

**RODRIGUES
THIRD REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Debate No. 1 of 2013

Sitting of Tuesday 26 February 2013

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 26 FEBRUARY 2013

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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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENGTH OF QUESTIONS

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Members, to begin with I wish to welcome back every one of you in this Assembly and pay regards to your spouses and children.

I hope that most of you have spent a good time with your family and relatives during last Christmas and New Year festivities. I was informed that one Member of this Assembly was not in good health and has had to go to Mauritius for medical treatment. I wish him a prompt recovery.

Today is the twelfth sitting of the Assembly since 11 February 2012. Everyone is concerned with the running of public business, which is expected to take place in a responsible and respectful way. By now, you are all, more or less accustomed with the rules and regulations of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act and more particularly the Standing Orders. I remember to have enumerated some clauses of the Standing Orders in my announcement of Tuesday 20 November 2012 just because some Members did not comply with them. I referred the Members to a ruling of this House of 16 March 2004 whereby it was ruled that: *“The Practice of the House is that questions should be limited to 75 words”*.

I have been particularly flexible so far. Unfortunately, while vetting the questions I noticed that one of the forty-two questions on the Draft Order Paper was unduly long. Thus, it was not with pleasure that I have had to reject that question.

May I request you, as responsible members of this august Assembly to act positively in a respectful manner, which will ultimately characterize your inner feelings, and thus the Rodriguan society will benefit of your good action.

Thank you for your attention.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ILLEGAL FISHING - MEASURES

(No. B/1) **Mr. J. Roussety (First Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to illegal fishing, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) if he is aware of the acute recrudescence of same, including underwater fishing using superguns, in the lagoon; and
- (b) the measures and policies he intends to take with regard to same, in particular the reactivation of the Fisheries Squad and the observance of Regulations in force for prescribed marine reserves?

The Commissioner responsible for Fisheries and Others (Mr. R. Payendee): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed by the Fisheries Protection Service that there is no such acute recrudescence of illegal fishing and underwater fishing using superguns that the respected Member is talking about and that the Regulations in force for the prescribed protection of marine resources are being closely monitored by the service.

However, it has come to my notice that there are some illegal fishing and underwater fishing being practised in Rodrigues with the complicity of some irresponsible public officers. Who does not know about the actions of sabotage set up by irresponsible people to prevent this government from achieving its goals? These people they have to know that there exist no fault, which is left unpunished and that no one can run the long arm of the law. *“Cent ans pour le voleur un jour pour le maitre, comme dit le dicton Français ».*

Let me give some of the measures and policies that my Commission is taking to fight against illegal fishing:-

We believe in prevention measures:-

- An action plan is close to completion. We do not want Fisheries Officers to wait for fishermen to fish illegally to then try to catch them. We want them to prevent the fishermen from doing so by special measures that will be put forward by my Commission.
- We will prevent the importation of illegal implement such as nets and spear guns by rigorous and vigorous control at Port and Airport level. We know and we have proved that all these implements

come from Mauritius. We even know that some Enforcement Officers are among these illegal fishermen. I took the required time to better understand the system. The offenders will be punished; it is just a question of time. *“Petit à petit l’oiseau fait son nid”*.

- Powerful equipment such as powerful search light and infrared binoculars will be purchased to enable better surveillance at night.
- New regulations will be prepared to prevent the sale of some species of fish, which are not supposed to be on the market during the closed net season.
- Fishmongers will be closely monitored because we know that some of them are responsible for the sale of fish, which has been illegally captured.
- Large net fishers will be vigorously checked because we know that small mesh sized nets are very often used.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the reactivation of the Fisheries squad as stipulated in the question stays an option among others. *“Ma Commission ne fera plus de cadeau, le temps des rodages est fini on passe a la vitesse supérieure. Attachez vos ceintures”*. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, listening to the Commissioner, I would like to know how he reconciles what he has said. On one side, he has said that according to information he has from Fisheries Protection Service, following my question, I believe he has got a report, I repeat his words, that there is no such acute recrudescence of same according to the Fisheries Protection Service, that is, there is no illegal fishing as mentioned in the question. Then, from his point of view, what he is observing he has admitted that there are and he says it is with the complicity of some irresponsible public officers. I congratulate, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, his courage to come to this House to state this - irresponsible public officers, this is true but how does he reconcile the fact that the Fisheries Protection Service says there is no illegal fishing, no recrudescence and that he at the level of the Commission he said that there is recrudescence of illegal fishing. Thank you.

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a simple answer to this question. I did not say that the Fisheries Protection Service said that there is no illegal fishing. I said that there is no acute, this is what I said. I am informed that the Fisheries Protection Service that there is no such acute recrudescence

which means that there may be some illegal fishing but no acute. This has always been like this. It is not the first time. I thank the Member who appreciated that I mentioned that some officers are involved and I am sure he must know a lot about this as well. I would like to... I did not mention it but the fact the Member talked in a really positive way I will invite all members here to come on board with me to help fight this illegal fishing. Thank you.

Mr. J. Roussety: Has the Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, done something to report those irresponsible Public Officers he is speaking about to the Island Chief Executive for necessary action.

Mr. R. Payendee: I said that these... everywhere in my answer that no fault will be unpunished and of course, we know and you all know that we need to prove it but for the time being, I do not have the real proof. That is why I said "*attaché vos ceintures*" because we are working on that and I am sure some of the people who are committing these illegal fishing together with the complicity of these irresponsible officers will be punished and I also said that it is only a question of time.

Mr. J. Roussety: Time is running, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. It has been one year since this government has been in place. I must admit as a Member of this House, as a lover of the sea that illegal fishing has boosted up since the coming into power of this government. There is de-motivation from the point of view of those Fisheries Protection Officers who want to work and I would like to know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are speaking about observance of new regulations, which will be introduced but what about the already existing regulations, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? We have the Marine Reserve Regulations, which we have for the SEMPA that we boat, I personally supervised the work and we brought, the Regulations for the SEMPA. What is happening in the SEMPA, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? Just for his information, the people who were supposed to act as Rangers, they themselves are assisting illegal fishers to fish. Two boats, *deux bateaux poissons* in the SEMPA and some people have this on their mobile phone as a film. What is going on? SEMPA persons assisting illegal fishers, Mr. Chairperson, Sir! About the new Regulations, we already have the Regulations for Marine Reserve, forget about SEMPA, they are in place there is corruption in the surveyors. I do not know what our good friends intend to do. May be he should take his boat, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Rodrigues is small take your boat and go out at sea. Every time I go at sea at Grand Bassin the people are building their parks they are putting their nets and they do not even care when there is a boat coming though if it is a fisheries boat they may go away. What about the Marine Reserves, we have put in place a wonderful project of Marine Reserves at Rivière Banane. What is going on today? It is closed. We put in place the Marine Reserve at Anse aux Anglais, Grand Bassin

and Coco Island. There is a Marine Reserve at Coco Island but what is going on?

Mr. Chairperson: Please come with your question.

Mr. J. Roussety: My question is as regards the Regulations in force for prescribed Marine Reserves why is it that there is no observance of these Regulations by the Commission itself.

Mr. R. Payendee: It is not true to say that, there is no observance of these Regulations. These Regulations form part of the work of the Fisheries Officers and I said we have got a new, the number also proves that yet there are these people, these irresponsible officers who are not doing their works. The Regulations are there but who is supposed to enforce the law. Who is supposed to enforce these Regulations - it is the Enforcement Officers. I also mentioned in my document that there is this action of sabotage. My colleagues will talk later about all the other sabotage which is going on to prevent this government from achievement its goal. I do not agree that we are doing nothing to try to prevent illegal fishing. We are doing the best of ourselves. I take this bit on board that yes I will take my boat but next time I will be happy, it is same for the last time as well. Officers, Members of this Assembly seeing people doing illegal fishing and they sit down and they wait to come to this Assembly to tell me. So where is their responsibility as someone belonging to this Assembly and working for Rodrigues? Please, let us try to be honest with ourselves. I will be happy if one of these Member, if at least one them ever use their phone to give us, tell us what is happening so that we can do the necessary actions. That is why I am inviting them today. Do not try to be opposition, opposition. You have got to help this island. We are here for just some time, we have to leave it for future generation, and as a Member of this Assembly, it is your duty to help. Thank you.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am ready to help but the example should come from the Commissioner himself first. I will quote one thing, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, which has been brought to me, on the 03 July 2012 at 08.30 p.m., the Commissioner himself came to the Fisheries Protection Office at Pointe Monier with some '*cordoniers*', 71 units of '*cordoniers*', undersized '*cordoniers*', Mr. Chairperson, Sir. When the officers called upon him to give the name where these undersized '*cordonier*' came from, he has not been able to give the reason.

Mr. Chairperson: Wait please. From which article you are speaking/quoting. Come to your question please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I will ask the Commissioner what has been the outcome with the '*cordonier*' that he has brought to the Fisheries Protection Office.

Mr. R. Payendee: Nothing happened in July but it is not a problem for me to answer. It is so easy. You know people us. We need to get information. Do you want me whenever someone gave me information or show me something happening on this island, I go and tell the person in the Fisheries Division that I got it from such and such person. What will happen after that, will that person come again to me and say I give you more information. I have been an Enforcement Officer in my life. I was a Forest Officer. Therefore, I know the secrecy about somebody. We have Police Officers around. Whenever I get an information, I take it to the person but it is not my duty to tell where I got it. Then I am killing this initiative because next time I will never get it. The reason is very simple.

Mr. J. Roussety: Being given the situation, irresponsible public officers, widespread illegal fishing. We must admit it is not new, which is not new in history. If you look at the history of Rodrigues, illegal fishing has always been endemic. May I suggest/propose to the Commissioner, who is willing to consider good proposals as he has said to set up a Select Committee of this House. A Select Committee of this House to report on what is going on about the Fisheries Protection Service, to report on all the aspects of illegal fishing in Rodrigues and to make necessary recommendations including laws or regulations which should be made, once and for all, to improve the situation. Because, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what is at risk today, is the entire marine ecosystem of Rodrigues. There is, I know what I am telling you. There is barely anything left within the lagoon of Rodrigues. Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: Please, we cannot make long speech on supplementary question. I think that we have got only three hours to go for questions time and you yourself you will tell me we have got fifteen questions left and we are unable to answer all the main questions. Please do understand. Thank you.

Mr. R. Payendee: Thank you for this proposition. Now I see that there is some positive things coming in. This is something to be considered. We will consider it.

STREETS CLOSURE - PORT MATHURIN

(No. B/2) **Mr. J. Roussety (First Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in

regard to the closure to circulation of certain streets of Port-Mathurin, he can inform the House:

- (a) which streets have been closed and for which periods;
- (b) of the reasons and justifications, including the economic and social cost thereof, together with the statutory/regulatory framework authorizing him to effect such street closures; and
- (c) if any consultations have been held with all parties concerned, including the relevant Thematic Group of the SIDPR and the *Table Ronde de Rodrigues*, and, in the affirmative, when and what was the tenure of the consultations?

The Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Solidarity Street was closed as from junction Père Gandy Street and Solidarity Street to junction Hajebye Fathemamode and Barclay Streets as from 01 to 31 December 2012. From junction Wolfert Harmenz Street to Solidarity Street from 24 to 31 December 2012 from 09.00 to 16.00 hours at first instant and afterwards as from 01 January 2013. Rue Mamzelle Julia remains open as usual since January 2013. There is no closed road on Sundays.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Solidarity Street is the most frequented street by pedestrians. It was observed that the incessant flow of vehicles was incommoding pedestrians thus represent a hazard to the public. As the flow of traffic could easily be rerouted through Wolfert Harmenz Street, Rue Hajebye Fatehmamode, Rue Paul Elysée and Barclay Street which are not highly frequented by pedestrians, it was proposed to close Solidarity Street as above for the interest of the public. These streets closure form part of the implementation of the project Port Mathurin "*Ville Pietonière*".

A closure of "*La Rue de la Solidarity*" is a pilot one. The roads have been closed and orally as decided by the Executive Council and according to the feedback we will obtain from the public we will decide whether we will go on with the project. Consequently, an appropriate regulation will be prepared and brought to this assembly.

As regards to part (c) of the question, consultation was help with business owners of Solidarity Street of Port Mathurin. The Divisional Commander of Police, Officers of the Commission for Public Infrastructure and other stake holders in a meeting held on the 22 November 2012 at the Conference Room of the Central Administration. Every business owners were keen with the

implementation of this project. It was not possible to seek the view of the '*Table Ronde de Rodrigues*' as these relevant thematic groups of the SIDPR as these entities as at December 2011 according to the term of reference.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Commissioner aware that the roads are closed up to now and that the Chief of Police is awaiting the ruling of the State Law Office.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not aware that the Chief Commissioner of Police is awaiting from the State Law Office but yesterday I have just met the Divisional Commander and he has not told me that he has written to the State Law Office. I do not know where the Member has received this information.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not recall hearing the answer in relation to what my colleague just asked. As regards the legal framework for closing these roads, can the Commissioner inform this House what is the legal procedure for closing a road. Is it just that he decides in his office he wants to close this road tomorrow he closes it down or is there a specific legal procedure including publication of notice in Government Gazette or elsewhere and then the roads are closed.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have just said it is a pilot project. Consultation has been made with all business owners and they agreed to it. It is a temporary closure. We are authority we have decided to close it temporary until we come with a Regulation later on.

Mr. J. Roussety: My question is, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, are these closures of road legal and in compliance with the Law?

