I say hello to them they turned their head away. I do not know why. This is how it operates when you try to promote the ecology in the country. We have at Anse aux Anglais Marine Reserve. We have the Grand Bassin Marine Reserve, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The Commissioner is a good diver. I do not go down into the sea but I like being on the sea with a line in my hand. I do not know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether you are a fisherman. Please go, take the

best fisherman with you and also Ile aux Sables or Coco Island Marine Reserves. Take a line with you one day when there is a good weather, go, and fish in these marine reserves. There is no surveyance you can go and fish in these marine reserves. You will catch fish like this. Never will you catch a fish of one pound, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because these marine reserves are not protected. If these marine reserves were protected we have people here in this House, visitors here in this House, they know the concepts of marine reserves better than I do. It is like a sponge. Think of a sponge when water accumulates in it, you press on it water comes out. This is the principle when fish grows up, octopus grows up, the marine bio-diversity regenerates in marine reserves it then moves out and fishermen are able to fish outside the marine reserves.

I think the respected Member, Deputy Chief Commissioner has speak of SOS, *mer en danger*, this is the word for it and it is not these regulations, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, which are going to solve the whole issue of marine protection. It is a good initiative but I will explain later on. I am not a scientist, I am a social scientist in economics, not in marine biology but we can understand things. We are trying to close the season but the reproductive period for octopus is 50 days. All those female octopus who are lucky enough who have entered the lagoon ten days after the closure will be able to have their small octopuses hatched and have a chance. Those who have entered after the period of ten days will be caught immediately after without having the chance to have their eggs hatched. When you read on the internet, the research papers, you see that the female octopus stays on sight 50 days and then it dies to take care of its eggs, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. There is the whole issue.

We are trying to promote marine conservation biologist. If you think, as an octopus when you will see that there is no longer fishing, there will be some illegal fishing what will be the natural instinct of octopus? They will not try to hide as before and they will be more relaxed, we can say. What will happen? When the season closed down *se sera un massacre biologique encore une fois*. Are we trying to get objective just to show organization that we can close the season and then afterwards complete destruction. May I propose for example, that we keep octopus fishing closed in the marine reserves, which are already delimited, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This is a proposal.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on 26 July, last week there was a press conference and it is only then that the population learnt from the Commissioner that the present government wishes to close down the octopus fishery from 01 August to 03 October. I was there as a journalist and I made proposal that the Relations be circulated in the population *dans le cadre de la démocratie participative* so that people in Rodrigues may have a look at the Regulations before it is introduced in the House. Fortunately, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this has not been done and it

was announced and it is still maintained in the press etc. that this measure will start on the 01 August this year, that is in about less than one month. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is not realistic. They will not be able, practically to have this measure introduced on 01 August because Section 31 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act sub-section 6 states that Rodrigues Regional Regulations other than those made under section 26(3)(1) which provide for a new penalty or the imposition or the increase of any fee/charge or due shall not come into force before the expiration of 30 days after publication in the Government Gazette. Meaning we are the 03 of July even if this is voted today. It will take one week or two weeks for it to be gazetted and when it is gazetted we need 30 days. Was it realistic from the part of the Executive Council and my friend *ecolo* Commissioner to come and state publicly that they will do this as the 01 of October, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Section 26 (3) (1) relates to trade licences. It therefore does not apply to the present regulations. It is therefore impossible to have these regulations to be passed to be effective as from 01 August, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The Commissioner has been ill advised and this demonstrates some amateurism with which this regulations has been prepared. As he has stated that the best period for reproduction of octopus is 01 August to 01 October, he is going to miss the intended targets of these regulations.

Il y a un empressement inexpliqué qui peut mettre en péril les objectives voulu et qui laisse entrevoir une gestion peu sérieuse du dossier. Les consultations sont en cours. Je comprends le commissaire, je comprends les autorités mais malheureusement ceux qui sont envoyés au front sont les boucs émissaires sont les gens de Shoals, les gens de Parc Marin, les gens des autres organisations. Il faut que le commissaire vienne à la télévision, M. le président, s'il ne veut pas aller sur le terrain, je me suis référer/demander comment une mesure annoncé la semaine dernière peut arriver au Parlement Régionale aujourd'hui pour le parti qui prône la démocratie participative et je me suis référer au discours programme. A la page 24 paragraphe 52, il mentionne la mise sur pied d'un *Rodrigues Fisheries and Marine Council*. Voilà qui est une très bonne idée. Le *Rodrigues Fisheries and Marine Council* aurait pu s'il aurait été crée étudier les règlements, faire les consultations, sensibilisés les gens. Ou en est le gouvernement régional avec la mise en place du discours programme à la page 52 du discours programme. Sur les huit mesures annonçaient pour la pêche dans le discours programme nous voyons rien, il n'y a rien dans le dossier, dans le discours programme relatif au présent règlement. La fermeture de la pêche de l'ourites. Il y a rien. *Nothing was mentioned at that time*. C'est la preuve que ce n'était pas vraiment à l'ordre du jour du programme gouvernemental. Ce n'est pas pour autant, M. le président, qu'il nous faut dire que l'idée doit être rejeté.

Permettez-moi que je fasse une situation de la pêche de l'ourites en générale pour comprendre la situation. Je suis d'accord qu'il y a un constat de surexploitation et de la nécessité de faire quelque chose allant dans le sens du développement durable.

Il faut fermer la pêche de l'ourites. Oui, we agree to do it but on the modality on how it is going to be done and under the special circumstances here we have to as responsible person, Commissioner, Chief Commissioner etc, we have to agree that there is some issues. If the regional government is provided to, address this issues I personally I will support but we have to look at these issues. I will continue with these issues, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Le SIDPR nous dit qu'il y a un déclin drastique dans la production de l'ourites. C'est une base de revenue pour les familles pauvre le long des côtes et c'est une filière bien établie. Définitivement l'incidence majeure sur les revenus des personnes et autres engagés dans la filière sera conséquent. On est en train de dire, M. le président, je ne sais pas si se sont des gens qui chantent ou qui ne connaissent rien à la pêche de l'ourites. Est-ce-que quelqu'un va avoir Rs 500 avec la pêche de l'ourites. Il y a des gens qui ont 100 livres d'ourites par jour, M. le président, et ces gens là ne mettent pas les pieds dans la mer. Ils sont sur la pointe de leurs pirogues et scrutent, je ne sais pas s'ils ont un scanner dans leurs yeux, ils ont bon vous montrez l'ourites voilà il est là vous ne le voyez pas, eux ils voient. Parce que si vous étudiez la physiologie de l'ourite vous allez voir qu'il peut changer de couleur en moins d'une minute. Donc, M. le président, la situation général dans la pêche, la fermeture de la Maison de Pêcheur, qui aurait pu pour certain représenter une option pour sortir de la pêche de l'ourites pourquoi a-t-on, par exemple, décider de fermer sans dire ce qu'on va faire.

Le gouvernement régional d'alors avait investi des millions de roupies à travers la Rodrigues General Fishing Co. Ltd. Il y avait des problèmes. Je ne sais pas qui a fauté. *I was not there on a day-to-day basis; we should distinguish between policies makers and those who manage on a day-to-day basis.* Qu'est-ce-qui ce passe aujourd'hui avec les cinq bateaux des Coopératives qui dorment dans le port, M. le président. Qu'est-ce-qui ce passe avec les six bateaux de la Maison des Pêcheurs ? On veut fermer la pêche de l'ourites pour deux mois ? A long terme il faut retirer les gens de la pêche de l'ourites. Quelle sont les alternatives ? Laisse pourrir les bateaux dans le port, les moteurs s'avaries, etc. ? *What is being done ?*

M. le président, il y a nécessité comme je vous dis d'avoir une approche plus holistique concernant toute la mer et une approche plus globale concernant le développement de la pêche, M. le président.

Maintenant je vais venir sur le règlement lui-même. Il y a premièrement, M. le président, dans la Interpretation, la définition d'octopus. Dans les recherches que j'ai faites j'ai vue qu'il y a deux groupes. Two groups of octopuses alive today. There are about 300 species of octopuses alive today. These species are divided into two groups, the *Cirrina* and the *Incirrina*. The Regulations for Rodrigues mentioned at the schedule only two species the *Cyanea* and the *Vulgaris*. That is 298 species are left out. I do not know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether this is scientifically sound for this Regulations to provide for only two. I do not know about the number of species, which exist in Rodrigues. I am asking myself whether only these two species, *Cyanea* and *Vulgaris* are present in the Rodrigues lagoon and we do not know of which group they come and most important whether these species are those, which exist in Rodrigues. The question arises from a point of view from the law, Mr. Chairperson, Sir; you have this regulation for only two species, out of 300, which may exist in the world. How would you prove before a Court of Law that the octopus, which was the subject of a contravention, is the octopus, which is in use? Will the Prosecutor of the Fisheries Protection Services and eventually the Magistrate based themselves to sentence an offender under these regulations. Will we have the necessary to have records to scientific or forensic expertise to prove that the octopus concerned is one of these two species, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? Will photographs be taken? Will the octopus be kept? It will be the burden of proof to the Fisheries Protection Services to show that this is *Cyanea*, this is vulgarism and not another specy. Will they be able to do it but knowing that they are not really equipped to do it? I am therefore of the view that a general description of Octopus is sufficient and that the first schedule might be a nail in these regulations.

On the issue of compensation, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is good to mention that we are closing the Octopus for some periods. It is very good but the compensation is not mentioned here. There should be a section to say and this could be a proof of the good intention of Government, Regional Government towards protesters that there will be a closed season compensation allowance etc. Although it is against work, what if somebody does not want to work? During this season, he does not want to fish octopus, he wants to go out and fish, just fish with a line not octopus. Therefore, he will not come to work. You know the mentality of some fishermen they only know about the sea. It is an illness, a happy illness in them that when they wake up, they have to take their boat and go out at sea. They will not get the compensation if they do not want to work because I understand that the work is compulsory. Therefore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I propose to the Commissioner that there is introduced a section in these regulations to say that clearly that those concerned by these regulations when it will be closed should be compensated which will also

identify/state who will be compensated, on which basis, at which rate, etc. Who will be eligible and the criteria on which they will be identified as well as most important of all what will be the rate or *modus operandi* of the compensation.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards, this issue of closing down this octopus, I think that it is important that we distinguish between production on one side and consumption on the other side. We are banning the production that is catching at sea. Should we ban eating of octopus? What if I have a refrigerator at home, I am a very big eater of octopus, as you see and before the closed season I import - suppose I have a restaurant or a hotel, I need octopus. What will I tell to the guy from Reunion Island who wants to eat, what did you say '*ourites safrané*' she is very good. We need to tell him that Mr. Payendee, our good '*ecolo*' has decided to close and therefore we should not eat. Mr. Chairperson Sir, I am not bad at the Commissioner but the issue will be raised. We may be eating at my table and the Fisheries Production Service jumps in and says: 'Okay we are arresting all of you'. During weekends, we like to take drinks among friends and we are put into contravention because we are eating a good octopus salad. These should be addressed; Mr. Chairperson because the regulation as it is phrased now, bans eating of octopus, selling of octopus at a table. It bans, it is banning; we need to put fishing of octopus because there is the issue of import. We are already importing octopus. The regulation here says that no person shall export octopus but we are opening the gate for fraud, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. People will go and fish illegally and then they will say: 'We have imported'. What will you tell them? We have imported and this issue again of 5 kgs is wrong because it mentions only 5 kgs. If you have 5 kgs 250 grams, it means you are legal according to me. So, the regulation has been ill ... there is a wording in it I think the idea has been understood but the writing is not good, Mr. Chairperson. As I have said, distinguish between production that is cash at sea which should be banned during the closed season and consumption that is eating on the table, selling to the shops which cannot be banned during the closed season due to imports, use of buffer stocks for use during closed seasons, Mr. Chairperson Sir.

