

**RODRIGUES
THIRD REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Debate No. 3 of 2013

Sitting of Tuesday 18 June 2013

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

(Mr. Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

Debate No. 3 of 2013

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 18 JUNE 2013

CONTENTS

QUESTIONS (*Oral*)

ADJOURNMENT

MATTERS RAISED

QUESTIONS (*Written*)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

QUESTIONS (*Oral*)

- (No. B/71) - Missions - Ministers in Rodrigues/Commissioner to Mauritius
- (No. B/72) - Television/Radio Broadcasting
- (No. B/73) - Freight - Rodrigues & Mauritius
- (No. B/74) - Closing Period - Octopus Fishing/Selling Price/Difficulties
- (No. B/75) - Programme Based Budget (PBB) - 2013/Projects Initiated
- (No. B/76) - Breeding & Marketing - Local Poultry/Selling Price
- (No. B/77) - Construction of Roads – Already Started/Completed/Cost
- (No. B/78) - Fleet of Ambulances
- (No. B/79) - Youth Coordinating Committee
- (No. B/80) - Cafeteria - Malabar Atelier de Savoir
- (No. B/81) - Camp du Roi Stadium – Drainage/Renovation Works
- (No. B/82) - Accacia Nilotica (Piquant Loulou) - Eradication
- (No. B/83) - Agriculture Produce/Rodrigues – Importation
- (No. B/84) - Programme Based Budget (PBB)
- (No. B/85) - Child Abuse (Pedophilia)
- (No. B/86) - Global Consultancy Services/Development Projects
- (No. B/87) - Sustainable Fisheries Development - Aquaculture Projects
- (No. B/88) - Green Spaces/Children Garden (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/89) - Street Lighting/CEB Bill (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/90) - (Sempa)/Equipment (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/91) - Tertiary Education in Mauritius - Rodriguan Students (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/92) - Fisheries Research and Training Unit (FRTU) (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/93) - Law and Order - No. of Offences/Cases/Measures (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/94) - Stagnant Water - Laboratory Complex/Queen Elizabeth Hospital (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/95) - Octopus Closed Season 2013 (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/96) - Information & Communication Technology (ICT)/Rodrigues (*Withdrawn*)

- (No. B/97) - Entrepreneurship Development in Rodrigues (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/98) - “La Semaine Rodriguaise”/Mauritius - 25 May-02 June 2013 (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/99) - Dumping Site - Grenade (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/100) - Legal Adviser - Monthly Allowance/Cases/Works/Outcome (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/102) - Agriculture - St François (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/103) - “La Semaine Rodriguaise” - Mauritius Delegation/Expenses (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/104) - Agricultural Plot/Grand la Fouche Corail - Greenhouse (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/105) - School Materials - National Empowerment Foundation (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/106) - Two Desalination Plants (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/108) - Reservoir ‘La Digue’ - Reposoir (*Withdrawn*)
- (No. B/113) - Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Co. Ltd (*Withdrawn*)

ADJOURNMENT

MATTERS RAISED

- - Minority Leader: Services de Santé
- - Reply of Commissioner for Health & Sports (Mr. I. Valimamode)
- - Mrs. M. D. L. C. Meunier: Réforme Electorale
 - Mr. F. A. Grandcourt : L’Elevage Bovins à Rodrigues
 - Mr. A. L. Emilien : Sécurité Routière
 - Mr. D. Spéville : Fourniture Matériaux Scolaire
 - Ecole Primaire/Secondaire - NEF - 2013

QUESTIONS (*Written*)

- (No. B/101) - Employment in Rodrigues - Termination/New Recruitment
- (No. B/107) - Water Distribution/Rivière Coco, Mont Charlot, Citron Donis, Papayes, Cite Patate & Reposoir
- (No. B/109) - Procurement - Stationery & All Computer Supplies
- (No. B/110) - NTA Office/Rodrigues

- (No. B/111) - NEF- Items Supplied/Basis/Value/Procurement Method
- (No. B/112) - Mauritours Workers - Les Cocotiers Hotel and Pointe Venus Hotel
- (No. B/114) - Submarine Optic Fibre Cable
- (No. B/115) - Pedestrian Crossings
- (No. B/116) - Closed Period for Octopus Fishing - Selling of Catch/Contraveners
- (No. B/117) - Unemployed in Rodrigues - Total Number/Measures

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, C.S.K.	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, G.O.S.K.
Clerk - Parsooramen, Miss Marie Cristelle Joanna
Deputy Clerk - Legentil, Miss Marie Lyndia Yannick
Serjeant-at-Arms - Constant Perrine, Mr. Stenio

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MISSIONS - MINISTERS IN
RODRIGUES/COMMISSIONER TO MAURITIUS

(No. B/71) **Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member for Maréchal)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the collaboration of the Regional Assembly with various ministries in Mauritius from February 2012 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House:

- (a) state the names of the different Ministers who effected missions in Rodrigues, together with the respective period and outcome of such mission; and
- (b) table the different missions effected by the Commissioners to Mauritius where they met Ministers, together with the outcome and the total amount of money spent respectively per mission per official?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the collaboration of the Regional Assembly with various Ministries in Mauritius from February 2012 to date, the required information with regard to Minister's visit to Rodrigues and Commissioners' visit to Mauritius is being compiled and will be tabled at the Library of the Assembly shortly.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have noticed/seen that some Ministers have been to Rodrigues officially for more than twice and some of them have never been to Rodrigues. Can we know among the other Ministers who have never visited the island officially which one among them have expressed the wish but were not allowed to do so and secondly, to whom invitation has been sent, whether verbally or officially, but up to now has not replied or visited the island?

The Chief Commissioner: I need notice of the question, Sir.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, was there any Advisors for the different Ministries posted in Rodrigues and if yes, to state their names and what is their mission here in Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: I need notice of the question, Sir.

Mr. J. Roussety: I would like to know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, from the Chief Commissioner whether there has been any mission from the Ministry for Fisheries in Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: I need notice of the question, Sir.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I have one remark if you would allow me. This is the third questions, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and this is the third supplementary questions and this is the fourth time we get the same answer. Either the Chief Commissioner does his homework together with his officers because I think that the question had come more than two weeks before because it is forst here. We do not come here and we say we need notice, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? I think there is some effort, which needs to be done to answer to this House.

Mr. Chairperson: The Chief Commissioner has given a reply...

[Interruption]

The Minority Leader: Can the Chief Commissioner confirm to the House whether the Ministry for Fisheries has been invited for future collaboration with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly? If not, why not?

The Chief Commissioner: As I said, I need notice of the question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is a bit surprising that up to now we have not received any reply from the Chief Commissioner but we are going to continue to ask questions and we want reply to be made public. Since the Chief Commissioner has met the Prime Minister and the latter has been visiting the island of Rodrigues recently, can we know if he has had the opportunity to discuss the major projects appearing in the five years programme 2010-2015?

The Chief Commissioner: Can the Member come with a substantive question, please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is about the outcome. I want an outcome. The Prime Minister has been to Rodrigues and we want the outcome whether he has discussed the issue of the five-year programme. It is included in the question itself and we want a reply for this.

The Chief Commissioner: I have already replied to the question, Sir.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the main question; collaboration of the Regional Assembly with various Ministries in Mauritius. Can I ask and I hope I will get an answer what is the general approach of those who is in front of me here, what is the general approach and policy as regards to collaboration of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly with various Ministries. What is the general policy and approach, which is being followed? Thank you.

The Chief Commissioner: As I said in my reply the information are being compiled and will be laid in the library of the Assembly.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, either the Chief Commissioner is not listening or he is getting me completely wrong. There is no need for information here, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I am not asking for information. I am asking something about the policy and the approach. There is no information and no data on this. Policy and approach as head of the Regional Government he is supposed to answer at any time about this and he must answer here what is the general approach and policy as regards collaboration of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly with various Ministries in Mauritius.

The Chief Commissioner: With regard to the collaboration of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly with various Ministries in Mauritius from Rodrigues 2012 to date, the required information with regard to Ministers, visit to Rodrigues and Commissioners to Mauritius is being compiled and will be tabled in the library of the Assembly shortly.

Mr. J. Roussety: I am sorry to insist but again I see that the Chief Commissioner is not either willing to answer or is not understanding the question. The question is simple. There is a Regional Assembly; there are the Ministries in Mauritius. What is the general approach, the policy, the general framework in which collaboration of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly with various ministries in Mauritius is being made? If we have a Chief Commissioner who comes here and do not know what is this approach? Where are we going? Where are we heading in this country? Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The answer does not need information. It needs an answer out of the spot.

Mr. Chairperson: I must tell you that he has given an answer I cannot insist. Next question, please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I think this one the Chief Commissioner will answer to this part.

Mr. Chairperson: Give your question, please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: During the different visits effected by the Chief Commissioner and Commissioners have they obtained information of the impression of whether the Rodrigues Regional Assembly will be dismantled despite that it appears under Chapter 6(a) of the Constitution.

[Interruption]

The Chief Commissioner: You have to wait for your answer. I will not accept this kind of language in this Assembly. Give him the time. This is an assembly. This assembly is not a market and I will not accept this.

The Chief Commissioner: I am not aware, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

TELEVISION/RADIO BROADCASTING

(No. B/72) **Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member for Maréchal)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to television and radio broadcasting, he will obtain information from the relevant authorities:

- (a) if the debates of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly can be broadcasted live and verbatim for the population of Rodrigues;
- (b) the number of channels available and broadcasted on mainland compared to Rodrigues; and
- (c) the number of persons who are subscribed to the national television and to other private television service providers respectively, including CS and PM?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (a), (b) and (c) of the question, materials for reply have been sought from the relevant authorities in Mauritius and as soon as the required information are made available a written reply will be tabled at the library of the assembly.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, even though, I am here, I have to ask question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. One of the philosophies behind the struggle of autonomy is to free the people of Rodrigues, is to give the people of Rodrigues the opportunity. Why does it appear, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at the different television channels broadcasted in Rodrigues, most of the time the population do not have the opportunity to watch a film which will arise their interest they prefer to go to bed. Can the Chief Commissioner see to it, with the authority concerned that channels, like *chaine Créole*, Sports channels can be broadcasted for the Rodriguan population on a 24-hour basis.

The Chief Commissioner: Well as I said, we have put the question to the relevant authorities of the MBC. We are waiting for an answer.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Chief Commissioner, whether he is satisfied with the way, the debates of this House are being broadcasted either on the local TV or on the local radio.

The Chief Commissioner: I have already answered to this question.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner has not replied to my question. My question is clear-cut whether he is satisfied. The answer is yes or no. He just has to reply yes or no. That is what I need, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The Chief Commissioner: This is a matter of appreciation. When the question is put in a different way. That is what I have said, we have written to the authorities in Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation. We are waiting for an answer from them.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: We have around 13,000 subscribers for TV, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in Rodrigues. As regards to radio broadcast in Rodrigues, first of all, *a nous balier devant nou la porte avant*. We can see that many tenders have occurred positively but one concerned is about the quality of programs broadcasted instead of *disques à la demande, disques préférer tou les jours*. Can the population have educational programs like how to make our children learn multiplication intelligently, let us take for example, I will give you one simple example, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, instead of reciting the multiplication table by heart we can use our fingers here four times three you have twelve instead of reciting the multiplication table. Can we have these programs for the children of Rodrigues and educational programs for the children of Rodrigues instead of having *disques à la demande, l'anniversaire*, everyday, *grand matin, tantôt*.

The Chief Commissioner: This is a question appreciation that we at the level of the government we have already discussed that with the MBC.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: The Chief Commissioner just mentioned that he has discussed this with the MBC. Can we know the discussion that he had or the government had had with the MBC? Whether we can expect the changes in the way programs, may be on radio are being done presently, that there will be improvement, that there will be changes just as my colleague just mentioned with more educational programs, with more broadcast of debates in the assembly or also debates on economy, budgets, politics or social issues which

concerns every Rodriguans. Can the Commissioner inform us about what have the discussion revealed about these programs and what can we expect in the near future.

The Chief Commissioner: As I said, we are waiting for an answer from the MBC TV in Mauritius.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner inform the House whether the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has consulted the IBA so that the private radios also can have accessed to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly debates.

The Chief Commissioner: We already had meeting with the IBA on different issues concerning Rodrigues.

Mr. J. Roussety: Can we know where matters stand as regards the setting up of the radio communautaire, which is so dear to the Chief Commissioner and the political program on which he has been elected.

The Chief Commissioner:

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please

FREIGHT - RODRIGUES & MAURITIUS

(No. B/73) Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Social Security and Others whether, in regard to freights between Rodrigues and Mauritius, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) if same has been increased recently and, in the affirmative, to state the quantum; and
- (b) the effect of same on local consumers?

The Commissioner responsible for Social Security and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on 18 February 2011, the Central Government agreed to the implementation of the recommendations made by the KPMG Report, inter-alia, the revision of tariff structure for both passenger and cargo on Rodrigues every two years to adjust for inflation.

As published by the Central Statistical Office, the cumulative inflation rate for the years 2011 and 2012 was 10.4%.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the cargo and passenger tariffs applied by the Mauritius Shipping Corporations Limited on the Rodrigues Route were last revised on 14 April 2013 and has increased by 10.4% as the rate of inflation which I mentoned earlier. These changes came into effect on the 20 April 2013 and such increase in the freight rate has resulted to an increase in the prices of passenger fares and may have an incidence on the prices of certain commodities in Rodrigues.

I must at this point, Mr Chairperson, Sir, congratulate the Chief Commissioner for his wise 2013 budgetary measure to subsidise fully the freight on certain basic commodities to Rodrigues. This measure, which took effect on 01 January 2013, is deemed to be highly beneficial to the consumers.

Consequently, the recent increase in freight rates has no impact on the prices of edible oil, milk powder, ration rice, flour and tea, which are fully subsidized. Prices of these commodities change only when there are changes in the purchase price in Mauritius and inland transport cost. Moreover, such a change has no incidence on prices of gas and petroleum products. The increase in freight may have as I said an incidence on the cost of living of the consumers as far as other commodities are concerned, but the extent will vary from household to household, depending on the mode of consumption.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as at date, no major changes in the general price level have been noted nor the Consumer Protection Unit has received any complaint from consumers in this regard. Therefore, the change in the freight rate is not likely to affect the standard of living of customers to a great extent.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the freight should affect the people of Rodrigues. Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, from the Commissioner whether the freight increase is only on the way from Mauritius to Rodrigues and not Rodrigues to Mauritius?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: I said on the Rodrigues routes therefore, it includes Mauritius to Rodrigues and Rodrigues to Mauritius, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I am very surprised, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when we discussed with all the farmers of Rodrigues, you will see that the farmers they pay the freight in order to ship their livestock to Mauritius. Can the Commissioner see to it, discussed with the different authorities concerned, whether the price of livestock in Rodrigues so that the farmers do not bear the cost also to ship their animals to Mauritius - to bear their freight.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I guess that this is not the first time that there has been changes in the freight. As I said this decision was taken on the 18 October 2011 and we have experienced such increase in the past when the previous government was in power. At least we are happy that we have been able to make certain nice proposals/measures for the budget to subsidize freight on certain basic commodities and obviously, in the coming budget there will be other product also where discussions are ongoing.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: I am a bit surprised to hear the Commissioner mentioned that so far there has been no complaints received pertaining to the price of commodities, which has increased. May be he does not go to the shop, I do not know but I have personally been to shop since there has been increased in freights and to my great surprise the shopkeepers have already increased the prices of various commodities which have been purchased before the price of the freight increased. I would urge the Commissioner to get the Price Control Unit to check and to make sure that all mechanism is set in place to ensure that traders do not abuse consumers. We can understand traders also, *zot pé rod zot la vie*, we can understand that but we have to ensure that there is no abuse in this matter because I have to ... him that the prices have already gone up on old stocks.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I did not say that there has been no increased in prices but I said that there have been no major changes in the general price level but it is also important to note that the Consumer Protection Unit and the Price Fixing Unit have jurisdiction on the prices of controlled commodities. So controlled commodities obviously will be fixed according to the mechanisms, which already exist, but we have no such control on liberalised products. So for this matter we will see.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, one thing I do not understand, the Commissioner he has just mentioned in his reply that the freight rate has been increased by 10%. He seems happy. What has been his contribution? What have you been doing when you heard that? You cannot come here and say the Chief Commissioner has negotiated before and then when you see the increase of 10%, you do not do anything. What have you been doing? What has the Commissioner been doing once he has heard that the freight rate has increase because I remember in the past we used to negotiate? The Commissioner has the responsibility to negotiate. What has he been doing?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am a bit surprised. When we negotiate there are outcome. In 2011's negotiation, it seems that there has been no outcome because no subsidy was even given on prices of basic commodities like flour and rice, which you promised. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let me tell you

people who have more opportunity to negotiate did not do it when it was time to do it in February 2011. As I said, it was a decision taken by the Central Government. I think that there are people who are more in a position to negotiate for this particular...

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has mentioned that there have been I quote: *“no major changes in the general price level following these freight changes”*. Can he tell us which measure he is using to estimate the general price level?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: We are mainly comparing the prices before the increase in freight and prices after the increase in freight but I must also tell my colleague that it is not only freight, which will determine the price of the product. For example, there has been a decrease in the price of sugar either even if there might have been an increase in the freight rate this might not have an influence on the price of sugar and it also depends on the different elasticity of demand for the products. If there is competition on the market, some products might not experience such an increase. So, this is not necessary as we say it does a 10% increase in freight it does not necessarily means that all products.

