

**RODRIGUES
THIRD REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Debate No. 3 of 2015

Sitting of Tuesday 23 June 2015

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 23 JUNE 2015

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The Executive Council

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

Mr. Louis Serge Clair, G.C.S.K.	Chief Commissioner, Commissioner responsible for Central Administration, Civil Aviation (Administration), Civil Status, Customs and Excise (Administration), Judicial (Administration), Legal Services, Marine Services (Administration), Meteorology (Administration), Education (Administration), 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

ANNOUNCEMENT

SOUHAIT DE FELICITATION

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, permettez-moi, au nom du conseil exécutif, des membres de cette Auguste Assemblée, de la population rodriguaise et en mon nom personnel d'exprimer nos plus vives félicitations, à son Excellence, Docteur (Madame) Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, G.C.S.K., C.S.K., pour son accession au poste de Président de la République de Maurice suite à sa prestation de serment le 5 juin dernier.

M. le président, le parcours éloquent du Son Excellence Docteur (Madame) Gurib-Fakim tant au niveau national, régional, qu'international devrait servir de modèle à nos jeunes.

Issue d'une famille modeste, Docteur (Madame) Gurib-Fakim a su forger son destin avec persévérance, détermination et dure labeur pour aujourd'hui être la première femme élue Présidente de la République.

Débutant sa carrière en 1987 en tant que conférencière à l'Université de Maurice après son doctorat obtenu à l'Université d'Exeter du Royaume Uni, elle gravit les échelons dans le monde académique pour devenir tour à tour Professeur de Chimie Organique, Doyenne de la Faculté des Sciences et Pro Vice-Chancelière.

Sa contribution dans le domaine de la science est reconnue mondialement d'où le titre honorifique de Docteur-ès-Sciences lui a été décerné par le prestigieux Institut Pierre et Marie Curie de l'Université de la Sorbonne, Paris.

En tant qu'académicienne, elle a publié ou coédité 28 livres, écrit des chapitres dans des publications différentes, a contribué à plusieurs articles dans les journaux scientifiques sur des sujets tels que le développement durable, l'environnement, les plantes médicinales, la biodiversité, entre autres. Son Excellence a aussi publié un livre sur les plantes médicinales de l'Ile Rodrigues en 1994.

En guise de reconnaissance pour sa contribution dans le domaine de la science, de nombreux prix prestigieux récompensant La Femme dans le monde scientifique (Women in Science) lui ont été octroyés. Pour couronner le tout, le gouvernement Français lui décerna le titre de Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques en 2010.

M. le président, nous devons aussi saluer l'unanimité autour de son élection à l'Assemblée Nationale le 4 juin dernier. J'ai eu l'honneur d'assister à l'élection à la Présidence du Docteur Madame Ammeenah Gurib-Fakim à L'Assemblée Nationale ainsi que la cérémonie de la prestation de serment à la State House.

Devant un tel parcours éloquent, nous ne pourrons qu'être certains que la nouvelle Présidente de la République saura remplir ses fonctions de Chef de l'Etat avec brio et qu'elle fera la fierté de la République de Maurice.

M. le président, puis-je vous demander au nom de la population de Rodrigues, de cette Assemblée Régionale et en mon nom personnel de transmettre à la nouvelle Présidente, son Excellence Docteur Madame Ameenah Gurib-Fakim toutes nos sincères félicitations pour son élection ainsi que nos meilleurs vœux à sa famille.

Mr. Chairperson: Thank you. Yes, Minority Leader.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I feel today greatly privileged and honoured in joining the Chief Commissioner to congratulate the President of the Republic Docteur Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, G.C.S.K., for her election to the Head of State of Mauritius by the National Assembly on Friday 05 June last. Indeed, this was a historical moment as it is one of the greatest mind stone in the history of Mauritius. The first time ever, a woman was elected to hold the highest function in the Mauritian state.