And, I have told you, Mr. Chairperson Sir, there is this issue from the ecological point of view that the octopus lives for five years six months maximum, minimum to five and it comes to the lagoon lays its eggs and then stays there for 50 days and then it dies. So is this period okay, for the octopus production.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, I think I have explained to you and to the Members the position from the part of our party. May I propose that I know that maybe it is now or never? This is usually what man says to girls it is now or never, either you come with me or you do not come. So, are we putting a sort of dilemma on

this house, Mr. Chairperson Sir? I propose that all these issues be taken on board and may be if regulations could be amended or if we are going to miss the first of August, a committee of this House may work on the regulations; it is a practice to nominate committee of members, opposition and government, officials, scientists. Rapid work can be done so that if they want to come back during a next sitting and how the regulations voted. Not to vote it for today, let it go, do not conclude on it and then next time or in one week, all these issues can be settled and then there will be general acceptance Mr. Chairperson Sir. I thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: I suspend the Assembly for 10 minutes.

At 16.30 hours, the Assembly was suspended for 10 minutes.

On resuming at 16.41 hours, with the Chairperson in the Chair.

Mr. R. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson Sir, first I would like to seize this opportunity to thank each and everybody in this House, especially the Minority Leader, Mr. Gaetan Jabeemissar and my colleagues in the minority side for giving me the privilege to address this august Assembly today on behalf of this very important project concerning the Fishermen Community.

On the very outset of my speech, let me inform the House that this project is not a new one. We, on this House, were preparing to come forward with this very important project, Mr. Chairperson Sir, with a different packaging. But following the circumstances that everybody knows, I would like to highlight that this project needs more consultation with the Fishermen Community itself, first than us, here. *‘Poule ki pone ki kone so doulère’*, Mr. Chairperson Sir.

M. le président, le gouvernement du jour veut présenter aujourd’hui un règlement d’une très haute importance. Pour les gens les plus vulnérables de notre société, c’est-à-dire les pêcheurs d’ourites, du lagon de l’île et pas les pêcheurs en dehors du lagon. Plus de 2000 pères et mères de famille professionnelle ou pas seront concernés par cette décision qui sera négative aujourd’hui. Or, je constate et j’observe que ce présent gouvernement est entrain de faire un travail à la va-vite. Donc, eux seuls connaissent leur motivation.

M. le président, si on doit faire un constat du calendrier d’activité mise en place par cette présente équipe de la majorité depuis l’annonce faite par le commissaire de Tutelle au cours d’une conférence de presse à la résidence il y a à peine dix jours, je suppose qu’il y a là un problème.

M. le président, pendant que nous débattons ce projet de loi, ce règlement dans cette auguste Assemblée, les officiers de la Commission de la pêche mènent campagne auprès des pêcheurs concernés pour leur exposer le projet OCSR 2012, est-ce normale? Est-ce qu'il y a urgence à aller aussi vite avec un tel projet qui bouleversera le quotidien, la vie de plusieurs milliers de personnes dans ce pays. M. le président, nous avons entendu certains disant que si on ne réalise pas ce projet aujourd'hui, maintenant, dans quelques jours, l'argent des bayeurs de fond sera perdu. *Lapse.*

Mr. Chairperson: Address me, please.

Mr. R. Perrine: Yes, I am addressing to you, Mr. Chairperson Sir. Si c'est le cas, M. le président, si c'est le cas, si un bayeur de fond vous demande de brader votre pays pour quelques millions de roupies sinon l'argent s'envolera, que ferait cette équipe de la majorité ? Accepter ? Ou Réfléchir ? M. le président, permettez-moi d'ouvrir une petite parenthèse pour faire revivre deux événements ; une qui date de 2006 et l'autre vers 2004 – 2005. En 2004 – 2005 si ma mémoire est bonne, plus de 220 pêcheurs professionnels du lagon avaient vu leur montant total du *Bad Weather Allowance* payé durant un mois coupé parce qu'il y a eu des divergences entre un garde de pêche et les pêcheurs dans la région de Graviers et d'Anse aux Anglais. La suite c'est qu'il a fallu que la Commission de la pêche débourse la somme de plus d'un million de roupies pour régler ce litige entre les deux parties le lendemain après négociations musclées entre les autorités concernées et les associations des pêcheurs professionnels de Rodrigues.

Deuxièmement en 2006, lorsqu'une loi avait été votée à l'Assemblée Nationale avec la bénédiction du gouvernement de l'OPR aujourd'hui en poste, représenté à cette époque par l'actuelle Chef Commissaire qui n'est pas là. Concernant le *zoning*, les pêcheurs de Rodrigues ont manifesté pour démontrer leurs colères contre la façon de faire du gouvernement. C'est-à-dire, qu'il n'y a pas eu de consultation préalable avec les pêcheurs et nous savons tous la suite de cette tragique histoire. Il y en a certains qui ont dû prendre la poudre d'escampette pour ne pas se faire lyncher. Il y en a aussi qui ont la mémoire courte, M. le président.

En 2012, ce même gouvernement nous propose un projet de loi d'une importance capitale pour le devenir et la survie de plus d'un millier de gens vulnérable dans ce pays en proposant des discussions à peine une semaine avant son entrée au parlement avec les pêcheurs. Moi je trouve que ce gouvernement nous montre ses limites et son amateurisme pur et simple en proposant ce projet à la veille des sessions parlementaires pour débattre et faire voter ce règlement dans cette auguste Assemblée. M. le président, n'est-ce pas un manque de

respect de la part de la majorité vis-à-vis des pêcheurs et leurs familles ? Est-ce cela leur nouveau concept qu'ils prennent à tout bout de champ la démocratie participative ? Il faudra un peu de respect envers ses pêcheurs, M. le président.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, as per a study carried out by shoals of Capricorn at that time under status of the Octopus fisheries in Rodrigues lagoon, I quote: "*Out of a 2000 full-time professional fishermen, 39% of whom are women with more than 1300 crafts registered at the Fisheries Protection Service. It is very likely than more than twice this number engaged in part-time fishing activities. The octopus landing has declined from 774 to 476 tons between 1994 and 1999*". And it continued to decrease until now, Mr. Chairperson Sir. The Commissioner just mentioned 200 tons.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, *la situation économique de ces groupes vulnérable à Rodrigues laisse à désirer*. Ce règlement est un vrai casse-tête chinois comme on dit dans le jargon. Nous avons l'impression que dans la communauté des pêcheurs il y a un manque de sérieux dans la présentation et le contenu de ce projet. C'est dans ce sens que nous demandons que ce projet soit amendé après que les principaux concernés, c'est-à-dire les pêcheurs aient donné leur *full support* dans ce sens. *Putting people first*, M. le président et non pas mettre la loi et puis mettre les gens après. Ce n'est pas possible, M. le président et c'est intolérable.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let me refer to the regulation itself. From the beginning, it has mentioned the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Octopus Closed Season Regulations 2012 whereas in Part IV of the project the words "*closed periods*" are mentioned. Is there a difference between seasons and periods, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? If I refer to ruling of my computer, it is stipulated that the synonym of seasons can be related to periods under synonym of periods is related to epochs, times, days, era, episodes, Mr. Chairperson Sir. So, with regards to legal provisions, we cannot use words, which are likely to cause confusions in the head of each and every one of us here. Even in the fishermen sector, we should be clear. You got a legal advisor what is the role especially in this Assembly. Do your work and do not play.

Secondly, the Government intends to implement this project on 01 August 2012 as the Commissioner explained in a press conference and in our radio '*pintade*' as mentioned by the ... Can the Commissioner enlighten us why August? I think the member of this side just mentioned it. The coincidence between 01 August is that it is the closure of the Rodrigues Water Company which we amend *dans cette auguste Assemblée*.

In a report made by scientists at Shoals of Rodrigues at page 65, the last paragraph of this book named Marine, Science, Training and Education in the Western Indian Ocean Fields Report 1998–2001, it is stipulated that octopus starts its reproduction cycle from October to February, Mr. the Chairperson Sir. Why does the Commissioner not choose this specific period instead of August to October? *Kifer pé pressé? Pou galoup derrière l'arzent? L'arzent ki pa pou gagne ditout?* Referring to the Part III, Management of Octopus Fisheries section 4 - closed period (1), the Commissioner cannot have a prerogative to set a specific period of closure of octopus by way of notice in at least two local newspapers since this closed season should be addressed in the regulation itself and also the commencement's date.

The economic impact of this regulation on the life of the Fishermen Community and the entrepreneur business dealings with the octopus transformation and selling. M. le président, qu'est-ce qui va se passer avec nos entrepreneurs surtout ces femmes qui utilisent le poulpe comme produit de base, de transformation afin de gagner dignement leur vie quotidiennement. Est-ce qu'il/elle attendra les deux mois écouler pour manger à leur faim? M. le président, et leurs enfants vont attendre que la pêche soit ouverte pour qu'ils se rendent à l'école? Ce n'est pas possible.

Dans le cadre de faire des déclarations par rapport à la section 3 de ces règlements, le Chef de département avec *son burden of work* de tous les jours, aura-t-il le temps de recevoir ces entrepreneurs comme l'a si bien dit mon collègue juste à côté? Les entrepreneurs, les propriétaires des gîtes, les hôtels, les restaurants, les *guest houses*, et autres structures et le poulpe est utilisé comme produit du pour attirer la clientèle. Qu'est-ce qui va se passer? Comme l'a dit notre ami ici. *Pou pren contravention kot sa bane dimoune la kan zot pé manzé a table? Li pa possib.* This is not possible.

M. le président, autre lacune dans ce projet c'est que rien n'est mentionné sur *enforcement of this piece of regulation*. Tout le monde est d'accord là dessus. Who will do that enforcement exercise for the Commission? Avec la quantité de fraudeurs que les gardes de pêche et les gardes de côte ont sur le dos tous les jours même devant Port Mathurin. Ce sera sur eux qu'incomberont toutes les responsabilités, M. le président. Ce n'est pas possible. Il faut d'abord penser à mettre en place un mécanisme. Il faut une structure. Il faut plus de gardes de pêche, plus de personnes. Pourquoi ne pas mettre ces pêcheurs dans le bain pour qu'ils, eux aussi puissent participer à l'encadrement de ce projet. Or, ça n'a pas été le cas.

En tout cas, pour conclure, M. le président, je voudrai faire ressortir que ce règlement ne peut être reçu dans cette auguste Assemblée car vu les divers

manquements qui s'y trouvent, il vaut mieux que la majorité de cette chambre bien vouloir apporter les amendements nécessaires, avoir au moins consulter les différents pêcheurs et les associations bénévoles qui sont sur les 23 débarcadères de l'île pour que vous ayez au moins leurs bénédictions. Au cas contraire, le projet ne tient pas debout et ne tiendra pas debout.