Mr. J. Roussety: It is surprising here; on one side, the Commissioner comes to this House and states that there have been no major changes in the general price level. He knows very well or else he has forgotten, the general price level is calculated according to the inflation rate, according to weights, which are given to each item of the house or basket survey and to the increase in the general prices. This has nothing to do with elasticity of demand. Therefore, we can see that the Commissioner has come to this House introduce a concept stating that there has been no major changes in the general price level when the general price level itself is not measured in Rodrigues. The general price level is measured by changes in consumer price index. Does the Commissioner have measured the consumer price index in Rodrigues to come in this House and say that the freight has not increased an impact on consumers? How do you know this, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? When the consumer price index is not measured in Rodrigues specifically and it has not been measured recently. This is a lie, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order when the Member on the other side of the House says that I am lying.

[Interruptions]

The Minority Leader: I need silent on this House.

Mr. Chairperson: Please silent on both side.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner did confess that the increased of freight has a certain impact on Rodrigues. Is he aware that all available reports say that the poverty rate of Rodrigues is the highest of the republic and in fact more than 30%. Therefore, will he conduct a survey to know exactly the incidence of such increase of freight on the purchasing power of the Rodriguan population, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? And if yes, when does he intend to do so?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: This are being done regularly as he said there are many reports so I guessed that these are still ongoing.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question, please.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: We know that there is an increase in freight, which is negative to the social criteria but nevertheless, Rodrigues still suffered from the non-transportation of containers, which are not filled to 100% causing to the lack of essential commodities on the market, causing delay *dans l'approvisionnement*. Can the Commissioner inform the House whether his Commission have taken a discussion with the Mauritius Shipping *pour pallier à cette situation*?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not know from where the Member gets this information but we have not received information as to this reason. The delay is not related.

Mr. Chairperson: Next, question, please.

CLOSING PERIOD - OCTOPUS FISHING/SELLING PRICE/DIFFICULTIES

(No. B/74) Mr. J. C. Agathe (First Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to octopus in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) if any closing period will be effected in 2013 for octopus fishing;
- (b) the sale price per kilogram as at to date; and

- (c) if he is aware of the difficulties, faced by fishermen and, in the affirmative, what he is contemplating to do to remedy same?

The Commissioner responsible for Fisheries and Others (Mr. R. Payendee): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I still remember some fishermen, last year who were not accepting the octopus closure and I was surprised and, at the same time very happy, to hear or to see in newspaper that the same fishermen who were not happy by the fact that the Commissioner for Fisheries has not yet fixed the date for the closure of octopus this year.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have a very good news for these people. Yes, there will be closure soon, this year. The fact that the octopus closure 2012 was a success and that there has been considerable increase in stock in sizes of octopus. Female octopuses have also got the chance to reproduce massively. The closure will take place within the winter period to allow female octopuses to reach maturity and to migrate out of the lagoon for reproductive purposes to rehabilitate the Rodrigues octopus stock. The tentative start for the closure is for the 01 of August and tentatively we will end on the 30 of September this year.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b) of the question, the sale of per kilo of octopus varies between Rs 70 to Rs 100 depending on the fishery station, the size of octopus caught and the fishmonger buying the octopus.

[Interruption]

Mr. R. Payendee: These people have to listen I said in kilograms. So please clean your ears. I repeat, with regard to part (b) of the question, listen, per kilo of octopus varies between Rs 70 and Rs 100 depending on the fishery station, the size of octopus caught and the fishmonger buying the octopus.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (c) of the question apart from the fluctuation in prices of octopus, I have not heard of any difficulty and I have not received any official complaints on the difficulty the fishermen are facing. Thank you.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I heard, the Commissioner mentioned about the size and the production and I think that the main idea behind the closure of octopus it is about ecosystem and the Commissioner has mentioned nothing, silent, completely silent about ecosystem. Can we know from the Commissioner, whether there has been an assessment as regards to the eco-system like the corals? What has happened and what assessment has he made up to now?

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the question was not on this but if you want me to answer I will because this is my field of expertise. You are talking ecosystem management; the closure was done last year and how can you know the impact in one year. You know corals grow like this every year. So, this question has nothing to do but as far as ecosystem is concerned, I will give you the positive result of this. If you look at the amount of fish that people are getting now, this is clear people see it.

Mr. Chairperson: Sorry Commissioner, do not make a statement

Mr. R. Payendee: The amount of fish that the fishermen are fishing now is a lot compared to what it used to be. This is clear if there is fish it means the ecosystem is well managed.

Mr. Chairperson: Mr. Emilien was first.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think you know the Standing Orders as well as me. The Standing Orders on that is those who are on his feet first has the question because we are following a discussion here. If we have to come back to what my friend had, it will be a false debate. I am not preventing my friend from asking question but there is need to be a follow up because what he has to say...

Mr. Chairperson: Please put your question.

Mr. J. Roussety: Thank you. I am often asked, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, by local people including fishermen what is the purpose of closing the octopus fishery for one month and then afterwards completely opening it including in the marine reserves in the barachois which are dead etcetera for every category of octopus including octopus like this and this and bigger one. I want to know what policy decision, justification as to why we have to close the octopus fishing for one month. The stock replenishes and then afterwards every type, every size of octopus is allowed to be caught. Thank you.

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may be the Member did not listen last time when we discussed on this project. The main reason for that was to allow the female octopus to move outside the lagoon, that is, in the deep sea to replenish the lagoon in the future. So, the reason is clear, of course, those which were in the lagoon already would definitely grow in size but I have witnessed it myself, if you allow me, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in December I went for a night dive outside the lagoon and when we finished diving, when we were at the surface putting the gears back into the boat there was a thousand of small

octopuses which I have seen for the first time. We have got a lot of witnesses for that.

Mr. J. Roussety: I do not understand, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner comes here as if he is an expert in ecosystem in marine environment. I have gone on the internet everywhere I know the profile of the Commissioner; I have not seen any paper by him on the ecosystem in Rodrigues. I am not aware he has any degree in ecosystem or something like that. So please, stop pretending.

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: I will not accept this again.

Mr. J. Roussety: I am just saying that he is not a specialist in marine environment and that he does not pretend to be like this. My question is now. Whether he will at least see to it that octopus of a certain size, which by law, according to the Fisheries Law, the Marine Reserves Law, there are closed areas in the lagoon etcetera. Whether he will see to it that at least that after that period there is a control on the size because we know that there is a control on the size of octopus, which can be caught and his affirmation, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, his affirmation. I am not an expert but I am a very good reader and researcher even in matters of science in which I am not a specialist. How come that a big octopus was going out of the lagoon, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? When we know, that octopus comes in the lagoon especially if it is big to lay its eggs and then die. How come it was going out? Has he invented a new theory? Will he go and publish an article in the Review of Nature. Octopuses come in the lagoon to lay their eggs and watch over their eggs and then they die and when they die, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, how come that there were octopuses which were going out. You are lying to this House! *Ourites vine ponde dans lagon ou to dire ourites pé retourne dehors. Eh ou la ! Arête bête do matelot ! Ourites sorte dehors vine ponde après li mort !*

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: Last supplementary question from Mr. Emilien, please. Quiet please on both sides.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Commissioner, first I am very astonished about his ignorance of the difficulties faced by the octopus fishers in Rodrigues presently. It is astonishing to note that when it is positive you do not need to have an official report but when it is negative, you wait for official complaints. Fishermen in actually Rodrigues,

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, they do not have big catches in so far as octopus fishing is concerned but they encountered many difficulties in selling their catch. I do not know the reason behind this may be those who buy the octopuses they try to bring down the prices because it has gone down from Rs 60 per half kilo to Rs 70 a kilo. So I want to ask the Commissioner will he inquire into the matter and to see to it what measures can be taken to protect these fishers because we in the cold season maybe the catch will be more important so what will happen to those fishers?

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will not answer this question at this state because the same Member has put the same question somewhere behind. I have an answer for you but I will wait for this question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Commissioner aware that due to shortage of octopus on the local market, that is, octopus coming from Rodrigues we have to export it to Mauritius and the suppliers has had recourse to octopus coming from Madagascar and the Malagasy octopus, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, cost Rs 60 and ours cost Rs 80. First, will the Commissioner see to it that there will be no fluctuate in price for octopuses? Second to see with other authorities either in Mauritius or the Central Government in Mauritius if you do not want the Ministry for Fisheries, either the Central Government of Mauritius, whether the octopus from Rodrigues have had the opportunity to go to Mauritius on a best price?

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, first of all I would like to inform the respected Member that a letter has been addressed to the Minister for Fisheries by the big sellers themselves in this respect. So he is in a position if he is really a Minister for Fisheries he should be able to help these people because the problem is mainly in Mauritius. It is Mauritius which is buying the octopus from Madagascar but let me tell you that at our level also we have got a lot to do. There are quite a lot of long practices being done with regard to octopus being sold to Mauritius. One bad practice is that some of the people here they put water in the plastic and then they freeze so then the consumer in Mauritius when they buy the octopus they buy a two kilos of octopus they get only at least one and a half kilo. Therefore, this bad practice is putting the quality of the product that we produce here in Mauritius to be looked down but there is only a handful of people who are getting this problem. Some big sellers are not having this problem. It is also a question of quality; we need to know that, let me inform you that in the past quite a lot of octopuses have come back from Mauritius because of their quality. Therefore, we have got a lot to do here to make sure that we got a good price in Mauritius. It is not just, because of ... people go and buy it get something, which is not good, then obviously you go

and buy something better. At our level, we are working on that to make sure that this never happened.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether the closing of octopus fishing in Rodrigues how many people will be concerned about this. *Entre guillemet* the fishermen because we have noticed last time all sorts of people, even those selling mangoes in the street they were concerned by this closure. So I would like to ask him whether the same people will be concerned by this, he will be more selective, or more people will be involved in this.

Mr. R. Payendee: For this year, the same people will be involved but as from next year, we are starting to work on, to see who are the real fishermen. Maybe it will increase and the Member should be happy because we are creating employment for the people.

Mr. J. Roussety: Can we know how much money, we do not know how much person, and he says it is the same as last year. Let us hope it is the same even though some have left, are dead today. Can we know how much money has been budgeted in the financial estimates for this year for this item, compensation of octopus fishers and whether this money will be sufficient for the compensation?

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I can assure the Member that the money will be sufficient because it is not just only the money that we budgeted. There is a lot of the money come from international organisations which have already sent, the fact that this has been a success, maybe all of the money will come from outside so that is why I said it is a good thing for the people of Rodrigues to get some employment.

PROGRAMME BASED BUDGET (PBB) - 2013/PROJECTS INITIATED

(No. B/75) Mrs. M.D.L.C. Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Programme Based Budget (PBB) of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the fiscal year 2013, he will, for the benefit of the House, state, list and table the different projects which have been initiated by commissions falling under his responsibility, up to date together with their respective cost estimates and completion dates?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in reply to the question from the member I am tabling for the benefit of the House, a list of different projects which have been initiated by Commissions falling under my

responsibility together with the cost estimate and expected completion dates.
(Appendix I)

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: By the time I get the papers I would just like to know from the Chief Commissioner whether in the list that I am going to see in a few minutes there are projects which have been stated in the PBB which have not yet been initiated per sector and if no, why not?

The Chief Commissioner: According to my information tabled, all the projects, which have been mentioned in the PBB, will be accomplished and what we say also some projects will lapse over two financial years.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my colleague just asked the question it is related to different commissions, commissions with “s”, that is, all the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Being given that finance is centralized and it is at the level of the Chief Commissioner’s Office and it is the Chief Commissioner’s Office who is responsible for finance, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, will the Chief Commissioner table the related information.

The Chief Commissioner: It is agreed in the question. A list and table of different projects, which have been initiated by commissions falling under these responsibilities. Up to date together with the respective cost and estimates. This means under my responsibility, Education and Agriculture.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the Community School at Montagne Goyaves I have seen that it is listed there. I would like to know therefore when the Chief Commissioner is planning to receive this first intake. So, the due date mentioned, when will be the first intake for this school and also for all the infrastructural works that have been done by his commission. Who is supervising the work carried out?

The Chief Commissioner: Well as mentioned in the paper the construction of the Montagne Goyaves will be in 2014 and the intake perhaps we will see how we are going to manage for the intake in 2014.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: And who is supervising all the infrastructural work, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, but I am not very happy with the answer, with perhaps in 2015. The Chief Commissioner should know, should have a planning after completion of the building. What he has to do is to have furnished the school and then find teachers, staff and things like that. They should have a proper planning. We cannot govern a country on, perhaps, later on, need notice. This is not serious. If we say that 2015 parents need to know, parents need to plan. The students who will be going to this school in 2015, if it

would be the intake, as mentioned by the Chief Commissioner just now, they have to plan. They have to know how they are going to do with all this. We cannot just say perhaps in 2015. There should be a proper planning. If you have been able to tell me that in 2014 it would be completed, there should be a time frame to say okay in 2015 really we are going to set it up and I am still waiting for an answer as to who is supervising the works?

The Chief Commissioner: All that the Member has said is that all this is being taken into consideration concerning the intake, the teachers and so on and who is supervising the construction, I think it will be those who will receive the tenders, the design and built. The contractors are going to have the tender is going to supervise the construction.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: At the end, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whenever the Commissions are going to commission the project, the building, the contractor will supervise but at the end who is going to produce the completion certificate to certify that the contractor has actually carried out the work as per rules and requirements. Who is going to certify correct to give the completion certificate at the end?

The Chief Commissioner: We have just solved the problem at the Global Consultancy and the consultants will be there and will certify the construction and to take over the building.

Mr. J. Roussety: Can I ask a question. Thank you. As regards to the commissions falling under his responsibility with regard to projects, defined projects which have been initiated, can we know for this financial year 2013 what is the total provision for all the commissions falling under his responsibility and as at to date how much has been spent out of these voted provision. Thank you.

The Chief Commissioner: I need notice of the question, Sir.

Mr. J. Roussety: *Pas coner comié budget énan encore.*

Mr. J. D. Spéville: The project of Montagne Goyaves is designed and built. Can we inform the House who will supervise the works at Montagne Goyaves, the contractor itself.

Mr. Chairperson: Address me please, when you put the question. Address the Chair.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Can the Chief Commissioner inform the House who will supervise the work at Montagne Goyaves, which is a built and design one.

The Chief Commissioner: For the Public Infrastructure, the Engineers and technical assistance of the Public Infrastructure will supervise the work.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to primary schools, I see that there is extension; there is additional classroom that is being constructed, can we know from the Chief Commissioner whether he has a global plan for school in Rodrigues.

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Sir.

**BREEDING & MARKETING
- LOCAL POULTRY/SELLING PRICE**

(No. B/76) Second Island Region Member (Mrs. M.D.L.C. Meunier) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to breeding and marketing of local poultry, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) what is his commission presently doing to help these breeders; and
- (b) the price per kilo at which this product is being sold locally and in Mauritius?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, in February 2013 the Commission has donated crossbreed chickens to seven cooperatives societies to control the problem of inbreeding in the local breed. As these cooperatives are found in various regions of the island it is expected that other farmers who are interested may obtain these crossbreed chicken from them.

Moreover, the Rodrigues Trading Marketing Co. Ltd has started to purchase local chickens for export since November 2012. The company will continue to intervene in the marketing of local chicken according to the willingness of the farmers to sell at the price offered.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as for part (b) of the question, I am informed that the purchasing price of local chicken by the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Co. Ltd (RTMC) is Rs 110/kg and the selling price in Mauritius is Rs 150/kg. It appears that the private traders are offering the same price.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am happy to hear that the price the RTMC is purchasing the local poultry since 2012 and I would like to know from the Chief Commissioner, he also mentioned the prices and that

they are selling it personally at the same price but is he aware that sometimes, very often, the breeding are being exploited on the price at which the chicken are being bought when they sell it personally with people coming to buy it. Is he aware of that? *Est-ce-qu'il ne faut pas s'assurer qu'il y est des mécanismes qui sont mis en place pour protéger ces breeders là. Parce que justement il nous faudrait assurer que ce produit là reste un produit de qualité, un produit de marque de Rodrigues.* Is the Chief Commissioner aware of this? Et se bassant sur *his policy*, de produire, transformer et exporter à quand est-ce que le Chef commissaire pense vendre ces produits, le produit pays poulet comme les autres poulets qu'on peut acheter ou encore comme le produit, les ourites qu'on vend quand quelqu'un vient de Maurice on peut acheter ce produit avec des valeurs ajouter, *package properly and sold in a proper way* et non pas juste sur patte. Quand est-ce qu'on pourrait avoir ce produit là dans une façon bien fait avec des valeurs ajouter sur le marché locale aussi bien qu'à Maurice. A last question is with trend in the increase of freight *est-ce-que le prix va rester le même? Est-ce-que si on dit que le freight et aussi sur la route Rodrigues/Maurice, donc est-ce-que cela va impliquer ce produit là et est-ce-que le prix va rester toujours à Rs 110 et Rs 150 ?*

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, nous travaillons en étroite collaboration avec le RTMC dont le but est justement d'exporter les produits Rodrigues et même il a été question pour d'autres produits, comment il faut travaillé ce produit d'abord ici ensuite les exportés. Nous avons réfléchi beaucoup sur la question des limons, des oignons et nous avons aussi réfléchi sur la question des poulets locales exportés sur Maurice. Alors il y a beaucoup d'idées à venir mais plutôt nous essayons d'emmener beaucoup plus de poulet locale, des personnes à nourrir les poulets locales afin qu'il y est suffisamment de poulet locale pour être exporter sur Maurice. Mais je dois dire qu'il y a des personnes à Maurice, comme la Chambre de Commerce Chinoise, qui a été contacter par le RTMC pour pouvoir vraiment avoir une sorte d'intermédiaire à Maurice pour que ce poulet soit vendu sur Maurice à un meilleur prix. Tout cela justement est en discussion avec le RTMC qui depuis que nous sommes là a pris une autre direction beaucoup plus d'exporter plutôt que d'importer. Alors voilà un petit peu et cette idée dont parle le membre, cette idée avait lancé depuis des années et des années quand nous étions là mais personne n'a voulu se lancer dedans au lieu qu'on importe le poulet de Maurice dans plastique pourquoi n'aurions nous ici pouvons nous pas exporter le poulet locale, traiter sous plastique vers Maurice. Merci.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, one of the main problems encountered by farmers of poultry breeding is the problem of Can the Chief Commissioner inform the House which indulge *l'amélioration de la race*. Can the Chief Commissioner inform the House what facilities exist at the

level of his commission to help those potential breeders who do not form part of cooperatives or these farmers who do not want to integrate a cooperative, they are potential breeders who do not form part of cooperative what facility exist at the level of his commission to prevent this problem of in their breed?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, depuis que nous sommes là nous avons parlé ce qu'on appelle des unités de recherche et nous sommes en train d'installer au niveau de l'agriculture une unité de recherche que se soit au niveau des animaux, que se soit pour la terre, pour les races et là nous avons justement cette visite, cette mission de l'AREU qui sont des experts dans l'agriculture et qui vont essayer de nous aider justement à mettre en place cette unité de recherche et que nos techniciens à Rodrigues soient des chercheurs et que se soit des professionnelles, c'est à cela que nous voulons atteindre pour que nous puissions protéger la race ou améliorer la race. Nous avons même parlé de cela au niveau des oignons, des petits oignons toupies. On a beaucoup parlé, eu des discussions avec l'AREU et même avant que l'AREU vienne on a discuté dessus au niveau de l'agriculture. Nous avons besoin des supports au niveau des experts de Maurice pour pouvoir aller beaucoup plus loin.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: When I have a look at the paper tabled by the Chief Commissioner it is mentioned that now we are constructing a slaughter house at Baie Diamant which cost us Rs 63 millions. In order to arise the interest of the people of Rodrigues to have more local chicks on the local market. Can we know from the Chief Commissioner what is the trend and what is the number of chicks, of local chicken that we have to grow in order to be slaughtered at the slaughter house?