Mr. Chairperson: I think that the Commissioner has already given an answer speaking of pilot. It is up to the Commissioner if he wants to answer.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are a high way authority and we are responsible for the construction, care and maintenance of all road in the island and according to this high way authority we have the right to close the road temporarily.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is the first I hear about this high way authority set up in Rodrigues. I would like to ask the Commissioner in two parts. First, whether the matter has been discussed in the Road Safety Committee and whether the Road Safety Committee still exist. He said that the decision has been taken by the Executive Council. May be the

matter has not been discussed in the Road Safety Committee, and the second part of the question according to the Road Act in which classification do the roads in Port Mathurin falls in? Can you tell us?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Road Safety Committee met every month and before this matter was taken at the Executive Council we discussed it and agreed to it in the Road Safety Committee. Regarding the Road Act, the road of Port Mathurin falls under the 'Urban Roads'.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. Roussety: Yes, thank you. At times, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when one reads the press, the national press, you see notices by Commissioner of Police who is closing such and such roads for such and such period, for such and such reason. Will the Respected Commissioner, being given the '*espèce de flou juridique et légale dans laquelle on se trouve*' will he as a matter of urgency request for an advice from the relevant authority, may be the Legal Adviser of the Regional Assembly on this issue, of closure of road.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this has already been done. We have had the advice of Mr. Buntty Pillay, Special Adviser on Road and Safety matters in Mauritius who has advised that the way we are going on is okay for the time being.

Mr. Chairperson: Next, question, please.

CPE - % OF SUCCESS, YEAR 2002-2012

(No. B/3) Mr. J. Roussety (First Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) examinations pass rate in Rodrigues, he will inform the House:

- (a) of the percentage success rate per primary school and overall in Rodrigues from 2002 to 2012, together with the reasons justifying the pass rate trend for that period;
- (b) if the established yearly meetings with teachers and parents in each primary school were held in the beginning of 2012 by himself and if the "*mois de revision*" period was observed;
- (c) which meetings or visits he had held as at 18 January 2013 in the primary school sector; and

- (d) state what specific policies he intends to implement to remedy the situation?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I am tabling the percentage success rate per primary school and the overall pass rate for Rodrigues as from 2002 to 2012. **(Appendix I)**

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with respect to reasons justifying the pass rate trend for that period, I am informed, by the technical staff of my Commission that in general the trend in CPE pass rate is influenced by the intake at each school during the specific academic year and this is characterized by the CPE pass rate per school. For instance, in the case of the least performing government school namely, Mangues Government School and the most performing government school, that is, Port Sud Est Government School at Year 2002, the statistics reveal that the pass rates for the period 2002 to 2012 were as follows:-

(i) Mangues Government school

2002:	50 %
2003:	60.75%
2004:	35.55 %
2005:	54.70 %
2006:	37.80 %
2007:	38 %
2008:	50%
2009:	45.78%
2010:	56.72 %
2011:	45.21%
2012:	54.17%

(ii) Port Sud Est Government School

2002:	62.5 %
2003:	68.18 %
2004:	56.30 %
2005:	56.5 %
2006:	60 %
2007:	60.9 %
2008:	60.98
2009:	84.90%
2010:	62.79 %
2011:	72.55%
2012:	62.30%

Mr. Chairperson: Sorry, please. If you have got long answers, you can table the remaining one if you wish.

The Chief Commissioner: I will go on, excuse me. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the statistics also showed that pass rates at CPE level have improved from an overall figure for school candidates from 55.1 % in 2002 except in 2003 and 2004 to 59.88 % in 2012.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to point out that the high rate of CPE failures has always been a concern of my Regional Government. This was the reason why my Regional Government through the Commission for Education entrusted the Centre for Applied Social Research (CASR) to carry out a study on the “Reasons for Certificate of Primary Education Failure in schools in Rodrigues” in 2004.

Subsequently, the Centre for Applied Social Research, in its final report submitted in 2008, made a series of recommendations to improve CPE pass rate in Rodrigues. The recommendations encompass among others the following:-

- (i) Effective method of monitoring and assessment that will promote and maintain improvements;
- (ii) Motivation incentive systems;
- (iii) School based training and continuous professional development;
- (iv) Parental involvement in school activities; and
- (v) Provision of a balanced diet.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is believed that the implementation of the above mentioned recommendations have contributed greatly to the overall improvement of CPE pass rates in Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with respect to part (b) of the question, I would like to point out that even though I did not attend personally meetings at the level of schools works have been carried by the officials of my Commission. Each officer be it at Commission level or school level has taken his/her responsibility to ensure the smooth running of the school last year. As such, the inspectorate cadre of my Commission had had meetings with parents at schools level to talk about the importance of providing all necessary support to their wards at the specific period that preceded the CPE examination for academic year 2012. Class PTAs’ have also been held on a regular basis.

In addition, regular briefings under my chairmanship were held with various stakeholders of the Education Sector to discuss issues pertaining to the

education sector. Meetings were also held with Head Masters and members of the PTAs.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards the “*mois de revision*” period, my regional government does not believe that the introduction of same will influence the performance of students at examinations. In contrast, we believe in a culture of continuous learning and hard work for students to be successful. We also believe that the stakeholder concerned namely, parents, school management team and teachers must take their responsibilities and provide the necessary support and guidance to pupils all throughout their schooling.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with respect to part (c), as from January 2013 ,I had had a meeting with Head Masters on followed by a meeting with the Parents Teachers Association’s at Basile Allas Port Mathurin Government School. Other meetings have been scheduled with teachers and parents during the course of this academic year.

With respect to part (d), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to point out that our current system of education is heavily dependent on quantifiable student learning outcomes rather than identifying the quality of student learning. As mentioned by the Centre for Applied Social Research, I quote: “*the CPE examination itself does not necessarily give a true indication of the general level of knowledge of the children or act as a true reflection of the capabilities and actions of the teaching staff in schools. In this, respect, some reflection needs to be made on both the relevance of the CPE examination to rating teacher and student performance and the relevance of the examination to the lives of the students in Rodrigues*”, end of quote.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is the need to review the present education system so as to make it more responsive to individual needs of the population. However, this is a long-term process and meanwhile, one of the strategies being adopted by my Commission is the construction of community schools. The main aim of these schools is to allow pupils to benefit from greater and more personal input from their teachers through the reduction of class sizes and encourage better parental involvement in the management of the school and in the ward schooling. This will in turn improve the overall performance of the pupils attending the community school. This is depicted by the CPE pass rate of 65.62% by pupils that took part in the CPE examinations for the first time at Araucaria Community Government School in 2012.

In addition, it has been decided following meetings held with the technical staff of my Commission and the management team of the RCEA to

adopt the following strategies in the short term to constantly improve the CPE pass rate:-

- (i) Set up of a Steering Committee on education and training;
- (ii) Strengthening the existing collaboration with the Roman Catholic Education Authority;
- (iii) Improvement of quality of teaching through school based training and continuous professional development;
- (iv) Continuous assessment including systematic analysis and mock examinations to identify strength and weaknesses for timely remedial action;
- (v) Enhance leadership and management capacity at school level;
- (vi) Promote a conducive learning environment through improvement of infrastructure ;
- (vii) Encourage greater parental involvement;
- (viii) Sharing of best practices through workshops;
- (ix) Setting up of problem solving team at school level and review the reward system.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the modalities thereof is being worked out by my commission.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner has made a very long statement as regards the different measures his Commission is taking to combat CPE failures. He has been talking about the study undertaken by Centre for Applied Social Research (CASAR) but may I ask him what about the recommendations of the SIDPR. The questions of addressing the problem of CPE failures is clearly mentioned because this has been done through consultation at grass root level where the priorities and the problems touching the different families are clearly spelt out. Has he taken note of the recommendation of the SIDPR?

The Chief Commissioner: We have started the study of the SIDPR, we are now looking into its main objectives, and we are now setting the different committees to look into the SIDPR.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not know whether the Chief Commissioner is aware when we looked at the statistics. In 2005, according to the report of the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate, at the level of Mauritius the CPE pass rate was 65%. At that time, Rodrigues was 55% and during these past years, we have reversed the tendency. In 2011 when Mauritius was 68%, Rodrigues also has attained 62%, that is, we are nearing Mauritius. When we combined both Mauritius and Rodrigues, it is because of

Rodrigues that the results of Mauritius have fallen down, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Can we ask the Chief Commissioner because the measures that he has mentioned, these are current measures including pedagogical measures at school levels because Teachers, Head Teachers they are compelled to do all these.

Mr. Chairperson: Please come to your questions.

The Minority Leader: As regards, policy measures, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is nothing which is clear cut as mentioned by the Chief Commissioner which is geared towards the improvement of the CPE results as it has been continuously been so during the pass years. This is my question, what is precisely the Chief Commissioner trying to do in order to maintain that level '*ascendante*'.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, all this has been said in my reply to the question and it is clear. We know that we must improve the percentage of the success in CPE even in colleges or in the university elsewhere. All this has been mentioned in my reply concerning our vision for education in Rodrigues.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I heard from the Chief Commissioner that he has been to Basile Allas Government School as regards to part (c). Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have seen that Mangues Government School, year in/year out, Mangues has reached a level, a low pass rate. Even up to now, the Chief Commissioner has not been able to go to Mangues Government School in order to ascertain/analyze what...

Mr. Chairperson: What is your question? You are making too long a speech. It is a supplementary question, come straight with your question, please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: It is coming, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Has he been visiting Mangues Government School to analyze the cause of failure as regards to this catchment area and the school itself?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is not only Mangues Government School, all the schools throughout the island. This work is being done by the Head Masters and by official of my Commission. We are analyzing the situation, the results of the CPE examinations. All this is being done; I have mentioned this in my reply. The question of responsibilities of the teachers, everyone even parents.

Mr. Chairperson: Next, question please.

APPLICATION - LEASES FOR TOURISM PROJECTS

(No. B/4) **Mr. J. Roussety (First Island Region Member)** asked Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to application for leases for tourism projects on state lands in Rodrigues, he can, for the benefit of the House:

- (a) table the full list of projects which were being processed/monitored as at 01 January 2011 together with the project status as regards processing of the applications as at that date, indicating:-
 - (i) which projects have been cancelled, modified or dealt with otherwise and the reasons thereof; and
 - (ii) the project value of each application;
- (b) state which letters of reservation or letters of intent or new leases have been allocated and to whom since 05 February 2012, together with the dates on which the applications were made; and
- (c) table copies of each project so concerned by (b) above.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the application for leases for tourism projects on state land in Rodrigues, I am tabling a list of projects which were being dealt with at the Cadastral Office as at 01 January 2011 together with the name of promoter, their location, the date of approval and their status to date. **(Appendix II)**

As regards parts (b) and (c) of the question, nine tourism projects have been approved since 05 February 2012. I am tabling a copy of all information requested. The projects concerned are for the construction of *gîte*, tourist residence and guesthouse by local promoters. **(Appendix III)**

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (a), subpart (i) the question was: which projects have been cancelled, modified or dealt with otherwise and the reasons thereof.

The Chief Commissioner: I have tabled information on that. The reasons are that there have been given a lease and there are all the conditions in that lease and they have to abide to all conditions. If they do not abide to those conditions, so they are out of the lease. All the conditions, they have not started or they have not finished their projects or even they have not paid for the lease.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are aware of cancellation of projects. We are not aware really of the exact reasons for these cancellations. Does the Chief Commissioner consider that such cancellation for some projects may be there were some discrepancies, some problems in payments, in submitting plans etcetera? We inherited the same situation, if we were in 2006 to cancel projects, two main hotels operating today would not have seen their existence. I want to ask the Chief Commissioner what is the impact on the tourism industry of these cancellation.

The Chief Commissioner: There is no impact because of the lots of projects, 30 projects that have been approved in the past and all from Pointe Coton to Mourouk all the land have been occupied, have been leased to promoters. So we have to see are we going to developed tourism as in Mauritius where lot of hotels, what kind of tourism are we trying to install in Rodrigues. When we see lot of projects with 100 bungalows, 100 rooms and sometimes those hotels have been situated in a place where we see it is not an environment situation. I need notice of the question to see what would be the impact of those cancellations on our tourism in Rodrigues.

Mr. J. Roussety: I am very surprised, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may be the Chief Commissioner has some information. I think this is due. He is saying that the beaches between Pointe Coton and Mourouk have been leased. I want to know whether Trou D'Argent has been leased because it is between Mourouk and Pointe Coton. This is what has been said and I want to know, to hear from the mouth of the Chief Commissioner whether there was/have been projects on the coral area, on the left of Fumier between Fumier and Pointe Coton. It is a coral plateau there. Whether there has been a project there. Whether the project has been cancelled.

Second, whether at Anse Ally he himself has allocated a project on the ... which later on when I was in office, environment impact assessment did not recommend. It is not true to say, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is false to say all the land has been leased between Mourouk and Pointe Coton. This is false. We cancelled the lease. Can he confirm whether there were project at Anse Ally, whether there was one project between Fumier and Pointe Coton, on the coral plateau. Confirm whether these projects have been cancelled and confirm also whether Anse Ally has been made a public beach and by whom and when?

The Chief Commissioner: Some of the projects have been abandoned by the promoters and concerning the other places we were very aware of the situation and that is why we thank that some projects have been abandoned in certain places.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question.