Travailler avec les pêcheurs c'est quelque chose de formidable. Je l'ai fait pendant plusieurs années. Je le fais encore surtout si vous mêmes vous faites partis de leur monde, je le suis. Mais imposer des mesures à ces personnes les plus vulnérables de notre société au détriment de leurs quotidiens est punissable dans la nature. M. le président, je voudrais vous remercier pour ce petit moment. Thank you.

Mr. L. Guillaume: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I congratulate my colleague Mr. Rosaire Perrine for his maiden speech. M. le président, permettez-moi de dire quelques mots dans cet auguste Assemblé sur ce règlement. En tant que pêcheur et vivre parmi les familles pêcheurs, laissez-moi dire quelques mots sur ce ridicule règlement qui apparaisse comme un éclair dans cette Assemblée avant d'avoir de longues discussions, de longs débats approfondis avec les partenaires concernés.

M. le président, comme je vois aujourd'hui, il semblait que seulement les pêcheurs qui sont visés car il y a beaucoup de coupable dans cette circonstance jusqu'à ce qu'on est arrivé là aujourd'hui. M. le président c'est intolérable. Regardez-moi, ce règlement c'est une honte pour l'Assemblée Régionale, c'est une honte pour la République de Maurice. M. le président, c'est un règlement prématuré qui ne prend pas en mesure toutes les choses comme il fallait et dans ce cas, c'est les pêcheurs qui en payent les pots cassés.

M. le président, je ne suis pas contre l'esprit de venir avec ce règlement mais la présentation, le contenu beaucoup reste à faire, de venir là ou il y a un grand manque de respect envers les pêcheurs. M. le président, je voterai ce règlement si l'idée est de commencer sur une base pilote. Par exemple, commencé avec le SEMPA, ou dans des réserves marines, là je voterai. Et si sa marche bien à ce moment-là, là on peut étendre les choses autour de l'île. Mais dans ce cas, de prendre une décision si vite sans commencer par une base pilote moi je vois, M. le président ce n'est pas correcte du tout.

M. le président, c'est intolérable de voir dans ce règlement, il y a pas la date qui mentionne la fermeture et celle de l'ouverture. Pourquoi, M. le président ? C'est pourtant on a déjà annoncé à la radio plusieurs jours avant, des familles sont traumatisées, des familles sont déchirées avec cette annonce car le Commissaire sait lui-même qu'il ne pourra pas fermer cette pêche le 1^{er}

août prochain. M. le président, pour aller au fond de mon intervention, vous allez découvrir qui sont les vrais coupables jusqu'en est arrivé là aujourd'hui. En 1982 à 2000, Rodrigues a reçu des ministres, manques des visions pour le développement durable de la pêche à long terme et on établit des trahisons de l'avenir des jeunes générations pêcheurs en donnant des cartes pêcheurs à tort et à travers. Plus que de 1000 cartes ont été délivré à tort et à travers, à gauche à droite, *donne brite, fini la mer !* Allez dans cette direction et voilà aujourd'hui les choses sont arrivées là, M. le président. Qui est responsable, M. le président ? M. le président, heureusement en 2007 à 2011, le MR a pu prendre des décisions solides pour former plus de 350 pêcheurs hors lagon et en donnant des cartes et c'est là que les choses ont commencé à s'avancer. Mais je dis, M. le président, comme j'ai dit un peu avant ces 200 cartes délivrées à l'époque des ministres de Rodrigues, ces cartes se donnaient sans *training*, sans aucune formation, sans aucune *empowerment*, sans aucune accompagnement. Et voilà *nou la mer pé fini*, M. le président.

M. le président, dans cette même foulée, les fonds Européens et développements a investi des millions, ont tout de suite vu qu'il y a des erreurs et venir de l'avant, en investissant des millions pour essayer de sauver notre mer en construisant des parcs de transit, des *fenced* président à cette époque la situation est déjà pourrie. M. le président, où est passé ces millions aujourd'hui qu'ils ont investi ? Toutes ces infrastructures sont fermées. Aujourd'hui, des agents notoires font la pluie et le beau temps dans des *fenced perimeter*. Voilà ce qui se passe aujourd'hui. Moi je dis, les choses vont très très mal.

M. le président, avec la venue de l'autonomie en 2001–2002, la pêche illégale est devenue presque autonome. *Nou bane sa, nou pa trapé fer fini ! Fer fini ek la mer, touye ti ourite, touye tou ti poisson touye tou séki énan touye séki en oeufs*. Et voilà, M. le président, aujourd'hui on voit une équipe en face de nous qui parle qu'il faut sauver notre écosystème marin. Quel écosystème, M. le président ? Quel écosystème on va sauver maintenant quand la situation est déjà pourrie ? M. le président, qui est le responsable de tout ça, M. le président ? Qui est le responsable ? Et voilà la politique, le manque de vision de l'OPR.

M. le président, avant de venir avec cette loi dans cette Assemblée, je me demande s'il y a un *survey* approfondi qui était déjà fait pour connaître combien de pêcheurs font la pêche ourites, combien de gens qui gagnent leur vie avec les ourites. M. le président, moi je dis que pendant ces courts moments, on n'a pas pu le faire. Maintenant, actuellement, il y a environ 3000 pêcheurs qui pêchent les ourites. Il y a environ 3000 qui pêchent les ourites dans nos lagons. Et bientôt, M. le président, ça s'augmentera. Avec la fermeture de

Water Company, avec la fermeture d'AJ Maurel, avec les autres fermetures ça s'augmentera, M. le président. Ça s'augmentera.

M. le président, vous avez compris pourquoi notre écosystème est complètement dégradé et notre lagon est presque fini. Avant de venir encore avec cette loi. Aujourd'hui, il y a un grand manque d'emploi dans le pays. Le moment n'est pas bien choisi. Il y a un deuil économique dans le monde, il y a une crise économique sans précédent et le moment est mal choisi pour venir avec ce règlement dans cette Assemblée. Moi je demande, j'invite l'équipe qui est en face de moi s'ils ont du courage de venir de l'avant le 1^{er} août prochain de décréter Rodrigues comme zone économique. Deuil, M. le président!

M. le président, j'ai été choqué de n'avoir pas entendu dans le discours programme du présent gouvernement des projets d'aquaculture. Aujourd'hui on parle de production, quel production, M. le président? On veut fermer la pêche ourites mais on ne veut pas produire quelque chose. Aller voir l'île Maurice ce que font M. Léopold et M. Vonmally dans le ministère de la pêche ! Aller voir, n'ayez pas honte aller voir! Aujourd'hui à l'île Maurice on capture des larves en dehors des brisants et on fait grandir et placer en mer pour augmenter la production, la production de poissons. Il y a une abondante moule dans nos lagons qu'on peut faire reproduire, M. le président. Qu'est-ce que ce présent gouvernement était entrain de faire M. le président ? On ne m'en parle pas de la production. Et ensuite de ça, on dit *Rodriguais déboute lor to deux lipieds*. M. le président *eski ène sac vide kapav déboute*, M. le président ? Sans production, sans donner le moyen pour ces personnes pour foncer et d'aller de l'avant, M. le président.

M. le président, je suis triste. Je suis triste de voir de voir Maurice qui bâtit une économie solide, une économie forte. Mais à Rodrigues, on a des Commissaires qui s'exercent comme des commis, qui attendent.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner : Non mais ce n'est pas possible! Je ne suis pas d'accord, M. le président. On a point of order! Ce n'est pas possible que les Commissaires agissent comme des comiques!

[Interruption]

Mr. L. Guillaume: M. le président, des commis ! Des commis l'état qui attendent que Maurice font des économies et ensuite envoyer à Rodrigues pour compter. En regardant le Water Company qui coule à pique et de ne pouvoir rien faire M. le président.

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: Order! Proceed please.

[Interruption]

Mr. L. Guillaume: Aujourd'hui, pendant 5 ans, le MR a pu redresser cette économie en créant 700 emplois mais aujourd'hui on voit que des licenciements. Aujourd'hui, ...

[Interruption]

Mr. L. Guillaume : M. le président, sur le terrain, on entend les pêcheurs qui disent, des familles de pêcheurs *ki dire*: '*nou gagne tiguït, nou manz tiguït, mé nou en bonne santé*'. Mais il y en a qui gagnent plus de Rs 200,000. Mais le Rs 200,000 n'est pas assez pour soigner son diabète, M. le président. Le Rs 200,000 n'est pas assez pour guérir son diabète et en plus de ça *saryer 'bale coulou'*. M. le président, j'arrête là et je vous remercie. Merci M. le président.

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt : M. le président, je vais être très bref mais je dois quand même dire quelques mots, exprimer mes soucis vis-à-vis de ce règlement. C'est une très bonne chose. Objectivement, c'est bien qu'on vienne de l'avant avec ce règlement. J'ai entendu 'va-vite', 'à la va-vite', 'précipiter'. Il y a eu des débats sur les termes techniques, les manquements, des amendements qu'on doit apporter. J'espère que tout à l'heure on va voir ça. Mais, le problème en ce moment reste entre les pêcheurs et le gouvernement. Lorsqu'on dit pêcheurs d'ourites, piqueurs d'ourites, on parle de 541. Mais on parle aussi des pêcheurs « *ceux qui n'ont pas de cartes, ceux qui n'ont pas été enregistrés, ceux qui ont pu avoir des cartes et qui n'ont pas été octroyé des cartes* ».

M. le président, le problème dedans c'est que, je prends l'exemple du Parc Marin, nous, nous avons adopté un *bottom to top approach*. Eux ce qu'ils font, ils adoptent un *top to bottom approach*. C'est ça le problème, c'est ça le hic. C'est ça un de mes soucis. Juste pour vous dire, M. le président, le Parc Marin le SEMPA à une superficie de 42 km². Et nous avons dit aux pêcheurs. Je vois les officier qui sont là, je vois Jean Rex entre autres. On leur a dit. Moi-même j'ai été voir les pêcheurs, j'ai été avec les pêcheurs. Vous autres, vous décidez qu'est-ce qu'il faut faire. Bien sûr on explique. En expliquant et en même temps ils décident. Ils ont décidé par exemple, M. le président, pour citer une des décisions importante qu'on avait pris à cette époque, c'était de fermer le Parc Marin. C'est de fermer plus de 15% de ce Parc Marin qui est bien au dessus de la moyenne mondiale. 15% *lor* 42 km². Ils ont participé, il respect.

Ils se sentent appartenir à ce projet mais qu'en est-il de fermer la pêche d'ourites pendant deux mois. Qu'en est-il? Comment faire comprendre à ce pêcheur après le 1^{er} août où bien je ne sais pas quand s'il voit un ourite quelque part, qu'il faut le laisser tranquille. Comment faire comprendre à cette personne-là? Qui que ce soit; pêcheurs professionnels ou non-professionnels. C'est ça le problème, M. le président, et c'est ça que le gouvernement, le Commissaire, je comprends son dévouement mais il faut comprendre aussi la chose. Il faut comprendre la réalité, il faut aller sur le terrain. De ça, mes collègues ils ont parlé de ça, manque de communication entre la Commission et la communauté des pêcheurs. C'est ça le problème, c'est ça mes soucis.