The Chief Commissioner: I must say, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the construction of the slaughter house in Rodrigues started without any study before but we are now having one expert from France, *un ONG*, to come and see the slaughter house and advise us what we can do with the slaughter house and the kind of animal we can slaughter. We are also looking forward whether we can have part of the slaughter house for perhaps *jambon, saucisse et autres et tout cela pour justement pour pouvoir utiliser à fond la conception de cette abattoir*. Merci.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS – ALREADY STARTED/COMPLETED/COST

(No. B/77) Mrs. M.D.L.C. Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to construction of roads for financial year 2013, he can, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the roads already started;
- (b) when are they due to be completed;
- (c) the scope of work involved for each; and
- (d) the cost of each respectively?

The Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, the road from Terre Rouge to Citronelle Phase 2 is of length 1.7 km.

The works consists of:-

- (1) Earthworks
- (2) Masonry retaining wall and drains
- (3) Construction of box culverts
- (4) Laying of crusher run
- (5) Laying of asphaltic concrete base course and wearing course
- (6) Road marking

The works has started today Tuesday 17 June 2013 to be completed by 17 August 2013. Sorry the 18 June 2013 to be completed by 17 August 2013. The total cost of the project is Rs 52 millions excluding VAT.

The road from Brulé to Pointe Coton of total length 5 kms is being constructed in different phases. Phase 1 which consisted of the stretch from Roche Bon Dieu to Pointe Coton started on 01 October 2012 and has been completed except for road marking.

The stretch from Brulé to Roche Bon Dieu is being carried out in two phases. The first phase consisting of preliminary works started on 04 March 2013 and was due to be completed by 31 May 2013. Construction of the road shall be completed by 31 July 2013.

The overall project cost from Brulé to Pointe Coton is Rs 134.5 millions including VAT.

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have to put question here before work start in this country. The question has been put for today and today work are starting up there. I see in the budget you have Rs 99 m. for roads and I still remember, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, during debate, including the marking, I have heard the Commissioner said “*nou nou pas depense l’argent qui n’est pas prévu dans le budget*”. Now we see Rs 99 m. and then you tell me the road from Brûlé to Pointe Coton Rs 134 plus Rs 52 up there. How are you

going? I know some only have been paid under the last financial year even though they say money has already been used. I know you have on the first stage of the road, I would like to ask, the Commissioner how much money he has to pay for that portion of road?

Mr. Chairperson: Address me when you speak, please.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I am sad to see that it is only the respected Member who does not follow the news on the TV on the newspapers. Everyone in Rodrigues knows that works for Citronelle to Terre Rouge will begin incessantly but only this Member...

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: Keep quiet please. You will discuss outside, not here.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at page 19 of the Budget Speech, paragraph 79, it is said that there is *une somme de Rs 95 millions, c'est un 'm' à moins que ce soit Rs 95 milliards, est prévu dans le budget 2013 pour compléter les travaux de la route Pointe Coton et construire la route Citronelle à Terre Rouge*. Now what do we hear on 18 June about six months for the financial year to end, what do we hear, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am coming with my question. The cost of the road from Brûlé to Pointe Coton will cost Rs 144.5 m. to which we add the Rs 52 m. for the Citronelle Phase 2 road. Total, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Rs 186.5 m. - the cost, minus the provision of Rs 95 m., excess over provision Rs 91.5%, nearly 100% over expenditure. I would like to ask when they took power in February 2012; they said *la caisse gouvernement in défoncer pénan l'argent*. Now if another government and this is probable, comes in two thousand and..., next year, I would like to ask first, who has authorised over expenditure of Rs 91.5 m. in roads. Who has authorised this being given there is only Rs 95 m. They have already allocated works order for Rs 186.5 m. Who has authorised this, first. Second, where will the money come to pay for these excess only on roads Rs 91.5 m. Thank you.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when we announce we do all the works but the previous when they announced nothing were done. Do not worry for the payment, the Executive Council has approved and do it for the benefits of all the Rodriguans.

Mr. J. Roussety: My question is, who has authorised because the Audit has just highlighted, who is the Accounting Officer at the Commission. I want to know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, who is the Departmental Head at the

Commission. I want to know, I want his name. Who is the Departmental Head because I am a member of the Public Accounts Committee? It has been said here Rs 95 m., Rs 186.5 m. over expenditure, which has been, explained Rs 91.5 m. I want to know the name of the Departmental Head, maybe it is someone here or someone previously, who has issued works order for roads in excess of Rs 91.5 m. because the Audit has made it maybe the Commissioner is unaware, I do not listen to fake TV or Radio *crocher*, we listen or read the audit report. Who was the accounting officer and has they got a certificate of availability of funds. This is the term, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, financial clearance. This is a very important issue, I am sorry, has there been financial clearance, a certificate of availability of funds for these additional Rs 91.5 m. because you cannot preach one thing and then when you are in power you do the same thing.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The respected Member is making a statement instead of putting a question.

[Interruption]

Mr. J. Roussety: My question is two folds. Has there been..

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: I say again, this is the assembly. I do not want to babble of languages here. Listen to the question.

Mr. J. Roussety: Thank you. Has there been, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I want to know from the Commissioner, has there been a certificate of availability of funds, as mentioned by the Audit Report 2012 which has been issued by the Commissioner for Finance before issuing this works order. We will be ticketing at the commission soon.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: He has been wise after the event when they were in power from 2006-2011.

Mr. J. Roussety: I am sorry, you are not here to attack those who were in power later, I do not know. I have asked a very specific question and he has to answer. We want an answer from this side of the House. Has there been a certificate of availability of funds for Rs 91.5 m., which is in excess.

Mr. Chairperson: The question has been heard, now sit down and wait for the answer.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, all things have been done in ... procedure in order and the regional authority has approved the construction of these roads that is what I have to say.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has not given the exact answer as far as part (d) is concerned. The cost of each respectively. He said there are two phases, we want to know Phase 1, Brûlé to Pointe Coton, how much has it cost and Phase 2 which is under construction, how much did it cost. This is one part of my question. Second part of my question, whether he is satisfied with the first phase of the road because I myself I am not satisfied. I would like to ask him whether he is satisfied with this road.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am sorry to answer that in the question the cost per phase is not mentioned and then for the second part of the question we at the Executive Council we are satisfied with the road.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have information, the first phase of road, do you know how much it has cost? The first phase, that is why the Commissioner cannot tell this to the House. The first phase has cost Rs 70 m, which is far above the money earmarked in the budget, which is Rs 46 m. This is for the first phase and the second phase will cost about more than Rs 60 m. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner in the present budget, that is, the Rs 46 m. earmarked under this financial year how much money has been used to pay this item - roads.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the payment has not been effected for some works yet and I do not have the exact figure.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I remember fully well, last year in the budget speech, the Chief Commissioner, the Commissioner for Finance, unfortunately, he is absent here, *il a dit il a dénoncé la façon comment le gouvernement précédent avait géré, avait dépensé les fonds de l'Assemblée Régionale, M. le président*. Now it is clear-cut that there is over expenditure on budgeted items, especially roads. We are just at the mid-term, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Can the Commissioner confirm because the Chief Commissioner is coming right now, he should answer it whether in so doing, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, do we call this good financial practices that he himself has stated in this House that he will do good with financial practices, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: M. le président, nous sommes en train de construire des routes de valeur non-pas des routes qui a été seulement un peu asphaltage avec pas de sécurité mais nous nous sommes la pour construire des routes dans

les normes internationaux. Voilà pourquoi nous dépensons plus d'argent et tous cela a été approuvé par les autorités concernés. Merci.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question. Please do not make statement.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner did mention that he has obtained the clearance for the relevant authority. Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the road linking Terre Rouge to Citronelle either both sides. Whether he has received any queries from relevant authority either, it is Road Development Authority.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, all this has been approved by the PPC and the Ministry of Finance in Mauritius.

FLEET OF AMBULANCES

(No. B/78) Mrs. M.D.L.C. Meunier (Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to the fleet of ambulances attached to the health sector, he can inform the House:

- (a) how many ambulances are there in total;
- (b) how many are in good running conditions; and
- (c) how many the Commission intends to purchase in this financial year and whether procedures for the latter have been initiated?

The Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports (Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson Sir, I am informed that there are ten ambulances attached to the Health Services in Rodrigues.

With regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that five ambulances are in good running conditions. Three are under repairs and two are unserviceable.

As announced in the budget speech by the Chief Commissioner in 2012, this Government intends to renew the fleet of ambulances. As such, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission has already initiated actions for the procurement of four 4-wheel drive ambulances minibus type during this current financial year. Thus, I am pleased to inform the House that the tender for same has been launched on 20 May 2013 and closing date is scheduled for 28 June instant.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is a bit surprising that out of ten ambulances, five only are on good running condition and it is only in

May that tenders procedures have been initiated. *On va dire qu'on ne prend pas assez de soin de la santé de ce peuple.* Can the Commissioner inform us whether other vehicles, other than ambulances are being presently used at the hospital to transport patients? If yes, what is being done to remedy to same as it is not secure and not proper because we have been informed that patients are being transported in the cab of 4 x 4, *les pickups 4 x 4*, and if no to check and to make sure that this is not happening because it is not proper. Can we also know from the Commissioner when are we due to receive these minibus type 4 x 4 ambulances that we have initiated procedure for. When will we see them?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think this is not the first time that we have break downs of the ambulances. I have been working at the hospital for 40 years; it has been a common practice and the respected Member, who was the Commissioner for Health. The recent Commissioner for Health is well aware of the situation. If I may recall now she is stating that 4 x 4 are carrying patients, if I am not mistaken this was said when the Pajero was to be sold to carry patients but the question was raised. It is carrying patients at times, yes, but we have the ambulances...

[Interruption]

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I answer..

Mr. Chairperson: Listen please.

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: I said on both sides just listen. I will not tolerate anyone of you. Have you finished with your answer? Next question.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: I do not think he has finished with his answer because I asked when he will be receiving the ambulances.

Mr. I. Valimamode: As I said, the closing date is scheduled for 28 June. These ambulances are coming shortly. I do not have the exact dates. We are buying these ambulances and for your information, I want to tell the House that that the last fleet purchased was in 2009, three ambulances and we know that the life span of an ambulances vary between five and six years. The former Commissioners will recall and we know that these ambulances they work on a twenty-four hour basis because we our patients here, at times we do not have transport after working hours, at any time and nobody can question, whenever... You want to answer in my place.

[Interruption]

Mr. I. Valimamode: These ambulances they work around the clock and with the bad road because they are not specific roads that they have to pick up patients. It is natural that we have these frequent breakdowns and as I said this is not new. It is not a new thing; it has been like this in the past.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: We know that there is a delay in the reparation of these ambulances, I will ask the Commissioner for Health whether apart from the Mechanical Workshop he can look into the possibility that the private workshop also can do repairs on these vehicles because it is a matter of urgency. Whether at his Commission he has a policy that other private workshop can do repairs on these ambulances because we see at the Mechanical Workshop there is a mess of vehicles and as a matter of urgency I think that this can be done.

Mr. I. Valimamode: I agree with the respected Member on the other side. In fact, we are working on this because we do have quite a lot of problems especially because ambulances are needed for emergencies and all this and we all know what is happening at the workshop here. I will not say *pé défonce la porte ouvert* but we are working on it.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner if he could kindly look into a specific matter concerning ambulances. Very often ambulances are used not to convey patients but to attend parties and other sorts of things. Can the Commissioner look into the matter and I am happy to note that last purchase of ambulances was in 2009 when three ambulances were purchased, it was when I was Commissioner for Health.

Mr. I. Valimamode: I thank the Commissioner, I make it purposely, I thank him for in fact, it is true, someone just mentioned that ambulances go *dans poste* but we are looking into the matter.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: When we look at the figure, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we had ten now five remained. According to his planning, there is a decrease to the number of ambulances. I would like to ask the Commissioner whether there is a decrease in patients attending the hospital.

Mr. I. Valimamode: There will never be decreased in spite of every effort that any government will make there will never be any decrease in the number of patients attending hospital but as I mentioned in the budget speech we say we are buying ambulances so it will be a continuous process.

YOUTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE

(No. B/79) Ms. M. D. S. Perrine (The Ninth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth and Others whether, in regard to the launching of the Youth Coordinating Committee, she will, for the benefit of the House, elaborate on the aim and the '*raison d'être*' of the committee?

The Commissioner responsible for Youth and Others (Ms. R. D. L. Edouard): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as announced in the last budget, my Commission has launched up the Youth Coordinating Committee on Saturday 25 March 2013 at the level of the Family Integrated Centre, Malabar with the aims of:

- (i) recognising all Youth Organisations/Associations which work outside the usual Youth Structures of the Commission, and work with them to avoid duplication of activities and to have more impactful actions;
- (ii) being a platform whereby strategies and policies that respond best to the needs and aspirations of the youth can be devised and better implemented;
- (iii) allowing each Youth NGO to know each other better and know what the activities of each group is about so as to be better able to advise the youth when need be;
- (iv) to have a concrete "*base de donnée*" of the youth organisation, their mission and vision and their objectives so that their help is sought when there are specific issues to be tackled related to specific fields and/or thematic.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Youth Coordinating Committee meeting will be held on a trimestral basis is composed of 22 organisations. As mentioned earlier, the first meeting of the Youth Coordinating Committee was held in March 2013 at the Conference Room of the Integrated Family Centre, Malabar and the meeting comprised of all officers of the Youth Division of my Commission and all the representatives of the 22 NGO's mentioned previously. During the meeting, all those present were invited to express their opinions on the *raison d'être* of the Youth Coordinating Committee and everyone agreed that it is more beneficial to work together as all these organisations have almost the same objectives, that is, the well-being, welfare and empowerment of our youth. The Youth Coordinating Committee will hence be an opportunity to

strengthen the ties between these different groups, create solid structures and increase the sense of commitment of all partners.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it was also decided during the meeting that it is important to have a profile of all Youth NGO's which will then be compiled in a directory with the respective contact details and any other relevant details that they feel will be helpful to the Committee (calendar of activities of different organisation). Moreover, during the meeting, details pertaining to the second Youth Community Camp were finalized, unfortunately, Imelda came and we had to postponed this and this was done in a very democratic manner especially when it comes to the place where the Youth Camp will be held and the activities to be organised. The activity is thus scheduled for 25 to 27 July 2013 at Port Sud Est and will involve some 125 Youths and the villagers of the surrounding will be concerned, that is, Port Sud Est, Songes and Mourouk.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a second meeting of the Youth Coordinating Committee was held on 18 May 2013 and the Youth Parliament which is another budgetary measure, was lengthily discussed and is due to be held in December this year. All those present, were invited to bring proposals as regard to the Youth Parliament and other activities that are to come in the future, in the next meeting of the Youth Coordinating Committee.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Youth Coordinating Committee *est une concrétisation de la démocratie participative*, since every Youth Organisation is given a voice and a say in the different decisions to be taken and action to be implemented for the youths in Rodrigues. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House how were the members of the Youth Coordinating Committee chosen? Whether she has ensured that there is transparency in the choice of representatives and whether she can table to the House a composition of such a committee.

Ms. R. D. L. Edouard: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, all the youth organisations that are working with the youths and for the youths have been invited and during the meeting it was also stated that those who have not received an invitation come forward with their organisations, with their mission and vision so that they can be an integral part of this committee for the future and of course, the list of NGO's can be made available at the level of our library very soon. Thank you.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not know whether I am right but there is a statutory body in Mauritius and it is for Rodrigues also which is

called the National Youth Council. Can we know why is it that there is no body or set up within the National Youth Council for Rodrigues and what is the statutory background, regulatory or statutory background, and legal background behind this Youth Coordinating Committee.