PROGRAMME BASED BUDGET

(No. B/5) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (The Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Programme Based Budget (PBB) of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the fiscal year 2012, he will, for the benefit of the House:

- (a) give and table a statement of accounts thereof, including the total revised and actual revenues and expenses from January to 31 December 2012;
- (b) state if any capital project(s) not planned for the financial year mentioned above was executed/completed or under completion and to give the costing for each project, if any; and
- (c) state if any payment of claims from suppliers/contractors has been delayed or postponed for financial year 2013, and, if so, to table same and give the reason(s) thereof?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling the required information in connection with part (a) of the question.
(Appendix IV)

As this house is aware, an amount of Rs 1,310,000,000 was voted by this house in 2011 under the Recurrent Budget for 2012. Following negotiations I had with the Minister for Finance, an additional fund of Rs 89,259,313 was received from Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to enable the RRA to meet most of the outstanding bills as at 31 December 2012. Moreover a sum of Rs 750,937 have been reallocated from some Capital Items to meet expenditure under the Maintenance Item - 22060 which is the only item to whereby reallocation can be made from Capital Item as per Virement rules.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards the Capital Vote Items, I have already made a statement in this house regarding the precarious state of the budget 2012 whereby more than Rs 280 m. were committed and some items vote overcommitted by Rs 104 m. Consequently, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as a responsible government, the budget ceilings of most items have had to be revised so as to be able to meet these contractual obligations. Hence, most of the projects, which were earmarked to be implemented in 2012, have had to be freezed or postponed. Moreover, taking into consideration the normal expenditure in terms of salaries under capital project, commitment for the

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Slaughter House, etc, this government was left with only a meager sum of money of about Rs20 m. to implement new projects.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, due the adherence to strict good governance by my regional government and thanks to our Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable, Navinchandra Ramgoolam and the Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Honourable Xavier Duval for their instant support, we have been able secure an additional amount Rs 62 m. over and above the voted provision of Rs 360 m. to implement the following projects in 2012:-

- (a) Construction of two additional classrooms at Terre Rouge Government School for an amount of Rs 2.7 m. to accommodate new intake in January 2013.
- (b) Construction of six additional classrooms for an amount of Rs 9.7 m.
- (c) The Construction of Phase 1 of road Brûlé–Pointe Coton for an amount of Rs 50 m.

The only condition attached to the additional funding was that the fund amount will be disbursed upon submission of appropriate claims and payment certificate.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, thus, a total of Rs 421,998,127 was earmarked for the Capital projects. As the three mentioned projects could not be completed by the 31 December 2012, only an amount of about Rs 50 m. was requested from Ministry of Finance and Economic Development out the Rs 62 m. Thus, an amount of Rs. 11.3 m. could not be released.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b) of the question, it is to be noted that nearly all capital projects which have been executed in 2012 were not actually planned in the 2012 budget, as all these projects, with the exception of the construction of the first phase of the Road from St Gabriel to Port-Sud-Est started late 2011 in the wake of the then forthcoming regional elections without approval of this Assembly. Moreover, these projects have been the subject of negative criticism by the Director of Audit in his last report. Being a responsible government, we have had no alternative, than to meet all those contractual obligations in cases where claims have been properly, certified and submitted for payment.

Concerning part (c) of the question, it is to be noted that no payments have been delayed or postponed for any supplier under capital budget

(investment projects budget). All claims received and which have been duly certified, have been settled as at 31 December 2012. However we have not been able to settle certain bills under recurrent budget, such as CEB, Mauritius Telecoms, Air Mauritius, Hotels Accommodation, some Store Forms etc. due to lack of funds.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner how does he reconcile the fact that during recent press conference this year he stated that for Budget 2012 over and above the Rs 360 m. budgeted he obtained from the Ministry of Finance an additional Rs 50 m. and now he comes to this House and said that he obtained much more than that. In the conference, he said that he spent every single cents and no money was left and now by asking such a question he comes and say that how much amount of money have not been able to be spent.

The Chief Commissioner: As I mentioned the Rs 50 m. is for the road, from Brûlé to Pointe Coton. We did also receive certain million of rupees for the construction of colleges Terre Rouge and the government school at Terre Rouge. This Rs 50 m. was for the roads.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it has been in the public that the Chief Commissioner was not telling the truth to the population. Now, that he has come in this House with the figures, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Is the Chief Commissioner prepared to come to the press again and say to the population in his previous statement he has misleading the population?

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: Do you want to reply?

The Chief Commissioner: I do not know what I said. I do not know what the person said exactly in that press conference. We all know I was there at the Ministry of Finance and we did discuss with the Minister of Rs 50 m. for the roads.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the paper that has been tabled I have seen that the Chief Commissioner mentioning good governance and here Acquisition of Asset I have seen that...

Mr. Chairperson: The Sixth Island Region Member, you are disturbing. Let your friend put his question, please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: The Chief Commissioner is mentioning good governance and from the table that I have here - Acquisition of Assets, that is, formerly known Capital Projects, how come that the amount of Rs 750,977.10 has been transferred from Capital/Acquisition of Assets to Recurrent Budget.

The Chief Commissioner: I have already replied. Just to pay certain expenses in the Recurrent Budget.

DOWNFALL - CPE, SC, HSC RESULTS

(No. B/6) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the successive downfall in the exam results of Certificate of Primary Education, School Certificate and Higher School Certificate for academic year 2012, he will inform the House of any measures/actions taken in order to reverse the trend?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, with respect to question B/6, as regards the results of the Certificate in Primary Education, School Certificate and Higher School Certificate, I would like to highlight once more that results for these examinations vary from year to year according to the intake for each academic year at each school.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the measures and actions that will be taken by my Commission to improve the CPE pass rate have been lengthily dealt with in my reply to Question B/3.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with respect to School Certificate results, the statistics have revealed that there has been a drastic decrease in the results at Grande Montagne College compared to other colleges. Indeed, the pass rate for year 2011 at the mentioned college was 62.6% compared to 40.21% in 2012. Subsequently, the decrease in the performance of the college for academic year 2012 has impacted on the overall pass rate at School Certificate level for Rodrigues from 78.76% in 2011 to 73.34% in 2012.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the board of REDCO Ltd. through the School Development Committee, which was set up last year at the level of each REDCO schools has been requested to devise specific strategies to improve the overall performance of the college. As such, a meeting was held with the management team of the school, the teaching and non-teaching staff, the representatives of students and members of the Parent's Teachers Association of the college to brainstorm on the difficulties faced by the college and how to improve the academic performance of the college not only in Form V but as

from Form I. Following discussions, it was agreed to introduce special support classes with the collaboration of educators after school hours as from beginning of second term for students with academic weaknesses.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with respect to Higher School Certificate results, out of the 237 candidates that took part in the examinations, 192 have passed with an overall pass rate of 81.36% in 2012 compared to 82.38% in 2011 thus a decrease of 1.02 points. As such, the pass rate trend for Higher School Certificate examinations in Rodrigues is more or less stable for year 2011 and 2012. In fact, the pass rates for academic year 2011 and 2012 for Rodrigues College and Le Chou College has decreased whereas there has been an increase in the pass rate at Maréchal College from 66.67% in 2011 to 80% in 2012. These statistics exemplify again that intake for an examination influence the pass rate at that examination.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to point out that a meeting was held with all Rectors in January to discuss the vision of my Regional Government with respect to the education sector in Rodrigues and on ways and means not only to improve academic performance of the secondary institutions at School Certificate and Higher School Certificate level but most importantly on how to promote a conducive environment for teaching and learning to take place so as to improve completion rate at upper secondary level.

In addition, all schools have been requested to carry out an in depth analysis of the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate results on a subject wise basis with the staff at school levels so as to determine the subjects in which students are having difficulties and take remedial action accordingly .

Moreover, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with a view to improve the academic performance of the secondary schools, the following measures will be taken by my Commission and at school levels as follows:-

- (i) Enhance Management Capacity at School;
- (ii) Continuous Training and support of educators, management team;
- (iii) Regular meetings with Rectors, parents and teachers
- (iv) Continuous support from Rectors to Heads of Departments of subjects where performance is low;
- (v) Frequent class Parents Teachers Association meetings to rope in parents and encourage parent's scaffolding towards their wards at home.
- (vi) Use of support technology (ICT) in the teaching of subjects to render learning more meaningful;

- (vii) Introduction of new subjects combinations at Form six level as from 2014 so as to offer opportunity to students to take subjects that are more adapted to their skills; and
- (viii) Introduction of specific reward systems at each school

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I see that the Chief Commissioner has taken different measures which seem to be very courageous in order to combat poor examinations results. However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, earlier in his reply, he stated about the variation in the intake which according to him might be the only cause of failures. What about the other factors, for example, the social factors that impact on student's capacity to learn? Mr. Chairperson, Sir, impact of poverty on the population. Has the Chief Commissioner taken into consideration that especially during the last year the rate of unemployment is very high in the country? The purchasing power of the population is very poor. Has he made an enquiry to see that all those school children be it at primary or secondary, are they able, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to learn, as it should be? Do they have enough food to eat? Can their parents send them regularly to school, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? Has there been any enquiry to see the root of these problems?

The Chief Commissioner: All this is in my reply. It is not only the intake. It is a question of capacity, management at the level of the college, the teachers, the responsibilities and we have also mentioned to accompany students per week. I have already mentioned this in my reply that even all the teachers, the rectors will have to meet so that to make an analysis and to find where those students are weak in their studies. Even what we call the social aspect of the family, all these is being considered, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Thank you.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, most of the students who were promoted to HSC/Lower VI with a low number of credits in their School Certificate certificates failed their Higher School Certificate. Can the Chief Commissioner see to it make a survey that the criteria to be promoted to Higher School Certificate in certain colleges be reviewed because we have seen that this has an acute/direct impact on the final Higher School Certificate results?

The Chief Commissioner: This has been discussed in a meeting with the Board of the REDCO and in the next meeting of the Rectors, we are going to talk about this problem. Because we have noticed that there is really in certain colleges, no attention is being given to students who like to go after School Certificate to Lower VI and then to Higher School Certificate but we have noticed that in certain colleges there is a question of percentage success. That is why certain pupils/students have been diverted to have four subjects in

School Certificate, to have an “A” level in Higher School Certificate. This has to be worked out with the different Rectors and the REDCO board.

SCHOOL FEES - PRE-PRIMARY AGED THREE PLUS

(No. B/7) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the payment of school fees concerning children of pre-primary aged 3 plus, he will, for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) state if the existing scheme has been reviewed/modified, and, if so, why;
- (b) give and table the list of applicants for school year 2013; and
- (c) state if all applications were considered and, if not, why not?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, with respect to part (a) of the question, the scheme for the payment of school fees to children of pre-primary aged three plus is being maintained for the academic year 2013 as was the case last year.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with respect to part (b) of the question, I consider that it is unethical to make public the list of applicants for payment of school fees in a spirit of not stigmatizing the applicants.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with respect to part (c), the eligibility criteria for payment of school fees in favour of three plus pre-primary pupils are as follows:-

- (i) parents should benefit from Social aid;
- (ii) parents should be either fisherman, mason, labourers, or unemployed; and
- (iii) Family income should not exceed Rs 8500.

Out of the 421 applications, which were received through the Managers of the pre-primary schools at my Commission in mid February 414 applications have been approved to date. As regards the remaining seven, I am informed that five applications are still pending as relevant documents have not been submitted yet by the applicants and my commission is still waiting for same so as to clear the cases.

Regarding the remaining two cases, I am informed that they do not meet the eligibility criteria.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Chief Commissioner whether there is a dead line set up by the Commission for late applicant and if so, what is the dead line?

The Chief Commissioner: I did not understand the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner say whether in certain cases, because here he said that only two cases have been rejected and five are still pending, whether in those cases that have been rejected or those which is still pending there are parents who are unemployed or who have lost their job recently.

The Chief Commissioner: I have been informed that some of those cases it is a question of birth certificate and we are looking into matter. The other cases I am not aware of I need notice of the question.

Mr. Chairperson: I invite the Deputy Chairperson to take the chair, please.

At this stage at 11.55 hours, the Deputy Chairperson took the chair.

CROP PRODUCTION – ONIONS, GARLIC, RED BEANS & POTATOES

(No. B/8) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to crop production such as onions, garlic, red beans and potatoes, he will, for the benefit of the House:

- (a) state the total production of each item for the year 2012;
- (b) give a comparative table of these crops for years 2011 and 2012 respectively and his forecast for year 2013; and
- (c) state what measures/mechanism are put in place to ensure less importation of these commodities?

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I am looking for the reply. I can reply after lunch.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: We can suspend for five minutes.

The Chief Commissioner: I will reply to the question after lunch.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Next, question please.

EQUALIZATION OF PRICE – RICE, FLOUR/SUBSIDIES

(No. B/9) Mr. J. S. Swee (Seventh Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to budgetary measures announced by the Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Economic Development in his Budget Speech 2013 for the support of consumers in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) what measures are being taken to equalize the price of rice (*riz ration*) and flour in Rodrigues; and
- (b) where matters stand pertaining to the introduction of freight subsidies concerning importation of powdered milk, edible oil, tealeaves and cement from Mauritius to Rodrigues?

The Commissioner responsible for Social Security and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, first allow as Commissioner responsible for Consumer Protection, to express my gratitude to the Central Government, particularly to the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister for this laudable decision to provide a subsidy scheme to Rodrigues concerning certain basic commodities.

In fact, this is in line with our electoral manifests and is the result of a fruitful discussion, which the Chief Commissioner had with the Prime Minister. I understand that this decision followed a firm commitment taken by the Prime Minister during his last visit to Rodrigues.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (a), the price of ration rice and flour for Rodrigues have already been equalized with those of Mauritius with effect from 01 January 2013 following Government Notice No. 227 of 2012. Subsequently, the price of bread has also been brought down and it is now at par with the prices in Mauritius.

As regard to part (b), the Subsidy Scheme which concerns milk powder, edible oil and tea aims at eliminating or reducing the big disparity between consumers in Rodrigues and Mauritius as regards to prices of these basic commodities. I must inform the House that my Commission has had a meeting with all registered importers of milk powder, oil and tea together with other

stakeholders on the 06 February 2013 to discuss and finalise the procedures to be followed in view of implementing the Subsidy Scheme in Rodrigues.