Autre chose M. le président, autre chose, il y avait des pratiques de pêches auparavant les gens, ceux qui veulent aller attraper les ourites ils prennent des harpons, la fouine *ale pik ourites*. Maintenant, qu'est-ce qui se passe? Les jeunes ils plongent même la nuit *li ale plongé ek so torche, ek so l'harpon*. Qu'est-ce qu'ils font? C'est ça le problème, avant d'aller de l'avant avec ça c'est ça qu'il faut *tackle*. C'est ça qu'il faut aller voir, comment faire comprendre à ces jeunes? Ceux qui vont être mis à la porte du Rodrigues Water Company entre autres. Faire comprendre à ces gens qu'il faudra laisser le lagon respirer. C'est ce que vous ne faites pas en ce moment. Et moi, il y a aussi le composant du Ministère de la pêche. Est-ce que vous avez demandé le soutien du Ministre de la pêche dans ce projet. *If you are in love with Rodrigues*, vous êtes amoureux de Rodrigues, il faut être amoureux aussi de ces gens, de ces décideurs. Or, quel est le rôle du Ministre de la pêche dans ce projet? On parle de manquement, manque d'argent. Mais le Ministre de la pêche, lui, il peut. Il peut faire beaucoup de choses. Et je le connais très bien, c'est quelqu'un qui est ouvert. C'est quelqu'un qui est très ouvert, qui aime son pays. Pourquoi est-ce que vous n'avez pas été voir le Ministre de la pêche? M. le président, c'est mon souci. Je redis encore une fois l'idée est bonne mais il faudra faire comprendre à ces gens sinon ça va être, quelqu'un l'a mentionné tout à l'heure, ça va être un massacre d'ourites dans ce pays. *Si zis ourite nou pou comprend pas conné encore*. Massacre d'ourites et bien sûr ça aura une conséquence sur le prix.

Avec ces quelques mots M. le président, je lance un appel à ce qu'on regarde, à ce qu'on retarde ce règlement. On va vers ces pêcheurs là on leur parle et on revient ici. Nous allons être contents, nous allons débattre et bien sûr nous allons peut-être voter le règlement. Merci.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on the very outset let me first congratulate all the interveners before me namely my colleagues those who have done their maiden speech today and, of course, all those who have in heart the protection of our marine ecosystem. However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, all of

us agree that the way it has been done, the way such regulation has been brought to the House today *laisse beaucoup à désirer*. Nous sommes tous d'accord, M. le président, pour dire que tirer la sonnette d'alarme sur la situation de la pêche aux ourites de nos lagons n'est pas chose nouvelle.

Let me, Mr. Chairperson Sir, talk about previous studies on such an important issue. Previous studies for example, summary report by International Development Partners Limited (IDP) on strategy and action plan for the development of fisheries sector in Rodrigues in 2007. It says that the fisheries sector is a key pillar of our economy. Vulnerability due to various conditions namely degradation of the marine eco system, resulting in lower catch, siltation of the lagoon, destruction of corals, all these have greatly impacted on the socio-economic developments of Rodrigues. Looking at the octopus fishery today, we cannot just focus on the fishing aspect. There are many other aspects that have to be taken into consideration. What about protecting the habitat of the octopus? What about the mode of fishing of the octopus fishers? All these have been highlighted in previous reports. I think the best and the most trusted report has been done by Shoals of Capricorn, Marine Science Training and Education in the Western Indian Ocean. While it explains, for example, it says that the octopus *Cyanea* accounts for 95% of the octopus commercial catches from Rodrigues Island and it is fished using the 'spear', the harpoon, and mainly by ambulant fishers. And since then, since 1995, *il a été décrié que les prises sont entre de 732 tonnes a atteint 477 tonnes en 1999*. *Imaginer*, it is well before autonomy and at that time, there were authorities in ports in Rodrigues. In spite of these recommendations, who have guts to implement all the recommendations that these reports in studies have said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Why fishers' population has increased from 500 in 1989 to 2000 in 2001? And today mostly any Rodriguan in this country may be or is an octopus fisher. Bientôt avec la fermeture de toutes ces compagnies, publiques et privées, vous allez voir comment ils vont gagner leur vie dans la mer. La seule façon de gagner sa vie c'est d'aller dans la mer, exploiter la mer encore. Et là aujourd'hui, M. le président, de venir dire que ceux d'avant n'ont pas eu le *guts* le culot de prendre les décisions.

Let me tell you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, coming today with this legislation, two pages with lots of discrepancies. Que tous ceux avant moi ont décriés, M. le président. Anybody can have guts to come with this, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Anybody. But let us come with real serious matters, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Aujourd'hui on parle de l'approche démocratie participative mais dans la manière dont on a fait pour venir de l'avant avec ce règlement montre qu'on est en train de faire exactement le contraire. Un instant même là nous sommes entrain de débattre de cette loi ici. Les officiers sont encore entrain de

convaincre les pêcheurs. Comment voulez-vous qu'une telle décision aussi importante soit prise aussi à la légère, M. le président. Si on veut vraiment montrer le sérieux, il faudra procéder autrement. Et là, je suis d'accord avec tous ceux qui ont intervenus avant moi. Unless, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, amendments are being brought to this regulations. Unless this is being taken very seriously, and it delays if need be we are not going to vote for it. We will accept that all these issues that have been discussed. They are very important/pertinent issues for the future generation, yes but it has to be taken seriously.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, actually there are regulations, which allow fishermen to catch fish of a certain size. If this is respected, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it means that now the enforcement is not being done as it should be. How will it be if such a regulation is passed? Do you think, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the enforcement will be better? So, it is not only the fisheries community that needs to be empowered/educated it is the whole community, the whole population *et comprenant aussi* les enforcement officers, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Il faut que tout le monde aillent dans la même direction si on veut que ce projet réussisse.

Rodrigues actuellement a deux défis majeurs. Il n'y a pas que écologique. Maintenant je pense que le défi le plus urgent, important c'est économique. If we look at the poverty situation in Rodrigues as the PERSESO HBS 2006 – 2007 on an estimated household of 10,000, the poverty line half medium monthly household income per adult is equivalent to Rs 2716 estimated number of household living below poverty line Rs 1790 out of which all the fishermen community fall within that below the poverty line. C'est tout à fait évident, M. le président, que le nombre de personne cherchant une allocation sociale a augmenté d'année en année parce que Rodrigues n'offre pas d'autre opportunité d'avoir de revenue suffisante pour permettre aux familles d'avoir un statue assez élevée.

Donc, *Mr. Chairperson, Sir*, on est juste réaliste. Moi je voudrais demander. Comment il va essayer de renverser la situation parce que déjà là, M. le président, la situation nous montre qu'avec les licenciements et autres, ça va encore s'empirer.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, various actions have been undertaken since 2006 in the Fisheries Development Sector in Rodrigues. Do not forget the octopus fishing must be viewed in a holistic approach. Sauver notre lagon ne veut pas dire seulement sauver la pêche aux ourites. *Depuis 2006, M. le président*, following the recommendation of the IDP workshop held in Rodrigues, we have set up the Rodrigues General Fishing Company Limited, purchased six off-lagoon fishing boats, we have come up with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Fisheries and Marine Resources Regulations. We have trained off-lagoon

fishing, fishers by the Fisheries Research and Training Unit. There have been installations of FAD, 16 FADs have been operational, that is, to remove pressure from the lagoon. We have come up lately last year with the seaweed farming project. It is still ongoing. There has been a survey on octopus management plan, which has started, and I think it is completed now. We have converted lagoon fishers into off-lagoon fishers. We have come up with the redeployment scheme of lagoon fishers, in 2012, there has been a provision for Rs 5 m. in the budget, and we have targeted 150 fishers. We have lately set up five fishing cooperatives and five bank fishers, five big fishing boats have been purchased.

Qu'est-ce qu'on a vu depuis février M. le président ? Or, les bateaux de la Rodrigues General Fishing dorment à Pointe Monier. Les cinq bateaux coopératives j'apprends que bientôt ils vont disparaître donc toute ces initiatives, M. le président, tombent à l'eau. Comment voulez-vous maintenant, comme j'ai dit tout à l'heure *this measure, octopus fishery must be viewed with a holistic approach*. Pour relever les pressions sur les lagons, M. le président, il faut appliquer toute ces différentes mesures. Autrement cela ne va pas marcher. Le commissaire me signale qu'il va venir bientôt mais il laisse pourrir les cinq/six bateaux de la Rodrigues General Fishing Company. La Maison de pêcheur ne produit plus de glace. Plus de pêche hauturière, plus de poisson dans le pays. Aujourd'hui quand vous allez acheter non seulement les petits ourites, allez chercher du poisson vous allez voir des petits *lonsan*, des petits *riplé*, des petits *cordonniers*. Notre lagon est fini, M. le président.

Tout à l'heure on a parlé de la pêche à Madagascar. D'après le document que j'ai devant moi à Madagascar, c'est vrai à Tuléar. Vous savez pourquoi cela a marché ? Parce qu'il y a d'abord eu l'implication de la communauté des pêcheurs. Ils ont été formés. Ils ont été encadrés, ils ont été soutenu à ce moment ils ont compris et ils ont participé. Le type d'ourites qui est utilisé là bas. Ici je vois c'est *Big Loop Octopus*. Je ne sais le nom scientifique, je ne sais pas le *Octopus Cyanea* que nous nous avons ici ou bien c'est autre chose mais voilà ça a été une réussite. C'est pourquoi RICOMAP après avoir vu la réussite à Madagascar ils sont venus ici pour nous proposer d'aller de l'avant dans ce direction. Mais il fallait, M. le président, avant pour y arriver il fallait procéder d'après certaines étapes et voilà les dernières recommandations que j'ai avec moi. Avant il fallait annoncer le plus tôt possible. Sensibiliser le maximum. Il fallait faire la surveillance par les gardes côtes. A ce moment là aussi il fallait que le respect de la taille 350g soit respecté. Après avoir bien sensibilisé la population à ce moment là venir sur les recommandations.

Maintenant pour revenir à notre fameux règlement. Moi aussi en scrutant à tous ce qui a été fait dedans je vois que c'est un règlement badinage. Ce n'est

pas du sérieux. Pas du tout. Il y a tellement des lacunes dedans. J'avais préparer certain amendements, which *I will table it unless all this are taken into consideration as I have said earlier. We are not going to subscribe for it.*

In the Regulations, it is said that the Commissioner shall set a specific period for the closure but I do not think in this Regulations it is the Commissioner that should do it. The Law itself should provide because it is about closing season. The Law should provide. It must be closed from such date to such date. D'après les rapports, tous les rapports ont dit normalement à partir d'octobre jusqu'à février. Et tout comme j'ai entendu un collègue tout à l'heure dire il faut prendre en considération la période de ponde mais aussi la période de grossissement. Si on veut que les lagons aient suffisamment de temps d'être *replenished with octopus*. Alors il y a ça. Ensuite aussi je ne comprends pas pour quoi on a dit *any person who on the first day of the closed season has in his possession a stock of 5 kilograms. There is something missing/lacking. They have included all sort of octopus, frozen, fresh and dried.* Imaginez, M. le président, pour la fermeture de la pêche à la seine, c'est déjà défini dans la loi de tel date à tel date et à la veille de la fermeture n'importe qui sait que pendant la saison de fermeture il y aura un manque de poisson. Si ce quelqu'un là il a eu la possibilité d'acheter autant de poisson qu'il veut, garder en stock, *it is not an offence*. Il se prépare pour les temps dur. Moi je pense que dans cette législation concernant les ourites il peut y arriver un moment où il y a beaucoup d'ourites parce que depuis ce temps où on a tiré la sonnette d'alarme pour dire que *ourites pé fini dans Rodrigues* cela date de plus de 20 ans, M. le président, et nos ourites survivre encore. Ils ont la peau dur ils ne sont pas prêt à disparaître. Cela ne veut pas dire qu'on ne doit pas prendre des décisions mais il faut savoir comment prendre ces décisions, M. le président. C'est pourquoi venir dire que il faut qu'il y est un minimum stock de 5 kilo moi je dis pour les ourites on peut avoir *at most 5 kilograms* mais pour les fresh, frozen et là on est en train de mettre tous le monde sur le même pied d'égalité. Il ne faut pas considérer un *household*, un pêcheur ou un banian ou un exportateur. Celui qui exporte qui achète des tonnes d'ourites il peut arriver qu'avant la fermeture il a déjà son stock mais le tout c'est comment le contrôler. Comment s'assurait que pendant cette période de clôture il n'est pas en train de *replenish his stock*. Tout cela la loi ne prévoit pas. Et puis il a dit aussi *any person who contravene regulations 4 (2), (3) and (4) shall commit an offence*. Moi je voudrais ajouter dans *l'interpretation contravenes will also includes fail to comply with not only saying that anybody who contravenes but fails to comply with what is in this Regulations*. Et moi je pense aussi qu'il faudrait décrire, on a dit octopus *Cyanea what is it; there should be a description of it in the law and equally for octopus Vulgaris*.