Ms. R. D. L. Edouard: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I said previously in my reply, the Youth Coordinating Committee takes under its umbrella all NGOs that are not under the usual structures of the youth organisations and of course, the Regional Youth Council is on board on this project because the Regional Youth Council is the main partner of the Commission for Youth and to date we are setting up this committee because we want to create coherence in action, we want to have more impactful action and of course, we are going to see how thing evolve and take necessary action when need be so that there is no discrepancy and that there are no duplication in action. Thank you.

Mr. J. Roussety: The word has been said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, duplication. It is not my word. It is her word. Why is it that there is a branch of a statutory body which is the Rodrigues Youth Council, which the Commissioner herself has said is the main partner of the Commission and now we are getting entrap with another body which is to be called the Rodrigues Youth Coordinating Committee. Is that not a duplication and a waste of time, a waste of those persons involve in youth because she just said the organisations which are concerned with the Rodrigues Youth Coordinating Committee are those which are not concerned with mainstream youth organisations. I want to know who they are and why there is need for duplication like this.

Ms. R. D. L. Edouard: As I have mentioned earlier all the NGOs that does not fall under the usual structures of the Commission for Youth. To date, in the previous years we have seen that only youth leaders fall under the Regional Youth Council but let me tell you the members of the Youth Committee is in this House today and I wonder whether they are wasting their time having meetings for decision to be taken for the youths in Rodrigues till they are here but I wish to ensure that the Rodrigues Regional Youth Council has its aim and is working with all its partners with us when it comes especially to the Atelier de Savoir because it has different mission. We are taking under our umbrella all those organisations that were not recognised previously. This is why we are taking them on board and we are doing a profiling. There is no duplication in profiling because as at date there is no profiling exercise, which has been made at the level of the Commission. There is no record of any other organisations except youth leaders and Regional Youth Council at the Commission so I find it just and honourable to have these people working with the Commission because the government need them.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for one time we are speaking of youth. First of all, may I tell the Chair that it is very improper especially on the part of the Commissioner of Youth to take as witness people who are in this House, debates is going out in this House. This is proper. Go and read you Standing Order Mrs. Commissioner. You should not refer to strangers in the House. We are not here to attack anybody; I am just doing my job. We are just doing our job and if it does not please you, Mrs. Commissioner, this is not my problem. I want to know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, which organisations are not concerned with the main activities. She said it, the main activities of the Commission for Youth and Sports so that there is need for another body. What are these organisations?

Ms. R. D. L. Edouard: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have already said that the list of all these NGOs that are part of the Youth Coordinating Committee will be made available at the level of the library very soon but I wish to draw the attention of the House that the *raison d'être* of this Youth Coordinating Committee is fully justified and we are going to strengthen this committee for future action.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to law it is not. It is the Rodrigues Youth Council, which is the main here. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I heard the Commissioner mentioned youth parliament. I want to know whether she has a time frame for the setting up of a youth parliament here in Rodrigues?

Ms. R. D. L. Edouard: I mentioned in my answer, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that is due for December so I want to assure the respected Member that it will come that he do not have to worry. Thank you.

CAFETARIA - MALABAR ATELIER DE SAVOIR

(No.B/80) **Ms. M. D. S. Perrine (Ninth Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth and Others whether, in regard to the setting up of a cafeteria at Malabar Atelier de Savoir, she will, for the benefit of the House, elaborate on the aim and objectives of same?

The Commissioner responsible for Youth and Others (Ms. R. D. L. Edouard): Mr. Chairperson Sir, the setting up of the cafeteria at the Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC) at Malabar is a long felt need. Indeed, since the opening of the cafeteria the clientele has proven that this project was much awaited and confirms the *raison d'être* of same. Donc, M. le président, depuis l'avènement de ce présent Gouvernement Régionale, la

mise en place de ce caféteria était un des projets prioritaires de ma Commission, de la Commission de la formation et du conseil des jeunes de Rodrigues, c'est-à-dire, le Rodrigues Regional Youth Council. Il est donc important de noter, M. le président, que le projet de la cafeteria arrive dans le cadre des 10ans des Ateliers de Savoirs et dans ce cadre une reforme générale et en profondeur est en cours, ceci afin d'offrir un meilleur encadrement aux jeunes stagiaires tout en ayant en esprit d'innovation et de créativité.

M. le président, le cafeteria est un prolongement des cours offert jusqu'à maintenant au niveau de l'Atelier de Savoir de Malabar sous la tutelle du Rodrigues Regional Youth Council. Jusqu'à ce jour les l'Ateliers de Savoir de Malabar se concentraient uniquement sur la formation et la production dans le domaine de la pâtisserie. Le cafeteria va permettre aux stagiaires d'être en situation réelle de travail qui éventuellement va leur offrir l'opportunité de développer leurs qualités d'entrepreneur, d'être en contact avec le client, de valoriser leur produit et a se construire en tant que jeunes et future entrepreneurs. Ils seront donc plus employable et aussi les inciter à se lancer dans leur propre entreprise.

M. le président, le cafeteria va aussi répondre à une demande tant attendue de la part des fonctionnaires qui travaillent à Malabar et aussi les visiteurs et étudiants qui fréquentent les institutions qui se trouvent à Malabar. D'ailleurs depuis l'ouverture du cafeteria la clientèle a été la et la satisfaction est de mise. Permettez-moi de souligner, M. le président, que le cafeteria a été inauguré lors de la deuxième édition du salon de la formation et des métiers le 6 juin dernier. Le cafeteria est donc l'exemple concrète de la formation peut aboutir a un métier, a un emploi durable dans l'avenir et à ce jour je tiens à assurer tous le monde que personne n'a été admise à l'hôpital pour overdose de formation.

M. le président, ce gouvernement fourni et continuera à fournir tous les efforts nécessaire afin que l'entreprenariat se professionnalise et devienne une alternative au chômage.

Mr. Chairperson: Could you please minimise your answer.

Ms. R. D. L. Edouard: M. le président, nous pensons que le caféteria peut à long terme être une école de formation et de placement pour encore plus de jeunes. M. le président, ce cafeteria est une incitation à la production même à petite échelle chez nos jeunes dans différent ateliers car à ces jours nous avons constaté que beaucoup de jeune stagiaire fournisse le cafeteria en matières premières comme les fruits locaux, œuf, herbes aromatiques (thym, persil, coriande) entre autre.

M. le président, le cafeteria comme mentionné ci-dessus est géré par les étudiants du Rodrigues Youth Council et le suivi et la bonne gouvernance du cafeteria est assuré par un comité de gestion comprenant tous les partenaires impliqués dans le projets (parents, stagiaire, responsable et formateur de l'Ateliers, membres du conseil de jeunes de Rodrigues, représentant du comité jeunes de la région 3 et représentants de la Commission de la Formation et de ma Commission) qui se réunie mensuellement pour faire le suivi nécessaire. Je dois aussi mentionner que ma Commission a eu une réunion avec tous les parents des stagiaires de l'Atelier de Savoir de Malabar qui ont favorablement accueilli la mise en place du cafeteria. Il faut aussi souligner l'apport de la Commission de la Formation à la réalisation du projet et assurera la formation continue de nos jeunes.

M. le président, ce projet est donc une concrétisation des cours qui sont offerts à l'Atelier de Savoir de Malabar et nous pensons faire de même pour les autres ateliers afin que tous ces jeunes deviennent des entrepreneurs, soit parti prenante dans cette grande vision de l'entrepreneuriat pour Rodrigues et participe au développement sociaux économique de l'île Rodrigues.

The Minority Leader: As you can see, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the question was given to the Commissioner the opportunity to come up with a statement. She could have done so at statement time.

Mr. Chairperson: Please Minority Leader do not comment I have already given my ruling.

The Minority Leader: Now I come with my question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner to state the sources of funding to run this cafeteria and whether she received any fund from any donors and to say which donors and how does she ensure that training because she has been talking about training because such initiative *je dois dire que c'est très fort louable mais quand même pour assurer sa pérennité. il faudrait innover et inventer.* Does she has any training plan which has been put in place to ensure the sustainability of such a project.

Ms. R. D. L. Edouard: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the first part of the question, when it comes to funding. The project falls directly under the Rodrigues Regional Youth Council which receives a grant every year from the Commission and I am pleased to inform you that the grant has been increased in the last budget in order to allow such project to be created and of course the Rodrigues Regional Youth Council has offered all the necessary support to the cafeteria so that it has come to reality. When it comes to training there are

already training activities that have already been done in terms of hygiene and services but there are other trainings that are to come and of course a plan is under way.

Mr. J. Roussety: I understand, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that this cafeteria is found in a public building. I would like to know whether procedures have been followed to allocate or rent this space and second how is it that only the Atelier de Savoir, was it chosen on the basis of a proposal, unsolicited bid and why is it that this was not advertised so that all organisations or persons involve in such trade could have had the opportunity to place their bids in this and whether the allocation of this site to any person or organisation is in order and proper. May I invite the respected Member/Commissioner not to take anybody as witness in this House?

Ms. R. D. L. Edouard: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the Atelier de Savoir I said earlier that the Cafeteria of Malabar is an extension of l'Atelier de Savoir de Malabar. What I mean is that previously Atelier de Savoir was focusing on production and the cafeteria is offering a job placement to all these youths who are under training as at date at the level of Malabar. This means that previously they did not have the opportunity to be placed in an organisation, to be placed somewhere so we created this opportunity for them to be able and we ensure that everything is in order at the level of my commission and at the level of the Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

CAMP DU ROI STADIUM – DRAINAGE/RENOVATION WORKS

(No. B/81) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner responsible for Sports and Health whether, in regard to the construction of a drainage system and other renovation works being or to be carried out at Camp du Roi Stadium, he can inform the House:

- (a) where matters stand; and
- (b) if there has been any delay in the projects and, if yes, the reasons thereof?

The Commissioner responsible for Sports and Health (Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me to brief the House on this project. I am informed that invitation for bids was done through open advertisement procedures on 07 December 2012 with closing date 24 January 2013. On opening, nine (9) bids were received. Bids were evaluated and the report submitted on 04 March 2013. An initial letter of offer was awarded to Nawrang and Co. Ltd on 29 March 2013.

The latter had to produce a Performance Security and Contractor's Insurance Policy within 20 days with deadline 25 April 2013. Mr. Chairperson, sir, the initial contractor failed to produce same and on 17 May 2013, the Tender Evaluation Committee took the decision to withdraw the offer and re-launch the tender on 23 May 2013 with closing date 06 June through restricted bidding process to the other eight (8) remaining bidders.

On opening on 06 June 2013, four (4) bids were received and evaluated on 07 and 08 June 2013. The Evaluation Committee recommended the lowest responsive bidder New Development Co. Ltd. On 12 June 2013, an offer was awarded to the latter. Work is scheduled to start by the end of July for 90 days.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the Tender Evaluation Committee is now monitoring this project as well as all other projects to be implemented by my Commission very closely so as to minimize any delays and for prompt implementation.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me to inform the House that procedures for Phase 2, Synthetic track of Camp du Roi Stadium has already been launched by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Mauritius. Tender for same has been floated with closing date 19 June instant. The second phase will immediately follow the renovation works. As such, I am confident that both phases of this project will be implemented during this current financial year.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can we know from the Commissioner whether the project is implemented solely by his Commission or whether in partnership with the Ministry for Youth.

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I said for the first phase it is solely by the civil works will be done by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the second phase will be carried out by the Ministry.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: As regards to the performance bond, I see that there is a major change. Is the Commissioner aware that the Ministry of Youth and Sports has agreed that the contractor Nowrung send his performance bond at a later date as he has sent from his Commission.

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, delay between openings of tender. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to say that this is a purely administrative matter and I do not interfere personally with procurement procedures. Everything is being done accordingly.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Is he aware of that situation that the Ministry of Youth and Sports even the contractor another date for the submission of the performance bond.

Mr. Chairperson: But I think the Commissioner has already given a reply.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, maybe I was not listening I will apologise. The budget for this project has another dimension, the cost of the tender. You have mentioned all the steps nowhere you have mentioned the project as has been awarded. I want to know this first. I want to know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, where does the budget comes, which items of your Commission and third, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, again it has not been mentioned about the scope of the works. It is said drainage system but in the answer we have not hear anything about the scope. Can we know a bit about the scope of the works?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as this was not in the initial question, I would come with the required information later on.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: I just wanted to ask the Commissioner now he says that new development has been awarded contract whether the new development was found in the ninth previous bidders that is, the eight remaining or was the company part of the four other bidders, which later on sent their performance bond.

Mr. I. Valimamode: As I mentioned out of/after retendering the new company come from the eight previous bidders.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is very surprising here, first of all the Commission has launched for an advertisement and secondly he has restricted the bidding, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Is it according to procurement procedures?

Mr. I. Valimamode: It is according to procedures because so much delay has been encountered in the past. I wish to remind the Commissioner for Sports that the ex-Commissioner for Sports, in the past the ‘Jeux de Rodrigues’ was supposed to be, was postponed because of the supposed synthetic tracks.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: According to procurement procedures, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that they have come to restricted bidding would it be more in the interest of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly according to procurement procedures, the bid should be awarded to the second lowest. What

has happened, can we know from the Commissioner what has happened to the second lowest and the third. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether the contractor who has obtained the bid whether it has been debarred.

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to answer to the fact that the second on the list of the bidders according to the tender evaluation committee there was no next responsive bids. No second responsive bid to answer to your question and I wish also to say, I mentioned it before, the athletes have waited for so long to have this new synthetic track that is why we are accelerating procedures and I mention once again that it is in order.

ACCACIA NILOTICA (PIQUANT LOULOU-ERADICATION)

(No. B/82) Mr. J. R. Ramdally (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner responsible for Environment and Others whether, in regard to the eradication of Acacia Nilotica (piquant loulou) in Rodrigues, he can inform the House on:

- (a) the measures that have been taken by his Commission as at to date;
- (b) the benefits and advantages of any particular method adopted; and
- (c) the name of places where same will be applied in the short term?

The Commissioner responsible for Environment and Others (Mr. R. Payendee): I need silence before I start please.

Mr. Chairperson: Please listen to the reply.

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Acacia Nilotica with common name '*Piquant Loulou*' was first introduced in Rodrigues in the year 1975 on the recommendation of the conservatory at that time. This species were introduced because at that time it was seen as the ideal plant to reafforest the island because it was seen to draught resistant, resistant to grazing animals and not interested to the people to be used as fire whip because of the force. But unfortunately, no one thought that it might become in a long run invasive and difficult to control.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, today '*Piquant Loulou*' has become a nightmare for the people of Rodrigues and to the environment of this island. Hundred of hectares of productive land are lost. Lots of native forests have already been invaded which has resulted into lost of biodiversity. Lots of Rodriguans have suffered from imputation of leg because of its thorns. Problem with '*Piquant Loulou*' is long and not exhausted. The former government also noticed the problem and they purchased a shredder to shred the leaves and branches of

'*Piquant Loulou*' but unfortunately, they should have thought of buying a helicopter to carry the branches to the shredder as in most of the places where '*Piquant Loulou*' is found access for the shredder is either difficult or impossible.

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: Proceed Commissioner, proceed.

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, '*Piquant Loulou*' is very difficult to control and to eradicate. When it is cut it coppices easily and produces more branches. Woodcutters are not happy to work with it because of its numerous big thorns which are quite dangerous. This is why, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission has tested a technique, which has launched in July 2006. The technique is about killing the tree while it is still standing to reduce handling and to prevent it from coppicing. It is all about removing a strip of bark of the tree to cut the movement of water, mineral salts throughout the plants. For quicker response, an herbicide can be applied just after removal of the bark. The technique is not labour intensive, easy to use and has proved to be 100% efficient. This particular method has a lot of advantages, such as, as soon as the leaves of the trees start to fall after the ring bark exercise sunlight penetrates the canopy of the *Acacia Nilotica* and hence, grass will grow underneath which is not the case if the tree is still alive. This results in a better control of soil erosion especially on slopes.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a very important as it proves that big areas can be tackled at the same time without causing damages to the eco-system. The standing dying tree provides some protection and required shade to the young growing plants, which can be planted under the '*Piquant Loulou*' thicket until it has fully developed. After treatment, the tree dies back and the leaves fall, decay on the site and hence increases the fertility of the soil. The forest can be changed with a more productive and a protective one without damage to the eco-system. A program of work has already been planned to sustain the project and if people want, I can give you the list of the places. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, eradicating '*Piquant Loulou*' is a good thing; however, it has to be replaced. Can I ask the Commissioner whether he has a reforestation plan to replace the '*Piquant Loulou*' and secondly, the '*Piquant Loulou*' is not the only invasive plants that we have in Rodrigues. For example, the cactus in certain places of Rodrigues, cacti are also invasive. Does he have any plan in order to eradicate the other invasive plant and if so, when?

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I see that the Minority Leader knows well about another species. So yes, '*Piquant Loulou*', we have got a plan. The second phase is coming. I am working; my Commission is working with the Chief Commissioner's Office. We are going towards agro-forestry, meaning replacing the forest '*Piquant Loulou*' with productive and useful plants. This includes native species as well. With regard to other invasive species, the plan is coming and with the closing of the octopus fishing, we will use quite a lot of people on this project. Thank you.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, much has been said about the shredder but the previous time I saw the shredder it was at Citronelle. Presently, I think it is at Baie aux Huitres. I would ask the Commissioner which helicopter took the shredder from Citronelle to the reclaimed land of Baie aux Huitres on which date and at which cost. Thank you.

