

**RODRIGUES
THIRD REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Debate No. 09 of 2014

Sitting of Tuesday 16 December 2014

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

(Mr. Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2014

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ADJOURNMENT

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), State Lands, Town and Country Planning, Fire Services, Prisons and Reform Institutions (Administration), 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, Cooperatives
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,
Ms. Marie Rose de Lima Edouard	Commissioner responsible for Youth, Community Development, Library Services, Archives, Museum, Arts and Culture, Historical sites and Buildings

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Mr. Chairperson - Sooprayen, Mr. Soopramanien, G.O.S.K.
Clerk - Gopall, Mr. Navin
Deputy Clerk - Legentil, Miss Marie Lyndia Yannick
Serjeant-at-Arms - Constant Perrine, Mr. Stenio

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POINT OF ORDER RAISED

- MR. JOHNSON ROUSSETY

Mr. Chairperson: I have one announcement to make. Respected Members, before proceeding with the business of the Order Paper, I have to make one announcement. At the Sitting of Tuesday 30 September 2014, the First Island Region Member, Mr. Johnson Roussety, raised on a point of order that the Order Paper for that day's sitting was not properly constituted, as the parliamentary questions submitted by the latter did not appear on the same Order Paper. Consequently, I rule that, I quote,

“After the conclusion of the debate, as provided for under Standing Order 55A Section (3) of the Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, the Draft Estimates withstand referred to the Draft Estimates Committee. Therefore, as per the provision of the Standing Order 23 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, Notice of Questions shall not be entertained on a day fixed for consideration of the Draft Estimates.” End quote.

To that effect, the questions set down by the respected Members were not placed on the order paper. And, I ruled accordingly. Despite being clear in my ruling, the Member has persistently challenged my ruling, which is final as per Standing Order 37 (6) of the Standing Orders. At a certain point, the Member also cast accusation against my partiality as Chairperson of the Assembly.

I wish to remind Members of this Assembly that this may constitute an offence of contempt of the Assembly by virtue of Section 6 (1) (s) of the National Assembly. Privileges, Immunities and House Act. As the Member rightly said, I am the guardian of the Standing Orders and I will never allow any flouting of the Standing Orders.

Nevertheless, in view to clear out doubts, as to the practice followed and as requested by the Member, and as provided as for under Section 64 (6) of the Rodrigues Regional Act, the matter was referred to the Clerk of the National Assembly for a certificate as to the practice followed at the Assembly.

/UNREVISED/

Accordingly, I wish to inform the House that the Clerk of the Assembly has, in her reply, certified, as to the practice, which obtains in the National Assembly regarding Notice of Questions, which reads as follows, I quote:

'I, therefore, certify that Notice of Questions, although received by the Clerk within the limit time prescribed, therefore, as per the provision of Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly, cannot be entertained. That is, placed on the Order Paper on inter alia, any defects for the consideration of an Appropriation Bill or Supplementary Appropriation Bill by the Committee of Supply which, in our case, is the Draft Estimates Committee by virtue Standing Order 24 (3) (c).' End quote.

Consequently, this certificate comforts me in my ruling. And, in my reading of the Standing Order of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, as to the practice, which obtains by Standing Order 23 (2) of the Regional Assembly, the Clerk has been directed to table same. Thank you.

PAPERS LAID

- Certificate under section 64(6) of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001

Mr. Chairperson: First Island Region Member.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like just to follow your ruling, which I respect, to tell you what I know about the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act and the Standing Orders where it is said that: *'No criminal proceedings or civil proceedings may be brought against any person for words spoken in front of the Assembly'*.

Mr. Chairperson: Please, sit down.

Mr. J. Roussety: Therefore, there is no offence.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, you cannot comment on the ruling.

Mr. J. Roussety: You are acting in a dictatorial manner, here. This is my... If you want to submit to the DPP, bring me to Court, you can. This is my opinion. B/118.

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Member, I think you have to remove these words, withdraw your words.

Mr. J. Roussety: I withdraw.

Mr. Chairperson: Okay, proceed, please.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

KIOSK/BEACH STALLS – ANSE AUX ANGLAIS

(No. B/118): Mr. J. Roussety (The First Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Environment and Others whether, in regard to kiosks/beach stalls, which have been built on the public beach at Anse Aux Anglais, he will:

- (a) give details about the construction contract, the name of the contractor/s and the costs for the construction thereof; and
- (b) state if these stalls have already been allocated and, if so, the selection criteria therefor and the amount of rent, if any?

The Commissioner responsible for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have to inform the House that the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) is carrying an investigation pertaining to tuck shops at Anse aux Anglais public beach.

While the matter is under investigation, it will not be appropriate to disclose any information to the House so as to avoid causing prejudice to the enquiry, which is still ongoing.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are in an Assembly. And, we have the powers, here, to ask question. And, we are not arguing about what the ICAC will say about this report, this issue. But, we are here to ask question in order to know things about related to the kiosk. Yes?

Mr. Chairperson: Put your question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: No, the Commissioner just answer...

Mr. Chairperson: Next question!

Mr. J. Roussety: Can I ask a... So, your ruling is next question?

Mr. Chairperson: Yes! Yes!

/UNREVISED/

Mr. J. Roussety: Even though we have not finished?

Mr. Chairperson: Yes! For the matter is subsidised.

Mr. J. Roussety: The matter is subsidised when it is before a Court of Law.

Mr. Chairperson: Okay.

Mr. J. Roussety: Not before an investigating authority. ICAC is an investigating authority, not a Court of Law.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes.

Mr. J. Roussety: You have to learn it.

Mr. Chairperson: I give my ruling, I said next question. You cannot challenge my ruling.

Mr. J. Roussety: I want to ask the Commissioner whether, he will reply on the other aspects not concerning the ICAC?

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, it is up to you, Commissioner.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I have already said that I am not answering this question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Okay, then.

[Interruptions]

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, now! B/119.

Mr. J. Roussety: You want to ask it for me?

Mr. Chairperson: Your question, now.

Mr. J. Roussety: I said next question, question 119.

Mr. J. Roussety: Allow me to do it! Where is the problem? Why everybody is on the... What is the problem? Keep cool! B/119.

**PREGNANT WOMEN
– CHILD MORTALITY**

(No. B/119): Mr. J. Roussety (The First Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, as regards pregnant women and child mortality at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and different Health Centres in Rodrigues since 1st January 2014 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the reasons of the death of the three babies of a pregnant woman of Hauteur Accacia during labour/neo natal care and other pregnant women during the delivery process in Hospital, respectively and indicating if all necessary assistance and care were provided in each case?

The Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports (Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with reference to the case triplets mentioned in the question above, the matter has been referred to Police. The enquiry is ongoing and, thus, it is inappropriate and unethical to comment... Let me finish.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, continue.

Mr. I. Valimamode: It is inappropriate and unethical to comment further on this specific case in the House.

In regard to infant mortality in Rodrigues since January 2014 until date, the causes of death are as follows: Hepatic Failure Septicaemia, Pre Term/Severe Pre Term, Lung Infection/Respiratory failure, Multiple Congenital Malformation. It is to be noted that 643 live births have been recorded in our services so far for 2014.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let me reassure the House that all necessary assistance and care are provided in each case by the team of professionals working in the Obstetric and Gynaecological services.

Mr. J. Roussety: Is it true, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that for the three triplets who died, there were no incubators for them?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to remind the House that, as I said, the case is under investigation. Nevertheless, I would like to remind the respected Member of the House that the triplets were born flat. That is, they were stillbirths.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Can we know from the Commissioner what is the reason behind that we find that most of the pregnant women with three babies are not yet in birth in Rodrigues but transferred to Mauritius? What is the problem, here, in Rodrigues?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know how many triplets we have had for the past... The respected Member is saying that as if there are many triplets, as if it is now and then we are having triplets being sent to Mauritius. So, I would like to know how many.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: The question is what is the reason behind that we do not have triplets born in Rodrigues?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have had, at several occasions, when I was at the hospital, triplets born in Rodrigues. At times, there are medical reasons behind why we have to send the pregnant mothers for further treatment in Mauritius. There are medical reasons.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, initially, the woman, the pregnant woman of triplets was told that she would be sent for Mauritius because she has also a heart condition. And, afterwards, nothing was done to send her to Mauritius. Can we know why?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have already said that the case has been referred to the Police and investigation is under way. And, I will spare no effort, I will not defend anyone, be it doctors or gynecologists or anyone, to look that justice is done if, I said, if there has been in that case.

Mr. J. Daniel Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether, a new *modus operandi* has been set up at the level of his commission to better cater for these cases of pregnancy in the future?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to recall the infant mortality rate in Rodrigues has been fluctuating from years on. Just to give a brief, in 2005, there was 12.3% for the infant mortality rate. In 2006, it was 27.6%. And, unfortunately, the then Commissioner/Commissioners, they are sitting next, opposite this House.

Mr. Chairperson: Please, do not point.

Mr. I. Valimamode: Okay, sorry, excuse me. I remove. And, I am surprised to note nothing was done to improve the situation. Nevertheless, since October, I, my commission has set up a new section in the maternity ward, the nursery, whereby, we have our own staff, the own staff caring for babies after deliveries. And, we are also upgrading the antenatal services which the PRB remove those midwives from the community and send them at hospital level. So, we are improving the services. We are improving as I said.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, can we know from the Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the time scheduled for the posting of a gynecologist in Rodrigues?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this has been an... Since long, gynecologists are posted for one month in Rodrigues. It was always like this. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at times, now and then, you do have one gynecologist who decides to come for a longer period.

Nevertheless, we are in the process of recruiting on contract, gynecologists as well as other specialists. I would like to point out also that the problem of infant mortality rate is not directly related to the posting of a gynecologist on... Let me finish, please. ... is not directly related to the posting of a gynecologist on a full-time basis.

I wish to inform the House that according to the population and vital statistics of family planning, demographic year book 2013 of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, the lowest ever infant mortality rate in the history of Rodrigues, I repeat, the lowest infant mortality rate in the history of Rodrigues was registered in 2013 with 8.5 per thousand life births. And, my commission is sparing no efforts to maintain this trend.

This is not. I am not insinuating that I am responsible for this. This is a trend. Since January 2013, there is one gynecologist at post in Rodrigues on a full-time, on a monthly tour. I have just mentioned earlier that in 2013, the lowest ever infant mortality rate was registered in the history of Rodrigues.

Thus, in term of medical outcomes, there are no casual links between the monthly posting of gynecologist and the infant mortality rate. However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is a fact that the monthly change of gynecologist is not appropriate in terms of continuity of care to the would-be mothers. Everyone would conquer that it is not pleasant to be followed by several specialists during nine months.

In that respect, my commission has made several representations for the extension of two gynecologists from one month to a minimum of six months. However, in the very near future, this issue would be addressed...

Mr. Chairperson: Please, shorten your answer.