As at date, I am pleased to inform the House that the Freight Subsidy Scheme for milk powder has already been implemented and the prices of several brands of milk powder have gone down and have been revised recently.

As for edible oil, the Consumer Protection (Price and Control) Act 1998 has been revised with effect from 12 February 2013 to include it in the list of controlled commodities for Rodrigues. The importers have been informed accordingly and the Price Fixing Unit is presently collecting returns of costs from importers of edible oil to calculate its new prices. We expect that the new price will come into force by next week. Similarly, new prices for tea are being presently worked out by the Price Fixing Unit following the arrival of the first consignment for this year in during this month. As regards to cement, the prices have been subsidized since August 2011 and the scheme is still running.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I heard nothing concerning cement.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: I said, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, that the prices for cement have been subsidized since August 2011 and the scheme is still ongoing.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, can we know as regards to freight subsidies concerning importation of powdered milk, edible oil, tea leaves and cement from Mauritius, what is the structure of these subsidies? To whom they are paid and whether the Commission will ensure that, the level/amount of the subsidy is truly reflected in price falls in Rodrigues?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, subsidies will be refunded to the importers of the concerned commodities. They have been registered to the Commission through a radio communiqué and yes, we have set up certain procedures to provide for strict control to be effected by officers of the Mauritius Revenue Authority upon the arrival of each consignment of each subsidized commodities in view to ensure that freight cost to importers are being refunded according to the real amount.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I understand that the subsidy will be paid to importers, importers here in Rodrigues. Because at this present stage of thing at the Regional Assembly where we have been said here, in the first answer to my question that they say there are irresponsible Public Officers etc., you know how it is in the Customs. Being given the present date

of affairs at his Commission with the ways and means he has, does he consider that this is the proper method and whether really this is going to benefit the consumers because we all know cement, tea leaves, audible oil, milk. It is easy to mix this and you know how it is in the port we do not have exact manifest, exact description of what is being landed in Rodrigues. Does he consider being given all this to pay the subsidies directly to importers is going to work?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So far, we have discussed with various stake holders including the Mauritius Shipping Corporation where we have requested them to dedicate a specific containers for such types of all these subsidies commodities. We have also scheduled another meeting in two months' time by the end of April to see whether the method/system have worked and as it is a new measure we will have to test it and if ever, there are problems obviously we will come with amendments.

Mr. J. Roussety: The Commissioner must be aware that anybody can import anything in Rodrigues. If I want to import a full container of tealeaves, of milk I can do it. What will be the criteria for the payment of the subsidy and what will be the frequency of the payment. Supposed a trader wanted to import every voyage of boat or ship ten containers of tealeaves. He wants to import this. Will he be paid? Are we ensuring that the goods are reaching the Rodriguan consumer, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir? These are my questions.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Payment will be made within a maximum of one month according to the procedures set and which was discussed with all the importers. So any persons can import obviously provided he has the necessary clearances but the most important thing is that to be eligible for this refund the importer should be registered with the Commission. A new importer, somebody wants to import these products he has to get himself with the Commission.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, in line with the equity in the price of rice I would like to ask the Commissioner for the time being people are buying rice – *du riz ration* with strange substances in their packs and people at the time being are eating *riz ration* which are being cooked as glue – *la colle*. I would like the Commissioner to tell the House what has been proposed in term of improving the quality of rice reaching Rodrigues. The price has gone down but the quality.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Anyway, this does not relate to the main question but for additional information I just wished to inform the Members that all these products are now controlled commodities and therefore we will ensure that as it has been the case for all controlled commodities, this freight method will certainly work for the interest and it will be in the interest of the consumers.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, does he note at the present today as regards the freight cost, the amount of the freight, what will be the percentage of subsidy.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: It covers all the freight subsidy so all costs related to the freight will be refunded fully.

Mr. J. Roussety: So, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, if my logic is good can the Commissioner expect that the price of the commodities which have been mentioned, audible oil, tea leaves etc. are the same as in Mauritius, to be the same as in Mauritius.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Except for rice, flour and bread for the other commodities I mentioned in my answer that to reduce the big disparity and this is only the first step. We can come forwards with other measures in the future but at least we have to start somewhere and I am happy that this government have been able to do so and especially that we did not have to sell Pajero to subsidize flour and rice.

Mr. J. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, you do not have to sell Pajero because you did not buy it. Because it was you who bought it. How can it be, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the port of Port Louis is in Port Louis, is it not? It is in town, delivery is free in Mauritius. Delivery of goods in bulk is free even if you buy two cartons of, I do not know wine, Coca or something in Mauritius, they tell you, okay we will deliver it to the port free for you and if the freight is free, 100% free we must expect that the price of these goods should be the same as in Mauritius. This is the logic.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, will he first, see to it that the price is the same as in Mauritius because if we are paying 100% we have to get the same price. Second, being given all that administrative, cumbersome procedures, all the checks and expected fraud that there will be. Why does he not consider paying the subsidy as a whole on all general goods for consumption/food to the Mauritius Shipping Company so that the overall freight rate for cement or food is reduced instead of targeting one or two products and whose administration of the system is very difficult.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, these are the main commodities which we have selected. We will study it on a pilot basis to see how far and how much it will work and then, if ever as I said earlier there are amendments or other measures/policies to be taken, we will come forwards but let this one work first, let us see how it works.

APPLICANTS – SOCIAL AID

(No. B/10) Mr. J. S. Swee (Seventh Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to Social Aid, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the trends in the number of applicants who were qualified to be granted same for the year 2006 to 2012?

The Commissioner responsible for Social Security and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling the number of applicants who were qualified for Social Aid as at June 2006 to June 2009 and December 2010 to December 2012. **(Appendix V)**

As illustrated by the figures, there has been a continuous downward trend in the number of cases qualified for social aid between the periods June 2006 to June 2009 from 1811 to 1570. This represents a decrease of 14.7% for the same period. However, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, surprisingly, it is can be observed that there has been a very sharp and unprecedented rise from 1570 cases in June 2009 to 2489 cases in December 2011, that is, 919 additional cases, showing a substantial increase of 58%. I do not know whether it was because of the election or whatever. Anyway, it is worth mentioning also that the highest increase was experienced at La Ferme Office for the same period. This has lead to the split of the Social Security Office of La Ferme into two sections to cater for that increase.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, as at December 2012 the number of social aid beneficiaries in Rodrigues stood at 2604, representing an increase of 4.6% as compared to 2011.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, how does the Commissioner explain the downward trend, the yearly decrease, the absolute value has increased but the incremental, the marginal increase, he will understand, per year? How does he explain these downfalls being given every time the boat comes here, people are leaving Rodrigues? People have to queue up since the eve, spent the night to obtain tickets. They have put laid off a number of persons in Rodrigues Regional Assembly companies etc. How does he explain? Can he explain whether the economic condition of Rodrigues has improved and therefore the number of demand for social aid has decreased?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: The downward trend occurred during the period 2006 to 2009. You will be in a better position probably, to know the reason for this. For 2012, there has been an increased I said but it is a normal increased which is in line with the previous period even in Mauritius but not a substantial

as it has been the case between years 2010 and 2011. I think that it is obviously reasonable and such cases as we have seen, for the various periods could be explained by many reasons like some people are no longer qualified but it might be also the fact that many people left Rodrigues to go to Mauritius - between 2006 and 2009.

Mr. J. Roussety: Thank you, Mr. the Commissioner. My last question, on this issue. Will he agree that all these payments from June 2006 there is a significant, abnormal increase in the number of cases. Will he agree, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that all these cases have been dealt by Social Security Officers who I think are sworn. They are sworn, is it not? Public Officer, he himself in the press newspaper has said *“je ne traite pas les demandes de pension”* which is very good. Will he agree that all these cases since 2006 were justified because they have been approved by the officers and that they were legal?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I trust the officers but this is also if we consider the period December 2010 to December 2011 where there has been a substantial increased. It means that there was something wrong in the economy. This is the worst period of this economy because social aid are normally paid to low income earners, abandoned women, abandoned children and obviously this is not necessarily a good indication for the economic situation of the country.

Mr. J. Roussety: Why does he not concede, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir? Would the Commissioner concede that they have in fact tightened strictly the criteria for people who qualified? Poor people in this island who qualified for social aid are being denied the social aid and this is why our Commissioner is in fact here more concerned with downwards statistics to please I do to know whom.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: This is quite demagogic, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir. I trust the Social Security Officers, the criteria have not changed. It has remained the same, so I consider that they have done their job probably/correctly and that the jobs are being done as it is. We cannot change anything.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, pertaining to the fact that the Commissioner has just mentioned that there has been an increased since 2010 in the trend of member of beneficiaries and that up to date it is 2604 persons benefitting from social aid. Can the Commissioner inform the House what is he intending to do to decrease this trend, if any?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: My Commission has already started a job with the Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office to identify training needs of certain percentage of those people who are benefitting from social aid so that they can be trained and become more employable.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Can we know for how long this training will take place, and when will we start seeing a downward trend because now according to the Commissioner the economic situation is much better than in 2010? When will we start seeing this impact, which I guess, will be very soon?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: At least I am happy to say that some of the beneficiaries have already started to get job elsewhere. Elsewhere, in other sectors in the Rodriguan economy, in Rodrigues. We have to consider the new people who are likely to apply for such scheme. With the Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office, I think by the end of this year we will start to see some people from those beneficiaries getting a better job and having more income.

BALADIROU SHELTER - NEW DEVELOPMENT/FUNCTIONING

(No. B/11) Ms. M. D. S. Perrine (Ninth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the shelter of Baladirou, she can inform the House of any new development in the functioning of same and give reasons thereof?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I have the pleasure to inform the House that following an agreement reached with the Vicariat Apostolique de Rodrigues and the Congregation des Filles de Marie de St Denis, two sisters with a wide experience are at the shelter of Baladirou since 26 January 2013 albeit on a pilot basis in the first instance. A mass followed by an official ceremony was held at the shelter on 02 February 2013 to mark the posting of the two sisters. The objective of this initiative is to better look after the psychological, spiritual and educational needs of the inmates and to prepare them for their reintegration in their families so that they become a good member of society when they go back home.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, this Regional Government we care for the welfare of children. We do not believe that only having a large building without the proper structure will be of much help to the inmates. The government alone cannot satisfy the needs of the inmates. There is a need to work so that they do not remain at the shelter for a long time since the best place for the child is in his family. The staffs have been doing their best but additional expertise is required for the overall well-being of the inmates. This is why the collaboration

of the congregation des Filles de Marie that has 172 years of experience in the field has been solicited to improve the management of the shelter.

A draft Memorandum of Understanding is being prepared by the Legal Adviser of the Vicariat Apostolique de Rodrigues and same will be presented in due course to the Executive Council after vetting by the Legal Adviser of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

I wish to inform the House that at its last meeting, the Executive Council has approved the re-naming of the shelter of Baladirou as Foyer Marie Reine de la Croix, a sister who has done so much for orphans, sick and needy people in Reunion Island.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, can we know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner what is the number of inmates today at Baladirou?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Actually, we have 21 inmates.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Can we know the cost per month. What is the cost for running such a shelter?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, we have budgeted an amount of Rs 600,000 for the whole year. We are expecting that there could be some change in the expenses, in the way the money have been spent up to now because we have new management and we are experiencing new, for example we will have new ways of meetings for the inmates. For example, up to now they were having only the main courses. Now we are trying with the new management to have dessert, they go to school we want to give them some juice, with biscuits. We are expecting that there will be a change in the amount to be spent each month and as I have said, we have budgeting an amount of Rs 600,000 for the whole year.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, at a point of time we have discussed what we called "*famille d'accueil*". Can we know as at date where does this project stand?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, we do believe in "*famille d'accueil*" but we think that there should be a work done with these families so that they can welcome these children. What we are expecting is that with the new collaboration with the sisters, who will work towards this project, we expect to have more "*famille d'accueil*" in Rodrigues and because as I said what we want to do is that, this *foyer* should not be a resident for the children up to their maturity.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I heard the Deputy Commissioner mentioning sisters, it is good but how come as regards to leisure, sports, who undertake this activity there?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I think that sisters they are human beings, they do believe in leisure and they know what type of leisure to give to these inmates. I do not know, they are human beings, they know how to accompany, how to coach these inmates and for example we have agreed that they will go to the piscine, which you closed, they will go to the piscine each Sunday. They will have other activities and I am proud also to say that we have the collaboration of other partners also to help in term of leisure.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I know that these sisters are human beings but I am speaking of coach/animators of the Commission for Sports. Has there been any arrangement with the Commission for Sports in order to have leisure activities there?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I want to inform the House that among the inmates in the shelter/foyer we have had one of them who has been the best athlete in Mauritius to run sports. There is no need to have any special arrangement. They are participating in the society as other member of the society and as other children. The Shelter Care Attendant is accompanying them when they have to go for these activities.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner has mentioned agreement reached with the Vicariat, very well. How would like to know, first of all whether there has been consultation with other NGOs who could also have helped in this section. Whether there has been consultation or negotiation with them. Whether there were other expressions of interest from other groups. Secondly, whether these sisters will be paid by the regional government for their work?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, as we all know we have been working with these associations, we have many of them, they are willing to participate in the life of the *foyer* but not really to take the management of same. Of course, I am the Commissioner responsible for the Child Development I am sure here that we are dealing with people of experiences. I will not give a shelter with 21 inmates to any Non-Governmental Organisation who has no experience in same.

For the second part of the question I would say that yes we are giving a living allowance each month to the sisters.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, being given that the shelter is being managed by sisters of the Catholic faith and here in Rodrigues we do not only have Catholics here we have a lot of faiths. Will the sisters be prepared to teach the other children in the shelter in line of this?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I do not understand the question.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Next question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: No, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, being given that this shelter belongs to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and here in Rodrigues we have different religious faith here - is the Commission prepared to allow other communities...