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the main questions not on the shredder even though I will answer. Yes, when I talked about helicopters to move the *Acacia Nilotica*, the '*Piquant Loulou*' leaves is because no one wants to cut. Who will cut '*Piquant Loulou*' and then handling it? The shredder at Baie aux Huitres is used for other plants, plants other than '*Piquant Loulou*'. To shred the '*Piquant Loulou*', this is why we thought buying the shredder is very good, that is why we are buying another one in this budget. We are buying another one to make use of it but the main reason why they were brought here was to control '*Piquant Loulou*'. This was just to tease the minority side.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question before lunch please. Next question.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner in regard to the technique that he intends to use to eradicate '*Piquant Loulou*' pertaining to the *superficie que couvre les 'Piquant Loulou' en ce moment à Rodrigues. Nous le savons très bien.* I would like to know how much pesticide, how much this will cost the Commission? How long will it take to eradicate all these '*Piquant Loulou*'. *Passer arbre par arbre, écorcher, mettre les produits et combien de temps cela prend à l'arbre de mourir après avoir traité. Est-ce que le publique aussi peut contribuer à votre effort d'éradiquer les 'Piquant Loulou'?*

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, thank you very much for your question which is highly technical. The eradication of '*Piquant Loulou*' with this technique, it is the best technique that can be used because with this technique you do not have to cut the tree down. So in one day one person can kill up to 100 trees of '*Piquant Loulou*'. Just one day. You wanted figures, I give you figures. It has been tested one person can kill 100 and also with regard

to the herbicide. Herbicide can be used if you want quick response. This technique does not need herbicide because as I said in my answer we are cutting the flow of water and food. Just ring barking is enough to kill the plant but it takes longer to die. If you want quick response, of course, herbicide will be used and also let me remind the people here that with all the international agencies just like the closure of octopus everybody is interested in this kind of project. So money will flow soon in order to remove '*Piquant Loulou*' and another part of the question was about the people. Yes, and this is very good. I am happy that the Member asked this question how the people will be involve in this. '*Piquant Loulou*' is the problem of everybody including the minority side. So, I want everybody to be involve in this. This is why we went on TV, we talk about the technique, and my technicians will go round the island. We are working with Rodrigues Local Council to deliver/show the technique. We are not going to keep it to ourselves. We want everybody to be part of this project. Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question before lunch.

AGRICULTURE PRODUCE/RODRIGUES – IMPORTATION

(No. B/83) (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mr. J. R. Ramdally)) asked the Commissioner responsible for Commerce and Others whether, in regard to the import of agricultural produce to Rodrigues, he can, for the benefit of the House, give a breakdown of the figures concerning the quantities imported for each item for the year 2012 and to table a copy of same?

The Commissioner responsible for Commerce and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Mr. Chairperson Sir, I would like to highlight that the main objectives and activities of the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Company (RTMC) are geared toward the marketing and promotion of Rodriguan products in view of encouraging local production.

However, I am informed that the RTMC imports some agricultural products as and when required, in order to meet demand in period of short supply of such commodities in Rodrigues; and it also help to ensure that there is no cartel or over exploitation of consumers in Rodrigues by private importers or resellers; particularly for products which are not produced locally or where Rodrigues is not self-sufficient.

In line with this, during the year 2012 the RTMC has imported agricultural products from Mauritius such as potato to the tune of 76,869 kg, 13,177 kg of pumpkin, and 21,508 kg of garlic among others.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling a list of agricultural products together with the quantities imported by the RTMC for the year 2012. **(Appendix II)**

Mr. J. Roussety: The Commissioner has answered about what the RTMC has imported, what about the question. The question concerned import of agricultural produce to Rodrigues. You gave for the RTMC but the RTMC is not Rodrigues. What about the import for the whole of Rodrigues as put in the question?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as we know and I mentioned it earlier, last time. So far, we do not have a mechanism, which can allow us to control in a scientific way of the import to Rodrigues. That is why we are working towards it but the only reliable figures to date are related to the figures from RTMC. That is why I say that there are also private resellers and importers.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House on the condition that these agricultural produce is transported from Mauritius to Rodrigues and stocked and secondly, can he give the figures of percentage of product that is loss with respect to diseases and wrong stocking of products at the RTMC, for example, potato, we have a high percentage loss of potatoes due to wrong stock of these products.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to my information upgrading works have been carried out at the RTMC to ensure that there is a minimum loss due to spoilage of whatever be other reasons but I do not have all the information.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner see into it that really there has been worked, yesterday I was on site and these products were stocked as they were in the past from the beginning of the year. The products are stocked on the land and we have spoilt potatoes due to wrong stockage condition.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not have all the information. As you are saying, I have personally been to the RTMC at the beginning of my mandate and I am sure that things have been improved a lot but I know that we still have other upgrading works because we want things to be done in a more professional way but things has improved a lot as compared to what it was in February 2012.

Mr. J. Roussety: A chaque fois, M. le président, que le navire arrive à Rodrigues, il y a un container ou deux container de légume. Dedans il y a des choux, des chou-fleur, des carottes, des giraumons, que notre cher Chef Commissaire encourage les planteurs de planter, il parait qu'il y a beaucoup dedans et ces marchandises.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Probably we will come up with a Regulations because for the time being there is not specific licence to import agricultural product or other products from Mauritius. We are aware of this problem and we are taking this with great concerned and we hope that by the end of the year we will be able to come up with a solution.

Mr. A. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, listening to the Commissioner as if he is encouraging RTMC to import more vegetables to Rodrigues. I would like to ask the.. This is my opinion. When I see here *bringelle* has been imported to Rodrigues. What are you doing? What is your Commission doing in collaboration with the Commission for Agriculture, what is his Commission doing to increase local production?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think that the Member has not listened carefully to the answer right at the beginning I said that in order to meet demand in period of short supply of such commodities in Rodrigues and to avoid over exploitation. When sometimes there may be some form of cartel by some private importers, it is only then that the RTMC will take... This is the only thing but obviously we have to struck right balance because I understand we are trying to take on board all the stake holders because from the other side also we have as Commissioner responsible for Consumer Protection, we have received also complaints from the public that sometimes local product are sold at a very exorbitant price so we are now working in a more holistic approach to take all the stakeholders of the matters on boards.

Mr. Chairperson: Thank you. I suspend the Assembly for one-hour lunch.

At 12.58 hours, the Assembly was suspended.

On resuming at 13.58 hours with the Chairperson in the chair.

Mr. Chairperson: May I inform the Member that you have got 35 minutes left for question time. Next question, please.

PROBRAMME BASED BUDGET (PBB)

(No. B/84) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to Programme Based Budget (PBB) 2013, he can inform the House if:

- (a) he has devised and put in place a control mechanism for budget implementation programmes and, in the affirmative, to table same;
- (b) there will be timely implementation of all programmes budgeted for 2013, if not, why not; and
- (c) he can state which programmes could not be implemented as at date and to give the reasons thereof?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that my Government has set up a High Level Project Implementation Committee. This Committee, under my chairmanship meets regularly to monitor progress on the implementation of the different projects identified in the Programme Based Budget 2013. As at date, we already had four monitoring sessions on projects initiated for this fiscal year.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is the responsibility of each Commission and their accounting officer to ensure the timely implementation of the Programme Based Budget 2013. However, one of the roles of the Committee is to see to it that all programmes identified are being implemented as per schedule. Furthermore, the High Level Committee enables the Executive Council to hear from the different Commissions on how the policy goals announced in the Government Programme 2012-2017 are being translated into operation in the form of projects, programmes and activities for execution and implementation during our mandate.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the notes of meeting of the Committee is purely an administrative tool and cannot be made public.

According to the implementation schedule, I must say that most of it if not all the projects are on track and will be implemented as expected in 2013 with the exception of those projects that will normally overlap over the next financial year.

Regarding the last part of the question, I wish to inform the House that all the programmes will be implemented at this stage and the question of not implementing any programme does not arise. I wish to re-assure the House once again that all the projects are being closely monitored to ensure timely implementation.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether at midterm of this financial year, have the committee made an evaluation of the completed project and state what percentage of all projects that have been earmarked/ completed and what percentage of amount of money earmarked in this budget for all this projects have been spent so far?

The Chief Commissioner: The committee under my chairmanship, not only treats with the projects in the budget but also how to spent the money which is mentioned in the budget and we cannot say what sum of that money. I need notice of that question but as I said, we take our engagement so that all projects mentioned in the year 2012 will be completed except for those, which overlap over two financial years.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can we know from the Chief Commissioner being given that during the budget speech for this year he has placed water high on his agenda. Can we know where matters stand as regards to projects regarding water and is he satisfied because since we are in the mid of this year, is he satisfied with the way the water sector is being treated.

The Chief Commissioner: There is this question on water, is it not? Yes, if the Member would like to come with a substantive question on what I have said he may.

[Interruption]

CHILD ABUSE (PEDOPHILIA)

(No. B/85) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to reported and alleged cases of child abuse (pedophilia) in Rodrigues, she can inform the House:

- (a) of the number of cases since January 2012 to date;
- (b) if any school institutions in Rodrigues were involved in one way or another in these cases and to explain how; and
- (c) how her office, the Child Protection Unit, the police and all the other institutions dealing with child protection dealt with these cases?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, with regard to part (a) I am informed by the Police that thirty-two (32) alleged cases of child abuse have been reported since January 2012 to date as follows:-

SN	Offence	No. of cases
----	---------	--------------

/UNREVISED/

		reported
1	Causing a child to be abused sexually	4
2	Attempt upon chastity upon minor	6
3	Sexual intercourse with minor under the age of 16	17
4	Sodomy (minor)	2
5	Rape upon minor	3
Total		32

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b), I am informed that there have been four cases where the offences that have been committed relate to a school institution or having as starting point a school institution. The details are as follows:

1. On 25 May 2013, minor A.M, a student of PREVOC at M.L.C reported a case of rape against her teacher, a certain Mr. C.E.
2. On the same day that is, 25 May 2013, minor M.A.V.L, a student of PREVOC at the same institution reported a case of attempt upon chastity against her teacher, Mr. C.E
3. On 29 May 2013, minor C.R, a student of PREVOC at the same institution again reported a case of rape against teacher, Mr. C.E and;
4. On the same day, minor M.C.S.P, a student of PREVOC at M.L.C reported a case of attempt upon chastity against teacher Mr. C.E

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that following serious allegations made against Mr. C.E while playing the game “*audace et verité*” in a storeroom adjacent to the PREVOC room of the school, an inquiry was initiated by the management of the school and the teacher was suspended by REDCO on 24 May 2013. The accused was eventually arrested on 27 May 2013 following cases reported to the Police against him and he was remanded to jail on 10 June 2013.

I am further informed that the four cases are still under investigation and any involvement or responsibilities of the institution as regards to the cases are still not yet known, as police enquiry is still ongoing.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (c), as soon as a copy of the report of enquiry conducted by the school was submitted to my Commission, the Child Development Unit informed the *Brigade pour la Protection des*

Mineurs and an action plan was devised to interview the minors of the PREVOC class. After all declarations have been secured from the students concerned, the CDU, assisted by the educational psychologist and a counsellor have met students and three educators of the PREVOC section of the college whereby they were given an opportunity to express themselves.

My commission is making arrangements for the students, teachers and all those requiring psychological follow up. These arrangements are being made. In the meantime, the educational psychologist of the Commission for Education and a counsellor recruited under the STM programme will meet the students after school hours in a convenient location in view of helping them to get over the difficult situation.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as far as the police is concerned, I am informed that the *Brigade pour la Protection des Mineurs* is providing necessary assistance and counselling to the victims and parents in collaboration with the CDU. Continuous sensitization campaigns are also being carried out in colleges on the Child Protection Act in general and on the issue of child abuse in particular and students who are victims are being invited to report any such case to the police and the CDU. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, 32 cases of sexual abuse in one year, one and a half year. *C'est beaucoup, M. le president! Beaucoup!* Can I ask the Commissioner, we know that there are psychological supports, she has been saying that but these supports are intended to the victims? Right, but as far as those abuses are concerned, what measures does she intend to take so as to give a strong signal to those found involved in such sexual harassment apart from, of course, Police will have to do their work, CDU and so on but these institutions, these educational institutions teachers, all educators are not supposed to do such harassment on pupils they are going to educate, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. That is why I am going to ask the Commissioner whether she can take this seriously to as to mitigate such action in the future on our school institutions.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, effectivement, *it is a very serious issue et le Minority Leader* a fait référence au chiffre de 32 que j'ai mentionné dans ma réponse. En effet si on regarde les chiffres pour les dernières année, en 2006 il y a eu 22 cas, en 2007 - 18, en 2008 - 17, en 2009 - 36, en 2010 - 21 et en 2011 - 29 et lorsqu'il s'agit d'abus sur les enfants, un cas et un cas de trop. Donc c'est un *issue* vraiment très sérieux et au niveau de ma commission avec les officiers concernés on épargne aucun effort pour sensibiliser la population. Surtout aussi pour sensibiliser les enfants eux même comment se protéger et on a tout un programme de travail mais bien sure aussi

il y a la loi. La loi doit primer dans tout cela donc ce que nous nous faisons c'est dans les campagnes de sensibilisation, dans les formations que nous faisons. Que ce soit au niveau des écoles, au niveau des villages on informe la population des sanctions et aussi comment surtout et là dans le cadre de la journée de l'enfant, on veut interpeller tout un chacun que ce soit un professeur, peu importe qui il est, comment/qu'est-ce qu'on doit faire pour que chacun qu'on puisse protéger nos enfants dans ce pays. Donc tous les enfants sont à risque et nous avons un travail à faire et nous allons le faire parce que nous croyons que la protection des enfants est quelques choses de très sérieux et très important.

Mr. J. Roussety: As regards, this case concerning Mr. C.E. of M.L.C, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it seems that the Commissioner has much details and that is good. Being given that this institution falls under the REDCO, can I ask her whether the general responsibility of REDCO and all those working at M.L.C. could be ascertained, first. Second, I am telling her from information I have is that the key of the store which she has mentioned, there are many keys, several copies of these keys and may I tell her also that there is a case allegedly, the case is ongoing, there is not only Mr. C.E. involved but a number more teachers, many teachers involved and whether she will investigate into the matter at M.L.C.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Donc se sont des informations vraiment sérieux, on ne peut pas venir quand même dire même s'il y a eu des personne qui dise X ou Y est impliqué dans tel ou tel chose. Ce sont des informations sérieuses qui portent atteinte à toute une vie d'une personne. Donc ce sont des informations que le membre ici est en train de faire ressortir ici. Au niveau de l'école que se soit au niveau de M.L.C ou d'autres institutions donc pour nous comme je l'ai dis d'abord, il ne s'agit pas de qui il s'agit, il ne faudrait pas que ces cas soient resté surtout *unsaid*. J'inviterai, d'ailleurs je dois dire que dans ce cas précis, les responsables des écoles ils ont pris leurs responsabilités. Il y a eu une enquête qui a été fait au niveau de l'école et bien sure s'il y a d'autres personnes qui sont impliqués. S'il y a d'autres jeunes qui viennent et qui dénoncent automatiquement les sanctions qui doivent être pris seront prises. Donc la dessus je dois vous assurez on va épargner personne. On est la pour protéger personne surtout sauf les enfants.

The Minority Leader: *Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I fully agree with the Deputy Chief Commissioner that il ne faut prendre ces cas à la légère parce qu'il se pourrait qu'il y ait des étudiants qui sous menaces n'osent pas encore venir dénonçait et la il faut veiller à ce que ces personnes concernaient la puissent le faire surtout qu'il y a aujourd'hui au niveau des écoles des psychological support qui sont donnés comme vous dites la. Mais une chose quand même, M.*

le président, je voudrais demander of *Deputy Chief Commissioner* auparavant c'est vrai quand nous analysons les chiffres nous avons vu qu'à un certain moment cela a dépassé la barre de vingt quand arriver au niveau de trente. Mais quand même comment se fait-il que maintenant avec le support d'un psychologue qui est attaché directement aux collèges et ces cas sont aussi alarmant. Est-ce que cela veut dire qu'il manque quelques chose dans le travail que ce psychologue est en train de faire, est-ce que lui-même il manque de support, est-ce qu'il faudrait en trouver d'autres psychologues pour porter secours vue que la situation est grave. Qu'est-ce qu'elle compte y fait, M. le président?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Lorsqu'il s'agit des chiffres, M. le président, c'est vrai que c'est à la hausse mais je ne peux pas venir dire ici qu'elle est la raison parce qu'il se pourrait aussi que les jeunes sont plus sensibilisés et sont plus aptes aussi à dénoncer aujourd'hui. Donc, on ne peut pas dire, je ne dis pas aussi que les chiffre qu'on a ici sont des *real cases*, on ne sait pas il se pourrait qu'il y est des cas encore non dénoncer. Le plus important c'est que nous travaillons sur la protection, sur la sensibilisation, surtout sur la prévention comment chacun peut prendre sa responsabilité mais seulement sur les chiffres je ne peux pas donner une réponse pour dire tel ou tel raison. Cela je ne peux pas dire.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: *Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.* M. le président, c'est une question très pertinente qui devrait interpeller tous le monde. Parce qu'il y a un disfonctionnement de notre société parce qu'à mon avis l'homme est tombé plus bas que les animaux parce que je sache les animaux ne violent que très rarement leurs semblables. C'est un sujet, qui interpelle tous le monde parce que à mon avis, ces chiffres c'est comme pour les cas du porteur du virus du SIDA. Les chiffres officiels ne reflètent pas toujours/nécessairement la réalité. La Chef commissaire adjointe a mentionnée les efforts entrepris auprès d'autres organisations/partenaires pour essayer d'enrailer ce fléau. J'aimerais bien demander à la Chef commissaire adjointe, qu'elles ont été les actions concrètes, les actions faites vis-à-vis d'autres *stake holders*, comme Mouvement de l'Enfance, les school PTAs, le RCSS and so on ?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Tout d'abord laissez moi vous dire que suite à ce cas qui a été rapporté donc il y a eu une circulaire que la commission de l'éducation, le bureau du Chef commissaire a fait circulé a tous les institutions pour surtout informer les maitres d'écoles, les responsables des institutions qu'ils doivent absolument déclarer et surtout rapporter les cas au niveau des autorités. Mais concrètement je dois dire qu'il y a eu comme je disais au départ toute cette sensibilisation par rapport à l'enfant lui-même. Comment se protégé. *This is an ongoing process. I cannot say qu'on a fait le*