Mr. I. Valimamode: It would be addressed since the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is in process of recruiting specialists including gynecologists on a yearly contract. Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, being given, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the gynecologist has been posted in Rodrigues for a time scheduled of one month, does this have an impact on the planning on a monthly planning, yearly planning, annual plan as regard to antenatal, prenatal, postnatal, delivery ward, gyne ward?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is a continuous process. The newly posted gynecologist, he takes on. But, I would like also to point out that in an article dated 28 August. *‘La mortalité infantile subit une hausse de 25% à l’île Maurice de janvier à juin.’* Just to remind that it is a worldwide trend.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please. Next question! First Island Region Member.

**“RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
(PROHIBITION OF USE OF PLASTIC BAGS)
REGULATIONS 2014”**

(No. B/120): Mr. J. Roussety (The First Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards the enforcement of the recently introduced “Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Prohibition of Use of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2014” by the Officers of the Fisheries Protection Service, he will state if any objection has been received for the enforcement thereof and, if so, the nature thereof and from whom and indicating the stand of the Island Chief Executive or Public Service Commission or any other relevant authority in relation thereto?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have to inform the House that the “Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Prohibition of Use of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2014 make provision to legally authorise Fisheries Officers to enforce the regulation. It is without saying that every citizen of the country is authorised to denounce any criminal offence. It is worth mentioning that the said Regulations were vetted by the Legal Advisor of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the State Law Office. Also, no member of the National Assembly had moved for any negative resolution after the Regulations were laid on the table of the National Assembly.

The main contention of the objection by one trade union is that enforcement of any environmental laws and regulations does not form part of the scheme of duty of the Fisheries Protection Officer. They are claiming that

an on administrative point of view, they are not bound to enforce the said regulation. The Island Chief Executive has requested the Departmental Head not to officially request the personnel to enforce the law pending the stand of the Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Administrative Reforms on the matter.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if the Legal Advisor of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has vetted the regulations and the regulations have been passed by the Assembly and published in the gazette, on which authority can the Island Chief Executive request Departmental Heads not to enforce the regulations?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would not further comment on the issue pending the stand of the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms being obtained.

Mr. J. Roussety: In this case, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in this case, would it not be appropriate to suspend all these regulations pending the determination of all these important issues? Because you have put some people as Enforcement Officers and they are saying they are not. And, you, yourself, have discontinued application of these regulations by these Fisheries Protection Officers.

The Chief Commissioner: Well, as I said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will not repeat again. Pending the stand of the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms being obtained, the Ministry of the Civil Service will tell us whether the Scheme of Duty either to be amended or to stand like that. So, we are waiting for this answer, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a serious issue. A regulation has been voted. Contraventions may be drawn at any time by any officer including some *Police de l'Environnement* zélés. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is it appropriate to bring prosecutions before the Court of Rodrigues? Why the Chief Commissioner, himself, is saying that an advice is being sought on these regulations? Would he see to it that no prosecutions, no contraventions, all these regulations are kept aside pending the receipt of this advice because the legal position is not correct?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is clear. My answer is very clear. The Island Chief Executive has requested a Departmental Head not to officially request the personnel to enforce the law, the personnel of the Fisheries of the law pending this stand of the Ministry. They are not enforcing the law. They have been done until the stand of the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question, please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: According to what the Chief Commissioner just said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner state to the House whether, the regulations have been wrongly prepared, drafted, also?

Mr. Chairperson: This is a question of opinion.

The Chief Commissioner: Well, Mr. Chairperson, Sir...

Mr. Chairperson: If you want to reply.

The Chief Commissioner: Well, this regulation has been vetted by the State Law Office.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question! First Island Region Member.

**CONSTRUCTION OF
WATER TANKS/RESERVOIRS
– NEEDY FAMILIES**

(No. B/121): Mr. J. Roussety (The First Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others whether, as regards to the construction of water tanks/reservoirs for needy families in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state if his Commission is assisting in the construction thereof and, if so, to table the list thereof and details of the beneficiaries to date, the modalities of selection and execution and the names of the responsible officers?

The Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission is providing assistance in the construction of water tanks/reservoirs for needy families in Rodrigues. Assistance is provided in terms of:

- (i) Preparation of the reinforcement for the tanks/reservoirs;
- (ii) Setting up of site rails; and
- (iii) Technical expertise for the supervision by officers of my Commission.

I have to bring to the attention of the House that all the materials for the construction are also granted to the beneficiaries. As regards to the details of

the beneficiaries, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, these are confidential and cannot be disclosed to avoid causing prejudice to anybody.

However, 393 beneficiaries have already completed 640 water tanks and their rainwater harvesting system to date. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the modalities of selection for the scheme are as follows:

1. Families who do not possess a water tank
2. Disabled persons
3. Beneficiaries of Trust Fund and NEF houses
4. Old age persons who do not possess any water tank/rainwater harvesting system
5. Households in regions where water distribution is not regular
6. Families who possess only a water tank of capacity less than 2 m³ will be granted materials for only one water tank.
7. Households with income less than Rs 10,000

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the names of the responsible officers, it is the Departmental Head of my Commission who is the responsible officer and, therefore, responsible of the project. Hence, any queries can be put to the Departmental Head.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: I would like to ask the Commissioner, how many of these 393 beneficiaries so far do not possess a water tank and how many old people out of these and how many household earning less than Rs 10,000? Can we know that? ...Criteria.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the respected Member come with a substantive question? She will have the answer.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: It is not a substantive question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. He has just mentioned that the different persons/beneficiaries who can benefit from the water tank. I am just asking out of the number he stated, can we know how many old persons, how many who did not possess a water tank have benefitted from that? How many who are earning Rs 10,000 who have benefitted from that? Just a breakdown.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I need notice of the question.

Mr. J. Daniel Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir...

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, please. Your question.

Mr. J. Daniel Spéville: Unnecessary action, either human or natural, can deteriorate the quality of water. Can the Commissioner inform the House whether, the casting of covering slab has been done everywhere at all site? First. And, secondly, we have been informed on this side of the House that materials for the construction of these water tanks has been overestimated. Can he inform the House whether, a survey has been made after to know whether, materials have remained on the older site?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, these materials have been requested by the Engineer to view so many cements, so many macadam, it is the responsibility of the beneficiaries to follow the instruction given to them.

Mr. J. Roussety: Can he inquire?

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a question of transparency, can the Commissioner inform the House, can he confirm whether, only those who did not possess any water tank have been provided with these construction materials or whether, there have been people who already processed a water tank that have been provided with materials for another tank whereas, in the same village, others not having any water tank have been deprived of same?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said in my answer, those families who possess only one water tank of capacity less than 2 m³ will be granted materials for one water tank. Regarding those who do not, have received their materials for the construction of water tank, it is an ongoing process. It was the responsibility of the Rodrigues Council Official Services who submitted the list for survey and construction of water tank in Rodrigues.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir...

Mr. Chairperson: Sorry.

Mr. J. Roussety: No, it is okay.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Can I know from the Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether, there is at the level of his commission, a close

monitoring in so far as the use of these materials is concerned to avoid misuse of same?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. There is a team.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner confirm to the House whether, there has been discrimination in allocating water tanks to some families, poor families? I give you some examples. Some families, it is mandatory to have lease.... *CEB tout ça. Mais* in some cases, people are obtaining these water tanks without these documents.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Pas à ma connaissance, M. le président. Et tout se fait dans la transparence.

Mr. J. Daniel Spéville: Can the Commissioner inform the House whether, the provision of gutters form part of this project? And, whether, at the level of his commission, assistance is being given to these households for the water preservation?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, gutters form part of this project. But, we may have problems with suppliers not having the gutters in Rodrigues, which have to come from Mauritius.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, how does it come that materials have been allocated and the gutters are still in Mauritius? I would like to know what type of project is being implemented. The water tanks are being built, are being allocated. A tender has been launched but the gutters are still in Mauritius.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, you do not need gutters to construct the water tank. The construction of the water tank comes first and the gutters come after.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has mentioned that there is a team to ensure monitoring of these materials issued to beneficiaries. Can I know from the Commissioner concerned whether there are any cases reported to the commission or to that team for the cases of sale of these materials?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Pas à ma connaissance, M. le président.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question.

**CONSTRUCTION OF
FOUR DESALINATION PLANTS**

(No. B/122): Mr. J. C. Agathe (The First Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others whether, in regard to the installation or the construction of the four desalination plants in Rodrigues, he will:

- (a) state if any survey was conducted prior to the identification of the four sites and also on the availability of water, brine monitoring system, electrical energy consumption, and if so, to table copies of reports/findings thereof and if not, why;
- (b) give a progress of the works on the different sites to date; and
- (c) state if any defects were noted or occurred during the construction works on the different sites, and if so, to table the results thereof and the remedial measures undertaken?

The Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a cadastral survey was effected to find four appropriate sites for the construction of four desalination plants. A pre-bid meeting with potential bidders was carried out to show the sites. Since this is a design built and turnkey project, it was the bidder's responsibility to carry out the surveys/investigations required in view to propose the most economically and technically feasible solution.

With respect to energy consumption, this was one of the criteria on which the Commission based itself for choosing the optimum design. It is to be noted that the two plants at Pointe Venus and Caverne Bouteille are still in pre-commissioning phase and electricity consumption shall be monitored at operation.

As regards to the progress of works on different sites, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am thereby tabling these reports for the four sites. **(Appendix I)**

As regards to part (c), it is a design built and turnkey project. The commission has nothing to do with defects. The contractor has to make good all defects on sites.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether, he remembers earlier this year, that he stated that by 15 of April, whether he remembers that he said in this House that by 15 April 2014, all of these four plants would have been in operation.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is not on the 15 April, it is on the 10 of April. But, the problem remains with the Contractor who is delaying the works so that up to now, only two desalination plants are on pre-commissioning test.

Mr. J. Roussety: *Mr. Chairperson, Sir, l'engagement formel du commissaire, il avait crié : « on va terminer à partir du 10 avril ». Aujourd'hui, nous sommes le 16 décembre. Comptez combien de mois ça fait. Est-ce que le commissaire va considérer qu'il doit démissionner suite à cet état de chose ?*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Ce qui s'est passé avec l'épisode de Songe, M. le président, plus d'une année que le projet a été mis en chantier et n'a pas été complété. Et, pour la question de démission, il peut se rêver mais comme je vous dis, la faute revient au contracteur, M. le président.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has mentioned that the Contractor is delaying the project. So, what is being done at the level of his commission to avoid this problem if the Contractor is delaying? And, he is aware of that fact. These are his words, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. So, I would like to know from the Commissioner what has been done. What measures have been taken?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, necessary measures are being taken regarding the lateness of the Contractor. And, as I have said, it is a design and turnkey project on these sites. So, we are waiting for the measures that will be taken.