M. le président, on a entendu beaucoup de réaction à chaud juste après la cérémonie de prestation de serment de la nouvelle Présidente de la République. Personnellement, j'ai ressenti que c'est pour la première fois qu'une élection au poste de Président a fait autant l'unanimité. Cette raison est non seulement due à son large palmarès au niveau de la science. Nous venons d'entendre d'ailleurs le Chef Commissaire brossé toute un tableau dont elle a une réputation mondiale mais aussi parce que c'est la première fois dans les annales politiques de Maurice qu'une femme est titulaire à ce poste et de surcroît quelqu'une qui n'a pas fait de la politique active. Je crois aussi que tous les mérites reviennent au Premier Ministre, Sir Aneerood Jugnauth et à son gouvernement de l'Alliance Lepep, pour avoir été le premier à nommé une dame à la tête de l'état Mauricien.

Aujourd'hui on réalise combien la place de la femme est enfin reconnue à Maurice. Après une première dame Speaker de L'Assemblée National, la

République a aujourd'hui deux dames à la tête de l'état. Une Présidente et l'autre Vice-présidente.

Je ne vois pas mieux pour démontrer comment aujourd'hui, le gouvernement vient rétablir la parité homme/femme dans les plus hautes instances du pays. Ce qui fait que d'après l'histoire de Maurice, Madame Docteur Ameenah Gurib-Fakim devient la première femme à occuper le poste suprême de l'état après dites-vous bien, 77 hommes, gouverneur ou président. Cette décision vient aujourd'hui marquer d'une pierre blanche le combat pour l'émancipation de la femme à Maurice.

Je tiens à rendre ici hommage à toutes les femmes de la République et vous pris, M. le président, de donner des directives au Clerc pour transmettre à son Excellence, la Présidente de la République les félicitations de ce côté de la chambre de la minorité. On lui souhaite aussi beaucoup de courage et pleine de succès dans cette nouvelle fonction. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

[Applause]

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Members, I would like to associate myself, the Chief Commissioner, the Minority Leader and on behalf of all the Members of the Regional Assembly and its staff to express our warmest congratulations to her Excellency, Doctor, Mrs. Ameenah Firdaus Gurib-Fakim, G.C.S.K., C.S.K., on the occasion of her election as the first lady to the post of President of the Republic of Mauritius. Her international recognition in scientific researches coupled with the zeal to uphold the youth in this modernize world and above all give a new prestige to women through equality of opportunities will undoubtedly create the pass for a better Mauritius and its outer islands.

I direct the Clerk to convey the congratulatory remarks of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to her Excellency, Mrs. Ameenah Firdaus Gurib-Fakim, President of the Republic of Mauritius. May God bless her in her delicate but noble task. Thank you

[Applause]

RODRIGUES YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Members, I wish to inform the House that the Commission for Youth and Others, through its Commissioner, has expressed its wish to align the Rodrigues' Youth Parliament with practices and proposals, as regards same, from other commonwealth jurisdictions.

/UNREVISED/

It is my greatest pleasure to inform the House that, for the third Youth Parliament for Rodrigues, to be held in July 2015, I have acceded to the Commissioner's request to have this Assembly's Chamber as venue for same.

I wish to further inform the House as announcement that Parliamentary Questions B/75, B/76 and B/77 have been withdrawn. Thank you.

PAPERS LAID

Report of the Standing Orders Committee (original)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MARITIME TRANSPORT/MAURITIUS & RODRIGUES

(No. B/59) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to maritime transport between Mauritius and Rodrigues, he will:

- (a) obtain, for the benefit of the House, from the relevant authorities, information as to-
 - (i) the official reasons, if any, as to why both MV Mauritius Pride and MV Trochetia are no longer operating on this route and to table same;
 - (ii) the modalities put in place to ensure the optimum service of MV Anna to Rodrigues;
 - (iii) the cargo and passenger capacity/facility of MV Anna in our destination; and
- (b) state if the actual port facilities at Port Mathurin satisfy fully the requirement/s of MV Anna and, if not, to give the alternative measure/s already planned to address this issue?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that the 25 year-old MV Mauritius Pride ceased her operations in February 2014 for technical reasons and was subsequently sold in September of the same year. The cost of repairs to maintain its seaworthiness and compliance with the mandatory conventions of the International Maritime Organisation would have been too high to be worth it. The MS Mauritius

Trochetia has been servicing Rodrigues is temporarily out of operation due to her dry-docking, currently in progress at Singapore shipyard for the renewal of her Passenger Certificate, amongst others. Upon completion of her dry-docking by end of June 2015, the MS Mauritius Trochetia is expected to be back in service as from July 2015.