travail et en même temps aussi justement on travail de concert avec les institutions, les partenaires et la semaine dernière on a eu une rencontre avec le comité du droit de l'enfant, l'ACE, brigade pour la protection des mineurs. Donc au niveau de mon bureau le Child Development Unit. Donc, les partenaires qui travaillent pour la cause des enfants aussi on a invité les maîtres d'écoles, les managers des écoles aussi et on a eu l'occasion depuis le début de notre mandat de rencontrer avec le Chef commissaire à plusieurs reprises les maîtres d'écoles pour les sensibiliser surtout parce que se sont eux les premiers à qui ses informations sont confiés. Il y a un travail continue qui se fait avec les partenaires et c'est là aussi où on a pris les décisions par rapport à toute les activités qu'on doit mener pour justement alerter l'opinion publique sur l'importance de protéger les enfants donc on va continuer on a tout un programme et on va le faire autant de fois qu'il faudrait.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I heard the Deputy Chief Commissioner mentioned for the game *audace et vérité*. How come a game like *audace et vérité* can lead.. because *audace et vérité* is played among a group of children. How come that this type of game can lead to sexual assault. This is the first one and second one, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can we know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner in the past we do have a committee which is chaired by the Magistrate where we have all the officers concerned beyond control, with children who is abused, with children who is posted in prison, all that and has the committee been dismantled or the committee is still on?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je dois vous dire que je ne suis pas au courant qu'il y a un comité mais il y a rien qui a été *dismantled*. Il y a un travail de concert qui se fait avec tous ces institutions que ce soit donc les officiers, rencontre régulièrement aussi, la magistrate par rapport au cas des enfants. Il n'y a pas de *dismantling of any committee*. Mais cependant il y a la première question fait état de jeux *audace et vérité*. Je dois dire que l'enquête policière se poursuit. Moi je ne peux pas venir dire comment ce jeux à mener à tel ou tel chose. L'enquête va éclaircir tous cela.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that this problem is tarnishing the image of Rodrigues locally, nationally and internationally, what is the Deputy Chief Commissioner intends to do to prevent this to happen?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je crois que j'ai déjà répondu à tous ce que nous faisons au niveau du bureau pour prévenir. C'est vrai c'est vraiment dommage que c'est arrivé comme ça mais je crois que ce n'est pas la première fois. Ce n'est pas la première personne et je pense on a pas à faire toute une histoire aussi.

GLOBAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES/DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

(No. B/86) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to global consultancy services for development projects of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA), he can inform the House:-

- (a) when the Expression of Interest was launched and what was the closing date;
- (b) whether the successful bidder, if any, is already appointed and, if not, why not;
- (c) how are the different development projects of the RRA being designed; and
- (d) the scope of works and bidding documents prepared since February 2012 to date?

The Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Expression of Interest was launched in August 2012 and the closing date was on 12 September 2012.

As regards part (b) of the question, the successful bidder Servansingh Jadav and Partners Consulting Engineer Ltd. has already been appointed.

As regards part (c) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the different projects of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly are being designed by our technical staff.

As regards part (d), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the scope of works and bidding document prepared since February 2012 are as follows:-

Commission for Education

- Construction of three classrooms at Terre Rouge Primary Government School;
- Construction of six classrooms at Terre Rouge Secondary School;
- Two additional classrooms at Mt. Charlot Community School;
- Four additional classrooms at Marc Etienne Roche Bon Dieu Primary School;
- Terre Rouge College – Phase 2 on Design and Build;
- Construction of Mont. Goyaves Community School on Design and Build.

Commission for Public Infrastructure and Water Resources

- Design Build and Turnkey for Reverse Osmosis Desalination plants;
- Upgrading of Mechanical Workshop;
- Global Consultancy Services for Selected Development Project in Rodrigues;
- Maintenance, Upgrading, Resurfacing and Construction of roads in Rodrigues Year 2013.

Works Order

- Construction of road from Brulé to Roche Bon Dieu;
- Construction of road from Citronelle to Terre Rouge Phase 2.

Commission for Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office

- Upgrading works at IFAD building at Mt. Limon

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner whether in regard to the award of the contract that he has just mentioned there has been a case before the Independent Review Panel, and if so, to say which bidders has writ up submission to the Independent Review Panel with regard to the contract which has been allocated to Servansingh Jadav.

Mr. Chairperson: May I inform you that you have got some 12 minutes left.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there has been an appeal, an aggrieved bidder, Gibbs Mauritius Ltd. made an appeal to the Independent Review Panel.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether such appeal is due to the fact that Rodrigues Regional Assembly has not complied with the Public Procurement Act which was amendment last year.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Rodrigues Regional Assembly has followed all the condition regarding procurement. It is not that we have not followed the procedures.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can we know by now what is the outcome of the case which is before the Independent Review Panel because the Commissioner said that he has already awarded to Servansingh Jadav, can we say that the case is still on or whether it is over now and that Servansingh Jadav is the official bidder now that can go along with the project that has been awarded to it.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Independent Review Panel dismissed the case of the applicant, Gibbs Mauritius Ltd. on the 11 June 2013 and on the 14 June a new letter was sent to Servansingh Jadav to submit insurance against risk and for coverage as per condition of the contract. Mr. Servansingh Jadav has been appointed for consultant for Rodrigues.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the interest of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, can I ask the Commissioner what mechanism does he have at the level of his Commission so that we do not have the problem of collision between the contractor and the consultant as regards to deviation. What mechanism does he have at the level of his Commission in order to prevent collision between consultant and contractor?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at the Commission for Public Infrastructure there are Engineer that can manage with contractor and the consultant, so we foresee no problem in the future.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT - AQUACULTURE PROJECTS

(No. B/87) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader) asked the Commissioner responsible for Fisheries and Others (Mr. R. Payendee): whether, in regard to sustainable fisheries development in Rodrigues, he envisages to come up with aquaculture projects, if yes, to state which projects and, if not, why not?

The Commissioner responsible for Fisheries and Others (Mr. R. Payendee): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to sustainable fisheries development in Rodrigues, this Regional Government will do anything to promote the development of the sector as long as it is ecologically viable especially in the long term. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, has I said previously in this House itself, aquaculture can be very good but if not well accessed it can cause tremendous and illegal civil damage to the natural eco system. This is why this government is very careful with regard to aquaculture projects. We do not want to cause the same damage which was caused to the terrestrial eco system with the introduction of *piquant loulou* we have adopted the zero introduction

concept for the benefit of the marine eco system. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, our Chief Commissioner who was Minister of Rodrigues some years back has been fighting in order that Rodriguans get the chance to do higher studies. The result of this is that Rodrigues is now equipped with Rodriguan marine scientist who with this government has their words to say in any project pertaining to the marine eco system. Having said that, for any aquaculture project is seriously looked into by our scientist before any permission is granted to start the implementation of the project.

To conclude, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this government is not against aquaculture projects but we are just careful in order to protect our marine eco system.

The Minority Leader: Yes, of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have to be careful when we introduced higher species in our marine eco system but what about exploiting our own resources, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. We all know that fish in our lagoon is being depleting. So in order to regenerate these species we have to come up with policies and projects in order to regenerate these species. I do not say that we have to copy what others are doing elsewhere. Does the Commissioner know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the bar of investment has found it possible to create thousands of employment in this sector, in aquaculture, in rearing, in oysters and in other species that Rodrigues can embark, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? What does the Commissioner intend to do if he thinks that our marine resources, can be a source of employment for that country. *Pour nous tirer de la pauvreté, M. le président, qu'est-ce que le commissaire à l'intention de faire?*

Mr. R. Payendee: I said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I said it previously we are not against any project but the best aquaculture project, if we want to protect, to replenish our lagoon is protection and also a good surveyance but we already have the South East Marine Protected Area. There are four reserves in the north, so for the time being we are in the opinion that this is enough but I think that mainly the Member is talking about the projects, which is being done in Mauritius. Let me remind the Member that on several occasions we have asked for a project write up for all these projects, which is being done in Mauritius. We have asked for projects write-ups because we cannot just go and do aquaculture like this. So, we need to know what will be given to these animals, to these fish, what food will be used but we asked for project write-ups but it seems that there is no project write-up for this project.

[Interruption]

Mr. J. Roussety: It is pitiful to hear that there are no project write-ups, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. There has been a mission to Madagascar financed by, I think, RICOMAP. The present Island Chief Executive, then Departmental Head for Fisheries formed part and there was a report. The projects are there sitting at his Commission may be when you do not have work to do at you Commission go through the files. There is first, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I want to know what has happened, first the ranching of sea cucumber and here we must say that you should not mix aquaculture with introduction of new species. Aquaculture can be done with existing species in Rodrigues and for sea cucumber it is the species *Holothuria scabra*, which already exist in Rodrigues, commonly known *Barbara Blanc*. There is a project/file lying at his Commission. Hundreds of jobs, highly value added products can be created without damage to the environment, especially for poor people, for fishermen. Second, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, maybe he do not know, there is an old Australian guy actually lying at the prison at Pointe La Gueule, who has come to Rodrigues, who is a Phd in Physics, who has come to Rodrigues on the basis of submitting a project for sea pearl culture in oysters and these oysters already exist in Rodrigues. These are just two examples, what is he doing in the field of sea cucumber ranging and sea pearl culture?

Mr. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this question is very contradictory because when we look at, where are we going to find sea cucumber to raise, where do we get this from? We know, people know that there has been over exploitation of this resource when the former government was there. Where do we get this? If we want to rear, sea cucumber now we have to go may be elsewhere to get enough species. This is the first answer regarding the Barbara thing. Second answer with regard to the Australian pearl project, the person has come to see me personally and we have agreed that this is a vital project and we will go forward with it but we are still waiting for him and unfortunately, he is in prison so he cannot.

Mr. Chairperson: Last supplementary question.

The Minority Leader: To start a pilot project, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wonder whether a pilot is a pilot. Why does the Commissioner request project write up to start a pilot project, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? Does it mean that *comme a dit le membre la c'est une politique de wait and see* just as to delay. He has been talking about *surveillance* at sea, let me table, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for this House, I do not know whether the photograph is clear enough. *Voilà le sort des poissons que nous avons à Rodrigues. Voilà comment ils sont pêchés, M. le président, et le commissaire a dit qu'il est en train de miser sur la surveillance. Je lui demande si cette façon de faire de pêcher cela découle de la surveillance qu'il exerce dans notre lagon, M. le président.* (Appendix III)

Mr. Chairperson: Question time is over.

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: The question time and the answer time are over. I am informing the Members that several questions B/88 to B/100, B/102, B/103, B/108, B/113 have been withdrawn plus B/104 to B/106.

GREEN SPACES/CHILDREN GARDEN

(No. B/88) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to green spaces/children garden in Rodrigues, he can give a brief description of their present state and how same are managed?

[Withdrawn]

STREET LIGHTING/CEB BILL

(No. B/89) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to street lighting in Rodrigues, he can inform the House of:

- (a) the number of street lighting installed and repaired since his coming into office;
- (b) the amount of money earmarked for this item under this financial year; and
- (c) the average monthly bill paid to the Central Electricity Board?

[Withdrawn]

SOUTH-EAST MARINE PROTECTED AREA (SEMPA)/EQUIPMENT

(No. B/90) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (Third Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Marine Parks and Others whether, in regard to equipment found at the South-East Marine Protected Area (SEMPA), he will, for the benefit of the House:

- (a) table a copy of same, including their present condition; and
- (b) state if any of them has recently been damaged and, if yes, the reasons thereof?

/UNREVISED/

[Withdrawn]

**TERTIARY EDUCATION IN MAURITIUS
- RODRIGUAN STUDENTS**

(No. B/91) Mr. D. L. Guillaume (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to Rodriguan students attending tertiary education in Mauritius, he will for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) state how many students are attending same;
- (b) table their names, institutions they are attending and the income status of their parents;
- (c) state the number of beneficiaries who receive the grant/stipend of Rs 3000 and the total amount disbursed from January 2012 to date; and
- (d) state the responsibility of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly concerning the lodging for those whose parents cannot afford same?

[Withdrawn]

FISHERIES RESEARCH AND TRAINING UNIT (FRTU)

(No. B/92) Mr. D. L. Guillaume (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to the Fisheries Research and Training Unit (FRTU), he will for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) how many officers are attached to their grades;
- (b) the number of training session effected at sea around all Fish Aggregating Devices(FADs) of the island from January 2012 to date;
- (c) the number of boat(s) attached thereto; and
- (d) the number of off-lagoon fishers trained for the same period?

[Withdrawn]

**LAW AND ORDER
- NO. OF OFFENCES/CASES/MEASURES**

(No. B/93) Mr. D. L. Guillaume (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to law and order in

/UNREVISED/

Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, seek information from the relevant institutions and state:-

- (a) the number of offences as regards theft reported to the police from January 2012 to date;
- (b) how many cases involved minors; and
- (c) what measures are being envisaged for the social reintegration of offenders?

[Withdrawn]

**STAGNANT WATER - LABORATORY COMPLEX
QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL**

(No. B/94) Mr. D. L. Guillaume (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Health and Sports whether, in regard to the stagnant water found behind the laboratory complex of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) where this water comes from; and
- (b) if this is not a threat to the environment?

[Withdrawn]

OCTOPUS CLOSED SEASON 2013

(No. B/95) Mr. A. Edouard (Eighth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to the octopus closed season 2013, he will, for the benefit of the House, state where matters stand?

[Withdrawn]

**INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)
/RODRIGUES**

(No. B/96) Mr. A. Edouard (Eighth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development in Rodrigues, she will, for the benefit of the House, state the actions taken by the Regional Government since January 2013?

[Withdrawn]

ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN RODRIGUES

(No. B/97) Mr. A. Edouard (Eighth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to entrepreneurship development in Rodrigues, she will, for the benefit of the House, state the actions taken by the Regional Government since January 2013 to promote same and the outcome thereof?

[Withdrawn]

“LA SEMAINE RODRIGUAISE”/MAURITIUS - 25 MAY-02 JUNE 2013

(No. B/98) Mr. J. S. Swee (Seventh Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Tourism and others whether, in regard to “La semaine Rodriguaise” held in Mauritius from 25 May to 02 June 2013, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the outcome thereof?

[Withdrawn]

DUMPING SITE - GRENADA

(No. B/99) Mr. J. S. Swee (Seventh Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Environment and Others whether, in regard to the dumping site at Grenade, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the measures that are being envisaged by his Commission to rehabilitate same?

[Withdrawn]

LEGAL ADVISER - MONTHLY ALLOWANCE /CASES/WORKS/OUTCOME

(No. B/100) Mr. J. S. Swee (Seventh Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the legal adviser appointed by the previous Regional Government, he will, for the benefit of the House:

- (a) state the monthly allowance which was paid from the date of his appointment to the end of his contract; and
- (b) table same, giving details with regards to cases/works concerned together with the outcome?

[Withdrawn]

AGRICULTURE - ST FRANCOIS

(No. B/102) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to agriculture in the region of St Francois, he will, for the benefit of the House:

- (a) state and table the number of associations/organisations which are directly involved in agricultural projects in that region; and
- (b) state if there has been any request from any group/association in that region for technical support and, if yes, to table copy of same?

[Withdrawn]

**“LA SEMAINE RODRIGUAISE”
- MAURITIUS DELEGATION/EXPENSES**

(No. B/103) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Tourism and Others whether, in regard to the organization of “La semaine Rodriguaise” in Mauritius held recently, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table:

- (a) the composition of the delegation, their grades and their responsibilities thereat; and
- (b) the breakdown of expenses for this promotion campaign including the number of air and sea tickets, cost of lodging, cost of rental for each site used for this promotion and the stipend allocated to each member of the delegation thereof?

[Withdrawn]

**AGRICULTURAL PLOT/GRAND LA FOUCHE CORAIL
- GREENHOUSE**

(No. B/104) Mr. J. D. Speville (Second Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the agricultural plot situated at Grand La Fouche Corail on which a greenhouse is erected, he will, for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) give details on the present state of the agricultural plot with all its amenities; and
- (b) give and table yearly production per category of agricultural products cultivated on the plot since January 2012 to date?

/UNREVISED/

[Withdrawn]

**SCHOOL MATERIALS
- NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION**

(No. B/105) Mr. J. D. Speville (Second Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the school materials delivered to needy students of Rodrigues at primary and secondary level by the National Empowerment Foundation, he will, for the benefit of the House, give a description of progress of the project for the academic year 2013?

[Withdrawn]

TWO DESALINATION PLANTS

(No. B/106) Mr. J. D. Speville (Second Local Region Member for Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others whether, in regard to the setting up of two desalination plants in Rodrigues as stipulated in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Budget Speech 2013 delivered in September 2012, he will inform the House where matters stand?

[Withdrawn]

RESERVOIR 'LA DIGUE' - REPOSOIR

(No. B/108) Mrs. J. Ravina (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others whether, in regard to the reservoir 'la digue' situated at Reposoir, he will, for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) state if it is operational and, if not, why not;
- (b) give the reason(s) for removal of the iron sheets and woods which were covering the reservoir;
- (c) state if there has been an order to do so and, if yes, to table same; and
- (d) state if any person/group of persons benefitted from these government properties namely iron sheets and woods?