The Minority Leader: Whether, according to a statement that, he, himself, made in this House earlier, this year, he stated that liquidated damage will be applied as per the condition of the contract at a rate of Rs 20,000 per day on each site. Can I ask him up to now, how much money has been received by his commission with regard to this liquidated damage that, he, himself, mentioned for the four sites? And, secondly, he did confirm to me upon a question that I asked him that he gave assurance to the House that by the end of this year, the four desalination plants will be fully operational. Does he still maintain what he said?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not the Contractor. But, regarding the liquidated damage, this will be applied at the end of the project.

Mr. J. Daniel Spéville: Can the Commissioner inform the House out of the Rs 156 m. earmarked for the project, whether, money is still available for further payment to the Contractor?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Put the question, please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: No, I have two questions, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. First one.

Mr. Chairperson: Come with your question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: 2, part (a). Part (a), refer to part (a): to table copies of reports and findings. Where are the findings? Where are the reports? Because according to the scope of work, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at 5.0, is to carry out site investigation and to obtain all data necessities. In this House, we want to have copies of these documents, here, first of all.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a design built and turnkey project. We do not have anything to do with these reports. So, after the completion, the pre-commissioning, then, we will look into what....

Mr. J. C. Agathe: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a problem, here. Prior to the starting of the work, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the scope of work is to carry out all site investigation. We want to have the findings. We want the findings to be tabled, here. Where are the findings for the four sites?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a turnkey project. We do not have anything to do with the matter.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question, please.

Mr. J. Daniel Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether, Commissioning Certificate will be issued for each desalination plant or same will be issued for all the four at one go? And, secondly, *est-ce que le Commissaire serait d'accord de rendre public les commissioning reports après les commissioning de Pointe Venus et Anse Goéland ?*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we will have a certificate for each of the four desalination plants.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt : Merci, M. le président. M. le président, il y a un problème. Le problème, c'est qu'il y a le contracteur, la commission et il y a aussi les consultants. On a demandé les rapports. C'est vrai qu'on a appris que le *EIA has been waved*.

But when the EIA has been waved, it is waved provided you give report afterwards. And, these reports, these studies and reports should be carried out by the Consultants together with officers of the commission and even the Contractor. How come the Commissioner come here and says that it is up to the Contractor? He is misleading the House, Mr. Chairperson, Sir! This is not correct!

Mr. Chairperson: Put your question, please.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt : Yes, I am putting the question. How come the Commissioner, he comes here and say that it is the responsibility of the Contractor when it is the studies have to be carried out by Consultants, officers of the commission, the Commission for Environment, his commission and then, to table the report? And, how come that the report has not reached this House?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have already answered to these questions.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question!

[Interruptions]

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please!

PAYMENT OF ROAD TAXES – NATIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

(No. B/123): Mr. J. C. Agathe (The First Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to the cashier office for the payment of road taxes of the National Transport Authority sub-office at Baie lascars, he will state:

- (a) the amount of money collected therefor for the years 2012, 2013 and 2014, respectively;

- (b) the time for the closure of the cash office;
- (c) if there has been any discrepancies or fraud which have occurred thereat from January 2012 to date and the mechanism put in place on a daily basis, if any, for the reconciliation of vouchers an amount deposited at the Bank of Mauritius; and
- (d) the measures taken, if any, by the Commission to ensure compliance with paragraph 8 of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers by the Officers posted thereat?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: *Narnier li pa koné!*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the amount of money collected...

Mr. Chairperson: Sorry, Commissioner. You have to mind your words, please. Now, you proceed, please, Commissioner, without any comment!

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the question, the amount of money collected for the year 2012 to date is as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs)
2012	13,897,990.00
2013	15,448,734
2014 (01 January to 30 November)	14,664,097.50

- (b) As regards to part (b) of the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the time of closure of the National Transport Authority Sub Office is 14.00 hours.
- (c) As for part (c), no discrepancy or fraud has been detected from January 2012 to date.
- (d) As regard to part (d), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we always rest assured that the Public Officers of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly stand guided by the Code of Ethics for Public Officers, no particular measures have been taken by my Commission to ensure compliance to paragraph 8 of the abovementioned code for the officers posted at the Sub Office of the National Transport Authority.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, being given, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the money collected by the NTA is being deposited at the Bank of Mauritius, can we know at the level of his commission or at the level of Rodrigues Regional Assembly what mechanism has been put in place so that a cross-check with all the vouchers and money deposited at the Bank of Mauritius is tally?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, these money are being reconsolidated by the Auditors when they come to Rodrigues.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a daily basis or on a weekly basis?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is no means of control for we have only internal control at the Central Administration Office and no officers are mandated to check the Cashier at the National Transport Authority.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it may be possible that the amount that has been cashed by the Cash Office does not tally with the vouchers. Because as regard to what the Commissioner just said, there is no cross-check because as regard to finance, there should be on a daily basis what we call. Sorry. Yes, as regard to finance, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there should be on a regular basis, on a daily basis, cross-checks of finance so that all transaction is tallied.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since February 2012, as I have said, there is no discrepancies or fraud because the officer concerned is a very good officer and does his work to the best of himself. I do not know where the respected Member is coming. If he has something that there is discrepancy, he may go to the Police and give a statement there.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

PAYMENT OF STIPEND/ALLOWANCES

(No. B/124): Mr. J. Allan Ladd Emilien (The Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to payment of stipend/allowances or any other fee to Rodriguan students studying in mainland Mauritius, she will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) If there has been any lateness for the payment thereof and if so why;

- (b) The names of the students concerned and indicating, if any, their respective educational institutions; and
- (a) The measures taken or to be taken, if any, to avoid recurrence of same?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (a) of the question, I am informed that there is no lateness for payment of stipend. All applications approved after screening were paid for period January to December 2014.

As regards part (b) of the question, given that there is no lateness, the question of compiling a list does not arise.

Moreover, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, part (c) of the question does not hold since, as I have said earlier, no lateness has been noted and therefore, the question of recurrence does not arise.

However, I have to point out here that all applications received are scrupulously scrutinised, by a Committee based on a set of criteria: such as the income ceiling of parents, favourable social enquiry report and the students who are not in receipt of other financial aid. Very often, the students, themselves, do not submit the necessary documentary evidence on time. This gives rise to a perception that there is undue delay.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am a bit surprised to learn from the Deputy Chief Commissioner that there is no lateness in the payment of stipend. But, I did not mention only stipend in my question. I mentioned other fees also. Because there are cases namely at the Sir Guy Forget Polytechnic Institution in Flacq where, fees have not been paid for some students for several months. Is the Deputy Chief Commissioner aware of this situation, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? And, if yes, what are the measures taken or envisaged to avoid same?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, dealing with the institutions, there are communication between the two institutions RRA and Polytechnic and any other institution. Should there be any delay, the institution sends a letter and if there is delay. And, of course, if we have taken the responsibility to pay for the fees, so, payment are being done. So, I cannot see how the respected Member can come and say that there are delay and mostly that the fees are paid directly to the institution. So, the question of delay does not arise.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, she is aware that there is a case of one student who resided at Songes presently studying at the Lycée Polytechnique Sir Guy Forget at Flacq where, a letter has been sent to the local authorities of the RRA concerning lateness of the payment of fees. He was given a delay up to the 02 December this year, Mr. Chairperson, Sir for the payment of these fees. A letter has been sent to the local authorities here in Rodrigues. But up to 30 of November, no reply has been received by the institution. Is the Deputy Chief Commissioner aware of this case?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je ne suis pas au courant d'un cas particulier. Mais le membre a bien dit ; délai, c'est le 02 décembre. Arrivé au 30 novembre, il n'y a pas eu de lettre, il n'y a pas eu de paiement. Ça va se faire. Donc, le 30 novembre pour le 02 décembre, je suis sûre que les lettres, les paiements ont été faits. Et bien sûr que les paiements se font seulement et seulement s'il y a un *claim* d'une institution. Donc, une fois qu'il y a eu des *claims*, donc, je maintiens que les paiements vont se faire. Et jusqu'ici, je ne suis pas au courant d'aucun cas de retard.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question, please.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the delay has been granted because we have... *On avait déjà dépassé la date limite. On lui avait accordé un sursis.* And, there is another case, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, two cases, where, two brothers studying at the University of Mauritius who were earning a stipend from the RRA during four months, four consecutive months, they did not receive their stipend. I would like to know.

You know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, our students study in difficult conditions in Mauritius, be it for lodging, for whatever other facilities. And, if over and above this situation, the local authorities, here... My question is already put to the Deputy Chief Commissioner.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: J'inviterais le respecté membre de soumettre les noms à la commission s'il y a eu des cas que moi, je ne suis pas au courant jusqu'à maintenant. On va faire le nécessaire. Mais je maintiens aussi que quand il y a eu des retards dans les paiements, c'est que l'étudiant, lui-même, n'a pas soumis les documents qu'il faut. Et je ne vais pas, moi, forcer un fonctionnaire à signer, à approuver le paiement si le document des étudiants n'est pas complet. Donc, il y a la responsabilité de l'étudiant aussi pour que son dossier soit complet et pour que le paiement soit fait dans les délais qu'il faut.

Mr. J. Daniel Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House here, whether, there is a committee that has been set up to fine-tune arrangement that is between her commission, here, and authorities in Mauritius regarding attendance and payment? And, perhaps, if their committee, which has been set up sometimes, can tell the student whether, there is *un retard pour un dossier*, whether, the committee, whether there is a committee, a special committee that has been set up between her commission and authorities in Mauritius to avoid this delay?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je dois faire mention de la différence qu'on a mise en place, la différence qui, aujourd'hui, dans le paiement du *stipend* et comparé auparavant, avant 2012, la première chose, c'est que c'était basé sur la présence des étudiants au niveau de l'université de l'institution. L'étudiant devait avoir au moins 80%. Tout ça, on a aboli pour faciliter l'étudiant. On a aboli et qu'aujourd'hui, ce qui se passe, on demande à l'étudiant à la fin du semestre d'envoyer son *result slip* pour qu'on soit sûr qu'il va continuer ses études. Donc, la question d'*attendance* ne tiens plus.

Deuxième chose aussi, on a vu qu'avant, il y avait un quota pour allouer le *stipend*. Avant février 2012, il y avait que pour 30 étudiants à peu près par an. Et c'était *on first come, first served basis*. Aujourd'hui, *it is irrespective of the number of student as far as they fall under the criteria*.

Moins que 12,500, tous les étudiants, ils ont leur *stipend*. Et on a aussi voulu changer pour améliorer le système à partir de janvier 2015, au lieu d'attendre chaque trois mois pour payer, l'étudiant aura son *stipend* le jour de la paye comme tout le monde. Mais, bien sûr, arrivé la fin du semestre, l'enfant doit produire son *certificate*, son *result slip* pour être sûr encore une fois qu'il continue. Donc, on est en train de constamment changer et améliorer le système pour faciliter la vie des étudiants.