I am further informed that pending the temporary out-of-operation of MS Mauritius Trochetia, MV Anna is currently being deployed to service Rodrigues with an average of three monthly calls.

MV Anna being a cargo vessel is not meant for the transportation of passengers. The vessel has a greater cargo capacity than the MS Mauritius Trochetia and can accommodate up to 221 containers of compared to Mauritius Trochetia which can transport only a maximum of 100 containers.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (b) of the question I am informed that it is the responsibility of the Mauritius Ports Authority to ensure the safe berthing and unberthing of ships calling at Port Mathurin. The berthing and unberthing operations of MV Anna differ from the previous two vessels. In this regard, a professional pilot from the Mauritius Port Authority is therefore extending pilotage services to the MV Anna both on arrivals and departures to and from Port Mathurin. I am further informed that as of date, MV Anna has effected four trips to Port Mathurin and no problem of berthing or unberthing has been encountered.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we know that during the service of Pride and Trochetia more than 600 passengers were using this mode of transport to and from Mauritius on each trip and this was due to the lower cost of the fares as compared to that of the aeroplane. The Chief Commissioner has just mentioned that Anna does not offer a service of passenger carriage. Can he say whether he is aware of the difficulties faced now by the population since Trochetia is temporarily out of service, especially among those who prefer this mode of transport? And, if so, what is the stand of Rodrigues Regional Assembly on this issue?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, as I say, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Trochetia will be back by the end of July 2015. We have also discussed with the Minister of Finance to reduce the cost of travelling by airplane. I think this has come; as if it is a.. I cannot say whether everybody can travel by aeroplane. But a lot of negotiation has been carried on with the Ministry of Finance so that the cost of aeroplane has been reduced. And I must say that the government is studying the possibility of a new ship. Whether it will be one cargo, ship or it will be one cargo and passenger ship. The government is carrying on discussion

among the different organisations, stakeholders so that to take a decision on that case.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have heard earlier, a few months past, an official from the Mauritius Ports Authority saying that the government is studying the possibility of acquiring the service of the MV Anna, of purchasing, sorry, that was the exact word, purchasing the MV Anna. May I ask the Chief Commissioner that if this is so, does it means that both ships, that is, Anna and Trochetia will continue to operate on Rodrigues route and if so, what additional services will both ships, if they are operational, offer to Rodrigues, in terms of passenger and cargo facilities?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Trochetia can take passengers and Anna a cargo ship. And I must say also so that a new ship would be built it would take a long time. That is why I do not know what will happen but the government has decided, what have they decided concerning the new ship to replace the Mauritius Pride. And we know there have been discussions among stakeholders in Mauritius. And we must say that yes, as the Minority Leader, he has said that Mauritius will buy the MV Anna. Well we have also heard about that. But what is our problem is the new ship which is going to replace the Mauritius Pride. This is our priority, whether it will be a cargo and passenger ship or only a cargo ship. We are just waiting the answer from the Central Government.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Well, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Chief Commissioner prior to have the service of MV Anna for the routes Mauritius to Rodrigues and back, whether according to the tendering procedures, I understand that there has been a tender and MV Anna was the best alternative among the procedures. Can we know from the Chief Commissioner, whether he is aware of the requirement, he needed? Whether a cargo ship for Rodrigues/Mauritius or a ship for both cargo and passengers and whether Mauritius Pride was among the listed ship?

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

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to the reply of the Chief Commissioner, MV Anna can transport twice the capacity in term of containers of that of Trochetia and Pride, I think combined together. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether the container park, the container capacity at the quay here to hold such number of containers, does the container park have the required capacity? And, secondly can I ask him on each trip since Anna has started its service to Rodrigues, how many containers have been carried to

Rodrigues and how many containers were taken back on the MV Anna back to Mauritius?