[Withdrawn]

RODRIGUES TRADING AND MARKETING CO. LTD

(No. B/113) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Commerce and Others whether, in regard to the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Co. Ltd, he will, for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) table the amount of commodities, namely fruits, vegetables and seedlings, imported from Mauritius to Rodrigues from February 2012 to date together with their cost price and selling price; and
- (b) table the amount per category of commodities bought locally together with the amount sold locally at Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Co. Ltd and amount exported to Mauritius with their respective cost price and selling price from February 2012 to date; and
- (c) table the annual report(s) of the company for the year 2012?

[Withdrawn]

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 20 August 2013 at 10.30 a.m.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

MATTERS RAISED

« SERVICE DE SANTE »

The Minority Leader: Merci, M. le président, de m'accorder le temps de la Chambre pour faire part de la situation déplorable qui se vit actuellement dans notre service de santé à Rodrigues. Il n'est pas un secret pour personne que notre service de santé traverse une situation très critique depuis l'avènement de ce présent exécutif à la tête du pays. En effet, si vous lisez certains titres de journaux, la presse locale, certaines les qualifient, très malade, dans *ICU* ou encore moribond. Ces titres ne sont pas exagérés parce que si vous faites un sondage auprès de la population vous verrez que sa cote n'a jamais été aussi basse. Pour mieux comprendre les propos, M. le président, je demande au Chef commissaire, comme toujours il est parti, au commissaire de la santé et aux autres commissaires de se référer à la lettre ouverte adresser...

M. le président, qui mieux que ceux dont je viens de vous mentionner connaît la situation dans nos centres hospitaliers. La lettre fait référence à quatre éléments fondamentaux dont souffre notre service de santé. A savoir l'élément médical, au niveau organisationnel, défaut de planification et infrastructurelle. Donc, si nous comprenons bien quatre piliers principaux d'un service aussi essentiel montre des signes de faiblesse. Ce n'est pas étonnant si le service soit si peu performant.

M. le président, vous avez été vous-même le premier commissaire de la santé depuis l'autonomie et le pays en a connu quatre. Vous savez mieux que quiconque les exigences de ce service. Le commissaire de tutelle actuel le connaît tout aussi bien pour avoir été le Nursing Administrator, il a dit ce matin il a travaillé pendant 40 ans dans ce service, M. le président. Est-ce parce qu'il a été si longtemps dans ce service qu'il ne voit pas le problème comme les autres. Mais malheureusement depuis l'avènement de ce présent exécutif au pouvoir le service qui a connu le plus de critique dans ce pays c'est bien celui de la santé. Quand dans un service aussi délicat et essentiel, les hommes et les femmes qui en sont les principaux acteurs montent au créneau, on a de quoi s'inquiéter, M. le président.

Je profite de cette occasion pour rendre un vibrant hommage à tous ces hommes et toutes ces femmes qui travaillent nuit et jour dans nos centres hospitaliers pour soulager la souffrance de nos malade et qui travaillent parfois dans des conditions inacceptables malgré tout ils ne baissent pas le bras. Je les félicite et je leurs dis bravo et bon courage.

Si aujourd'hui les infirmiers viennent dire tout haut ce que les autres pensent tout bas, il faut à mon avis agir très vite pour remédier à la situation. Les problèmes sont multiples, M. le président, le problème dont on a fait l'objet. Il y a une question à l'agenda aujourd'hui concernant les eaux stagnante, la aussi j'avais une photo, la photo est là quelque part. Voilà, M. le président, l'eau usée, sortant de l'hôpital de Queen Elizabeth Hospital qui déborde sur la route derrière le laboratoire qui dégage une odeur nauséabonde à longueur de journée qui incommode tout le voisinage et aussi tout... Depuis quand ? Depuis récemment et ce qui est plus grave, M. le président, c'est que quand on avait posé une question la dernière fois et puis quand c'est paru dans les journaux vous savez se qu'ils ont fait ? D'après nos informations ces eaux usées étaient acheminé vers une fosse sceptique. C'est pourquoi il dégageait cette odeur. Qu'est-ce qu'ils ont fait après, M. le président ? Ils ont fait un autre puits à ciel ouvert. Le puits est débordé maintenant. Et cela comporte un risque énorme pour n'importe qui, une personne ou un animal qui va dans le coin mais vous savez se qu'ils ont amélioré ? Maintenant ils ont clôturé. Mais vous ne savez

pas que l'eau stagnante comporte un risque énorme pour la santé publique ? Avec les moustiques, les risques de maladie, M. le président.

Mr. Chairperson: Minority Leader, may I intercept to that, there are other Commissioners, other Members to intervene. Please we have a few minutes only.

The Minority Leader: I understand, I shall come straight, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. M. le président, comment peut-on accepter que dans l'enceinte d'un hôpital les eaux usées sont laissés en stagnation dans une fosse béante dégageant une odeur nauséabonde et avec les risques de maladie que cela comporte c'est vraiment inacceptable. D'autre part, M. le président, d'après certains témoignages les gardiens de cet hôpital se plaignent de la qualité de traitement dont ils subissent pour mener à bien leurs travaux la nuit. La lettre des infirmiers fait aussi mention du problème de sécurité au Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Nous apprenons aussi qu'il y a un grand mécontentement de la part des ambulanciers. Ce matin nous avons appris que sur la flotte de 10 ambulances, la moitié ne fonctionnent pas, M. le président. C'est encore pour montrer que cela ne va pas et les chauffeurs qui sont affectés dans ce secteur, certains disent que certains sont plus privilégiés que d'autres. Ils ont droit à des heures supplémentaires même s'ils sont en congé au détriment d'autres chauffeurs, M. le président. Est-ce que le commissaire est au courant de cette situation.

M. le président, au niveau des équipements, je ne sais pas qui les supervise, qui fait un suivi de l'entretien. J'ai recueillis aussi des témoignages d'un patient qui est venu récemment au Queen Elizabeth Hospital pour se faire extraire une dent. Vous savez ce patient devait faire une prise de tension artérielle vue son état de santé. Grande fut sa déception de devoir attendre plusieurs heures avant d'être servi. Vous savez qu'elle été la raison? Il y avait qu'un seule tensiomètre pour tout le service. Et effectivement dans la lettre des infirmiers il est aussi question des équipements défectueux. Dans la lettre en question il est aussi fait mention que depuis qu'il est commissaire de la santé, tenez vous bien, ils disent que le commissaire actuel n'est jamais venu rencontrer le personnel de santé. Vous vous rendez compte, M. le président, presque qu'un an et demie. Je ne vais pas aller dans l'intégralité de la lettre mais avec ces quelques mots, M. le président, je crois bien que les autorités comprennent qu'il ne faut pas jouer avec leur service de santé car il y va de la santé de toute la population et surtout que l'état en est l'unique pourvoyeur de ce service à Rodrigues donc raison de plus de ne pas attendre. Merci, M. le président.

Mr. Chairperson: The Commissioner will reply.

The Commissioner for Health and Sports (Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to give a brief. The letter as he has just mentioned *signés par des infirmiers Rodriguais. Ce n'est même pas signé. C'est mentionné des infirmiers Rodriguais. Ce qui veut dire que se sont des personnes qui se cachent derrière l'anonymat et je tiens à préciser que moi il y a pas un jour*, not a single day that I do not spend my time whether be it at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, La Ferme Area Health Centre or Mont Lubin Area Health Centre. I even attend dispensaries as well. I meet these people regularly. They even come to my office whenever they have their problems. May be I do not say for everyone at the same time because with experience I know that when you have a lot of people around some people they are not able to express themselves. So, this is why I have meetings with, say for example, Charge Nurses, Midwives, and all this. This has been done. If it is on the papers, they are free to do so but let me tell you that worldwide it is the same thing with the Health Services because what is visible in the Health Services? Only when there are deaths, this is when you can compare and for what the Minority Leader has just said concerning the stagnant water - there was a question on that and I was about to answer that. Let me tell you that this dates back to 2009 when the Laundry was transferred from where it was before to the Government Quarters. No provision was made for decent drainage system. I was Nursing Administrator, my friend, if you do not know.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let me tell you that there is a report, "The Technical Survey of Waste Water System" that was tabled with the previous government in June 2009 and this report lie in the drawer. When I was on mission in Mauritius, I discussed with these people and let me tell you they are coming by the first week of July for the proper bidding and preparation.

Mr. Chairperson: Sorry Commissioner, you can come with a statement next time.

[Interruption]

« REFORME ELECTORALE »

Mrs. M. D. L. C. Meunier: Merci, M. le président, de me donner l'occasion d'intervenir brièvement sur un thème qui pour beaucoup peut paraître sans intérêt, pour certains cela les concernera en temps et lieu mais que pour nous les élus de cette auguste assemblée devraient nous interpeller profondément.

Ce thème, M. le président, c'est la réforme électorale porté sur le tapis par l'Honorable Navin Ramgoolam, Premier Ministre depuis 2010. Nous le savons bien ce sujet a connu des avancés depuis, il y a eu le rapport Carcassonne et depuis peu on entend parler de ce sujet de manière de plus en plus concrète. Que fait Rodrigues et ces élus pendant ce temps ? Allons nous, M. le président, que cela nous tombe sur la tête pour sortir de notre torpeur et réagir et agir enfin ! Souvenons-nous du Local Government Bill si les réactions et les interventions ne seraient pas produit à temps et des réelles discussions engagé, Dieu seul sait ce qu'aurait devenu Port Mathurin - ville, village, autre, on ne sait pas.

Aujourd'hui j'interpelle les dirigeants, en l'occurrence, le Chef commissaire, l'éternel absent *at adjournment*, et les autres commissaires bien sure pour lancer le débat sur ce que cela comporte et implique pour Rodrigues cette réforme électorale. Nous participons chaque cinq an à l'élection nationale avec ces implications sociale et économique. Qu'est-ce qui est réservé pour Rodrigues face à ces élections dans cette réforme. Plus important encore, je pense, de pouvoir réfléchir sur qu'elle sera le destin de l'autonomie de Rodrigues face à la réforme. Est-ce que c'est incluse dans la réforme ou non ? Quand on entend des échos de démantèlement de l'autonomie qui résonne ça et là, on se demande si le temps est au *sit and wait* ou plutôt *wake up and act*.

Je demanderai humblement que le Chef commissaire et les autres commissaires fassent le nécessaire auprès des instances concernés pour répondre aux multiples questions qui planent sur nous et d'engager des plateformes de discussion au niveau locale pour considérer les tenants et les aboutissants de cette réforme électorale qui pourrait à n'importe quelle moment être débattu à l'Assemblée Nationale.

Je remercie d'avance tous ceux et celles qui œuvrons pour sauvegarder l'autonomie et assurer que la voix de Rodrigues se fasse entendre à temps. Merci, M. le président, et la chambre pour votre attention.

« L'ELEVAGE BOVINS » A RODRIGUES

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: M. le président, permettez-moi de dire quelques mots concernant l'élevage bovins à Rodrigues. Comme nous le savons, malheureusement le Commissaire de l'Agriculture n'est pas là, combien l'élevage bovins représente un soutien financier considérable pour les familles Rodriguaise mais cependant, M. le président, ce secteur est en chute libre. Les éleveurs sont découragés et la j'ai noté quelques points sur lesquelles je voudrai attirer l'attention.

Premier point, c'est le problème climatique. Nous savons qu'il y a ce problème de sécheresse à Rodrigues et nous demandons à l'assemblée régionale de prendre conscience et de voir les commissaires qui se disent écolo qu'ils fassent leurs travaux. Allez voir, M. le président. Nous avons fait à notre époque, nous avons créé des espaces, des pâturages, des *silvo pastoral areas*, allez voir à Mte. Croupier, vous allez voir, M. le président. Qu'en-est-t-il devenu de ces *fenced areas* qui étaient supposé aider les éleveurs de la région de l'est et je cite que Mte. Croupier de l'ouest, en cas de sécheresse et bien sure en cas de non sécheresse.

M. le président, nous avons noté une décision du Conseil exécutif, celle de laisser, ça c'est un crime, que vous avez fait à Grenade. Ouvrir l'espace de pâturage à quelques personnes. C'est là, M. le président, où c'est dangereux. La politique partisane, M. le président, au détriment de l'environnement. A Mte. Croupier qu'est-ce qu'ils ont fait ? Ils ont commencés à labourer le terrain et puis quelqu'un est venu et a dit *stop*, on arrête. C'est un agent politique qui a défié l'autorité et qui a dit on ne plante pas de l'herbe dans l'espace que moi je mets les bêtes.

M. le président, c'est le cri des éleveurs. Il faut mettre de l'ordre dans ce secteur. Il y a aussi le soutien de la commission de l'Agriculture. Nous avons mis le subside sur les engrais pour les bétails. *Vous savez, M. le président, combien coûte ene bal manger bæuf, Rs 500.* Il y a une personne à Baie aux Huitres qui me dit, qu'il achète trois bals par mois, Rs 1500 par mois. Et que fait le gouvernement pour régler à ce problème? Je demande à ce que le gouvernement revienne avec ce subside sur les engrais pour les bêtes.

Autre chose, M. le président, concernant le prix. *Personne pas casse la tête!* Vous savez, M. le président, combien on vend les taureaux, par exemple. Un taureau, génisse ou bien une vache arrivait à maturité - un taureau qui coutait cinq ans de cela coutait Rs 60,000 coute maintenant seulement Rs 40,000. Plus de 30-35% de rabais sur le prix de vente. Les Rodriguais, les éleveurs sont exploités par ceux qui viennent de je ne c'est où. J'espère que la commission va prendre sa responsabilité. Vous savez très bien de quoi je parle. Vous faites semblant de ne pas comprendre mais vous allez comprendre bientôt.

M. le président, il faut essayer de voir ce problème déjà il y a la misère à Rodrigues. La misère partout!

Mr. Chairperson: Sorry could you please shorten a bit because other members will have to talk and there is only 10 minutes left.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.* Nous savons tous que le peuple de Rodrigues c'est appauvrit, parce qu'on nous savons ce que c'est que d'élever une bête. Moi je viens d'une famille d'éleveur, je sais ce que c'est. Il y a mes collègues aussi qui viennent de la même famille. Nous savons ce que c'est. Essayons, empêchons les Rodriguais de devenir plus pauvre.

M. le président, ils ne me prennent pas au sérieux. Je m'arrête là même, M. le président, merci.

« SECURITE ROUTIERE »

Mr. A. L. Emilien: M. le président, merci de m'accorder la permission de prendre la parole à l'ajournement. Je voudrais avant tout, attirer l'attention de la Chambre sur la nécessité d'avoir des interventions à l'ajournement, c'est pour attirer l'attention de la Chambre sur des sujets spécifique et surtout susciter une réaction des commissaires, s'ils les souhaitent. Je félicite, le commissaire de la Santé qui a montré son intérêt, sa promptitude à réagir et c'est ça l'objectif, le but d'avoir mis dans les règlements concernant l'Assemblée Régionale de Rodrigues, des interventions à l'ajournement. Malheureusement, M. le président, mon intervention cette après midi, concerne la sécurité routière et le commissaire concerné, comme à son habitude, s'empresse de quitter l'hémicycle juste après l'ajournement comme ci il a eu sa journée de travail et il est allé prendre sa paye. Donc, c'est dommage j'aurais voulu avoir une réaction de sa part mais quand même je vais essayer d'attirer l'attention de la chambre sur cette aspect de la sécurité qui concerne tous les usagés de la route en particulier les enfants et surtout les écoliers.

Nous entendons, M. le président, à la radio, nous voyons à la télévision, nous lisons dans les journaux, le monde grandissant d'accidents de la route qui arrivent à Maurice tous les jours. Là depuis le début de 2013, je crois qu'on est arrivé à 80 morts sur nos routes. Les nombres d'accidents est plus conséquent. N'attendons pas que cela arrive à Rodrigues. Je parle ici, M. le président, des passages cloutés, malheureusement je ne sais pas, j'avais une question à l'agenda d'aujourd'hui, le temps fait défaut. Je crois qu'il faudrait aussi revoir on est à 21 membres maintenant dans l'Assemblée, il faudra peut être pensé à revoir le *time allocated for question in this House*. Nos passages cloutés, je prends un exemple, j'ai vu à plusieurs reprises à Bigarade, M. le président, il y a un passage clouté, il y a *the sign posts* des deux côtés, sur la route il y a rien qui vous indique qu'il y a un passage clouté. Normalement, c'est indiqué par des bandelettes peintes en blanc mais il y a rien, M. le président. Je conduis depuis plus de trente ans, je sais ce que c'est de conduire, quand vous êtes au volant vous vous concentrez sur la route, dès fois vous ne voyez ce qu'il y a à côté mais la peinture blanche sur la route attire votre attention qu'il y a soit un passage

clouté ou un ralentisseur. Donc, dans certaines régions de Rodrigues, dans beaucoup de village, M. le président, je mentionne ici, Bigarade, Petit Gabriel, Mont Lubin dans beaucoup d'endroit vous ne voyez même pas de nuyance de peinture. C'est un gros danger potentiel pour les enfants surtout. J'ai vu à Bigarade, des écoliers qui se regrouper, ils attendaient le moment opportun de traverser parce que les voiture ne s'arrêtaient pas. Ne voyant rien les voitures on tendance a passé à toute vitesse sans accorder l'attention à ces enfants qui attendent une occasion pour traverser la route.