Donc, pour dire qu'aujourd'hui, franchement, je dois dire qu'on n'a pas de leçon à prendre de ce qu'ils faisaient, nous. Parce qu'à chaque fois, il y a un comité bien sûr qui travaille et on reçoit des propositions. Moi-même, je discute avec les membres du comité pour nous assurer qu'on facilite la vie des parents et des étudiants. Donc, et l'année prochaine, ce sera plus facile pour nous tous.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: M. le président, une dernière question. Que de belles paroles de la part de la Chef commissaire adjointe.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner mentioned that there may be some latenesses and in these cases, it is the responsibility of the students for late submission of documents. So, can we know from her whether, there have been

any cases of latenesses in the payment of fees, stipend or whatever allowance due to lateness in the submission of documents by those students in Mauritius?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Je l'ai dit dans ma réponse au départ, M. le président. Donc, dans les cas où il y a eu des retards, *very often, students, themselves, do not submit the necessary documentary evidence on time. This gives rise to a perception that there is delay.* Donc, c'est eux, qui, s'ils n'ont pas donné, on ne peut pas leur donner leur argent.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: I am sorry, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the reply given by the Deputy Chief Commissioner to part (a) of my question has misled the House. She said that there is no lateness in the payment of fees. And, so, part (b) and part (c) does not arise. So, now, you are saying different things. You are saying that there may be at times lateness in the payment. So, has there been any lateness, be it due to late submission of documents or by whatever reason here at the level of your commission?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: La réponse est claire, M. le président, pour les dossiers complets, il n'y a pas eu de *lateness*. Donc, c'est clair. Et il y a eu un ou deux cas où des élèves, eux-mêmes, n'avaient pas envoyé leurs documents à temps, ils ont été payés après. Donc, ça, c'est sûr, ça coule de source. Donc.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question, please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, I know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the Commissioner responsible for delegation has met the students in Mauritius. There have been many discussions. They have reached an agreement. And, what have been done with the remarks exposed by the students up to now, being given that my colleague, Mr. Emilien, just mentioned names of students that, up to now, have not received their stipend?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, la rencontre qui était très fructueuse, entre l'Assemblée Régionale dont moi-même, comme Commissaire de la Formation et mon collègue, Tourisme, avec les étudiants était très fructueux. C'était justement dans cet esprit de démocratie participative que nous prenons, que nous avons voulu aller à la rencontre de ces jeunes pour discuter avec eux pour voir comment est-ce que l'Assemblée Régionale peut leur aider davantage dans leurs études. Et c'est là, la question qui était posée, c'était le montant du *stipend*. On a été à l'écoute. C'était Rs3000, ça passe à Rs4000 à partir de janvier.

Deuxième point, c'était aussi la régularité dans le paiement. Parce qu'on payait pour trois mois à chaque fois avec surtout *attendance* à l'appui. Donc, il proposait qu'on trouve un système pour améliorer cela. On l'a fait. Je l'ai dit déjà, à partir de janvier, ce sera payé chaque jour, chaque fin de mois le jour de la paye. Donc, les propositions des jeunes ont été prises en considération.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Pas encore fait, ce sera pour bientôt. *B/125, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.*

**CT SCAN
– QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL**

(No. B/125): Mr. J. Allan Ladd Emilien (The Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to the CT Scan recently installed at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, he will state:-

- (a) if there has been any breakdown of same during the past three months to date and if so, the nature thereof?
- (b) the cost for the repair thereof, if any, and indicating the technicians involved in the repair?

The Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports (Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as you are aware, the CT scan is an expensive, complex and sensitive equipment, which requires careful and trained care. Parameters such as electrical supply and voltage fluctuations, temperature control and radiation limits have to be strictly adhered to.

I am informed that there were some concerns over an error message appearing on the CT scan interface related to the electric supply in late November 2014. Immediately, the supplier, FTM (Mauritius) Ltd was notified and systematic testing of air conditioners, UPS system and the CT scan, itself, were carried out by the Biomedical Engineers of the Supplier and Technical experts from South Africa. I am further informed that the CT Scan is back into operation since 12 December 2014.

With regard to part (b) of the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to remind the House that the equipment is still under warranty and all costs related to the repairs or review and maintenance are entirely borne by the supplier.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, from the Commissioner, what is the date of the expiry of the warranty period?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to remind the House that there is a four-year maintenance period but the warranties for one year. That is, from the date it was commissioned.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, has the Commission seized the opportunity of the presence of the technicians from South Africa and Biomedical Technicians of the supplier to train some, I do not know, some technicians from local boys, here?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, training by suppliers, experts from South Africa was dispensed in two sessions to users such as imaging technologies as per contractual agreement. Radiation, protection, authority also dispense training to users with respect to precautions, safety measures to be adopted while handling the CT Scan. The post of Biomedical Engineer has been approved and recruitment is expected in 2015.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that we just received such important CT Scan for Rodrigues for almost Rs 25 m. or more. Since April this year up to December this year, it is about six months, how can we ascertain, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that a brand new apparatus has been break down?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think I mentioned in my reply that due to electrical problems to the UPS, this is why the error message was recorded on the interface of the CT Scan. So, once this was repaired, everything was okay. Nothing to do with the CT Scan.

Mr. J. Daniel Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether, following this breakdown, further technical assistance in terms of training has been sought from the supplier to prevent breakdown again?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I said, there is a fluctuation in electricity. So, the UPS, we installed the UPS to prevent problems to the CT Scan. So, there is no further training needed. But, nevertheless, as I have mentioned, we are recruiting a Biomedical Engineer on a full-time basis in Rodrigues in 2015.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that such apparatus, brand new apparatus is getting breakdown, I mean, say often, can we know from the Commissioner what guarantee the commission is giving to the general public so as to use such equipment?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Is the Commissioner here to give guarantee? Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is an apparatus. So, may I remind the Member on the other side of the House he is talking about often. It is not often. We have had a problem, as I said, an error in the interface. So, maybe he has not understood what I said. All the staffs using the CT Scan, they have been trained by experts from South Africa and the supplier.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we all know that the CT Scan is a very sensitive equipment and the Commissioner confirms same. Can we know from the Commissioner whether, it is only after that problem with electric supply that a UPS has been installed for the security of this sensitive equipment?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Maybe the respective Member, an ex-Commissioner for Health has not understood what I said. I mentioned that the UPS was installed well before. So, whenever there is a problem, it will affect the UPS first before. This is why we have put the UPS to prevent damages to the CT Scan.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not a technician but when we install UPS, the main purpose of installing UPS is to protect the equipment from fluctuation in electric supply. So, I do not understand.

Mr. I. Valimamode: I said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that once there was fluctuation in electricity, there was an error message, just an error message appeared on the interface. So, there is nothing to do with the CT Scan.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question.

ILLEGAL FISHING

(No. B/126): Mr. J. Allan Ladd Emilien (The Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to illegal fishing in Rodrigues, he will state:

- (a) the number of alleged reported cases since January 2014 to date;
- (b) the total length of nets, number of harpoons, submarine guns and other illegal weapons seized; and
- (c) the number of offenders facing prosecution, if any, and indicating the number of persons convicted for that period?

The Commissioner responsible for Fisheries and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, the number of alleged reported cases since January 2014 to date is 210. With regard to part (b), the information is as follows:-

- (i) 7118.4 m of illegal nets have been seized
- (ii) 15 harpoons
- (iii) 1 Submarine gun
- (iv) 13 torches
- (v) 32 masks
- (vi) 34 snorkels
- (vii) 1 pair of flippers
- (viii) 5 shrimp nets
- (ix) 1 conical nets
- (x) 3 baskets traps
- (xi) 51 iron spears
- (xii) 2 pairs of fins
- (xiii) 1 wooden rod

With regard to part (c), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed by the Divisional Commander of Police that a total of 19 cases are awaiting prosecution and some are still under police enquiry. Four persons have been convicted and were fined by the Rodrigues District Magistrate.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I know from the Commissioner is there an increase in the number of illegal weapon seized by officers of his commission for the, let us say, the past three years, increase or decrease?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not have this information but the increase or decrease of whatever tools collected, whatever net seized, is not an indication of how the illegal fishing is being done.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: I am not talking about the indication, how it is being done. It was just, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to know whether, there are actions being taken or envisaged by his commission to cater for the increase, if any, in the number of cases. Because so many times, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we hear on radio that so many metres of illegal nets have been seized, no offenders have been caught and an enquiry is underway. Every time, it is like that. I just wanted to know from the Commissioner what are the measures taken to avoid recurrence of same every time on and off.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let me just inform the House that, let me inform the Member that most of the nets that are being collected is mainly a sort of record gill nets put at night and the fishermen just leave the net there and go at home and then, they come back the next morning. So, when you collect the fisheries officers pass by, you just collect the net and they do not see any offender.

That is one case. But just to note that, inform him as well, that the 2015 will be revolutionary with regards to protection of illegal fishing. Because we are putting some, we are using the topography of Rodrigues to better protect the sea. So, some watchtowers will be fixed this year. We have already done some surveys.

The places have already been vetted. The land has already been vetted to my commission and the watchtowers with sophisticated materials. And, I am happy to tell the House also that today, photographs may be used at Court. So, we will be putting sophisticated materials in four areas of Rodrigues, where, we better monitor the sea even at night.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we can use watchtowers, we can use sophisticated materials and whatever. But, if the officers meant to enforce the law do not do same, there will be no result. You are talking about revolutionary measures. I would like to know from the Commissioner whether, his commission has envisaged measures in so far as the personnel is concerned.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at this level as well, we are recruiting somebody to head the Fisheries Division soon. And, this is already in the budget. So, soon, next year, we will get someone at the head, another person at the head of Fisheries. And, also, all these watchtowers will be watched also not just by Fisheries officers, there will be coastguards as well. And, the Chief Commissioner has done quite a lot of negotiations in Mauritius and we are getting a lot of coastguards now.

So, things are changing. And, we are purchasing also, two fast boats, two speedboats. One will be operational next week because the engines have already put on. So, there is quite a lot of things coming to protect the sea. And, also, we are doing a sort of community policing, a sort of talking to the community, using the community to better protect the sea. And, I am glad to tell the House also that people should be honest that to say that there is a lot of fish in Rodrigues actually. Because every day, you go in Rodrigues, you see fish. This means that there is protection going on and mainly fish are being protected at the level of when they really need to be protected.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: It is because there are so many illegal fishers. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am happy to note from the Commissioner that two speedboats have been ordered, one is already operational. Can I know from the Commissioner whether, these two speedboats are adapted for the lagoon or out sea? I mean the *tyrant d'eau etc.*

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Yes, the speedboat will be mainly for outside the lagoon because it can be used in the inside as well at high tide. But, the problem that we are having is most illegal fishing is done at the reef level. And, at low tide, everybody knows that no boat can go to the reef and you cannot expect the Fisheries officers to walk or to run in the lagoon to go and do whatever.