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: To reside there? Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, where in the world have we had because of their faith, for example, in schools, in Rodrigues College, I do not think that we have different person coming to the school. Should we have different management because of the faith of the children? I am really sorry but however, should there be, up to now we have got no problem with that, should there be tomorrow any inmate with any other faith, we are in a democratic island, these children, with the agreement which we will make with the parents they will have to practice their faith. We are not bringing children there to be converted to any other religion.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, being given that here if for example, we have Muslim community who come there. Will the Commission prepare to allow these Muslim faiths to go to Mosque and all that to pray?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, these are hypothetical question when this come in the future we will take the necessary decision.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question.

PARENTAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

(No. B/12) **Ms. M. D. S. Perrine (Ninth Island Region Member)** asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the “Parental

Empowerment Programme” launched by her Commission in May 2012 on the occasion of Family Day, she can inform the House if same is still ongoing and in the affirmative, to state (a) the number of persons concerned; and (b) the target for this present year?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased also to inform the House that in the context of last year Family Day my Commission proceeded with the implementation of the Parental Empowerment Programme in several regions in Rodrigues. The objectives of the project is to reinforce the capacity of families *en ligne avec notre devise pour des familles unies et solide pour une Rodrigues meilleure* as set out in the *Discours Programme 2012-2017* presented by the Chief Commissioner on 30 March last year. Some forty animators from NGOs and institutions have been given training in July 2012, thereafter session and parental education have been carried out in different villages and up to now we have touched some 680 families. The Parental Empowerment Programme is still ongoing and will be conducted in several villages starting from next month. The mobilization strategy has been reviewed since very often the targeted people do not attend. My Commission is working with the Commission for Social Security so that beneficiaries of social aid can be reached also. We are also working in collaboration with *Action Familiale* so that its officers can sensitize men on their site of work.

Regarding part (b), Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Parental Empowerment Programme will be carried out in the following villages for this coming year:-

- Mangues
- Baladirou
- Creve Coeur
- Jardin Mamzelle
- Terre Rouge
- Rivière Banane
- Citron Donis
- Grand La Fouche Corail

My Commission will seek the collaboration of the village communities to mobilize the maximum number of participants and achieve our objectives.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, has the Commissioner assessed the reasons for the drop in attendance to the Parental Empowerment Programme.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I think that it has always been the case. We have some meetings in villages not all people will come. There are always some reasons, which we have been looking into. We have seen that there are always people, which we hardly touched. These people might be these people they are not *ils s'excluent un peu automatiquement*. These are the case and we are trying to see how we can meet them but unfortunately, we are sure that we cannot attend 100% persons for any meeting.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: I suspend the Assembly for one hour for lunch.

At 12.34 hours, the Assembly was suspended.

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

Mr. Chairperson: We have to come back to question B/8 please.

CROP PRODUCTION - ONIONS, GARLIC, RED BEANS & POTATOES

(No. B/8) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to crop production such as onions, garlic, red beans and potatoes, he will, for the benefit of the House:

- (a) state the total production of each item for the year 2012;
- (b) give a comparative table of these crops for years 2011 and 2012 respectively and his forecast for year 2013; and
- (c) state what measures/mechanism are put in place to ensure less importation of these commodities?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as you are aware the amount of rainfall in Rodrigues was well below average and the deficit impacted negatively on agriculture. The official production figures of onions, garlic, red beans and potatoes for year 2012 have not yet been released by Statistics Mauritius. However, it is estimated that 284.3 ton of onions, 5.56 tons of garlic, 76.2 tons of bean and 28.6 tons of potato were produced in 2012.

According to figures published by Statistic Mauritius 933.9 tons of onion, 7.7 tons of garlic, 91.2 tons of red beans and 55.6 tons of potato were produced in year 2011. As for year 2013, assuming that the season is normal, it is estimated that 600 tons of onions, 16 tons of garlic, 77 tons of beans and 75 tons of potatoes may be harvested.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to increase production of those four main cash crops and hence to reduce their import the Executive Council has approved that the seeds of onions, garlic and potatoes be subsidized at the same rate as last year. The demonstration plots at Mourouk, Marechal, Grand La Fouche Corail and Caverne will be put at the disposal of cooperatives for the production of local seeds and usual support services like free land mechanization services, and training are being provided to growers.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, yes, we all know that climatic condition impact a lot on crop production. This is a fact. However, according to statistics available from the Central Statistical Office we have noted that during the last five years, for example, if I take the case of onions, the area under cultivation of such crop has increased from 19.5 hectares in 2007 to 53.9 hectares in 2011. This is a true indication that a lot has been done in order to encourage planters to go in that direction. My question is, what is the policy of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly as regards such commodity in order to ensure that Rodrigues become as it was in the past, a major growing area. To ensure not only local market because now if you go in the market you will see that there is no local onions available. Everything is being imported and what is being done in that direction in order to ensure this?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is it true that our target is agriculture must be one of our pillars of our economy. So we are trying organized the agricultural sector especially those who have obtained the agricultural permit. There are officers who are going around to see whether those who have received the agricultural permit are working on the land. This is the main thing I think. We must say also that the number of hectares of land has diminished concerning what we call those who built their houses on agricultural land. There have been many mistakes in the past where houses have been made on agricultural land. We have the vision that agriculture is one of the pillars of our economy but unfortunately, it is a question of water, which is why if we say that the desalination plant in 2005/2006 discontinued so we should not have scarcity of water since 2006 and now. The desalination water would have produced about 12 m³ of water, which could have helped in the agricultural sector. Our main problem is water. I think my colleague; the Commissioner for Water Resources is trying his best so that in the future there is no scarcity of water. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: Listening well to the Chief Commissioner there is something, which is a bit confusing. For crop production, water for irrigation is one thing and water for domestic purposes is another thing. Does the Chief Commissioner mean that if we come up with the desalination project that it would diminish the problem of water for irrigation? Because, Mr. Chairperson,

Sir, up to now water for domestic purposes is not sufficient in Rodrigues. That is why we have to desalinate water in order to complement the deficit.

Mr. Chairperson: What is your question please?

The Minority Leader: The question is the Commissioner has been talking of desalination water in connection with crop production. Does he mean that in his policy to come up with desalination plant this project will also be used for irrigation?

The Chief Commissioner: When I talked about desalination, it is both for domestic and agricultural purpose. It is for both. Why not? Go and see in the big countries what desalination water is doing, planting of vegetables, fruits in the desert. Why not? Desalination plant water can be used also for agriculture and for domestic use. Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question, please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to free land mechanization and we all know that we are on the eve of plantation for red beans. Now planters are facing the problem of mechanization. Will the Chief Commissioner consider paying overtime to the workers doing free land mechanization and to subsidize insecticide and pesticide?

The Chief Commissioner: Everything is free, mechanization of the land, the working of the land and we have reorganized the sector of mechanization of the land. We also have briefing sessions on mechanization. Everything is being organized so that every planters/farmers could have this mechanization. Everybody! Not looking, in what we say a political aspect of the use of mechanization. We say that mechanization has been reorganized and I think there was a question of that which has been put to me later on. We are also thinking of how in the future cooperatives farmers could group themselves into federation and then have their own mechanization as in other countries. This can be done. I think we will look for that for the future for Rodrigues in the Agricultural Service.

NATIONAL YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

(No. B/13) Ms. M. D. S. Perrine (Ninth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth and Others whether, in regard to the National Youth Achievement Award, she can, for the benefit of the House, elaborate on new developments related to the programme?

The Commissioner responsible for Youth and Others (Miss M. R. D. L. Edouard): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Duke of Edinburgh International Award, so called the National Youth Achievement Award in Mauritius and Rodrigues is the World's leading achievement award for Young people. It is voluntary, non-competitive and available to anyone aged between 14 and 24 years.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the National Youth Achievement Award is about individual challenge. As every individual is different, so too are the challenges that the young people love to undertake to achieve this Award. With guidance from their Award Leader, Assessor and other Award Volunteers, each young person should be encouraged to examine themselves, their interests, abilities and ambitions, then set themselves challenges in the four different sections of the Award namely Service, Physical and Skills activity as well as going on Adventurous journeys and to achieve a Gold Award and take part in a Residential Project.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Award requirements and structure have remained largely unchanged over the years and through the organisation of the 11th International Award Forum in Malta from 21 to 25 November 2012, new ways of working of the programme with new international tools were devised to reach out and cope with more participants from diverse backgrounds, to encourage young people to achieve an award which has an international credibility and recognition and also to sustain and improve the quality of delivery and experience for young people. In addition, there will be a change in the name of the National Youth Award very soon and this will be communicated to the population soon as possible.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in that connection, my Commission sponsored the participation of Mrs. Arline Larose, Youth Officer in the forum. Since, then many developments have occurred in view of keeping path with the new changes and challenges of the programme. The new programme will be implemented in Rodrigues at the same time as in Mauritius.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the collaboration with the Commission for Education which pertain to implementing the programme in schools during activity periods a delegation of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Ministry of Education and Human Resources was in Rodrigues from 29 January to 02 February 2012 when some activities followed and these activities strengthen the partnership and collaboration which has already started between the Commission for Education and the Commission for Youth. The activities are as follows:-

/UNREVISED/

- (i) A workshop on 30 January 2013 with rectors and Physical Education Teachers of all colleges and MITD in order to establish a new mode of operation of the Award programme in colleges/institution was organised. All the Rectors and the Officer in charge of the MITD are agreeable to implement the programme in their respective institutions. A committee will shortly be set up in all colleges and MITD to monitor the implementation of the National Youth Achievement Award in their respective institutions and this committee will comprise of rectors, Physical Education teachers, Youth Officers, Gold Award Holders and representatives of the Parents Teachers Association.
- (ii) Meeting was also held with Gold Award Holders on 31 January 2013 in order to consolidate their association, that is, the Goal Award Holders Association (GAHA), so that they can give their help and experience in the promotion of the programme in Rodrigues.
- (iii) A workshop was also organised with members of the Youth Council so as to make them aware of the program and also to see how they can help to promote the program in youth clubs, in Atelier de Savoir and with out of school youths. The members are agreeable to help in strengthening the programme in Rodrigues.
- (iv) A refresher course was organised for all Youth Officers/Senior Youth Officers to make them more acquainted with the changes in the award program so that they can be better equipped to bring the program to youngsters in their respective regions and colleges under their custody.
- (v) An award leader-training course will shortly be organised for all the volunteers who have agreed to give a help for the promotion of the award in Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it should also be highlighted with great satisfaction that the young people in the colleges have responded massively to the initiative of the Commission for Youth and in collaboration with the Commission for Education. We are expecting therefore, to organise the First Bronze Award presentation for students this year and in short I would like to say that the partnership between the Commission for Youth and the Commission for Education in view of giving more young people access to the programme and market the services of the Commission for Youth is a very fruitful partnership.

CENTRE DE LECTURE ET D'ANIMATION CULTURELLE (CELPAC)

(No. B/14) Ms. M. D. S. Perrine (Ninth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth and Others whether, in regard to the implementation of a Centre de Lecture et d'Animation Culturelle (CELPAC) in Rodrigues, she can, for the benefit of the House, elaborate on the inauguration of same and highlight the advantages that Rodriguans will benefit from same?

The Commissioner responsible for Youth and Others (Miss M. R. D. L. Edouard): M. le Président, permettez moi au préalable de faire une historique des CLACS à Rodrigues.

Le premier CLAC a été installé à Malabar par l'Honorable Serge Clair, ministre de Rodrigues et le ministre Choonee, ministre des Arts et de la Culture, des Loisirs le 25 Avril 1997. Ce projet a été rendu possible après que les conditions requises par l'Organisation International de la Francophonie (OIF) aient été réunies. A ce jour nous comptons quatre CLACS et bientôt nous aurons un cinquième CLAC et nous avons pu bénéficier d'environ 6500 livres par des pays donateurs comme le Canada.

M. le président, ayant fait la démonstration à l'OIF de notre sérieux et de notre engagement de travailler pour le mieux être de la population plus précisément dans le domaine de la culture et de lecture. Nous avons obtenu le feu vert pour l'installation du CELPAC chez nous, le CELPAC veut dire, Centre de Lecture Publique et D'Animation Culturelle.

En 2012 nous avons eu deux visites de L'OIF à plusieurs reprises. C'est pour un suivie dans nos actions et de nos décisions concernant l'orientation d'une culture de lecture parmi la population. C'est une grande chance pour Rodrigues d'être parmi les rare pays à avoir un CELPAC.

La raison d'un Centre de Lecture Publique et d'Animation Culturelle (CELPAC) est de favoriser et de promouvoir la lecture à travers des activités et moyens artistique, culturelle et éducative dans les CLACS, ce qu'une bibliothèque publique de par sa structure ne peut pas faire.

Le CELPAC aura les responsabilités suivantes :-

1. Veiller à la survie des Centres de Lecture et d'Animation Culturelle (CLAC)

2. Ouvrir d'autres Centres de lecture dans le pays.
3. Organiser des expositions artistique et culturelle, des causeries sur divers sujets, tel que la sensibilisation sur la santé alimentaire, physique, etc.
4. Organiser et promouvoir des collaborations et négociations avec les pays donateurs, et autres ONG.
5. Travailler en étroite collaboration avec d'autres institutions qui partagent entièrement ou partiellement la même vision que le CELPAC.