M. le président, nous voilà aujourd'hui à faire l'histoire surtout que c'est le premier règlement qui est présenté dans cette auguste Assemblée pour l'année 2012 et là je félicite le commissaire quand même. Il a eu le courage de venir avec cette loi. Mais quand même il faut qu'il a aussi le courage d'assumer ces manquements. Il est venu avec quelques choses de badinage. Cela il ne l'assume pas.

M. le président, chacun de nous ici nous qui représentons les intérêts de notre pays. Nous représentons les intérêts de notre population il faut qu'on soit vraiment sérieux. Il y va non seulement de l'avenir écologique de notre pays mais aussi l'avenir économique de notre pays. Les gens là bas, les pêcheurs ils attendent que le commissaire vienne leurs expliquaient, qu'il vienne sur le terrain et leurs dire voilà pourquoi nous sommes en train de venir avec cette loi qu'est-ce-qui nous attend devant, qu'est-ce-qui est proposé pour nous. Voilà s'il a le courage de venir avec cela ici c'est trop facile comme un de mes collègues a dit devant nous c'est facile mais ai le courage aussi d'allait vers ces gens et leurs expliqués.

With this, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for your attention and wish that the debate continued.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, il n'est pas dans mes intentions de répondre à tous ceux et à tous celle qui ont apportés des critiques à ce règlement. Je vais tout d'abord féliciter et encourager mon collègue parce que dans ces temps difficile d'aujourd'hui où l'on parle de développement durable pour sauver la planète il faut sortir du capitalisme, il faut se rassembler comme on vient de voir à Rio tout dernièrement. Il y a quand même tout un effort au niveau national, régional et international de sauver la planète. Qui dit planète dit terre, dit mer. Qui dit la planète dit l'homme, la femme, la population, tous ceux qui sont engagés dans le développement de leurs pays. Et là justement je félicite encore une fois mon collègue d'avoir eu le courage malgré toutes les critiques de venir avec ce bout de règlement. On regarde en générale à ce qu'il y a dedans et ce qu'il faut regarder dans ce règlement c'est l'esprit du règlement. Qu'est-ce qu'on veut chercher. Puis-je dire que pendant des années on a fermé la pêche à la seine du 1^{er} octobre au 30 février. Seulement au départ c'était un peu difficile. Je me souviens que M. Hazzletine avait autorisé la pêche à la seine trois jours la semaine. Il avait une raison pour cela. Pourquoi trois jours la semaine pour permettre au poisson de régénérer ou bien d'entrer dans le lagon et ensuite on a eu cette décision d'empêcher la pêche à la seine pendant cinq mois. Il y a aussi cette décision de demander aux pêcheurs à la seine de rendre leurs seines pour une compensation. Il y en a qui l'on fait et il y en a qui ne l'on pas fait. Et c'est pourquoi je pense que quand on a lancé quand on a décidé de fermer la pêche pendant cinq mois il a du y avoir

des réactions. Et puis il y a eu les règlements qui sont arrivés pour les Barbara, les concombres de mer. Evidement cela a causé un peu chez ceux qui ramassaient les Barbara des réactions. Il y a même des affaires en cour. Il y a eu même des réactions de la part de ceux qui ramassaient les Barbara pour ceux qui achetaient les Barbara. Et qu'est-ce qu'on a vu. Même qu'il y avait une loi, des règlements, on continuait à ramasser les Barbara. Et là on se pose la question. Dans notre île Rodrigues qui sont les responsables ? La question a été posé de l'autre côté. Les responsables se sont ceux qui sont payé par l'état pour protéger l'environnement marin. Ils sont payés pour ça. C'est là où je dis il y a faire toute un changement de mentalité. Que ceux qui sont là pour protéger la mer, l'environnement marin puisse arriver à réfléchir, comprendre, vivre dans justement cette politique de protection de l'environnement. Malheureusement, ce n'est pas tout le monde qui le comprend. Alors comment le faire. Il y a eu la fraude. Même que la pêche à la seine à fermer il y a eu des fraudes. A Mont Lubin on a vu des petits cordonniers vendu à Rs 50 la livre. Pourtant c'est interdit. Comme les Barbara c'était interdit et cela c'est continué. Nous sommes là ici pour poser la question. Qui sont les responsables ? D'autre part il y a ceux qui protègent la mer mais il y a aussi ces pêcheurs qui faut aussi qu'ils prennent conscience à travers la formation. Quiconque prend conscience. Que quand on prend une décision c'est pour les protégés. Les protégés et protégés leurs gagne pain et protégés en même temps l'environnement marin. Et c'est cela justement ce bouleversement qu'il faudra causer chez les pêcheurs. Il y a autre chose ce pêcheur d'ourites, la seine, casiers, il n'a pas que cela, il a son bout de terrain, la terre, il a son petit élevage et on encourage ça. Très souvent son père est pêcheur moi mon père il était charpentier, il était planteur, éleveur pour beaucoup comme ça ici nos parents l'on été même quand il n'était pas employer dans le gouvernement. A Rodrigues on ne peut pas se fier sur une seule affaire. Il faut arriver à s'engager dans plusieurs domaines. Quand je n'arrive pas à pêcher dans la mer je fais mon travail à terre. Il y a toute une formation, une conscientisation à faire par rapport aux Rodriguais, aux pêcheurs, aux éleveurs et à tous. On a parlé ce matin au niveau des éleveurs qu'ils ne laissent pas leurs animaux. Il faudra qu'ils mettent leurs animaux dans leurs parcs pour protéger l'environnement. Alors il y a tous cela. C'est tout un travail de longue haleine pour qu'au bout nous puissions avoir une île Rodrigues sauvé parmi ceux qui sauve la planète. Alors beaucoup a été dit ici à propos de ce bout de règlement. Pour moi ce n'est pas se qu'il y a dedans c'est l'esprit que ce règlement la renferme. L'action que ce règlement là porte, agir. C'est ce qu'il y a dans ce règlement c'est justement toute une conscience générale. C'est vrai que le commissaire a fait des réunions avec des pêcheurs d'ourites que nos amis de la SEMPA on fait des rencontres, de Shoals on fait des rencontres. Alors il y a tous cela. On a posé la question qui est les responsables. Nous sommes tous responsables. Il n'y a pas celui là. Il n'y a pas celui là. Tout le monde. Ceux qui sont payés par l'état pour protéger l'environnement et c'est

pourquoi il a été dit ici que si on vote ce règlement demain il va y avoir je ne sais pas quoi moi, le deuil à Rodrigues et bien j'espère comme c'est arrivé en 2006, une révolution des pêcheurs. Souhaitons aussi qu'ils viennent là les pêcheurs d'ourites faire une révolution devant le bureau de Serge Clair. Alors je pose la question est-ce-que ça va se passer. Alors attendons voir. Mais je pense que les Rodriguais ont fait un pas un pas en avant dans la façon de comprendre tout ce qu'on veut faire c'est pour leurs biens. Des personnes étaient ici il y a quelques jours, des personnes d'Ireland étaient ici. Je dois dire même à ces agences internationales qui étaient venu de L'United Nation Country Team (UNCT). Quand on leur a proposé les visions de protéger la mer, de protéger la terre ils étaient enchantés parce que ça entrer dans toute une vision internationale. Et quand au niveau de la Commission de l'Océan Indien (COI) ou d'Ireland qui sont venus qui sont à Maurice qui sont au niveau de la COI, le SMARTFISH tout cela on a exposé notre politique d'avenir. Il faut avoir une politique d'avenir au niveau de l'environnement, Maurice/Rodrigues Ile Durables. On a eu M. Osman Mohammed du MID, du Prime Minister's Office qui était venu. Et tout cela ils supportent/soutiennent notre travail pour sauver l'environnement et ça c'est très important. Nous avons eu d'autres personnes qui sont venus pour faire l'élevage des huitres et autres. Ils sont tous venus. Il y a des gens qui viennent on les reçoit, prépare leur projet et c'est aussi justement une occasion pour permettre aux pêcheurs d'avoir une autre activité autre que piquer les ourites, autres que la pêche, autre les casiers, ainsi de suite. Tout cela en étant en état justement de travailler à ce projet là.

M. le président, quand je dis que je ne vais pas répondre à ce qui a été dit de l'autre côté mais tout simplement pour dire cette terre nous a été donné, la mer nous a été donné mais il ne faut pas le détruire. Ces petits ourites, il y en a qui on parlait d'ourites de 350g, il n'y a pas de loi dessus. Depuis bien longtemps on voulait appliquer cette histoire là. Mais il y a quand même une décision à prendre mais ce n'est pas pour longtemps, ce n'est pas pour cinq mois, pas pour dix mois, c'est pour deux mois. Pendant ces deux mois il va se passer quelque chose. Il y a un Membre de l'assemblée de l'autre côté a parlé que peut être juillet, aout et septembre peut être il faut pousser. Alors là il faut voir les spécialistes des poulpes. Nous savons justement que dans d'autres pays il y a des spécialistes des poulpes que ce soit dans les îles du pacifique et de l'atlantique, que ce soit dans les pays du nord, la Tunisie, le Maroc et ainsi de suite. Il y a la pêche aux poulpes mais ce n'est la pêche que nous faisons ici avec des fouines dans les coraux. Il y a toute des recherches à savoir comme le Shoals of Rodrigues, les poulpes mais parfois ça marche mais parfois cela ne marche pas. Tout dépend il y a toujours des recherches à faire et c'est ce qu'il ne faut pas abandonner justement sur ces recherches. C'est pourquoi au niveau de Mauritius Research Council nous allons signer un Memorandum of Understanding avec the Mauritius Research Council qu'on amène ici un

emplacement et des laboratoires pour que vraiment il puisse y avoir une unité de recherche ici. Ce n'est pas simplement pour la mer mais aussi au niveau du sol, au niveau du climat, au niveau des transformations des agroalimentaires. Il faudrait aller vers la recherche et nos jeunes qui vont à l'université sont de retour aujourd'hui avec des Masters qui sont devenus des chercheurs. Il y a des enseignants qui sont dans des collèges qui nous ont proposés de joindre une équipe de chercheurs. Alors tout cela il y a une volonté. Pas simplement de ce gouvernement il y a aussi une volonté des gens en dehors par rapport à ce qu'on veut faire et cela c'est très important.