So, the best way would be to go out the lagoon and to be closer to these people and to use the appropriate technologies, photographs, whatever, to stop or to decrease illegal fishing.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, the Commissioner just mentioned about the number of weapons seized. What about fish? Can we know the amount of fish product and what has been done with the fish seized?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Member should have come with a question because I do not have in my head how much fish have been collected. But I can tell him that most, all the fish collected normally goes to the shelter, to prison and to the hospital.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: *Please, a last supplementary. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Je voudrais savoir du Commissaire, M. le président, si d'après les règlements en vigueur à Rodrigues, les poissons que nous voyons sur le marché qui comportent des trous et que nous savons tous d'où proviennent ces poissons, comment ils ont été pêché, est-ce que nous avons des règlements permettant à nos officiers de poursuivre les gens qui mettent en vente ce type de poisson ?*

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Non, M. le président. Parce que normalement, le poisson, quand il est sur le marché, il n'y a aucune preuve que ce poisson a été pêché avec... Je crois que le membre dit, veut parler de harpon, je ne sais pas quoi. Mais un poisson peut être dans un corail, quelqu'un qui vient avec un harpon, il peut tuer le poisson et le mettre sur le marché.

Donc, légalement, on ne peut pas. Il faut attraper la personne sur le fait, c'est-à-dire, si la personne est en train de faire le délit, on peut regarder si c'est *underwater fishing or whatever*, à ce moment-là. Parce que si c'est fait en dehors de l'eau, c'est légal. Mais si c'est fait la tête sous l'eau, là, c'est illégal. Donc, voyant le poisson sur le marché n'est pas une indication que ça a été pêché illégalement.

OPTICAL FIBER CABLE PROJECT – RODRIGUES

(No. B/127): Mr. J. Allan Ladd Emilien (The Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the optical fiber cable project for Rodrigues, she will, for the benefit of the House, state where matters stand to date?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as the House is aware, a detailed feasibility study has been carried out in view of defining the socio-economic, the environmental impact of such a project as well as the financial implication for the implementation of the Fibre Optic Cable Project in Rodrigues.

Following the submission of the detailed feasibility study, a Validation Workshop has been organised on the 21 August 2014 in the presence of various stakeholders and the action team, that is, the Consultant and the Steering Committee approved the DFS on Thursday the 31 of September and payment has been effected accordingly. And, during this same meeting, discussions regarding the way forward have been carried out among the members of the Steering Committee mostly regarding the financial model to be adopted.

It is good to recall that the Consultant recommended the setting up of the special purpose vehicle model, the SPV, for the project. with a view to ensure that the recommendations of the Consultant are adhered to, we, at the level of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, requested a meeting in November with the Finance Secretary where, he instructed that SPV model be set up and this will consider an extension of the contract of the Consultant and would approximately cost 10% to 15% of the contract price.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is worthwhile noting that the project to connect Rodrigues to sub-marine Fibre Optic Cable is estimated around one billion and with the swearing in of the new government, this project will be discussed and presented as one of the top most priority for Rodrigues shortly.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

**SUPPLY OF PRODUCTS/COMMODITIES
LOCAL MARKET – MAURITIUS**

(No. B/128): Mrs. M. D. L. C. Meunier (The Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Trade and Commerce and Others whether, in regard to the supply of products/commodities on the local market from Mauritius, he will inform the House if there are/has been any shortage of building materials, foodstuff and other commodities for the period 1st November 2014 to date and, if so, the reasons therefor?

The Commissioner responsible for Trade and Commerce and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that there have been temporary shortages of stocks of two commodities namely animal feeds and cement on the local markets as from the last week of November 2014 until the last consignment of 12 November. I am also informed that this is mainly attributed to the fact that there has been a general increase in the level of economic activities in the current year in Rodrigues as compared to 2013.

As such, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for the period of January 2014 to date, 3,833 containers have been shipped from Port Louis to Rodrigues as compared to 3,643 containers for the whole year 2013. That is, 190 additional containers for this year representing an increase of 7% as we are talking to date.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, forecasted figures until end December this year will exceed 4,000 containers representing an increase of more than 12% as compared to the previous year. As for cement, there has been a peak shipment during the month of September until November 2014 in connection with completion of road works and other construction works.

The total number of containers for cement shipped to Rodrigues in the year 2013 was 698 containers of 400 bags as compared to a total number of 766 containers from January to November this year. So, as there have been an increase in demand for most goods and services in the last three months of this year, there is, at times, also, a lack of space on the Mauritius Trochetia to accommodate all consignments during this peak season with the result that Mauritius Shipping Corporation has to prioritise among foodstuffs and non-foodstuffs containers for shipment to Rodrigues.

It is also worth to note that for safety reasons, the Mauritius Shipping Corporation had to ensure the appropriate balance and stability of the boat at sea with the result that only few containers, six of cement and two of animal feed could be shipped on the voyage that reached Rodrigues on 12 December 2014. According to information gathered, a further consignment of cement and animal

feed will reach Rodrigues shortly by the next voyage of Mauritius Trochetia scheduled to leave Mauritius by the end of this week.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am also further informed that there was a brief shortage of diesel for about 3 ½ hours on Wednesday 10 December last. This was mainly due to a drastic increase in the demand for same on the eve of the elections caused by speculations about a possible shortage of diesel in Rodrigues following certain rumours spread by some people who tried to catch some votes.

Yes, it is true but this is a case, which has been... This situation was discussed one week earlier. And, the Chief Commissioner had discussion with Prime Minister's Office and necessary arrangement was made for a special trip of the Tristar Glory vessel to carry diesel to Rodrigues on 09 December. But, unfortunately, due to bad sea conditions, it reached Rodrigues on 10 December with 365,000 litres of diesel, which approximates to our monthly consumption.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as a matter of principle, the Consumer Protection Unit of my Commission constantly monitors the supply of essential commodities to consumers and their availability on the local markets. This exercise enables us to intervene promptly, as it was the case for diesel, with the relevant authorities in Mauritius in order to ensure a constant supply of all basic commodities to Rodrigues.

Mr. J. Daniel Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are reaching the end of the year. Will the Commissioner agree with me that the fact of having only one boat deservng Rodrigues is responsible for the shortage of commodities in Rodrigues? Because now, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, today, at Petit Gabriel, for example, as if there is a meeting of L'Alliance Le Peuple...

[Interruptions]

Mr. Chairperson: You come with your question, please! Come to your question directly! No comments on both sides! No comment!

Mr. J. Daniel Spéville: Sale of animal feed is being made on *ration*. 2 livres manzé poule, 2 livres manzé cochon. Can the Commissioner inform the House whether, there has been meeting with shop owners and the MSC to see how at this end of year, availability of commodities is made on the local market for poultry, animal feed and pig feed? Because, now, at the time being, household used to rear pigs, hens, for Christmas...

Mr. Chairperson: You are making a statement. Come with your question, please!

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. Daniel Spéville: Have necessary correspondence being made with the Mauritius Shipping Corporation to cater for this? Because we see that for alcohols and cigarettes, there is availability on the market. But for these necessary commodities, animal feeds and other commodities, there is a big problem on the local market at the time being.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: The shortage is not necessarily attributed to the fact that there is only one ship. Because, as I said, there has been an increase in the number of containers reaching Rodrigues. But, the problem, also, is related to inadequate storage capacity of many wholesalers to meet the demand... They do not have a buffer stock. I had the opportunity to meet some of the wholesalers to discuss about these issues. And, this is also a real problem. Because it is always a fact that by the end of the year, it has always been like this.

We always face with situations of problems with cement, with animal feed. This is not only this year. It has always been the case. That is why I met wholesalers earlier to discuss about possibility to increase their storage capacity so that they can have a buffer stock for a longer period of time as we know that there is, during this period, a peak demand for such commodities.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: I am very happy to hear that the Commissioner has mentioned... The Commissioner mentioned that there has been increase in activities, increase in demand. *Qui veut dire que ce qui nous montre que l'économie, ça va, en décembre, ça va.* But, there is one thing. Has the Commissioner done anything? I am happy to hear that he has talked to local... les businessmen on the local market to increase storage capacity.

Mais je ne crois pas trop qu'il n'y a pas suffisamment de storage capacity. But what about negotiation with the MSC to have additional trips of Trochetia for that period of the year? Since, he has just mentioned, himself, that it has been recurrent over the years in December. *On a besoin de plus de produits, c'est la période des fêtes. Est-ce que le Commissaire a entretenus des discussions* to ensure that there will be additional trips ?

Since we know so many containers are being left behind. *Il y a* additional numbers of containers, *il y a* only one ship. *Donc, rassurez-nous que la population aura tout dont on aura besoin pour les fêtes de fin d'année.* That is one. And, can we know whether, the Commissioner has also information

concerning when will the Mauritius Pride be replaced? Since it left Rodrigues on the 24 of January 2014, we are nearly 24 of January 2015. Does he have any information as to when will the Mauritius Pride be replaced? Because two boats are still not enough for Rodrigues.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: I do not have the information, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, but I know that the Chief Commissioner will soon meet the new Prime Minister to discuss about same. And, for the question of additional ship, there will be 130, the Chief Commissioner will give a reply.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner just mentioned that he has had meetings with shopkeepers and all that persons. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is he aware that some shopkeepers or people purchasing goods from China, Thailand or all that, their containers is still at Port Louis up to now? And, we are on the eve of Christmas Festival. Can we know from the Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether, there has been any arrangement that there is another shipment for Rodrigues so that these people, they have a consignment in Mauritius and they are prepared to sell these goods for Christmas Festivals?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: I have already replied to this question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

CONSTRUCTION OF TRACK ROADS – RODRIGUES

(No. B/129): Mrs. M. D. L. C. Meunier (The Second Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others, whether, in regard to the construction of track roads across Rodrigues, for the period 1st November 2014 to date, he will state and table:

- (a) a list of track roads built together with the total kilometers thereof constructed; and
- (b) the different villages/regions concerned?

The Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am hereby tabling a list of track roads including the names of different villages/regions concerned and 2.6 km has been constructed in region 2, 4 and 5. **(Appendix II)**

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what about the other regions since the Commissioner just mentioned Region 2, 4 and 5? Can we know from him whether, the other regions 1, 3 and 6 will be concerned before the end of this financial year? That is one. And, we would also like to know out the sum allocated for minor works in villages from PBB Item Number 31113010, how much money has been spent on track road for this up until now.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, all regions will be concerned now with the construction of track road. But, due to the lack of cement, the work has been stopped. But, early, next year, we will continue the construction of track road. Regarding for the PBB for this year, Rs 15 m. has been earmarked for track road.

Mr. J. Daniel Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether, soil compaction was made on all the tracks to assure firm adherence of the track with the ground?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. Daniel Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House what precautionary clauses is present in the tender to repair defects if any after construction?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a warranty period of one year but it has been put in the tender document.