The Chief Commissioner: As far as I know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the past containers were left in Mauritius and cannot come to Rodrigues. Now with the MV Anna, all containers come to Rodrigues. There are no problems of that. Concerning, the container park since then there was no problem with the container park. But I must say that the Mauritius Ports Authority plan for a new container park in the master plan 2003, there has been five years when the party was in power what has been done, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? Nothing has been done for the development of the port. Now, we are still, we do not know what will happen. What we know is that all the containers are going back to Mauritius even empty containers. And if the containers did not go back to Mauritius this will have a great problem for container park here in Rodrigues. For the time being, there is no problem. We have not been made aware of whether we have to have a better container park in the port. This has not for the time being been the case at the port.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to differ what the Chief Commissioner has just said that during the five year prior to his coming into office to the present mandate nothing has been done at the port, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. When I left power, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there was in the budget an item for the removal of the outcrop at the entrance of the port, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. It is not correct for the Chief Commissioner to say that nothing has been done.

Mr. Chairperson: Come with your question, please.

The Minority Leader: I also had as former Chief Commissioner.. I have to introduce, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, before coming up with the question. Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I also had consultations with the members and the Chairman of the Mauritius Ports Authority.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is question time. I think that the Minority Leader is making a speech. He should put his question.

Mr. Chairperson: Minority Leader comes with your question, please.

The Minority Leader: So, everything has been done. It was a question of *la permanence de l'état*. They had to continue what I have started, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. So therefore, they cannot come today and say that nothing has been done. As the Chief Commissioner has mentioned of a new master plan,c

an I ask him where matters stand with regard to his new master plan, Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not know what the outcrop, *ceci, celà. Mais le problème est* the development of the port here. This is the problem which we have discussion with *la banque mondiale* in 2003 or 2004, I think, *la banque mondiale*. But nothing has been done. But we have seen a new master plan in 2008. But the former master plan has been put aside. Well I will talk on that in a few minute. Thank you.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: M. le président, le chef commissaire a mentionné plutôt dans une réponse qu'il a eu beaucoup de négociations avec le Ministère des Finances, concernant la réduction du coût du billet de Rodrigues à Maurice. Oui l'avion. C'est vrai qu'on a eu ça. Mais là on est en train de parler le billet de bateau, le prix du billet de bateau. Je voudrais demander le Chef Commissaire, s'il y a eu négociation concernant une réduction du prix du billet de Maurice à Rodrigues pour le Rodriguais qui actuellement, il y a une grande faiblesse dans ce côté. Qu'est-ce que le Commissaire à fait ? Est-ce qu'il y a eu négociation ou pas dans ce sens ?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, nous aussi nous avons eu des plaintes de la part des Rodriguais qui sont à Maurice, que ce soit à Rodrigues. Mais tous cela plus particulièrement les Rodriguais qui sont à Maurice, ce n'est pas des Mauriciens qui viennent passer leurs vacances ici. Ça aussi nous sommes en train de discuter avec le Ministère des Finances. Et le Ministre de Finance a accepté que les Rodriguais d'ici payent le même tarif que les Mauriciens qui sont à Maurice et qui viennent à Rodrigues. Alors ça c'est gagnant. Mais là justement nous sommes en train de voir avec le Ministère des Finances, la possibilité justement que ceux qui sont à Maurice et qui viennent voir leurs parents à Rodrigues. Mais il y a aussi autres choses c'est quand on part par l'avion évidemment de l'aéroport pour aller à Roche Bois le taxi coûte cher et ça c'est un gros problème. Et c'est pourquoi ça aussi nous sommes en train de discuter avec le Ministère des Finances si on ne peut pas à l'arriver de l'avion qui voyage un peu loin de mettre un transport à leurs disposition. C'est en discussion, M. le président.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, during the second trip of MV Anna to Rodrigues the workers in Rodrigues go on strike. Can we know from the Chief Commissioner what was the reason behind this strike and what has been done?

Mr. Chairperson: I think this question is not relevant. Next question. Because it is far from the main question. Now Mr. Daniel Spéville.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, even though MV Anna is operating on the Mauritius/Rodrigues routes, there is sometimes lack of commodities on the local market. Can the Chief Commissioner see to it that special arrangement, a meeting be made among stakeholders and other traders involved in importation of good from Mauritius to Rodrigues to ensure that the container are of full capacity. Mauritius MV Anna can transport 231 containers but the transport should be a transport value for money. There are some containers that come to Rodrigues with three cartons, four cartons and sometimes there are problems with the Shipping Corporation.