M. le président, je ne vais pas aller plus loin je félicite le courage de mon collègue de prendre des décisions. Nous n'avons pas le droit de laisser à la traîne ce concept d'une île Rodrigues durable et écologique. Il nous faudra protéger. C'est notre vision mais il y a beaucoup qui a été dit ici concernant qu'on aurait du consulter les pêcheurs avant mais mon collègue a fait des réunions, des rencontres. Il a été dans certaine réunion pas plus tard. C'est le droit aussi de ceux qui sont responsable de la protection du lagon eux aussi de conscientiser les pêcheurs. Ils ont aussi ce droit. Ils ont aussi cette mission. Ils ne sont pas la seulement pour surveiller mais pour éduquer comme les policiers pas seulement la pour prendre des contraventions mais aussi pour éduquer.

Voilà, M. le président, nous souhaitons ce règlement qui va peut être faire un pas en avant et qui va peut être causé aussi des troubles par ci par là. Mais à la longue nous souhaitons que les pêcheurs d'ourites ils ne vont pas être laissé à la faim il y aura des compensations et ils vont aussi travailler. C'est une histoire a ne pas se croiser le bras et attendre pour avoir la compensation. Cela aussi il faut écarter. Cette histoire de ne rien faire et avoir de l'argent. Il faut aussi arriver à faire quelque chose pour de l'argent. Cela aussi il faut apprendre ces pêcheurs d'ourites demain que ce soit les dames, les monsieur doivent pouvoir se dire pendant cette période moi je vais travailler la bas et ensuite j'ai mon jardin, j'ai mon petit élevage il y a tout cela qu'il faudrait essayer, créer cette esprit dans le pays. J'espère de l'autre côté le bruit il y aura, de l'autre cote le non l'aura pas. En tout le cas nous prenons le risque, cette décision mais en toute clarté et en toute raison parce que nous savons ou nous allons. Pour sauver la planète, sauver Rodrigues, sauver nos lagons. Ce mot sauver est dans toutes les bouches des habitants du monde. Sauver la planète, sauver Rodrigues, sauver les lagons. Sur ceux, M. le président, je vous remercie.

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to thank all the Members who intervened today and of course I am surprised of the level of the discussions. One thing that came out in almost all the mouths of the people before me is that everybody agrees that there is a big problem in the sea. Thank you all for having said that. The opposition defended their case so nicely and it

is there job. We knew it was going to be like this even if you put on your newspaper "*bravo à Payendee*". I knew the bravo there was something hidden in it but I do not care. I understand now. I did not understand why after having done all these meetings, negotiations, visits to Madagascar, for example, and then come up with a no to this project. Now I know that they were scared. There was a big *frayeur* in them and I can see this in their face today in front of me. This *frayeur* they were looking only at police side of things. This is what we heard today – police. How are we going to stop, arrest and the main thing about this has nothing to do with policing, I mean a little bit, the policing is just to make the thing work in a smooth way. I agree and I admit that some of your propositions are good but a lot of it excuses me for that has been done in a really irresponsible way. We will take on board all your suggestions. Good suggestions, of course. As I said before everybody will learn a lot from this project. It is new. Of course, we have to start somewhere. I thank the Chief Commissioner who said I got the courage to do it and I will do more than this. And thank for the Member who said I am the right man at the right place and this made me really *chaud au Coeur*. My position and everybody here will admit that in these three, four months we have been in power I have done a lot for the environment and this is not the end. This is just a start. There will be in a couple of months or years to come. It would have been great to take on board all your suggestions but as I said in my speech time is very important and the money also. He was saying if we got money, we would sell our country. We will not do this. May be you have done it in the past but we take money from abroad to make this country go in the right direction never money to destroy it.

I am happy today to come with this regulation even though I admit that there are some amendments, which I will propose, of course when we go through the regulations itself and people were talking about the general fishing, lots of things, which are irrelevant to this case of octopus fishery. Of course, somebody talked about the marine reserves. I can assure you that the marine reserves will continue to work and actually, we are on the phase of participatory approach with the public to get their feedback on how we should to do it.

Thank you all again, to all the people who believe in it mainly the people who thinks that the policing is just a small bit of it. It is not police we are talking about. It is true if we want to talk about police then we are not going to come say to someone give your this is childish to look for octopus in your place and all this. We are saying that we will amend this bit that anyone who has got 5 kg or more they will have to declare it. If they come from import, they have to declare it. So anyway, I do not want to go in this police thing. I am here as an ecologist and we are going in the positive environmental side of the regulations. I am sure we will learn a lot. Next year all these amendments

can come but for this time, we are not going to step down. We are going to go forwards with it with some amendments and we want to learn a lot from what will happen. I will learn, you will learn, everybody here will learn. It is not true to say that I am not in the meetings. I can assure you that the meeting at Baladirou I was there. I was there but you did not say Baladirou. You said that I did not go to these meetings. I will go anywhere in this island to talk about this. I am a Rodriguan and I am not scared of anyone in this country. Whenever I want to do something good, I told you my dream I like this island and if I have to die for it, I will. Who is going to stay forever on this island? At least some day people will say that there was someone who liked this island and who preferred dying for it than to step down in front of some people who are very irresponsible.

From these words, like the Chief Commissioner's said we are going to go forwards with it with some amendments and the aims is to learn. The amendments will come as soon as normally we go through the things. I will come with some amendments and I hope that all the respected Members in this House believe in this project. I know you do. If I could cut your heart and put it on the table and I am sure, 90% of it said yes go for it but there is this 10%, which is the dark side of things, and you are going in this dark side. Unfortunately, I am really sad for you guys today. Respected Members sorry for the word guys.

All the meetings that are being held with the people, the fishermen we are noting down comments and all these comments are coming to me and also we work as a team. You have been commissioner before. You know the job of a commissioner. You know you have many things to do. I cannot do everything and I believe in division of labour. I too believe in division of labour. So that is why I have given to the people whom I trust. I tell you, so that is why I said I have given the chance to the people, whom I trust, who work under my commission to undergo this process. I am sure they are doing it in the right way and I come whenever I get the time I come to just back them a little bit. I am glad they are doing a good job, including Damade, yes. They are all doing a good job and we are getting the feedback and if they could speak up today I am sure they will put all of you KO from what all the fishermen are saying, the right people. You are speaking of the name of the fishermen and you also have to ... work with them. Have you done some researches, some participatory approach you ask them? I am telling you I have the figure, 75% of the fishermen are for the project and I am glad. I will come to the meeting, I am not afraid. I will go to meetings and we will make this project work for the benefit of this island and this is our vision. Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: Now that all the speeches on general policy on the Regulations is over we can turn to examine the Regulations section by section. We can go to page 1. I would prefer that we go in seriatim. We start from the top of the page and down. I suppose there may be or not be so many amended into it. At the front page, are there any modifications/amendments?

Mr. R. Payendee: I beg to move for the amendment for the first line – Regulations made by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly under Sections 26(1), 31, and item (16) of the Fourth Schedule of the Rodrigues Assembly Act 2001. To add Regional Assembly which is missing in this. To add the word Regional after Rodrigues.

On question put, the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Chairperson: So we can proceed downwards. Anything in the Arrangement of Sections. Section 1? Section 2? Nothing? We turn to page 2.

The Minority Leader: I propose to add in interpretation the word “*contravene*” which I said include failed to comply with.

[Interruption]

Mr. R. Payendee: We are still on the first page and *contravene* does not exist on this page.

Mr. J. Roussety: I think we are in a sort of mess here. May I propose that may be if the House agrees that we are examining a Regulation but it looks like a Bill and there is a procedure for this, that is, the Committee Stage of Bills? If the House could resolve on the same procedure for Committee Stage of Bills could apply for this examination of this Regulations so that Members could be allowed to discuss freely what they want to propose. A final draft be agreed. I understand they are prepared to accept the amendments. If you do not want to accept an amendment then we can give reason why and then the House may resume and then vote on the final draft, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This is just a proposal. Otherwise, we will not progress.

[Interruption]

Mr. R. Payendee: We agree with what the Member says but the problem is the timing. The timing is very important.

Mr. Chairperson: We can proceed after 07.00 hours now.

[Interruption]

COMMITTEE STAGE

Mr. Chairperson: Since all the Members have agreed, the House resolves itself in committee of the whole Assembly. We shall examine the Regulations from top to bottom. The Commissioner, please.

Introduction sentence was called

Mr. R. Payendee: I beg to move that the word Regional be inserted between the word Rodrigues and Assembly.

On question put, the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Chairperson: Anything in Arrangement of sections? Let us go to Part I. Short title. Anything to add? Interpretation?

Part I was called.

Mr. J. Roussety: Can I move that – the definition of octopus. That we delete anything, which follows after the last comma together with the related schedule. So that it reads, “*octopus means an aquatic organism of the sea cephalopod family with two eyes and which normally possesses four parts of sucker-bearing arms*”. I suppose my amendment/proposal being given that there are 300 species of octopus and that legally speaking I think that it would be difficult to prove that any octopus, which is caught within a contravention, would be of one of these two species. It would be a burden of proof unnecessary burden of proof on the prosecution in these cases.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I move that instead of deleting these two species that appear to add “*any species of the octopus family*”. To delete First Schedule in the definition.

Mr. Chairperson: FIRST SCHEDULE should be deleted completely since it is removed from definition of octopus.

On question put, the amendment was agreed to.

Part II was called and agreed to.

Part III Section 4 (1) was called.

The Minority Leader: Section 4. It is written here Closed Period. I would like that period be replaced by “season”. In the main title, it is Season but here it is written period. I move that the word period is deleted and replaced by season.

Mr. R. Payendee: We think that it is a period of the closure. It is a season for closing. It is a period of time not a season, a specific period. We are talking about a period of time, from one day to another. It can change next year, we do not know.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I make a proposal. If the Commissioner intends to keep the word period, therefore No. 1 needs to be amended so that the closing period is from such month to such month.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a period means you can change the dates. It could be the first and within two months, it can also be expanded. The 1st of August instead of October, you can put November. This is the period, you can extend the period, the number of month or you can reduce the number of month. This is a period.

On question put, the amendment was defeated.

Mr. R. Payendee: I also move on this section. Part III Section 4 (1) inserts the word “fishing” after the word octopus.

On question put, the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have a proposal for an amendment after Section 4 sub-section (1) it is said that the “*The Commissioner shall set a specific period for the closure of octopus by way of notice in at least two local newspapers*”. It is not said when the notice has been published after how many days the content of the notice become effective. If we do not do that the public will not know unless the notice specified it but if this notice is to specify it then this must be said here that the notice shall include the date on which the closure is to start and the date on which it is to close. Either one or the other. Because you make a notice, but which legal provision give you the power to make the sureties.

I move that is introduced after Regulation 4 (1) a Regulation 4 (2) stating the notice... The notice itself you need to give time. To give the notice today for tomorrow, it is not good. So, I leave it to you, Mr. Baptiste you propose the amendment. At least two weeks before the commencement of the closure.