M. le président, pour qu'un pays puisse bénéficier d'un CELPAC, il doit respecter toutes les conditions établies d'après l'Acte de Loi qui a été adopté par le Parlement de Maurice et signé par le Président de la République en Mai 2009. Cet Acte de Loi, stipule que le pays bénéficiaire doit produire L'infrastructure nécessaire, en termes de bâtiment qui va abriter le CLAC, l'ameublement du CLAC, la ressource humaine du CLAC et leur rémunération. En sus de cela, prévoir un budget d'entretien pour le bâtiment. A Rodrigues, nous avons rempli toutes les conditions nécessaires pour satisfaire les critères mentionnés ci-dessus. On doit noter avec une grande satisfaction que notre démarche au niveau du *Pay Research Bureau* (PRB) pour un *ad-hoc allowance* soit alloué aux *Library Clerks* pour qu'ils puissent organiser des activités culturelles dans les CLACS a été approuvé et en même temps ma Commission vise a une amélioration dans notre taux d'abonnement au niveau des CLACS autour de l'île.

Le CELPAC est le centre névralgique qui gère le réseau des CLACs à travers l'île. Avec le CELPAC nous allons bénéficier de maintes facilités et nous allons pouvoir négocier directement avec L'OIF pour l'installation d'autres CLACs ou avoir d'autres donations en termes de livres et de matériels audio-visuels pour les centres de lectures.

M. le président, auparavant, c'était le Ministère des Arts et de la Culture à Maurice qui menait les négociations pour doter l'île Rodrigues d'un nouveau CLAC, aussi bien que pour l'obtention des matériels de lecture et audio-visuels. Aujourd'hui, étant plus autonome avec le CELPAC, nous pouvons soumettre nos demandes directement à l'OIF d'après les spécificités et les priorités de Rodrigues. Nous pouvons être fières de l'implémentation du CELPAC dans l'île, car beaucoup d'autres pays ne jouissent pas de cet avantage. Les faits parlent d'eux même. Sur plus de 23 pays au monde, ayant plus de 300 CLACS, nous nous trouvons parmi les six privilégiés à avoir un CELPAC.

Ce fut un honneur pour Rodrigues d'accueillir l'Administrateur de L'OIF, M. Clément Duhaime et sa délégation et des représentants du Ministère des Arts et de la Culture, pour la Lecture Publique à l'occasion de l'inauguration de notre CELPAC. Après l'installation du CELPAC, Rodrigues devient un partenaire privilégié du projet et un proche collaborateur de l'OIF.

Je tiens, M. le président, à remercier tous les enfants, jeunes et groupe culturel qui ont contribué aux succès de cette activité.

Je conclus donc M. le Président, sur les mots de M. Duhaime lors de l'inauguration du CELPAC la maison mère des CLACS à Rodrigues:

"Je suis ici pour dire merci d'avoir eu raison ensemble dans la confiance pour concrétiser ce projet destiné aux enfants et la population les vrais partenaires" - Clément Duhaime

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, although the Commissioner could have used statement time to come up with such a long statement she has preferred to come with a statement during question time. I would like to ask her whether any delay occurred in the inauguration ceremony and whether the school children who were supposed to take part in this ceremony were informed and to give the reason thereon, if any?

Miss M. R. D. L. Edouard: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, indeed, there were delays due to some circumstances beyond our control related to flight problems on Rodrigues on this particular day. What happened is that when the school children arrived as soon as possible they were brought back to their respective institutions. Added to that a letter dated 19 February was sent to institutions telling/informing them about the postponement of the activities to a later date in the afternoon. Eventually during the inauguration it could have been noted that only the participants were there and not the students who were supposed to be there to act as audience and to participate in the activity fully. Only the participants who were willing and who gave their approval were there and of course as a responsible government a meeting was also organized with the artists who were there to inform them of the situation and they were asked to decide whether they will stay or not and the necessary arrangements were made for same.

Mr. J. Roussety: D'après ce qu'on a compris, M. le président, la bibliothèque publique de Port Mathurin a été renommée CELPAC. Est-ce qu'on peut savoir de la commissaire qu'en est-il, par exemple de l'American Corner qui se trouve dans cette bibliothèque publique et qu'est-ce qu'il en serait

des relations de l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (L'OIF) de la France, il y a les Américains, les Russes, les Chinois et les Anglais. *I remember* il y a si vous allez à l'ex-bibliothèque publique renommée unilatéralement CELPAC qu'est-ce qu'il en advient de ces autres partenaires, par exemple, l'Ambassade Américaine qui avait don de livres, qu'est-ce qui se passe avec ces autres partenaires.

Miss M. R. D. L. Edouard: Si vous avez pu, M. le président, permettez-moi de souligner que les matériels et les livres qui étaient disponible à la bibliothèque publique sont toujours là. Concernant le partenariat avec l'Ambassade Américaine je dois souligner que le partenariat continu et d'ailleurs une activité est prévue très bientôt pour montrer ce partenariat pour les profs. En même temps aussi je dois faire ressortir une chose qui est très importante et cela a été soulevé M. Duhaime lui-même, le numéro deux de l'OIF, nous ne sommes pas là pour faire une compétition entre les langues mais pour cohabiter ensemble. Donc, si nous pouvons cohabiter ensemble dans la bibliothèque publique c'est bien la preuve qu'à Rodrigues nous sommes un exemple et que plusieurs langues peuvent cohabiter et en même temps nous pouvons promouvoir cette diversité que tous le monde apprécient en venant chez nous. Merci, M. le président.

Mr. Chairperson: On request of Members the following questions are withdrawn : B/25, B/27, B/29, B/33 and B/34. Thank you.

TERRE ROUGE SECONDARY SCHOOL/TERRE ROUGE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

(No. B/15) Mr. J. S. Swee (Seventh Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the extension of the Terre Rouge Secondary School and Terre Rouge Government School (primary), he will inform the House where matters stand?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, with regard to the extension of Terre Rouge Secondary School and Terre Rouge Primary School, I would like to point out that the need to have additional rooms there to ensure the smooth running of schools was felt well before my Regional Government took office in February 2012. However, no action was taken until last year to remedy the situation.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in fact, at Terre Rouge Primary Government School, there was a school population of 267 pupils for nine classrooms and eleven sections from standard I to standard VI for academic year 2012. Subsequently, all rooms available at the school including the staffroom were

being used to accommodate pupils. In addition, due to lack of space, one room from the pre-primary section was also used to house Standard I pupils.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, taking into consideration the increase in the intake of pupils each year, there was the imperative need to extend the existing building at the primary school with a view to meet the accommodation requirements for academic year 2013.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, following discussions with the Minister of Finance, it was agreed to provide additional funds for the construction of the two additional rooms at Terre Rouge Government School so as to ensure the smooth running of the school as from this academic year.

In that respect, a contract was awarded to Ecobat Ltd on 14 September 2012 for the corrected sum of Rs 2,711,000 including a discount of Rs 194,360 inclusive of VAT. The commencement date was 12 October 2012 for the corrected sum of corrected sum of Rs 2,711,000 including a discount of Rs 194,360 inclusive of VAT and the contract completion duration was 60 days. The two classrooms were expected to be ready by the resumption of school scheduled for 14 January 2013. However, there were delays in the completion of the construction work due to unavailability of cement on the local market. Thereafter, the building housing the two rooms was handed over to my commission on 04 February 2011.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to inform the House that at present, with the additional rooms, the shortage of classrooms to accommodate pupils has been solved and both the pre-primary and primary schools at Terre Rouge are running smoothly.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with respect to the extension of Terre Rouge Secondary School, the attention of my Regional Government was drawn that following the award of the contract for the construction of Terre Rouge College Phase 1 in December 2010, the implementation of Phase 2 of Terre Rouge College should have started early in 2012 so as to provide accommodation facilities for Form VI students as from academic year 2013.

As a matter of fact, there were only 15 rooms in 2012 to cater for Form I to Form III, prevocational classes and specialists rooms at the secondary school. As such, there was the urgent need to construct additional rooms to accommodate Form IV students and related specialists rooms as from the beginning of academic year 2013. However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, no action was initiated and the funds which were earmarked in the budget 2012 were only meant to meet contractual obligation of projects undertaken in fiscal year 2011.

Moreover, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, clearance of the Project Plan Committee (PPC) to proceed ahead with the project was not sought. Subsequently, the investment project was referred in April 2012 to the PPC for approval. Meanwhile, following discussions with the Ministry of Finance, additional funds were provided for the construction of six additional classrooms at Terre Rouge College.

Thus, a contract was awarded to Joint Venture Laxmanbhai & Co (Mtius) Ltd and Ireko Construction Ltd. on 19 September 2012 for the sum of Rs 9,287,137 inclusive of VAT. The commencement date was 17 October 2012 and the contract completion duration was 154 days. The six additional classrooms were expected to be ready by 20 March 2013.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to inform the House that out of the six classrooms to be constructed, three have already been handed over to my Commission on 15 February 2013. Necessary arrangements are being made by the management of REDCO Ltd. to transfer the students to the new classrooms this week.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to inform the House that approval of the PPC was obtained on 26 October for the construction of the Phase 2 of Terre Rouge College during this financial year and action has already been initiated for the implementation of the project.

**WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM – CASES OF VANDALISM
/WATER LOST/COST OF REPAIRS/MEASURES TAKEN**

(No. B/16) Mr. A. Edouard (Eighth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others whether, in regard to water distribution system, he will, for the benefit of the House:

- (a) state the number of cases of acts of vandalism registered since February 2012 to date;
- (b) table a list of the places concerned and the estimated amount of water lost due to such acts;
- (c) state the cost of repairs of the damaged materials for the same period; and
- (d) state which measures have been taken to remedy such situation?

The Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson Sir, the Commission for Water has

registered nine cases of vandalism. *Je dirais même plus que se sont des actes de sabotage* since February 2012 to date.

I am tabling part (b) of the question. **(Appendix VI)**

Regarding part (c), regarding the cost of repairs. At Letchis Dam, 125 m of galvanized pipes of diameter of 50 mm were removed and the estimated cost of repairs is Rs 18,400. At Patate Théophile, from pipes removed, I do not have the exact figures, Rs 23,600 the cost. At Mt. Cabris, lateral Kael Prudence, one bar of galvanized pipe, 50 mm removed, the estimated cost of repairs is Rs 1,150. Grand La Fouche Corail, one bar galvanized pipe removed, 50 mm and the cost is Rs 1,150. At L'union, the estimated cost of pipes removed, pipes of 15 m diameter are Rs 36,000. At Piton, the estimated cost is Rs 27,000. At Corail Petite Butte, 26 bars galvanized pipes 50 mm removed - Rs 29,900. At Soupirs, the cost of repairs is Rs 4,900 and again at Soupirs in February 2013, 21 m³ HDPE pipes, the cost of repairs Rs 4,900.

The cases have been reported to the Police Department by officers of my Commission for investigation. *Sur ses neuf cas de sabotage, la police a pu appréhender deux personnes sur deux cas.* Necessary repairs have been effected to ensure the smooth service of water distribution.

ICT CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE

(No. B/17) Mr. A. Edouard (Eighth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the setting up of an ICT Centre for Excellence, she will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) which courses where matters stand and the rationale behind such project;
- (b) will be available, the respective entry requirements and their duration; and
- (c) the number of students currently enrolled on different courses?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as we are all aware the ICT Centre for Excellence was officially launched by the Hon. Prime Minister on 03 November 2012 together with the Chief Commissioner. The centre has become operational since 14 January 2013 with a first cohort of 107 registered participants for the Digital Literacy Certification training, provided free of charge, by the Microsoft IT Academy through what is known as the “Workforce Development Programme” (WDP).

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Mr. Chairperson Sir, in the Government Programme 2012-2015 mention is made of the following:-

“Government has furthermore already launched a tender for a study for the connection of Rodrigues to a submarine fibre optic cable”

In this context, Mr. Manraj, Senior Adviser and Head of the project Monitoring and Delivery Unit at the Prime Minister’s Office, chaired a first meeting in July 2012 to chart out an Action Plan for the implementation of ICT projects in Rodrigues. The Committee specifically focuses on two major activities namely; adequate international bandwidth requirements and capacity building for the uptake of ICT businesses and job creation in this sector in Rodrigues. It is against this backdrop that the ICT Centre for Excellence was set up in Rodrigues.

The ICT Centre for Excellence in Rodrigues is a high Tech training centre comprising two training rooms of a total capacity of training 64 participants at one go. The Centre is connected to internet (currently 5 Mbps from both Emtel and Mauritius Telecom) whereby trainees now have access to the necessary technical infrastructure for on-line learning ICT Training Courses.

According to the Ministry of ICT, Mauritius the increase in the satellite internet bandwidth capacity from 37 Mbps to at least 155 Mbps is expected to be available by June this year pending the installation for submarine cable. The closing date for the submission of bid for the procurement of the satellite bandwidth was on 30 January 2013.

Once this bandwidth capacity is available in Rodrigues the population will fully benefit from the subsidy for 256 kbps broadband internet at Rs 200. Furthermore, Rodrigues has two Wi-Fi hot spots, one in Port-Mathurin and the other one in Malabar, a project set up under the “Wi-Fi Mauritius” scheme and financed by the Universal Service Fund. This is in line with the government vision to create the right ecosystem for a seamless adoption of ICT tools and accessibility and affordability of broadband internet.

The availability of a sufficient pool of young unemployed, who have been exposed to a structured ICT training programme and certification, and the connectivity to international internet bandwidth, would allow Rodrigues to have a strong business case to attract potential ICT investors to set up operations here.

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I am pleased to inform the House that the committee chaired by Mr. Manraj is currently working on the modalities for setting up of an ICT Technology Centre in Rodrigues to allow the easy set-up of ICT operations by private companies.

The ICT Skills Development Programme (ISDP), which is operational in Mauritius, could then be extended to ICT business partners in Rodrigues. This scheme aims at addressing the shortage of manpower in the ICT-BPO industry through the partial funding of a comprehensive system of training and placement for the Unemployed Youth and placement of University Students.