Mr. J. Daniel Spéville: Can the Commissioner inform the House whether, retention money, the sum earmarked to pay these Contractors, whether, in the sum that has been earmarked to pay the Contractor, whether there is retention money?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the work has been stopped due to the problem of cement, can we know from the Commissioner, whether, liquidated damage will be applied for track roads?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I am not aware, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, regarding the lack of cement, whether, this is included in the contract but I will look into the matter.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can we know from the Commissioner whether, there has been a final completion period for this project?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The completion of the project was by the end of this year but due to lack of cement, it will be delayed.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

ADDITIONAL TRIP – MAURITIUS TROCHETIA

(No. B/130): Mr. J. D. Spéville (The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner, whether, in regard to the forthcoming end of year festivities, he will state if any special arrangements have been made with the relevant authorities for additional trip of the Mauritius Trochetia from Mauritius to Rodrigues to cater for the availability of necessary commodities in the island?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have been informed by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping that according to the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Limited, four trips of the MS Mauritius Pride and one voyage of the MS Mauritius Trochetia served Rodrigues during the month of December 2013.

In view of the greater Container/Cargo Capacity of the Mauritius Trochetia, which is twice the capacity of the Mauritius Pride, for the month of December 2014, after November/December Agaléga Charter, three voyages of the Mauritius Trochetia have been programmed to cater for the availability of necessary commodities in the island.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have personally fielded a mission to Mauritius two weeks ago to have discussions with the relevant authorities as regards to the shipment of commodities to Rodrigues by sea. As a result, a tanker has been dispatched to Rodrigues for the conveyance of fuel. This consignment will surely provide additional space on the Mauritius Trochetia for the conveyance of additional containers.

Moreover, a correspondence has been sent to the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Limited requesting the company to increase the frequency of the voyage of the vessel to Rodrigues to ensure that there is no disruption in the availability of necessary commodities in the island. I am being given to understand that our requests are being seriously looked into.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have to inform the house the number of trips in December 2013 caters for a maximum of 340 containers whereas, for December 2014, a maximum of 390 containers could be dispatched to Rodrigues thus, representing an increase of 50 containers as compared to December 2013. However, we have noticed that even those 50 additional containers might not be sufficient.

We have been informed that the Mauritius Shipping Corporation has launched an expression of interest for the provision of the freight services to Rodrigues pending the purchase of a new vessel. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a tangible proof of an increase in the economic activity in Rodrigues.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: I am very happy about the outcome of discussions that the Chief Commissioner had. I have one question though. It is about if Trochetia is going to increase its trips on Rodrigues.

Trochetia a déjà à faire Agaléga, Réunion, Rodrigues. On augmente les *trips to Rodrigues*. Est-ce qu'on peut avoir l'assurance que Trochetia pourra assurer *these additional trips* ?

The thing is not just to increase. We are happy that it is increased to avoid shortage and disruptions. But, on the long run, will only the increased trips of Trochetia be enough to cater for our problem of one boat missing? And, when will the freight boat start working between Mauritius and Rodrigues? Because we have been hearing about that for a while and we have not seen anything yet.

Quand est-ce que ce nouveau bateau de fret ou je ne sais pas quoi que le MSC *intend to put* pour desservir Rodrigues, Maurice ? Quand est-ce qu'on aura ce bateau-là en action entre Maurice et Rodrigues ? Est-ce que le Chef commissaire pourrait nous donner des informations ? Si ce n'est pas trop demandé.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, dans mes discussions avec le *Mauritius Shipping Corporation* à Maurice, je n'ai pas eu de l'assurance qu'il y aura un voyage en plus de Trochetia. Et malheureusement, c'est ce qui a apporté ce retard sur Rodrigues, c'est le voyage de Maurice pour Agaléga où le bateau doit rester là-bas au moins cinq jours. Ça prend du temps. Et c'est pourquoi de notre côté, nous avons eu des discussions pour faire d'autres bateaux venir surtout pour le diésel et carburant. Et pour l'instant, nous n'avons aucune assurance de la part de *Mauritius Shipping Corporation*.

Quant au nouveau bateau, on discute, on parle. Mais, malheureusement, on ne sait pas. On ne sait pas quand est-ce que ce bateau va venir. On attend donc un nouveau bateau. Je ne veux pas revenir sur cette affaire de remplacement du *Mauritius Pride*.

Nous-même, nous avons été étonnés que la décision a été prise après la visite du consultant l'année dernière et que toute de suite, on a fait partir le *Mauritius Pride*. Mais ce n'est pas de notre faute ! Il aurait dû, au niveau du Gouvernement Central, le ministre ou le *Mauritius Shipping Corporation*, qui devraient savoir quand est-ce que la licence du *Mauritius Pride* allait terminer.

Et quatre ans, cinq ans avant, ils auraient dû quand même, faire le nécessaire pour avoir un autre bateau ou construire un autre bateau. Mais ça n'a pas été fait mais ce n'est pas de notre faute. Mais j'ai parlé l'autre jour dans une conférence de presse. J'ai dit qu'il faudrait que nous, au niveau de l'Assemblée Régionale, de notre autonomie régionale, nous puissions justement, nous aussi, faire partie de ce...

C'est un comité au niveau de Maurice que Rodrigues puisse être membre de ce comité pour, justement, attirer l'attention du *Mauritius Shipping Corporation* ou d'autres organisations sur les manquements qui peuvent avoir à Rodrigues. Regardez, il y a quelque chose là, justement, on a parlé de la nourriture pour les animaux. Ce n'est que l'autre jour que quelqu'un de *Food and Alive*, là, à Citronnelle, vienne me voir. J'ai dit : « *c'est maintenant que vous voyez ça ?* ». Il aurait dû me voir depuis bien longtemps.

À ce moment-là, j'aurais pu aborder la question avec le *Mauritius Shipping Corporation* pour faire venir ces containers qui sont restés à Maurice. Ces containers, où il y a des nourritures pour animaux. Il y a aussi au niveau d'ici à Rodrigues, je dois dire, une sorte de professionnalisme dans la façon d'opérer et la relation avec Maurice et avec le *Mauritius Shipping Corporation*.

Là, je leur dit, mais je vais donner le nom de M. Bobby Ramfol, le nom de monsieur untel comme ça vous pouvez très souvent parler avec eux leur dire ceci ou cela. Et c'est ça qu'il manque un petit peu, cette communication entre Rodrigues et Maurice. Et par rapport justement, et c'est pourquoi je me dit que nous avons dit l'autre jour qu'il faudrait que l'Assemblée Régionale puisse avoir des représentants au niveau des comités ou bien des *boards* à Maurice concernant Rodrigues.

Il ne faudrait pas que ces *boards*-là travaillent tout seul et que nous, nous sommes ici. Il faudra qu'on pénètre justement ces boards et qu'on puisse arriver justement à les proposer pas mal de choses. En tout cas, M. le président,

j'espère que ce qu'on nous a dit maintenant puisse se réaliser et nous aussi, nous allons suivre tout ça de près. Merci beaucoup.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: M. le président, régulièrement, voir même tous les jours, on voit des bateaux containers traverser Rodrigues en montant et en descendant tous les jours. Il y a des commerçants qui achètent des produits de la Chine, Thaïlande et autres pays de l'Est là-bas. Il traverse Rodrigues, il part vers Maurice. Puis, le container retourne à Rodrigues, on refait le montant.

Est-ce que ce n'est pas temps, M. le président, je peux demander au Chef commissaire est-ce que ce n'est pas temps que Rodrigues puisse être approvisionné en containers au lieu d'aller à Maurice de faire quelque chose pour que les containers soient déposés à Rodrigues au lieu d'aller à Maurice ?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je rigole. Depuis des années, nous disons, il faut que les containers des bateaux puissent débarquer directement les marchandises à Rodrigues. Et c'est ça, justement. Nous n'avons pas eu cinq ans, ni dix ans de l'autonomie. Qu'on-t-il fait pendant cinq ans par rapport ? Nous avons commencé justement à négocier avec la banque mondiale pour le développement du port pour que vraiment, c'est dans notre vision d'autonomie à l'avenir que des bateaux, directe...

Je remercie le l'honorable membre, parce qu'il devait ça... Alors que depuis des années, nous, on parlait dessus, que des bateaux au lieu de passer devant nous, débarquent les marchandises ici. Mais il faut des infrastructures maritimes pour que ces gros bateaux puissent entrer. Alors, M. le président, et bien, c'est notre vision d'avenir. Nous espérons que nous, nous allons. Et déjà, il y a un projet de ce côté-là. Merci beaucoup.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please. Next question is the last question for this year.

**ERADICATION POWDERY WILDEW
(ICERYA SEYCHELLARUM)
– COSNYIN**

(No. B/131): Mr. J. D. Spéville (The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal) asked the Chief Commissioner, whether, in regard to the project for the eradication of Powdery Wildew (Icerya Seychellarum) commonly known as cosnyin Rodrigues, he will give a description of progress thereof to date?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the infestation of mealy bugs throughout the island was noted around May 2014. A

rapid appraisal of the level of this infestation was immediately carried island wide by technicians of my Commission in June 2014 and a sample of the mealy bug was sent to the Entomology Services in Mauritius. On the 10 of June, it was confirmed that the bugs, commonly known as “*cochenille*” was in fact the “*Icerya Seychellarum*”, a common mealy bug of fruit trees.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, chemical pesticide was initially being used to control pest as recommended by the Entomology Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Agro Industry and Food Security. This was discontinued when it was observed a such approach resulted in the killing of numerous beneficial insects, including the honey bees.

Alternatively, a more environment-friendly spraying using solutions and biological oil was carried out starting with the Grand Baie region over two weeks as from the 14 July 2014.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, an impression of interest was then launched for the provision of labour and motorised sprayers for the purpose of carrying out a wider spraying programme.

Only nine owners of motorised sprayers responded to the Commission’s invitation to provide motorised sprayers with labour and they were all enlisted to further the spraying campaign as from August 2014

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, during two weeks, nine experienced sprayermen of the Agricultural Services trained the private sprayermen on the use of solutions following which, they were deployed into teams in other regions within Port Mathurin and its vicinities as start-up zone due to its hot climate and being a pest entry point by visiting ships.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when it was noted that the nine private sprayermen will not achieve the target, decision was taken to enlist the services of some 40 more sprayermen with additional sprayers and by the 22 September 2014, the spraying campaign reached its full swing with the mobilisation between 07.00 am to 02.00 pm from Mondays to Saturday of 45 sprayers operated by private sprayermen divided into eight teams and closely supervised by 25 field officers and technicians.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to date, some 20 villages from Grand Baie to Port Mathurin up to Pointe la Gueule and la Ferme have been covered. The spraying is progressing satisfactorily.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, spraying is not done on windy and rainy day for obvious reason. Wasps bite among sprayermen is also an impediment to the

smooth running of the activity. Household­ers are fully cooperating with sprayermen through the provision of water.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission also organised to have a consignment of a predator bugs from the Entomology Services in Mauritius which are being mass bred in the laboratory. These predators have been released in different locations namely Grand Baie, Camp du Roi and Port Mathurin and their proliferation is being noted. Another consignment of that predator bug now being mass bred in the laboratory is being awaited early next January 2015.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the spraying campaign, itself, is expected to restart in mid-January 2015 in the villages previously mentioned and islandwise following the present evaluation of the effectiveness of the spraying campaign.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for the information of the House, to date, the spraying campaign has cost around Rs 5 m. inclusive of provision of materials and solution, provision for private labour and overtime to the staff. Thank you.