Mr. Chairperson: Someone has to move for the amendment, please.

Mr. J. Roussety: I invited to move it but you sit down. I move, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the words “*at least 10 days before the commencement of the closed period so that it reaches the Commissioner shall set out a specific period for the closure of octopus by way of notice in at least to look on newspapers at least 10 days before the beginning of the closed period*”.

Mr. R. Payendee: If you give at least 10 more days, that means that we have 30 days after it has been gazetted and then 10 more days before it starts. Then for the octopus itself, for the period it is not very good. It should come in force immediately after the 30 days it has been gazetted. This is the law. According to the law, it has to be gazetted for 30 days so it should come in force just after the 30 days and we will put the notice for that. In the coming years we will try to sort this out. For the time being we know that the policing thing is not tapped, the thing which is in front of this project. The most important thing is the conservation of the octopus. We can be flexible for the first days. We will not be like Police but the most important thing is not to lose more days before the start of the Regulations so that more female octopus can be protected. My point is to leave as it is apart from the amendments that we have already put.

On question put, the amendment was defeated.

Part III Section 4 (2) was called.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move that the word “*by any means*” be inserted after octopus in first sentence of Section 4 of sub-section (2).

On question put, the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. R. Payendee: To add the word “*written*” in front of authorization because here it is written only to the authorization of the Commissioner which a lot of people can use it as a verbal authorization. It is better to write “*written authorization*”.

On question put, the amendment was agreed to.

Part III Section 4 (3) was called.

Mr. R. Payendee: I have a modification here. I beg to move that the words “*at least*” be inserted before 5 kilograms.

On question put, the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I bet to move that the word “*during*” be inserted in this sentence and replaced part of the sentence from “*on the first day of*”. We remove “*on the first day*” of and replaced it by “*during*”.

On question put, the amendment was defeated.

Mr. R. Payendee: Instead I propose that the word “*at latest*” which gives the time for people to come forward to declare their 5 kgs or more. The latest date would be the first day the Regulations come into force.

I beg to move that the word “*at latest*” be inserted after the word “*on the first day*”.

On question put, the amendment was agreed to.

Part III Section 4 (4) was called.

Mr. J. Roussety: In this Section 4, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I was wondering whether there should be notification of import permits something like that, if the Commissioner would agree so that we progress if the principle is agreed then we could make the amendment. We add a sub-section 5? No person shall export or import. The amendment is that we include the words “*or import*” after the word “*export*” in regulations 4 (4).

I beg to move that the words “*or import*” be inserted after the word “*export*” in regulations 4 (4)

On question put, the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, sorry to come back. Under Part III would the regional government, the regional team had said that we include; we mention the issue of compensation here. We add, for example, regulation 5 after 4 in the same Part III entitled compensation simply stating that the Commission for Fisheries shall compensate those affected by this measure in a proper form without mentioning the amount during the closed season. This would be a good thing towards the fishers to show them. Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

this is a proposal. From my point of view, it would be a good sign towards fishers. You can show them, you can tell them that the regulation contains the compensation. We have said there will be compensations. We do not need to state how much we just need to mention compensation. If the principle is adopted may be they can approve and another thing I would like to propose in this Part III is over and above the closed season. Would the Commissioner agree to the principle we include regulations not for the closed season but for the whole fishing of octopus about the minimum size of catch of octopus. This would be I think also a good measure so that if someone goes at sea after the closed season and land octopus like this he should be put in contravention. Actually, there is no law for this. If I think, there is a law this does not arise.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the word “*closed season allowance*” be inserted in the Interpretation.

Mr. R. Payendee: The compensation side is quite complicated because the plan is to start compensating these fishermen but we do not know next year. These people may not want to go back to the sea. This is a bit difficult in the future to follow up on this. I think this is purely administrative and we do not want to put it in the regulations.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the “*Interpretation*” I move that the “*closed season allowance*” be inserted. It means any allowance paid to octopus fishermen during closed season.

Mr. R. Payendee: There is no allowance or compensation as such. We are providing job for these people for this period so we do not want to put it in the law and then tomorrow if the fishermen said you put it in the regulation and now you are asking us to go to work.

On question put, the amendment was defeated.

Part IV was called and agreed to.

Mr. Chairperson: Now we are over with amendments I shall resume the Chair.

REPORT STAGE

On the Assembly resuming with Mr. Chairperson in the Chair, Mr. Chairperson reported accordingly.

On question put, the motion was agreed with amendments.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 21 August 2012 at 10.30 a.m.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

MATTERS RAISED AT ADJOURNMENT

“VEHICLES A RODRIGUES”

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: M. le président, j’aimerais intervenir sur un point concernant les véhicules à Rodrigues. Le Commissaire concerné est parti, ce n’est pas grave, je vais faire mon *speech*. J’ai pu comprendre qu’il compte venir de l’avant avec un règlement concernant pour limiter l’âge des véhicules à Rodrigues. Je vais être très bref parce qu’il y a d’autres intervenants.

M. le Président, il faut comprendre aujourd’hui, ils ont voté un règlement et il n’y a pas eu de consultation. Moi si. Moi j’aurais aimé à ce qu’il réfléchisse sur l’implication de limiter l’âge des véhicules à Rodrigues. Il y a déjà la loi qui régit tout cela. Et le Commissaire a intervenu à la radio, il a dit la dernière fois, les propriétaires ont des problèmes d’argent pour réparer leurs pannes d’autobus. Il est venu la dernière fois avec ça, pour donner comme raison il y a des problèmes dans les transports en commun à Rodrigues. Il faut faire bien attention, il ne faut pas toucher/violier le droit à la propriété. Si quelqu’un veut acheter une voiture - nous avons construit des routes, des track roads, cela incite les gens à acheter des voitures - comment en étant un gouvernement responsable, comment peut-on venir de l’avant pour restreindre le pouvoir d’achat des ceux qui veulent acheter une voiture. Cela est mon premier point. Nous de ce côté de la Chambre, nous mettons en garde toute atteinte à la liberté, au droit à la propriété des Rodriguais.

Deuxième chose, M. le président, je dois dénoncer un cas que je qualifierais peut être *cheap* pour certaine personne, mais il faut le dire – il faut arrêter cette abus. Je trouve cela intolérable, grotesque et ça fait honte au gouvernement. M. le président, il y a quelqu’un qui roule dans une voiture à Rodrigues. Il y a un Commissaire qui roule dans une voiture avec une fausse plaque d’immatriculation. Une fausse plaque d’immatriculation ! Nous avons

acheté une voiture pour le Rodrigues Housing Company. Qui est-ce qui roule dans cette voiture ? La voiture à un Horse Power et la loi préconise que lorsque vous enregistrez une voiture *«the car should have a registration number in the prescribed form»*, that is, you should respect the year and the registration number in front. So, what is happening, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the car bought by the previous government for the Rodrigues Housing Company had as registration number last time 28RNV10 - 2010. La voiture dont roule M. le commissaire de transport et de l'infrastructure public est immatriculé 4RRA12.

I am tabling. **(Appendix V).** This is a case of forgery and I am here – je suis ici pour dénoncer. *Qu'est-ce qui va se passer s'il y a un accident. « ki numéro la police pou prend ? Dire moi ? Agathe fait un accident avec la voiture, qu'est-ce qui va se passer ? Tel numéro machine 12, kan ti acheté, on va en cour, on discute, on demande et mo perdi mo case »*. J'ai parlé à des personnes responsables à Maurice. On ne peut pas changer la date, l'année où le véhicule a été enregistré à Rodrigues. M. le président, je tenais à dénoncer ceci. Merci.

RODRIGUES WATER COMPANY LTD.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: M. le président, cette semaine on a annoncé la fermeture du Rodrigues Water Company. Tout le monde était étonné, M. le président, par cette attitude du double langage du Commissaire responsable de Ressource en Eau qui en mars 2012, cette année, a annoncé avec ferveur que cette compagnie restera en opération et que le gouvernement régionale actuelle ne compte pas fermer la compagnie. C'est de même pour le petit rond point à l'hôpital, M. le président. Il a même eu une réunion mais je me demande si le Commissaire était présent.

M. le président, cette compagnie avait pour but l'objectif principale d'agir comme le *Central Water Authority* à Maurice dans le future et d'assurer un meilleure approvisionnement de l'eau à la population qui depuis sa création a eu la responsabilité de gérer l'eau dans la région ouest de l'île. Il devrait ensuite prendre en charge les autres régions en recrutant des staffs et travailleurs additionnel et faire fonctionner la compagnie avec un cash office.

Comment peut-on fermer une compagnie, M. le président, en disant *« pénan l'argent, pé roule zante »* ?. Est-ce-que l'équipe en place a prit une connaissance profonde du dossier et les études de faisabilité effectué dans les années 2009 par des consultants internationaux sous l'égide du Decentralized Cooperation Program, les rapports Lux Consulte de décembre 2000 qui a dit qu'il faut institutionnaliser une espace de concertation de l'eau, des renforcements des capacités d'un nouveau service publique privé distributeur de

l'eau qui sont ancré dans la mise en place de la Rodrigues Water Company. Pour moi, M. le président, on est en train de reculer. Ce n'est pas le grand retour mais le grand arrière parce que dans tout les pays en voie de développement on est en train de mettre en place un organisme pour s'occuper du secteur de l'eau. Le rôle de la Rodrigues Water Company était d'assurer le processus de reforme et de rendre efficace le secteur de l'eau à Rodrigues qui était soutenu par des agences internationaux comme les Nations Unies.

La gestion de l'eau et le développement de l'eau est une chose dynamique, M. le président, et la réforme devrait passer par là. Le gouvernement est en train d'induire la population en erreur. Ils ont dit qu'ils vont garder opérationnel le Rodrigues Water Company, transférant son bureau à la Ferme et ensuite après peu temps et après quatre mois on annonce la fermeture de celle-ci. C'est ça qu'on appelle *managing public fund*. C'est ce qu'on viendra dire que la compagnie n'est pas *self run*, n'apporte aucun revenue et que *no money has been earmarked in any item in the budget for it*, qui ne sont pas et que le ... n'est pas *cost efficient*.

M. le président, je dois dire que depuis 2010 l'item de la compagnie sous *Equity Participation was removed by the Ministry of Finance and that even the audit told of winning the company but how did the company survive from 2010 to now, Mr. Chairperson, Sir?* Est-ce-que le gouvernement en place tienne à cœur l'intérêt de ces travailleurs et de leurs familles? Ces jeunes professionnelles qui ont un dynamisme, qui s'occupaient de la distribution et de la maintenance - les documents ont montré comment ils maintenaient le service dans ouest et une envie de travailler - vont perdre leurs emplois. Il y en a 69, M. le Président, et d'après nos informations, il y aura des interviews et ils peuvent tenter leurs chances pour être recruter comme *Laboueurs/General Worker*. *Mr. Chairperson, Sir*, comment un électro mécanique, un lorry driver *will be reverted to a Labourer/General Worker ?*. En ce moment, M. le président, on a des formes, des organisations archaïques prônaient par l'actuel gouvernement qui n'est pas *cost efficient*. La fermeture de cette compagnie s'affère dans la morosité généralisé qui sévit dans le pays, M. le président.