Regarding part (b), participants are, in the initial phase, having access “free of charge” to the respective Microsoft and Oracle specific Workforce Development Programmes, which the Ministry of ICT (through the ICT Academy in Mauritius) have obtained. These Workforce Development Programmes are targeted at the unemployed youth and Civil Servants only for capacity building and which are available through the on-line platform. Most of the programmes are available except for some specialist modules whereby participants will have an option to purchase the training kit and subscribe for on-line examinations at heavily discounted rate. The market rate for these training varies from Rs 15,000 to Rs 90,000 per module. The unemployed and civil servants will thus benefit from a heavily discounted training programme.

The entry level is normally SC/HSC but some training like the Digital Literacy can be followed by candidates with Form IV qualification. The duration of courses varies from two weeks to about four months depending on the module.

Regarding part (c), Mr. Chairperson Sir, the following are details regarding the number of participants on different training courses:

Programme	Category	Duration	Intake
Digital Literacy	Youth Unemployed	30 hrs	117
Microsoft Advanced	Youth Unemployed	About 60 hrs	95
Train the Trainer Microsoft Packages	Trainer	About 30 hrs	22
Microsoft Office Package	Civil Servants	60 hrs	50
Oracle WDP	Youth Unemployed	40 hrs	40
Accenture - MIT	Youth Unemployed	200 hrs	25

Mr. Chairperson: I must remind you that we have 25 minutes for questions time left. Next question.

HOT MEAL/SCHOOL FEEDING PROJECTS

(No. B/18) Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to hot meal/school feeding projects, he will, for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) state if any tender has been launched, and, in the affirmative, to table the successful bidder together with the price quoted per commodities;
- (b) table the consent form issued to parents recently and to give the reason thereof; and
- (c) state what measures have been taken locally to ensure that strict sanitary norms are adhered to in relation to hot meal?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, with respect to part (a) of the question, I would like to point out the following:-

- (i) In regard to the provision of hot meal to ZEP schools, the management team of the only ZEP school namely Ste Therese de l'Enfant Jesus RCA School in Rodrigues took charge and managed the procurement and distribution of hot meal in line with the guidelines for the provision of a hot meal to pupils of ZEP schools in Rodrigues issued by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources.

In that connection, we have been informed by the Manager of the RCEA that school based tenders were launched on 11 January 2013, 11 bids were received. A contract was awarded to one Mrs. Allas for the provision of hot means at the rate of Rs 70 in connection with general guidelines with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life for period 21 January to 05 April 2012. All cost related thereby are borne by the government.

- (ii) With respect to the supplementary school feeding projects, tenders were launched by my commission for the supply and delivery of bread, butter, cheese, milk, sugar and fruits to pre-primary and primary schools.

Mr. Chairperson, I am tabling a copy of the successful bidders including the price quoted with respect to each commodity procured under the school feeding project. **(Appendix VII)**

With respect to part (b), I am tabling a copy of the consent form issued to parents as from the beginning of this academic year in the context of the review of the supplementary school feeding project. **(Appendix VIII)**

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in line with the participatory approach being adopted by my Regional Government, the consent form was issued to parents so as to inform them about the decision to provide other foodstuff, such as, *achard*, *confiture* and boiled eggs to pre-primary and primary pupils under the school feeding project. The main aim was to seek their consent as to whether they are willing that their wards take advantage of these additional mentioned commodities taking into consideration that some pupils may have some foods restriction on ground of health.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with respect to part (c), I would like to inform the House that it is clearly stipulated in the guidelines submitted by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources at paragraph 6 Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism submitted by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources that, I quote: *“Quality, quantity, time of delivery and compliance with guidelines, norms and standards will be monitored daily by a school team led by the Head Master and on a random basis by officials of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources. The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life will conduct checks and audits of all operational procedures from production, transport/delivery to service according to documented evidence in line with a sound food safety programme.*

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the House that we have been informed on the 18 February 2013 by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources that following the cases of food poisoning at ZEP school at Bambous, Mauritius, the recent heavy rain falls and laboratory test result of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life which showed the presence of above acceptable norms in food sample, it has been decided to suspend with immediate effect the provision of hot meals in all ZEP schools. Subsequently, my Commission has initiated action to provide alternative meals comprising bread, butter, cheese, a fruit and water to pupils attending St. Thérèse de l’Enfant Jesus RCEA school. Most of these foodstuffs, except water were already being provided under the supplementary school feeding project. In the event that the provision to ZEP schools will be reintroduced, prospective bidders will have the opportunity to follow a course on the hazard analysis critical control point certification.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the consent form I would ask the Chief Commissioner as regards to the school feeding project in schools in primary and pre-primary schools there are no consent with regard to it but how come that now parents have received a consent form for *achard*, *confiture* and ... only.

The Chief Commissioner: There is a difference between the government schools and RCA schools. The ZEP schools were under the responsibility of Rodrigues Education Company Authority, that is the difference but I think they have to follow the guidelines mentioned by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources. As for us, we have to take about what the parents would like their wards would like to eat. We did not impose on them either *confiture*, *achard* or ... *ou une banane, un fruit*. So we have taken the lead to consult, to have the advice of the parents on whether they accept or not.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner will agree with me that in schools Coca Cola, Sprite and all these drinks have been banned in schools and how come now the Commission will come up with issuing *confiture* to children.

The Chief Commissioner: That is why it is a choice of the parents. They have to see whether they would like their children would like to have *confiture* in their bread.

Mr. Chairperson: A last question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if you allow me I put two question in one.

Mr. Chairperson: It is up to you. There is only a few minutes left for questions time.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: As regards to hot meal, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have a supplementary feeding monitoring committee. Has any member from his Commission has attended to that meeting so as to express the views of Rodrigues as regards to that project.

The Chief Commissioner: I tried to understand the question of the Member. I think the Commission for Education has a right to see whether the work which being done by the RCEA is being done according to the guidelines set up the Ministry of Education and Human Resources. It seems that it should have a management committee. They have a management committee for the

bidding of the hot meal. It should have also someone from the Health Services to help them in different exercise that they are doing. I heard, I was in Mauritius, the Ministry of Education is trying now that the ZEP schools where hot meals is being given that these schools should have a kitchen in the school instead of giving the bid to any people so that they can control from A to Z what is being done, the kind of food is being cooked for the children and what is being done there.

Mr. Chairperson: I must remind you that question B/30 has been withdrawn. Next, question please.

ADVISERS – PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL/INDICENTS

(No. B/19) Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to advisers paid by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, he will, for the benefit of the House:

- (a) state if they have been subject to any performance appraisal in the course of their duty; and
- (b) state whether any incidents have been reported to him involving one of them during his/her working hours and, in the affirmative, to table a copy of the complaint and to state if the contract would come to an end and, if not, why not?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, with regard to advisers paid by Rodrigues Regional Assembly, there has not been any performance appraisal made so far. As per existing practice, an assessment of the work and performance of each adviser will be carried out at the end of their one-year contract. On the basis of their performance, a decision will then be taken as regards the renewal of their contract or not.

I am not aware of any incidents including any adviser during their working hours so far.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner is not aware but we here we are aware that an Adviser *maltraité un officier dans l'exercice de ces fonctions*. How come that we are aware. The office here, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, this Assembly, this happened in this House. How come that the Chief Commissioner is not aware.

Mr. Chairperson: Sorry please. Excuse me sit down, please. You said that this happened in this House, here. You are saying this.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Let me tell you one thing if, I said if an incident has occurred within the precinct of the House. The House means all the building under the management of the Chairperson and if an incident has occurred within the precinct of the House then this falls under my jurisdiction and as such no question can be asked on same. Thank you. Next, question please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I want to ask the Commissioner whether he is aware. He is not aware, I will make him aware.

The Chief Commissioner: The question is state whether an incident has been reported to him involving one of them during his working hours and in the affirmative to table a copy of the complaint. No complaint and to state if the contract would come to an end and so on. I have not received any complaint. This is a question put here. It is clear. I did not receive any complaint. I will not be able to table it on the table of this House.

Mr. Chairperson: Next, question please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Chief Commissioner aware that a letter has been sent...

Mr. Chairperson: I said next question, please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: *Zot coné ki faire zot pé cachiete zot.*

To me?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: *Ou conné ou.*

The Chief Commissioner: *Ki mo conné. Ou cone tou ou?*

Mr. J. C. Agathe: *Ou conné ou. Ou maltraite ene Rodriguais.*

The Chief Commissioner: *Ou cone tou ou ? Eh ou la alé do. Pas koze betise do.*

Mr. Chairperson: Wait ! Next question. Do not talk like this.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: *Transfer piti la tou dans l'Assemblée. Pas bon.*

[Interruptions]

Mr. Chairperson: Silent on both sides. Both sides I will not have this kind of language. Next question now.

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

(No. B/20) Mr. J. C. Agathe First (Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to agriculture in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) table the organigram of this sector together with the name of the highest and lowest officer/s posted to each section;
- (b) state if he is satisfied with the situation prevailing and, if not, what has been done to overcome this situation; and
- (c) state the amount of money earmarked to give a boost to that sector in 2013?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I am tabling a copy of the organisation chart of the Agricultural Services as well as a list showing the posting of its officers. **(Appendix VIII)**

However, I am advised that the organisation chart is being reviewed. With the resumption of a Scientific Officer who was on transfer to Mauritius the Officer in Charge of the Agriculture was requested to submit a revised organisation chart and same has been submitted on 08 February 2013.

As regard part (b) of the question, it is noted that the Agricultural Services is one of the department of the Regional Assembly, which is rather well provided with trained and qualified staff. Since my taking of office last year, I am holding regular fortnightly briefing with the Head of Sections of the Agricultural Services with a view to provide better and timely support services to farmers and to address their complaints. In line with our policy to promote agribusiness as a pillar of the economy, we are encouraging farmers and farmers' associations to set up cooperatives societies to enhance their entrepreneurship acumen. The services are being decentralized to be more accessible to producers, for instance, a Veterinary sub- office is operational at La Ferme and a second one will be opened at Trefles soon. In the same vein, two maize grinders are being installed at La Ferme and Trefles and planters will no longer have to bring their maize to Citronelle for milling.

We have approached the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit of the Ministry of Agro Industry to assist us in reviewing the agricultural extension services and to develop more research in agriculture to better achieve our

objective to promote conservation agriculture (*Agro écologie*). I shall come up with new regulations to address the problem of stray animals, which are causing serious damages to planters' crop. Moreover, it is proposed to create community pastures at regional level and to encourage rotational grazing and the cut and carry system. Action has been initiated to grant agricultural permits to applicants who have applied since 2006.

Concurrently, we are monitoring those who hold an agricultural permits so that those who are regularly cultivating their land may be granted agricultural leases, to allow them to improve their agribusiness.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the chairperson of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will be on mission to Rodrigues from 04 to 05 March 2013 and we will discuss with him how IFAD could assist in further improving the delivery of services to farmers. Since last year, we have resumed the broadcasting of regular radio talks to advise planters and breeders.

An amount of Rs 10.1 million has been provided in the PBB 2013 for the agricultural sector of which Rs 1.4 million is for incentive for crop and livestock production, Rs 3 million for improvement of food crop production, Rs 4 million for water distribution for irrigation, Rs 1 million for improvement of livestock production and Rs 0.7 million for miscellaneous expenses. The reduction of Rs 28 million under those items as compared to last year PBB is due to the fact that no provision has been made for the payment of salaries of General Workers on a month-to-month basis and for the slaughterhouse.

In addition, to the provision in our PBB an amount of Rs 17 million has been provided under the Food Security Fund for the following:-

- Rs 8 million for land preparation and agricultural infrastructure.
- Rs 7 million for the slaughter house project.
- Rs 2 million for cattle breeding scheme Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson: Wait please. May I remind that on request question B/22, B/23, B/24, B/31, B/33, B/35 and B/36, and are withdrawn.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Chief Commissioner aware as regards to livestock feed especially at Baie Topaze Breeding Station is there any lost as regards to livestock first of all and is he aware of the situation prevailing about the stray animals, which are kept at Montagne Plate.

The Chief Commissioner: We are aware of that, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that is why we are going to reorganize everything in the Agricultural Services. During years, everything have been abandoned. Even what is going on at Baie Topaze. A lot of things have happened there. So, we are reorganizing the Agricultural Sector in a very modern way in taking into account what we must do in the future for the breeding sector.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Can the Chief Commissioner confirm whether there have been lost of animal feeds there?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, there has been an internal control over there. We have received a report from the Internal Control.

Mr. Chairperson: Wait please. Question B/37 and B/38 are withdrawn. Next, question please.

COMMUNIQUE – BUDGET PROPOSAL

(No. B/21) Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to the communiqué released recently in line with the budget proposal of the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, he will, for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) table a copy thereof and state in what newspaper(s) it was published;
- (b) state the number of applicants received to date; and
- (c) state the number of applicants turned down and the reason(s) behind?

(No. B/40) Mrs. J. Ravina (Second Local Region Member of La Ferme) asked the Commissioner responsible for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to measures announced in the National Budget 2013 by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development Hon X. L. Duval, for child allowance, he will for the benefit of the House:

- (a) table the criteria of eligibility;
- (b) state how many applicants to the scheme has his Commission received to date; and
- (c) state how many applications have been rejected and the reason(s) thereof?

Mr. Chairperson: Five minutes left for questions times.