Mr. J. Daniel Spéville: First, can the Chief Commissioner inform the House whether, during the project of eradication, a survey was made on the number of plants namely fruit, which have died because of powdery mealy due, and what is the way forward.

And, secondly, being given that his commission is having recalls to implement a biological control against “*cochenille*”, will the chemical control be stopped next year?

The Chief Commissioner: According to the first question, I need notice of the question. I do not have the information here. Campaign, we will continue next year as I said in my answer. We will continue. We will not stop. And, the technicians of agriculture are going around to find out. And, according to the question, I have taken notice. And, perhaps, I will have the answers and they will be tabled in the Assembly. Thank you.

Mr. J. Daniel Spéville: I am asking the Chief Commissioner whether, being given that predators are being released, a sort of biological control, whether, his commission will continue with the chemical control.

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

The Chief Commissioner: I already put the answer to the question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Chief Commissioner aware that the Food Agricultural Research and Extension Institute of Mauritius has made experiments to introduce what we call, *des mouchérons, pour éradiquer les cochenilles sud-américains*, that we call, *Acerophagus Papayae*. And, in Rodrigues, we have "*Icerya Seyhellarum*". Will these mouchérons be efficient for these types of powdery mildew?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have said in my reply. There is a close collaboration with the Entomologist Unit of the Ministry in Mauritius and we are working together. That is why, the privileges are being sent by the L'AREU and so on and we are working together. I thank, there, this collaboration between the experts, the technicians from Mauritius and Rodrigues. I think it is a good start for the future, working together in order to... against any infestations in Rodrigues. Thank you very much.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I understand the good collaboration between the Commission for Agriculture in Rodrigues and L'AREU in Mauritius. I understand. And, I, also, I thank for that. But, what I am saying here is that in Mauritius, they are introducing *Acerophagus Papayae*, a *moucheron* for *cochenille sud-américaine* and in Rodrigues, we have another type of *moucheron*, which is called "*Icerya Seyhellarum*". Mr. Chairperson, Sir, will these *mouchérons* that have been introduced in Rodrigues be efficient to eradicate the powdery mildew? This is what I am asking.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, j'ai dit ça dans mon rapport. Les prédateurs, il y a encore dans les laboratoires à Maurice qu'ils sont en train d'envoyer. Alors, tout ça... Mais il y a déjà qui sont venus, il y a d'autres qui va venir ! C'est très simple, M. le président. Et s'il y a des problèmes à Rodrigues et aussi les mêmes problèmes à Maurice, et bien, évidemment, on va travailler ensemble pour arriver justement à faire partir, à détruire tous ces infestations qui nous nuisent à Rodrigues.

On a eu, par exemple, au niveau pour les abeilles, on a eu pour les abeilles des personnes venant de La Réunion justement pour nous aider à combattre justement comment s'appelle ? Le... On a même avec le CIRAD, on a l'étroite collaboration, le travail extraordinaire avec le CIRAD. On a signé un accord, protocole d'accord avec le CIRAD. Et tout ça, vraiment, c'est extraordinaire, ces coopérations, Maurice, Réunion, Rodrigues justement. Alors, là, je n'ai qu'à féliciter justement ces personnes de La Réunion, de Maurice, et que tout le monde, nous sommes concernés par tout ce qui peut détruire ce que nous avons à Rodrigues, à La Réunion et à Maurice.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the question of powdery mildew is of major concern to our agriculture in

Rodrigues, can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether, his commission has conducted a survey to know exactly which types of plants or crops are mostly affected by these pests? And, how much losses are we encountered up to now? And, whether, he is prepared to conduct/set up an action plan for the future because now, we are in the eradication stage. Up to now, we have not got a final solution to it. Maybe, we have to plan for the future in order to see in the long-term how to get rid completely of these and how to protect all other vulnerable plants which are easily affected by these pests.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have technicians in the Commission for Agriculture. They are aware of those infestations and they are now making survey what is going on. That is why, we are going to reorganise what we call, the structure of the agricultural services in Rodrigues so that those people who are the scientific officers, instead of sitting in an office, they shall be in the field seeing what is going on, you know. And, this is what we say.

We must be aware. Rodriguans must know what will happen to Rodrigues in 5 years, 10 years, 15 years' time. And, they are there to protect what can happen to our island. So, thank you to the Minority Leader for raising this issue. And, I, myself, in next meeting, and, we are taking notice and will find out. Thank you.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: M. le président, j'apprécie la manière dont le Chef commissaire a répondu à cette question. Je pense que l'unité a jailli la chambre aujourd'hui.

As regard the tendering procedure... I do not know whether, prior to the Minority Leader, there has been something. As regard the tendering procedure, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can we know from the Chief Commissioner, as regard to the Procurement of Services for the powdery mildew, whether the procurement according to PPA has been adhered to?

The Chief Commissioner: Of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Every decision we take, it should be according to laws and regulations of the Public Service. Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: I suspend the Assembly for one hour and 15 minutes for lunch.

At 12.30 hours, the Assembly was suspended.

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

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

WAY OF CONDUCT – RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have two statements. This is the first one.

M. le président, selon la tradition, permettez-moi de dire quelques mots sur la conduite des affaires de cette Assemblée durant cette année. À ce jour, nous avons eu neuf séances y compris celle d'aujourd'hui. Il convient également de noter que quatre séances sont allées au-delà de 07.00 heures du soir afin de débattre sur le règlement et aussi délibérer au sein du *Estimate Committee* du budget 2015 avant son approbation.

Nous avons aussi répondu à plus de 131 questions parlementaires exigeant des réponses orales sur lesquelles, 36 ont été retirées et trois questions parlementaires exigeant des réponses écrites. Cette Assemblée a, en 2014, voté deux règlements pour le bien-être des habitants de l'île Rodrigues. À savoir, le *Rodrigues Regional Assembly Child Protection Mentoring Order Regulations 2014* et le *Rodrigues Regional Assembly Prohibition of Use of Plastic Bags Regulations 2014*.

M. le président, nous tenons à exprimer notre profonde gratitude pour votre sens aigu, d'équité et d'impartialité dans la conduite des affaires de cette Assemblée durant cette année. Nous tenons aussi à remercier le vice-président pour sa contribution aux délibérations chaque fois qu'il a été appelé à le faire.

Je voudrais également exprimer mon appréciation à tous les élus pour leur participation constructive au débat. J'adresse mes remerciements au Clerc de l'Assemblée Régionale, au *Deputy Clerk* et tous les personnels de l'Assemblée Régionale y compris le personnel de la bibliothèque pour le bon dévouement au bon fonctionnement de cette Assemblée.

Nos remerciements vont aussi à l'*Island Chief Executive*, les *Departmental Heads* et tous les staffs des différentes commissions, de l'Assemblée Régionale qui ont contribué d'une manière ou d'une autre pour bon déroulement des travaux de cette Assemblée. Ce remerciement s'étend aussi au *Serjeant-at-Arms* et les officiers de la police. Merci pour votre attention.

[Applause]

OUTCOME OF RECENT GENERAL ELECTIONS

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, le mercredi 10 décembre dernier, la population Rodriguaise était appelée aux urnes afin d'élire deux fils du sol qui siégeront en tant que député au sein de l'Assemblée Nationale. Je tiens à saluer le comportement exemplaire des Rodriguais pour ce scrutin. Nos compatriotes ont montré leur maturité d'esprit et de discipline.

Je tiens aussi à saluer l'excellent travail du commissaire électoral, la commission électorale, le *Returning Officer* et tout le staff qui ont travaillé, les agents politiques dans les différents centres de votes, les partisans des différents bords politiques ont contribué à ce que cette élection soit dans le respect des règles démocratiques et font honneur à l'île Rodrigues.

M. le président, comme toute élection, il y a des gagnants et des perdants. Le peuple de Rodrigues a choisi de placer leur confiance en l'OPR en choisissant ces deux candidats nommément, Jean Francisco François et Joseph Buisson Léopold comme leurs représentants pour les cinq prochaines années.

M. le président, le combat de l'OPR remonte à bien des années. C'est en 1976 que les Rodriguais ont décidé de créer un parti politique qui reflète leur vision, leur aspiration et leur voie. Et cette victoire est le renouvellement de la confiance de cette lutte que nos grands-parents ont commencé dans ces années difficiles de notre histoire socio-politique.

M. le président, malgré les fausses promesses, les mensonges, les intimidations et l'influence de l'argent, les électeurs ont tenus fermes. Ce jeudi 11 décembre, les urnes ont livré un verdict sans appel. L'OPR a obtenu une large victoire soit plus de 55% de l'électorat comparé aux élections de 2010 où elle a obtenu 48% du suffrage. Cette élection est aussi celui du renouvellement de confiance dans la politique de mon Gouvernement Régional.

M. le président, la jeunesse rodriguaise a contribué largement à cette victoire. N'oublions pas que le principal objectif de nos adversaires était '*Nou gagne sa élection et après Gouvernement Régional pou bisin démissionner*'. C'est un bon moment de rire, n'est-ce pas ?

Par conséquent, les Rodriguais ont barré la route à la tentative de coup d'état que certains politiciens avaient planifié. Soi-disant, s'ils gagnaient les élections au niveau national, ils vont renverser la majorité acquis par le peuple au sein de l'Assemblée Régionale. Mais le peuple a voté avec intelligence. Vrai, pas vrai ?

M. le président, nous notons aussi la victoire de l'Alliance Lepep à l'île Maurice, une équipe qui est composé du Mouvement Socialiste Mauricien, du Parti Mauricien Social Démocrate et du Mouvement Libérateur. Félicitations donc à cette équipe menée par l'infatigable Sir Anerood Jugnauth qui fait son grand retour de fort belle manière dans la reine politique.

Ce sera avec fierté que nos deux représentants ainsi que le Conseil Exécutif travailleront de concert avec le nouveau gouvernement pour le bien-être de Rodrigues. Je tiens, M. le président, à faire ressortir que c'est sous le mandat de Sir Anerood Jugnauth que l'île Rodrigues a accédé au statut de « L'Île Autonome ». Et je n'ai aucun doute que Sir Anerood Jugnauth accordera tout son soutien au peuple Rodriguais.

D'ailleurs, dans le manifeste électoral de l'Alliance Lepep, Rodrigues figure en bonne position. Permettez-moi de citer quelques extraits.