Donc, je fais un appel, malheureusement, je me répète, le commissaire concerner n'est pas là, et puis auprès des écoles primaires, surtout les écoles pré-primaires, dès fois on a des policiers qui sont là pour aider les enfants a traversé la rue. Dès fois il y a des *Attendants* qui ont un petit panneau en main « *STOP* » pour demander aux automobilistes de s'arrêter et dès fois vous voyez un officier de Police aussi qui est là mais qui reste au coin de la rue comme ci ce n'est pas son problème, cela ne le concerne pas, il regarde les enfants traversaient. Il ne donne même pas un petit coup de main, il ne lève même pas un pouce pour aider ces enfants là. Donc, je trouve que c'est aberrant, c'est un gros danger. Le jour où un accident arrivera nous allons déplorer la perte de nos enfants et aucun parent n'aurait souhaité être à la place de ce parent concerné si jamais, je touche du bois, pour que cela n'arrive pas, si jamais un accident pareil arrive. Merci, M. le président.

FOURNITURE MATERIAUX SCOLAIRE - ECOLE PRIMAIRE/SECONDAIRE – NEF/2013

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, cette après midi je voudrais intervenir sur la fourniture de matériaux scolaire dans le primaire et la secondaire par le NEF (National Empowerment Foundation) pour l'année scolaire 2013. M. le président nous ne sommes pas contre donner à nos enfants, aux étudiants au bas de l'échelle des fournitures scolaires mais la façon dont l'exercice a été fait pour l'année 2013 a fait couler beaucoup d'encre.

Premièrement, M. le président, cela a fait la grogne chez les petits entrepreneurs Rodriguais. Seulement un fournisseur de Maurice a été le seul et unique sous missionnaire au détriment de tous les entrepreneurs locaux. Y-a-t-il eu vraiment une consultation entre la NEF et les entrepreneurs et fournisseurs à Rodrigues ?

On parle *d'empower les Rodriguais, débouté lors to deux li pieds*, mais est-ce que nos tailleurs Rodriguais ne sont pas aptes à fournir des uniformes bien cousues à nos étudiants ? Qui ont cousus nos costumes ici dans cette assemblée ? Ce sont les tailleurs Rodriguais ! Il faut dire que ces derniers ont

consentis pas mal d'investissement et durant les dernières années ils étaient parti prenante dans ces projets qui assuraient leurs gagne pain. Une chose qu'on ne comprend pas, M. le président, comment durant les six dernières années les fournisseurs Rodriguais étaient apte à fournir des uniformes et pour 2013 ils étaient sanctionnés parce qu'ils fournissaient des uniformes de mauvaise tailles. Même chose pour les fournisseurs de sac et autres matériels scolaire. Les Rodriguais n'ont pas été choisis. On dit que la NEF n'est pas satisfait avec l'échantillon qu'on envoi à Maurice mais ces même échantillons sont considérées comme genuine par les écoles. *Which is which, Mr. Chairperson, Sir ?*

Troisièmement, M. le président, cette année le délai n'a pas été respecté. Les étudiants ont reçus leurs aides scolaires qu'en mai. Qu'advient-il pour les étudiants qui n'ont rien entre janvier et mai. Les étudiants qui n'ont pas pu préserver l'état de leurs sacs. De plus cette année, M. le président, les étudiants ont eus droit à des portes cartables et pas même un pourcent de ces étudiants utilisent ces portes cartables. On aurait pu acheter autre chose avec cet argent. On a donné un porte cartable et même pas un étudiant n'utilise ce porte cartable. Les entrepreneurs locaux, M. le président, ont déplorés aussi le manque de transparence par rapport à l'allocation du contrat. Les noms des étudiants bénéficiaires ont été recensés l'année dernière en 2012 et cette année beaucoup ont quittés l'école. Qu'advient-il des ces matériaux scolaires qui été destiné à ces étudiants et qui en 2013 ne fréquentent plus leurs établissements ? Has been a un contre expertise par rapport à ce problème là.

M. le président, au nom de la minorité ont déplores la façon dont cette exercice a été fait en 2013 qui est banale, dérisoire, *a total failure*, et qui va contre l'autonomie de Rodrigues et nous plaidons pour que tous les instances nationaux qui opèrent à Rodrigues, au niveau de Rodrigues ne délaisse pas nos concitoyens comme tel est le cas ici. Merci

Mr. Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

*At 15.11 hours the House was, on its rising adjourned
to Tuesday 20 August 2013 at 10.30 a.m.*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

EMPLOYMENT IN RODRIGUES - TERMINATION/ NEW RECRUITMENT

(No. B/101) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner for Labour and Others whether, in regard to employment in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House:

- (a) state how many cases of termination of employment his office has registered since he took office in February 2012 to date in both private and public sector and state the reasons thereof ; and
- (b) state and table the number of new recruitment in the public sector in different grades, if any, since January 2012 to date?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since February 2012 to date, the Labour Office of my Commission has received a total of 171 complaints from workers of the Private Sector relating to termination of employment.

Out of 171 cases of loss of jobs, 151 have been settled including the reinstatement of four workers in their posts, admission of 86 in the workfare programme and payment of the appropriate compensation amounting to about Rs 2.1 million by the respective employers to 61 employees. For the other 20 cases, two have been referred to court; four are still under process, while 14 have been withdrawn.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to loss of jobs in the Public Sector, I wish to inform the House that the Labour Office of my Commission does not have any jurisdiction pertaining to issues relating to termination of employment in the Public Sector, therefore such information is not available.

As regards to part (ii), 142 workers have been recruited in the Public Service in the different grades, since February 2012 to date. A breakdown of same is being tabled. **(Appendix IV)**

WATER DISTRIBUTION/RIVIÈRE COCO, MONT CHARLOT, CITRON DONIS, PAPAYES, CITÉ PATATE & REPOSOIR

(No. B/107) Mrs. J. Ravina (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others whether, in regard to water distribution in villages of Rivière Coco, Mont Charlot, Citron Donis, Papayes, Cité Patate and Reposoir, he will, for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) give and table the different dates of water distribution in these villages for the period of January 2013 to date;
- (b) state how water is distributed to the village of Cité Patate;

- (c) state if with the closure of the Rodrigues Water Company Ltd. there is a smooth running of water distribution in the villages concerned, be it directly or indirectly; and
- (d) put forward his policy to attend to complaints in these villages in short delays?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling the requested information.
(Appendix V)

As regards part (b) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, water is being distributed to the Village of Cité Patate through water network.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with the closure of the Rodrigues Water Company, the smooth running of water distribution is being ensured by the south section under the responsibility of an Assistant Inspector of Works and a pool of water supply attendants under the direct supervision of Field Supervisors. The normal frequency of water distribution depends on water production; otherwise, if there is delays, the intervention of government lorry water tankers is being solicited.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to attend complaints in these villages in short delays, the intervention of the Regional Government lorry water tankers is being solicited to supply water to the consumers.

PROCUREMENT - STATIONERY & ALL COMPUTER SUPPLIES

(No. B/109) Mr. J. Roussety (First Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the procurement of all stationery and all computer supplies, he will, for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) describe the bidding process being practised for the Regional Assembly;
- (b) state from when dates the last registration of bidders for same and table the list being used if any;
- (c) give details as regards all procurement made for same since February 2012 to date giving name of bidders, outcome of bidding process, items procured, contract amount; and
- (d) state if all local suppliers for same are being given equal opportunity to bid for these purchases?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that for the procurement of all stationery and computer supplies, all commissions follow the applicable bidding process as specified in the Public Procurement Act. The Public

/UNREVISED/

Procurement Act defines the different bidding methods to be adopted depending on the value of the goods to be procured. In view of the value involved the procurement of stationery and computer supplies, I am informed that all commissions generally proceed with either direct procurement or informal bidding or request for seal quotation or restricted bidding method.

I have informed that most commission used the established list of bidders and subsequently add any bidder that make a request to the commission accordingly. For the above methods of procurement, although the act provides that bids may be solicited for a minimum of three suppliers, I am informed that all Commissions normally request for bids from more than three potential suppliers and in some cases up to 12 bidders have been invited.

It is the intention of my office to review the mechanism of purchase of common items under the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to ensure value for money and transparency. Advice is being sought in that respect from the Procurement Policy Office on how to consolidate the common items into a single procurement process under the new proposed type of procurement known as framework agreement.

NTA OFFICE/RODRIGUES

(No. B/110) Mr. J. Roussety (First Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to the National Transport Authority's Office in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House state:-

- (a) the number of vehicles per category on the roads in Rodrigues as at 31 May 2013;
- (b) the amount of money collected from the public there at for 2012 and as at to date for 2013, giving details per category of fees;
- (c) if it happens that the cash/public counter closes down while there are still members of the public waiting to be dealt with outside and, if yes, why?; and
- (d) where do members of the public wait or queue up and what is the average waiting time for a person attending the payment counter?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the number of vehicles per category is as follows:-

/UNREVISED/

Type of Vehicle	As at 31.12.2012	As at 31.05.2013
Autocycle	654	658
Motorcycle	5568	5815
Cars/Dual Purpose Vehicles	1877	1983
Goods Vehicles	784	797
Buses	147	149
Tractors	62	62
Others	67	68
Total	9159	9532

With regard to part (b), the amount of money collected from the public is as follows:-

Payment for	Year 2012 (Rs)	1 Jan 2013-31 May 2013 (Rs)
• Motor Vehicle Licences • Public Service Vehicle Licences • 'A' and 'B' Carriers • Removal permits • Transfer of vehicles • Special Route Permits	13,897,990	5,771,645

With regard to part (c), of the question, the Collection of fees is made at the cash office of the National Transport Authority on working days between 08.15 to 14.00 hours.

Payment for motor vehicle licences can be made as from the 16th of each month. A notice thereof has been affixed at the office. However, people have the tendency to call during the last days for effecting payment. As such, from the ... to the 31 of each month and at the close of the cash office at 14.00 hours, no public is left unattended.

There exists a rush on the last two days of each month and people have to queue up for effecting payments. Provision has been made for the public to queue up in the veranda with seating accommodation. It happens that some of them are unable to do so after closing time, that is, at 14.00 hours, and have to call anew on the following day.

As far as part (d), is concerned, the average time taken to attend to a member of the public at the cash office is approximately five minutes.

NEF- ITEMS SUPPLIED/BASIS/VALUE/PROCUREMENT METHOD

(No. B/111) Mr. J. Roussety (First Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the National Empowerment Foundation in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information and state:-

- (a) what items have been supplied to primary school children in Rodrigues from January 2013 to date; and
- (b) on which basis the items were supplied, the total value of items supplied, the procurement method and the reasons as to why local suppliers have not been preferred?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (a) of the question, I am informed by the National Empowerment Foundation in Rodrigues that operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment that the following items are supplied to primary school children in Rodrigues:

- (i) One school bag;
- (ii) Two sets of uniforms;
- (iii) One pair of shoes;
- (iv) Two pairs of socks;
- (v) One dozen copybooks
(60 pages for Std I to II and 100 pages for Std III to VI); and
- (vi) One plastic pencil case comprising two pencils HB, one eraser, one metal sharpener and one plastic ruler of 30 cm

With respect to part (b), of the question, I am informed by the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment of the following:-

- (i) school materials are provided to children from vulnerable families earning income less or equal to Rs 5000;
- (ii) the total value of items supplied are as follows:-

School bags	Rs 132,158.00
-------------	---------------

/UNREVISED/

Uniforms, shoes, socks, blue pens & pencils	Rs 6,374,243.00
SME in Rodrigues for stitching of school uniforms	Rs 1,134,040.00
Donation from CSR Companies	Around Rs 3 million

(iii) the Procurement Method used is the Request for Sealed Quotation.

The Ministry has further informed that quotations were sought from local suppliers in Rodrigues who expressed their interest in the bidding exercise.

**MAURITOURS WORKERS
- LES COCOTIERS HOTEL AND POINTE VENUS HOTEL**

(No. B/112) Mr. J. Roussety (First Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Labour and Others whether, in regard to the employment of workers by Mauritours and its affiliates in Rodrigues namely Les Cocotiers Hotel and Pointe Venus Hotel, he will, for the benefit of the House state:-

- (a) if all relevant procedures as regards termination of employment or other, if any, are being adhered to; and
- (b) if the company has failed to pay the salaries of the employees recently and what is being contemplated by him to help these workers in difficulty?

Reply: Mr. chairperson, Sir, I must first of all inform the house that cases of termination of employment are dealt with according to the legal procedures laid down by the Employment Rights Act 2008 (Acts 33 of 2008), (and the guidelines set by the Ministry for labour).

In fact, all reported cases of termination of employment in the private sector which are duly registered at the labour office are enquired into. The Labour Office will provide information regarding legal provisions on the options that can be adopted by the aggrieved workers as follows:-

/UNREVISED/

- (i) He may chose to be admitted in the workfare programme to benefit from the financial assistance, namely the Transition Unemployment Benefit up to a maximum period of 12 months;

or

- (ii) The worker may claim severance allowance for his past services. In this circumstance, my Commission shall enquire into the matter with a view to promoting a settlement;
- (iii) In case of no settlement, the case would be assessed by the Labour Office to enter a proceeding before the Industrial Court to claim severance allowance equivalent to three (3) months remuneration per year of service (as per existing legal provisions).

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regard to part (a) the answer is in the affirmative. As for part (b) with regard to the workers employed by Mauritours at Pointe Venus and Les Cocotiers Hotel, I am informed that since December 2012 up to April 2013, the Company has failed to pay the monthly salary, within the delay prescribed by law, that is not later than the second working day in the following month, in line with the Second Schedule, Regulation 5(1) of the Catering and Tourism Industries (Remuneration Order) Regulations 2004 - GN No.178 of 2004 as amended.

In view of the above, the workers have made complaints to the Labour Office, which has enquired into the matter for the settlement of the salaries due. Upon enquiry, the Company has pleaded financial difficulties.

At the beginning, the workers were trying to cope with the situation, but on the 07 June 2013, on the advice of their Unions representative, more than half of the staff has decided to terminate their agreement, claiming that their employment has been terminated by the employer for failing to pay the remuneration for the month of May 2013 within the prescribed delay.

On that day, out of the 76 workers, 43 called at the Labour Office in the presence of their Unions representatives, to make formal complaints, claiming that their employment has been terminated by their employer. In must make it clear here that there has been no notice of termination of employment on the part of the employer in this case.

They are no longer prepared for an amicable settlement, and are claiming severance allowance in Court. Enquiry is presently on going in the matter. Relevant particulars and document are being secured for further reference to the

Industrial Court. Once the proceedings are entered before the Court, the workers will be entitled to be admitted in the Workfare Programme.

SUBMARINE OPTIC FIBRE CABLE

(No. B/114) Mr. A.L. Emilien (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the proposed submarine optic fibre cable between Mauritius and Rodrigues, she will, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) if new developments have been registered and, if yes, to state same;
- (b) what has been the stand of both the Central and the Regional Government in connection with the European Union's wish to finance the project; and
- (c) if the cost of same has been assessed and, if yes, to state the involvement of different partners in the financing process?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson Sir, with regard to part (a), I am informed by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology that the technically responsive consultant has already been identified. However, given that the quoted price for the feasibility study is on the high side, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) which has agreed to finance 50% of the cost has advised the Ministry of ICT to negotiate with the bidder to bring the price down. In that respect, a negotiation team comprising representatives of the Ministry of ICT and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development will meet the technically responsive bidder on 01 July 2013 to negotiate on the price quoted for the consultancy services for the connection of Rodrigues to Submarine Fibre Optic Cable.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b), discussions have already been initiated with the AFD both by the Ministry of Finance and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly regarding the financing of the project.

I am informed that the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development has not yet communicated its stand in connection with EU financing the project. I am also informed that the EU has indicated that since the procurement was already launched, its rules would not permit the EU to go ahead with the financing. Anyway, the AFD was already providing 50% of the cost of study as grant.

With regard to part (c), I am informed by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology that an eventual consultancy assignment would shed light on the implementation cost of the project.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

(No. B/115) Mr. A. L. Emilien (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to pedestrian crossings throughout the island, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) if any of these crossings have been cancelled since 2011 to date and, if yes, to state the places and the reasons thereof;
- (b) how often these crossings are being maintained and when they were last maintained (both roads and sign parts); and
- (c) what amount of money has been earmarked in the present budget for maintenance of same?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, no pedestrian crossing has been cancelled to date.

As regards part (b), pedestrian crossing is a major component for road users security and it form part of the road marking management which is normal scheduled once every 3 months. The road marking cycle, which covers mostly all major roads throughout the island, has started in January 2013 and has been completed in mid April and a new cycle is in progress starting from Port Mathurin, Pointe Monier onwards.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the amount of money earmarked is Rs. 4,000,000 on Programme 50301 – 311133001 – Construction and Rehabilitation of Roads and Bridges.

CLOSED PERIOD FOR OCTOPUS FISHING - SELLING OF CATCH/CONTRAVENERS

(No. B/116) Mr. A.L. Emilien (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to the fishing sector in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) if there will be any closed period for octopus fishing this year and if yes, when and what changes, if any, have been made compared to last year;
- (b) if he is aware of difficulties encountered by octopus fishermen to sell their catch and if yes, what measures have been or will be taken to remedy same; and

/UNREVISED/

- (c) if any contraveners have been arrested in the South East Marine Protected Area from January 2012 to date and if yes, to state the number of same per month and what measures have been or will be taken to remedy same?

**UNEMPLOYED IN RODRIGUES
- TOTAL NUMBER/ MEASURES**

(No. B/117) Mr. A.L. Emilien (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Labour and Others whether, in regard to the labour sector in Rodrigues, he will for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) table the total number of unemployed in Rodrigues presently among the following age groups:
- (i) 18 yrs to 25 yrs;
 - (ii) 26 yrs to 35 yrs;
 - (iii) 36 yrs to 45 yrs; and
 - (iv) above 45 yrs

on a monthly basis from January 2010 to date, stating the percentage increase/decrease compared to each previous month; and

- (b) state what measures are taken or envisaged by the Regional Government to remedy same?