The Commissioner responsible for Social Security and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I presume that Question B/21 and B/40 relate to the same subject matter and with your permission I shall reply both questions together.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Child Allowance under the Social Register of Mauritius as announced by the Minister of Finance in the 2013 budget aims at encouraging low income families to send their children regularly to school to enable them to get out of the poverty trap through a better education. This measure comprises the payment of a monthly allowance of Rs 750 per child limited to a maximum of three children per family, from the age of 3 to 23 years old under certain specified conditions.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to part (a) of B/21, I am tabling a copy of the communiqué in which the main criteria of eligibility are already mentioned as requested in part (a) of question B/40. **(Appendix IX)**

I wish to point out that same this communiqué was published in two local weeklies, namely; l'Express Rodrigues and Le Rodriguais Autonome.

As at date, 1,502 applications for SRM - Child Allowance have been received. Mr. Chairperson Sir, I must point out here that only the mass registration programme has been completed up to now. However, the process of determination of claim has not yet started. Therefore at this stage information related to the number of applications rejected or approved are not known.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can an applicant received social aid and the allowance granted as regards the proposal of the Minister of Finance.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am a bit surprised because there are many people, many applicants that have attended the Social Security Office and they have been turned out and even they have been sent away as if they cannot obtain both social aid and the proposed allowance proposed by the Ministry of Finance. Is he aware of that?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the information given is not accurate. In fact, a beneficiary of social aid can opt for the child allowance in the new scheme keeping the social aid for the parent but opting to put their

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children in the other scheme but some of them when they were explained because many of them in fact, that they would obtain over and above what they getting now they will get this additional amount. That is why so many them when they informed of the possibility of choosing this or that many decided to leave the office.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as far as the eligibility criteria is concerned, we know the situation in Mauritius is completely different from that in Rodrigues, is he considering to talk to the relevant Ministry so as to review this eligibility criteria, so as to allow more Rodriguans to take benefit from it. Whether he has done it or whether he intends to do it.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: This policy is a national one, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and we believe that this is faire enough because it will enable many families to enter into this new scheme. For the time being, there is no point.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to documents to be produced. I have come to..

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Est-il vrai qu'on demande à un demandeur d'emmener des *Pay Slip* de novembre et décembre pour être éligible d'après les critères qu'on mentionne.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is a national policy the same procedure is being applied in Mauritius. In fact, the average monthly income will be the sum of average income derives during the six months preceding the month of application of each member of the household.

Mr. Chairperson: Thank you. Questions time over.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 16 April 2012 at 10.30 a.m.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

MATTERS RAISED

« *FACILITÉ BANCAIRE* »

The Minority Leader (Mr. G. Jabeemisar): Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, je ne vais être long c'est juste pour intervenir sur un sujet d'actualité qui touche profondément les personnes de la région ouest. En effet, M. le président, il s'agit des facilité bancaire qu'offre les institutions bancaire à la région ouest.

Durant les dernières années grâce a la demande bien sure des résidents de la région et bien sure dépendant de la situation économique grandissant du pays on a vue la nécessité d'instaurer dans la région des succursale des deux grandes banques qui ce situe à la capitale, à La Ferme. Et aussi il y a eu deux autres succursales qui ont vue le jour à l'aéroport de Plaine Corail. Cependant, M. le président, après quelques temps d'opération on a vue que l'une des succursale de La Ferme et l'autre de l'aéroport ont fermés leurs portes. Néanmoins il est resté en opération deux ATM, un à La Ferme et une à l'aéroport de Plaine Corail. Mais depuis quelques mois on note avec beaucoup d'amertume que l'ATM de La Ferme, surtout arrivé chaque fin de mois, cette ATM n'est pas en service. J'ai été attiré de cette situation depuis pas mal de temps mais maintenant c'est confirmé parce que ce matin j'en ai personnellement témoin. J'ai été tôt pour aller à l'ATM de La Ferme, à mon grand étonnement il y avait une foule de gens qui faisaient la queue mais on me dit que l'ATM ne donnait pas d'argent. L'ATM fonctionné mais on ne pouvait pas avoir de l'argent. Donc, est-ce que c'était délibérer parce que les autorités bancaire ils savaient parce qu'aujourd'hui c'étaient jour de paye. Normalement ils mettaient l'argent dans l'ATM pour que le lendemain ou même le soir pour les gens puissent venir en retirer. Donc, ce qui fait, M. le président, que cette situation à trop durer. Je profite de cette situation actuelle dans cette chambre pour attirer l'attention des autorités. Il n'est pas inconnu pour n'importe qui que depuis ces derniers temps quand vous passez devant les banques à Port Mathurin, il y a des longues queues. Cela nous ramène vingt ans en arrière, c'était dans les années 80 et 90 qu'on voyait ça. Les gens quittaient la maison tôt le matin pour venir, surtout les vieux. Alors au lieu d'avancer là on a reculé de deux décennies. C'est impensable, M. le président. Vous savez avec la présence de ces ATM à La Ferme, ça avait beaucoup d'avantage. C'est devenu un service essentiel, primordial même. Le jour de paye on évitait qu'il y avait trop de gens qui voyagé par le bus parce que n'oublier pas nous avons un service d'autobus très restreint, il faut pour les écoliers, pour les personnes âgés et surtout pour éviter aux personnes âgés de voyager autant pour venir à Port Mathurin. Les gens donc économisent sur le transport. Cela permet aussi aux commerçants de fonctionner. Vous savez que depuis que l'ATM ne fonctionne plus il y a un certain commerçant de La Ferme qui on initiait leur intention de fermer boutique. C'est vraiment dommage pour l'économie, M. le président. C'est

une des raisons qu'on dit que le pays va économique mal, très mal et deuxièmes cela permet aussi aux fonctionnaires de prendre des congés ou bien des permissions pour aller prendre leurs paye. D'autre part, M. le président, les commerçants ils n'ont pas du temps à perdre, pour venir à Port Mathurin pour retirer ou pour faire les versements. Quand il y avait ces succursales à La Ferme cela arrangeaient bien les choses.

M. le président, je le redis cette situation n'a que trop duré. Je demande donc à l'autorité de prendre bonne note et de prendre des mesures qui s'imposent afin que cette situation redevienne à la normale comme c'était dans le temps avant, que les ATM fonctionnent, les succursales de La Ferme et surtout en jour de paye.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je remercie le Minority Leader pour avoir attiré l'attention de la chambre sur cette situation. Mais je dois dire quant même que les banques, comme tous le monde le sait cela reste les entités privé, n'empêche que cela touche la population, cela affecte bien sure les personnes/les consommateurs dans la région de ouest. Je pense aussi que cela aurait pu être une démarche citoyenne d'aller faire une démarche auprès des ces banques mais entend qu'une autorité responsable on va essayer de dialoguer avec ces entités privé pour remédier à la situation.

«LA MONTE DES EAUX»

Mr. J. D. Spéville: M. le président, la monté des eaux à Rodrigues ces derniers jours qui provienne des pluies diluvienne a contribué à une psychose générale dans certains endroits. Cette monté des eaux qui provienne des pluies localisé a aussi décrit l'état et la maintenance de nos drains. Avec les pluies localisé dans certains villages on a vu que la majorité des drains qui mènent vers les routes principale et qui ne tombe pas sous la responsabilité de Rod Clean sont bouchées et ne sont pas nettoyés.

M. le président, nous sommes toujours dans la saison cyclonique et la forte chance que des formations nuageuse qui génèrent des fortes pluies pourront nous visiter encore. En passant cela cause des accumulations d'eaux dans certains endroits. L'eau ainsi bloqués devait également être refoulé dans des cours et tension de route rendant difficile la circulation comme à Mt. Charlot, Camp du Roi et autres villages. Ayant à cœur l'intérêt de Rodrigues les écoliers, des vieux et autres, nous de cette côté de cette chambre nous faisons un présent appel à la commission de l'Environnement, de Terre et de l'Infrastructure Publique pour qu'un travail minutieux soit faite au niveau de *land and water drainage* parce que cela représente un danger imminent et qu'il ne faut pas attendre une grosse pluie pour agir. En passant nous réitérons notre

soutient à cette famille de Songes qui a eu une façade de sa maison détruite par une roche pendant les grosses pluies.

Deuxièmement, M. le président, en tant que porte parole des gens de Tamarin je vais saisir l'occasion pour exposer un problème dans ce village. Les villageois qui avaient l'habitude d'avoir l'eau en provenance d'une rivière n'en peut plus car des gros trous ont été creusés dans la rivière de Tamarin pour des besoins personnelle. De plus, M. le président, l'eau de la rivière est pompée pour l'irrigation par certains et des villageois sont privés d'eau pour usage domestique, la lessive, l'élevage et pour des biens de tous.

Troisièmement, M. le président, la distribution de l'eau dans les villages sont mal faite. Ce qui fait une certaine injustice parmi les villageois. M. le président, les villageois ont alertés les autorités, la commission concerné sur ce problème mais ils peinent pour avoir des résultats concret alors alerté par cette état des choses, M. le président, je demande à l'autorité d'agir plus vite par rapport à la promesse faite aux villageois. Merci.

*At 14.52 hours the House was, on its rising adjourned
to Tuesday 16 April 2013 at 10.30 a.m.*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MONTHLY STIPEND SCHEME – RODRIGUANS STUDENTS/TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

(No. B/26) Mrs M.D.L.C. Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to monthly stipend scheme paid to Rodriguan students attending tertiary institutions in Mauritius, she will inform the House:

- (a) if the scheme still exists and, in the affirmative, how many students are benefitting from same and from which institutions; and
- (b) if there has been any delay in payment for academic year 2012 and, if yes, to give reasons thereof?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson Sir, with regard to part (a) I have to inform the House that the financial assistance scheme whereby a sum of Rs3000 per month is paid to students who come from low-income families and doing tertiary or post-secondary studies in Mauritius still exists. The scheme was advertised last year as has been done since its introduction since 2008. The number of students currently benefiting from the monthly stipend is 93. A breakdown per institution is as follows:-

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SN	INSTITUTION	NO. OF STUDENTS
1	Lycée Polytechnique Sir Guy Forget	19
2	Mauritius Institute of Training and Development	03
3	University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM)	07
4	University of Mauritius	46
5	Swami Dayanand Institute of Management	12
6	Institut Supérieur de Technologie	04
7	EIILIM University	01
8	Charles Telfair Institute	01
	TOTAL	93

The above figures include 37 students awarded the monthly stipend in November last year.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, With regard to part (b), For the information of the House, payment of monthly stipend is effected three months in advance subject that they have attained an attendance rate of 80%. Therefore, payment for January, February and March is effected in January, for period April to May, payment is effected in April and so on.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, It is a normal procedure as has been the case since the setting up of the scheme, to verify the attendance rate of the students to see whether they have obtained the 80% minimum required prior to effecting payment. This exercise takes approximately two weeks. My commission always has to contact institutions in Mauritius to get missing attendance sheets.

Payment has always been made during the month it is supposed to be made. There have been delays for period April to June 2012. Payment was made in May 2012.

ILLEGAL FISHING

(No. B/28) Mrs. M.D.L.C. Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Environment and Others whether, in regard to illegal fishing, he can obtain information from the Commissioner of Police:

- (a) as to the seizure of illegal fishing net trafficking on MV Mauritius Trochetia during the months of January and February 2013 on passenger(s)/staff in Rodrigues;

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- (b) if it is the first time and what are the measures he intends to take to combat illegal fishing; and
- (c) if there has been any police enquiry and arrest?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for the month of January 2013, no case of illegal fishing net trafficking was reported.

In February 2013, precisely on the fifth day around 13.00 hours, a case of “unlawful Importation of Fishing Gears” was detected by the National Coast Guard, Rodrigues. A special operation was mounted by NCG Personnel together with ADSU Officers and a hostess of the Mauritius Trochetia was intercepted with two bags of fishing nets while she was attempting to get out through the security gate with the nets.

It is the first time that such case has been detected by the Police in Rodrigues through close surveillance and with the help of CCTV Cameras of the Mauritius Port Authority.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b) of the question, concerning the measures my Commission intends to take to combat illegal fishing I have already answered in Question B/1. The operation carried out will continue and it forms part of our strategy to prevent illegal fishing in Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have been informed by the Divisional Commander that Police enquiry is still ongoing into this present case.

**RECRUITMENT – GENERAL WORKERS/INVOLVEMENT IN
POLICE CASES**

(No. B/39) Mrs. J. Ravina (Second Local Region Member of La Ferme) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the recent recruitment of General Workers by Rodrigues Regional Assembly in December 2012, he will, for the benefit of the House obtain information from the Commissioner of Police if any of these new recruits have been involved in police cases, and in the affirmative, (i) to table their names and (ii) state if they have been sentenced by the Court of Rodrigues or are on bail?

WATER DISTRIBUTION NETWORK/ALLEE TAMARIN

(No. B/41) Mrs. J. Ravina (Second Local Region Member of La Ferme) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others whether, in regard to the modification works made to the water distribution network at Allée Tamarin, namely at Mr. H. M.’s place, he will state,

- (a) who took the decision to disconnect his domestic water prise and to give the reason(s) thereof;
- (b) how was Mr. H.M. made aware of such decision; and
- (c) has Mr. H. M. made any representation in order to restore the situation and if yes what does he envisage to do ?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the domestic water prise of Mr. H. M. has not been disconnected. Therefore, part (a) and part (b) of this question does not arise.

However, I wish to inform the house that due to complaints received from habitants of Allée Tamarin, it was decided to improve the water distribution network and also to rationalize the distribution of water to the consumers at Allée Tamarin and a main pipe which passes through his premises has been removed and my Commission ensure that Mr. H. M. is connected to our lateral distribution network like all the other villagers.

As regards part (c), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Yes, Mr. H. M. did so but situation does not need to be restored since his water prise is still tapped on our network and he is supplied with water according to our distribution schedule as all the consumers of the village from Allée Tamarin Service reservoir.