« Nous négligerons en aucun cas, Rodrigues, Agaléga et Saint Brandon qui font partie intégrante de la République de Maurice. Nous assurerons un développement accéléré à tous les niveaux. Nos propositions sont les suivantes :

- *Accroître l'élision maritime et aérienne entre Maurice et Rodrigues pour faciliter les échanges commerciaux et optimiser les opportunités touristiques. À cet effet, le développement du Port et de l'aéroport sera favorisé ;*
- *Création d'une maison de Rodrigues à Maurice pour accueillir, encadrer et former les Rodriguais qui viennent travailler et vivre à Maurice ;*
- *Intégrer Rodrigues dans le packaging touristique des différentes destinations de la région ;*
- *Assurer une fourniture régulière d'eau potable avec la construction de nouveaux réservoirs et l'exploitation planifiée des ressources disponibles ;*
- *Les mesures concernant Maurice dans les secteurs de l'éducation, le logement et la santé seront étendues à Rodrigues de même que le plan d'action pour combattre la pauvreté ;*

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- *Une nouvelle essence sera donnée au secteur de la pêche à Rodrigues qui intégrera le Vaste Projet National visant à optimiser l'exploitation de nos ressources marines ;*
- *L'agriculture sera relancée avec l'objectif de faire de Rodrigues, un centre de production bio. Des efforts seront consacrés à relancer l'élevage, l'apiculture et l'artisanat. »* Fin de citation.

M. le président, je n'ai aucun doute sur les promesses faites par l'Alliance Lepep envers les Rodriguais qui seront réalisées. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, avec qui j'ai eu l'honneur de travailler, est connu pour être un homme de parole et d'action. Ses promesses électorales se situent dans la même vision du Gouvernement Régional qui a déjà jeté les jalons avec le programme quinquennal 2012/2017 intitulé : « *Consolidez et Réussir L'Autonomie* ».

M. le président, une île Rodrigues écologique est aussi notre vision pour l'avenir. Une île Rodrigues, dont le développement se fera en respectant la nature. Je termine, M. le président, en souhaitant bonne chance à la nouvelle équipe et que la coopération entre nos deux îles perdure. Je vais demander une rencontre avec le Premier ministre afin de discuter des affaires de Rodrigues de même que les autres sujets tels que le câble optique, la création d'emploi, l'amendement à la *RRA Act* entre autres. Vive l'île Rodrigues Autonome ! Vive la République de Maurice !

[Applause]

END OF YEAR GREETINGS

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, permettez-moi de présenter à vous, à Mme. Sooprayen et famille, nos vœux de bonne et heureuse année 2015. Permettez-moi, M. le président, de présenter nos vœux de joyeux Noël et de nouvel an à tous mes collègues commissaires et à leurs familles, au *Minority Leader* et à sa famille ainsi qu'aux honorables membres de cette Assemblée et à leurs familles.

Je voudrais aussi féliciter et remercier mes collègues pour leur prestation, leur courage et la manière dont ils ont participé aux travaux de cette Assemblée. Nous l'avons fait dans le respect et la dignité comme des hommes et des femmes responsables envers le peuple Rodriguais. Nous ne sommes jamais écartés de notre vision de construire ce pays et d'accompagner les Rodriguais dans la construction de leur avenir.

M. le président, puis-je vous demander en mon nom personnel et aux noms de tous les membres de l'Assemblée Régionale d'instruire le Clerc pour qu'il transmette au Président de la République, son excellence, Kailash Purryag et Madame, à la Vice-présidente, Mme. Monique Ohsan Bellepeau, au Premier ministre, l'honorable Sir Anerood Jugnauth et Mme. Sarojini Jugnauth ainsi qu'aux membres de son cabinet, au Leader de l'Opposition, l'honorable Paul Raymond Béranger et Madame et aux membres de l'Assemblée Nationale et leurs familles, nos vœux de bonne et heureuse année 2015.

Nos meilleurs vœux de bonne et heureuse année vont aussi au Clerc de l'Assemblée et à son adjointe, à tout le personnel de l'Assemblée et à leurs familles, les policiers et leurs familles. Nos souhaits vont également au *Island Chief Executive* et les personnels de mon bureau, les *Departmental Heads* ainsi que tous les personnels des différentes commissions et leurs familles.

M. le président, je voudrais présenter à toute la population de Rodrigues, tous les enfants, les jeunes et les adultes, mes vœux de joyeux Noël et de bonne et heureuse année 2015. Je les remercie pour leur intérêt et dévouement pour le développement de Rodrigues, et à tous ceux et à toutes celles qui, durant cette année, ont travaillé avec volonté et courage pour la réussite de cette île Rodrigues autonome.

Aux enfants et aux jeunes qui vont prendre le chemin de l'école, nous leur souhaitons une bonne rentrée de classe pour 2015. Nos vœux de joyeux Noël et bonne année à toutes les familles Rodriguaise qui vivent et qui travaillent à l'île Maurice, à ceux et à celles habitant l'île Maurice et qui travaillent à Rodrigues et à *nous ban grand dimoune* et qui durant les fêtes de fin d'année, vont vivre des souvenirs inoubliables de leur vie.

Bonne année à tout le monde, bonne et heureuse année 2015. Que cette année se passe dans la paix, cette fin d'année et que cette fin d'année nous fait avancer un peu plus par des rencontres que nous aurons ensemble. Merci. M. le président.

[Applause]

The Minority Leader: M. le président, avant d'aller de plain-pied dans les vœux de fin d'année, permettez-moi de faire un bref aperçu des affaires de l'Assemblée durant cette année-ci. Comme vous savez, l'année 2014 a été une très grande attente pour toute la population car il y a beaucoup de choses que les Rodriguais attendent de la gestion des affaires du pays pour améliorer leur situation de vie.

Je me rappelle ici même dans cette chambre, nous, au niveau de la minorité, combien de questions nous avons soulevé notamment sur les questions de l'eau, de la santé, de nos planteurs et des problèmes sociaux etc. C'est pour vous dire, M. le président, que cette année-ci, le Conseil Exécutif a eu pas mal de responsabilités à faire afin de pouvoir résoudre tous les problèmes que je viens de mentionner.

Mais, toutefois, nous attendons impatiemment comme les questions viennent d'être posées ce matin, dans le secteur de l'eau, il y a eu une promesse pour améliorer la situation. Nous attendons que d'ici, l'année prochaine, toutes ces promesses se réalisent. Il y a aussi d'autres projets d'infrastructures qui attendent d'être terminés.

Mais laissons tout ça derrière nous, M. le président, car l'année se termine. Nous appréhendons l'année prochaine avec beaucoup de changement. Cependant, la semaine dernière, le Chef commissaire vient de le dire, nous avons poussé un ouf de soulagement après la campagne électorale qui a terminé. Donc, on connaît maintenant le choix des Rodriguais. On n'a rien à dire. Mais comme moi, personnellement, je l'ai souvent dit, le peuple a le gouvernement qu'il mérite. Parce que ce sont eux qui sont souverains, comme on dit, '*vox populi, vox dei*'.

C'est à ceux maintenant qu'ils ont eu la confiance du peuple. Ce sont eux, qui doivent maintenant faire en sorte qu'ils méritent tout le respect. Nous respectons les verdicts des urnes et je félicite les élus. J'espère comme ils disent, eux-mêmes, qu'ils vont être les dignes représentants de Rodrigues, de notre pays à l'Assemblée Nationale.

J'ai une félicitation spéciale pour les nouveaux élus de Maurice, notamment, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, ainsi que les autres Leaders de l'Alliance Lepep pour leur excellente performance dans ces élections. Nous attendons tous qu'un vent nouveau de progrès économique, de progrès social souffle sur l'ensemble de la République.

Mais comme le veut la tradition, je m'associe au Chef commissaire pour envoyer nos meilleurs vœux à tout le monde, d'abord vous-même, M. le président, ainsi que votre épouse et votre famille, au Chef commissaire et à son épouse et à sa famille, au *Deputy Chief Commissioner* et son époux et à sa famille, aux autres collègues commissaires et leurs conjoints/conjointes, au *Deputy Chairperson* et à son épouse, à tous les membres des deux côtés de la chambre.

Je leurs souhaitent un joyeux Noël et une très bonne et heureuse année 2015. Mais je ne manquerais pas, M. le président, de vous dire de transmettre, de donner les directives au Clerc pour transmettre au Président de la République, M. Kailash Purryag et à son épouse ainsi qu'à la Vice-présidente et sa famille, tous nos vœux, nos meilleures vœux, un joyeux Noël et un bon année.

C'est maintenant connu demain, aura lieu l'investiture du nouveau gouvernement dirigé par Sir Anerood Jugnauth. Je voudrais, encore une fois, saisir l'occasion de la chambre pour le féliciter et je vous prie de donner directive au Clerc pour transmettre nos souhaits et meilleurs vœux pour la Noël et le nouvel an ainsi qu'au *Lady Jugnauth*, ainsi qu'au *Lady Sarojini Jugnauth*, au *Deputy Prime Minister* et son épouse, aux autres, Vice-premier ministres et leurs épouses, au Leader de l'Opposition et son épouse, à tous les ministres et leurs époux/épouses et à tous les membres de la nouvelle Assemblée Nationale.

Last but not least, M. le président, je ne vais pas oublier tous les personnels de notre auguste Assemblée ici. Il y a le Clerc et sa famille, je lui souhaite aussi un joyeux Noël et une bonne année, au *Deputy Clerk*, à sa famille, à tout le staff de l'Assemblée ici y compris le *Serjeant at Arms* et tous les autres personnels. Merci, M. le président. J'espère bien que l'année nouvelle sera une nouvelle année pleine d'espoir et où la tâche sera encore beaucoup plus grande pour nous afin de répondre plus efficacement aux attentes de la population. Donc, joyeux Noël et bonne année à tous. Merci.

Mr. Chairperson: Thank you, Chief Commissioner. Thank you, Minority Leader. Respected Members, I wish to associate myself with the Chief Commissioner and the Minority Leader and on behalf of the staff of Rodrigues Regional Assembly and my own, to send my best wishes to you and your family. Merry Christmas 2014 and a very happy new year 2015! Chief Commissioner and Mrs. Clair, Deputy Chief Commissioner, Commissioners, Minority Leader and all Members of the august Assembly and on family's part.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to extend my best wishes to the President of the Republic and Mrs. Purryag, the Vice-President, Mrs. Ohsan Monique Bellepeau. I could not miss this opportunity but to congratulate the newly appointed right Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, for his victory at the last General Election. And, I wish him and Lady Jugnauth my very best wishes.

I also extend my thanks and best wishes to the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk of the Assembly, the Serjeant at Arms and its team and all the staff of the Assembly for their contribution the whole year round.

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May I also extend my wishes to the Leader of Opposition and staff. May year 2015 be still brighter. I command the Clerk to transmit the messages of the Chief Commissioner and the Minority Leader to the President of the Republic and others. Thank you.

[Applause]

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 03 March 2015 at 10.30 hours.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. Chairperson: I will now invite every one of you, the Chief Commissioner, the Minority Leader, all Members including the Departmental Heads, the Advisors and others for a refreshment next. Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

At 14.11 hours the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 03 March 2015 at 10.30 hours.