Pendant la campagne électorale, le Commissaire de l'Eau, *qui n'est pas là*, a lancé des grande slogans d'être responsable et visionnaire mais aujourd'hui il montre qu'il a raté l'occasion *on the way forward in the sector* et que dans tout les villages en ce moment les Rodriguais souffrent, même si la pluie était abondante depuis janvier. Les structures de captage sont utilisés a des fins politique comme à Eau Vannée qui est *unfounded in the reservoir* seulement pour l'agriculture, M. le président.

M. le Président, fermé cette compagnie est de l'incompétence de la Commission de l'Eau, qui ne fait rien et qui critique en ce qui a été mit en place dans le plan dynamique de l'eau, comme par exemple, il a cité les effets d'annonces sur le dessalement, l'ancien contrat pour réparer le dessalement à Songes. Il dit que c'est un gaspillage d'argent, M. le président. Merci

RODRIGUES WATER COMPANY LTD.

Mr. J. Roussety: M. le Président, j'aimerais intervenir aussi pendant le temps qu'il reste - je ne sais pas combien de temps il reste, sur la Rodrigues Water Company, sur les réformes qui ont été engagé depuis un certain temps à Rodrigues et surtout de la mise en place de la Rodrigues Water Company.

Il faut comprendre, M. le président, ce qui avait été fait, ce que disent le SIDPR et le constat de tous les experts qui sont venu à Rodrigues. Voici ce que dit le SIDPR à la page 154 dans le secteur de l'eau concernant le système de gestion et de distribution de l'eau par la Water Unit, c'est-à-dire par le gouvernement, le système *to which* le gouvernement original du jour a décidé de retourner. Voici ce qui est dit: *"the whole system of water resources management and development is archaic, inefficient, costly, unsustainable and severely inhibiting development of the island"* as documented etc. water stress and the problem of water quality have or will soon become critical factors limiting development of the public sectors etc. The word is borrowed from the political bible of Rodrigues, if I could mention, the SIDPR, which has been endorsed by the regional government and which here five months after the setting up of the regional government - five months after there is no EPMU. There is no *Table Ronde de Rodrigues* and they are still reading the SIDPR. This is pitiful, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I beg to disagree and this is a very serious issue on the closure of the Water Company. *C'est une solution facile. Quand j'étais Chef Commissaire on a du résisté à l'Audit. L'Audit est là pour regarder les comptes. Est-ce-qu'on a volé de l'argent dans le Water Company? On a eu droit à toute sorte d'accusations. Vous voulez fermer la Water Company? Fermez la Water Company but takes your responsibility in front of history. You are closing I set a limit to you. I am telling you as an Economic Expert as one of the fathers of the Rodrigues Water Company, I am telling you – you are closing the Water Company today, in the years to come you will see it will be necessary to put in place a structure like the Water Company. It is not I, who is saying it though I am an expert also. Look here, Mr. Jean-Michel Chéné, appuie au développement durable au secteur de l'eau de l'île Rodrigues. You are speaking about the expert from the United Nations, Michel Chéné comes from New York, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, United Nations, Département des Nations Unies pour les Affaires Economique et Sociale and here Mr. Chéné in*

his report *a prit au développement technique* which is in the files congratulates us and says we must go ahead with the Water Company.

Today what is happening? I do not know what the outgoing government has done without me. What is happening? They say they have – what the Commissioner has said on the radio this morning. What has been said on the radio? Water Company is being closed because it is not getting revenue but who should come forward with the regulation to collect the revenue, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? Who should come forward here? We need Rs 1 m. At least Rs 1 m. to make the Water Company worked out. They have said there are ten thousand families in Rodrigues, families, households etc. If every family pays Rs 125 or Rs 100 per month. What is Rs 100 today? Can Cotton Bay hotel not pay water fees? Mourouk Ebony hotel, CEB, Mauritius Telecoms everybody, all big consumers of water, let us exclude poor families. Why do you not come here with the regulation needed? I cannot come her with this! The regulations are already in the files, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. We need to come here with the regulations to have the Water Company operational.

Look at the report of the Water Company. The Feasibility Report of the Water Company, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Look here, you see the flag of the European Union. This report has been financed by the DCP (Decentralized Cooperation Program) and it is said here, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that if the reform process had gone properly as here the Water Company would be autonomous by 2015. Let me quote: *“if the reform path recommended in this report is followed the in cost to the Rodrigues Regional administration will be higher over the next four years.”* We were 2009 as the Water Company takes over operation and services improve. However, from 2013 tariff/revenue will commence. There is a roll back for the Water Company – 2013 tariff/revenue will commence. By 2014, the cost of reform and improve services have been recovered and from 2015 the Rodrigues Regional Assembly will no longer incur significant recurrent cost for water services. What do they want do to? They want to come back to what the SIDPR has qualified as the archaic system.

C'est le plus grand pécher politique que ce gouvernement régionale a été capable de faire jusqu'à maintenant. Qu'ils prennent leurs responsabilités, M. le président. Les emplois, c'est un truque secondaire, le plus grand truque c'est la réforme du secteur de l'eau, M. le président que je viens défendre ici. Allez, M. le président, prenez votre bâton de pèlerin. Vous dites que vous savez négocier. Allez au Ministère de Finance, allez leurs faire comprendre, prenez le rapport avec vous. Je peux vous accompagnez et d'autres Membres de l'opposition ici s'ils veulent accompagner ou écrire des lettres ou faire un consensus. Mais il ne faut pas accepter la facilité. Comme la dit le Membre qui a été Commissaire de l'Eau - l'argent, on nous a dit de ne pas mettre *grant* pour Rodrigues Water

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Company – moi-même j’ai eu des problèmes parce qu’on voulait mettre *grant* pour le Rodrigues Water Company. On a du mettre l’argent dans un autre secteur, Water Resource Management et puis on réalloue l’argent. C’est des techniques budgétaires qu’on peut faire.

Quelle autonomie nous parlons, M. le président, si Maurice, le Directeur de l’Audit veut nous dicter ce que nous avons à faire, contraire au SIDPR, si le Ministère de Finance veut nous dicter ce que nous avons à faire. Water Company is nothing political. The current Island Chief Executive today, he was the Chairman of the Rodrigues Water Company and he can give his testimony that everybody who has been recruited in the Water Company has been recruited on the basis of merit, on the basis of qualifications. The Commissioner for Water has ran away, unfortunately, I would make an appeal to his colleagues to transmit the message that we can still save the Water Company. We can still save Water Company provided you take the actions, which are required, and I am prepared to give a helping hand. Thank you.

At 19.24 hours the House was, on its rising adjourned to Tuesday 21 August 2012 at 10.30 a.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SECURITY OF INPATIENTS – QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

(B/58) Mrs. M. D. L. C. Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and others whether, in regard to the security of inpatients at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, he will inform the House if there has been any incident/s concerning patient/s who has left the wards without proper authorization?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as the respected Member has mentioned no period in her question, I wish to inform the House that from January 2012 to date, there have been twelve (12) patients who have absconded from ward as follows:-

- January - three (one male admitted due to alcoholic intoxication, one male admitted due to fall and one female with psychiatric problem)
- February - two (one male - fish poisoning, patient signed DAMA, and one female with psychiatric problem)
- March - one (one male with Assault injuries)

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- April - one (male with history of fall)
- May - Three (one male with Schizophrenia, one male with back-ache and one male alcoholic intoxication)
- June - two (two male with alcoholic intoxication).

Mr. Chairperson Sir, there has been no incident reported.

**BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES – ITEM VOTE NO. 22900951
- PROMOTION OF HEALTHY LIVING**

(No. B/59) Mrs. M. D. L.C. Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and others whether, in regard to item vote number 22900951: Promotion of Healthy Living, he will give and table a breakdown of expenses incurred from February 2012 to now.

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, In Budget Estimate 2012, an amount of Rs 300,000 was allocated to vote item 22900951 – Promotion of Healthy Living. The Breakdown of the expenses under this Vote Item is as follows: -

PERIOD	DETAILS	AMOUNT (Rs)
February 2012	Blood Donation Activity	2,000
March 2012	Provision of Pied Piper Services to Hospital	3,772
April 2012	Provision of sound equipment for sensitization campaign organised by Befrienders Association	2,500
April 2012	Provision of Pied Piper Services to hospitals	3,772
May 2012	Provision of stationeries to Aids Unit for sensitization campaign	6,110
June 2012	Provision of refreshment to Befrienders in connection with sensitization campaign	3,500
June 2012	Provision of air tickets to two (2) members of Blood Donors Association to attend workshop in Mauritius	15,158

**SANITATION – PORT MATHURIN MARKET/BUS TERMINAL
-MEASURES TAKEN**

(No. B/60) Mrs. M. D. L. C. Meunier (The Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and others whether, in regard to sanitation issues in the vicinity of Port-Mathurin market and the bus terminal, he will inform the House what measures are being taken to ensure that all public health requirements are being respected?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Sanitation issues involve enforcement of the Public Health Act and the Food Act to ensure safeguard of the public health. For the Port Mathurin Market, same was managed since its opening up to end of March 2012 by the Rodrigues Housing and Property Development Company. From there on, it is managed by the Public Health Office; the Health Inspectorate Cadre is posted permanently there, to ensure the smooth running of the market. However, two main issues tend to contribute to degradation of sanitary norms there and which require the constant, continuous and regular intervention of the Health Inspectorate team namely:-

- (1) Repeated acts of vandalism regarding water supply, sanitation and other infrastructures.
- (2) Stalls, mostly handicraft/agro alimentary products were allocated in a haphazard way by the Rodrigues Housing and Property Development Company, whereby the numbers of stalls allocated exceeded by far the space available and without systematic numbering and fixing of stalls. Moreover, the place earmarked for cultural activities to promote Rodriguan culture is actually invaded by the outnumbered handicraft stalls and their shelters.

My Commission, through the Public Health Office, is actually taking all measures to regularize the tenants of different stalls in view of reorganizing the set up to bring about an environment conducive to the well-being of all market users including stall holders and the Public. Cleaning is carried out daily by Rod Clean Ltd.

It is to be noted that the market building is still under its guarantee period and as such, structural alteration cannot at this stage be undertaken by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

As for the Bus Terminal, the cleaning is still under the purview of the contractor, that is, Rod Clean. Much effort have been

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undertaken to render the place pleasant, namely upgrading of the toilets and green space. Moreover, all traders operating behind the bus terminal have been issued with a prohibition notice under the Food Act to prevent them from cooking in an insanitary environment, whilst necessary measures will be taken to relocate them on humanitarian grounds.

**CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND
– LOCATIONS/COST/NAME OF BIDDERS**

(No. B/76) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to the construction of children's playground (*jardin d'enfants*) for the period August 2006 to date, he will table the list thereof, their locations, the cost of each construction, together with the name of the successful bidders where applicable?

SN	Year	Location	Contract Value	Contractor
1	2007	Baie Lascars	830,208.58	J. C. Peermamode
2	2007	Anse aux Anglais	630,164.60	L. Swee
3	2008	Baie du Nord	1,154,408.64	A & J Maurel
4	2008	La Ferme	1,959,422.06	A & J Maurel
5	2010	Rivière Coco	3,234,490.00	J. N. Nemours
6	2011	Marechal	1,147,625.02	Colas (Maurice) Ltée
7	2011	Parc Tortue	829,555.85	Colas (Maurice) Ltée
8	2011	Mangues	684,555.85	Colas (Maurice) Ltée
9	2011	Nassola	1,323,928.59	Colas (Maurice) Ltée