Mr. Chairperson: Mr. Spéville, your question please.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: The question is if a meeting, special arrangement can be done among the traders, if he can meet the traders, the stakeholders involved in transportation of goods from Mauritius to Rodrigues to ensure better transportation through full capacity of containers.

The Chief Commissioner: I agree with that, what the Respected Member said but we need notice of the question so that we can see whether we can have a meeting with those people but sometimes those who import they do not contact the Mauritius Shipping Corporation. They do not contact. They themselves they have a plan so that their goods can come by the containers. I have noticed this with some people here, importing goods from Mauritius, especially those importing animal feeds, you know. Sometimes their container does not arrive. That is why there should be some sort of contact between those who import and the Mauritius Shipping Corporation in Mauritius.

Mr. Chairperson: For the first question itself, 20 minutes have already lapsed from the questions time. So next question, please.

EXTENSION OF THE RUNWAY - SIR GAETAN DUVAL AIRPORT

(No. B/60) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the extension of the runway at Sir Gaetan Duval Airport and any ancillary works thereat, he will state where matters stand in relation thereto, as at to date, and the timeframe for the implementation of the project?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have in my previous replies to this House on this subject elaborate on the option decided for the

extension of the runway at Plaine Corail and stated that the procurement process for the consultancy is ongoing.

With regard to Consultancy Services for the Design of Runway Extension and Ancillary Works at Plaine Corail Airport, I have been informed that as to date, the evaluation of the technical proposals has been completed. However, a challenge has been lodged by an aggrieved bidder and the procurement procedure has been suspended by the Independent Review Panel until the latter will have heard the case and issued its ruling. Since the matter is prejudice, I will not further comment on the procurement process.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the House that following discussion with the Central Government, a delegation of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) was on mission in Rodrigues from 24 to 26 May to discuss on the possibility of funding the said project. Discussions are still ongoing and the House will be informed of the outcome in due course.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in spite of the reply of the Chief Commissioner, we all knows that he is going ahead with the option that he previously stated. Can I ask him whether he has sought advice from experts elsewhere in the world before persisting in going ahead with that option because we know that recent report has shown frequent seismic activities in the Rodrigues region and also I have come across on You Tube and I would invite the Chief Commissioner to go and watch it? Crazy crosswind landing at Madeira Funchal Airport in Portugal. Such airport, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, was exactly the same as Corail Airport today. It was extended to the sea on concrete pillars. Yes so, my understanding, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is that when such project is completed in Rodrigues, it will be similar to that of Funchal. And we all know that at Funchal so many problems exist. Based on that, can the Chief Commissioner tell this House whether he will go ahead without taking into consideration other advice from experts?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a lot of airport in Mauritius runaway, some are in the sea. If you go even to Seychelles, you will see. The airport is on reclaimed land, in Seychelles. Well, what will happen in the future? Are we going to stop all developments and saying that someone will say beware there will be seismic problems here and there? You know, what has happened in Nepal? What has happened in Rodrigues in the past? What has happened in Mauritius in the past? Can we know exactly what will happen in ten years, fifty years' times? No. I do not know this project has taken a long time and now it is due to start with the Option 3 so that the runway extends in the sea and so on, you know. We will go ahead. And if somewhere, we will very often have seismic problems in Rodrigues because someone coming here, I

do not know what his name is, and an equipment has been installed near the airport to know exactly. That is why you know this option for us is a good one. And I will not talk any longer on that because there is a problem concerning the procurement. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have got another supplementary question. Here, I am not questioning procurement and so on, it has started let it go until we get the result. When I understand the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is as if there has been no other alternatives. You know in Madeira that was the only option because there was no other alternative. In Seychelles, they had to extend the airport because there were no other alternative, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. But whereas, in Rodrigues we have alternatives. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether he is aware of the master plan for the airport of 2008, where everything is mentioned in this, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to alternatives and I think that a chorist in his feasibility study took advantage of that report, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? That is why, once again, I am not making a plea, but I am just as a responsible citizen, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because very often, uou know *j'aime bien entendre le Chef Commissaire dire, il faut penser Rodrigues dans cinq ans, dans dix ans.*

Mr. Chairperson: Now please come with your question.

The Minority Leader: Yes, j'aimerais aussi, M. le président, voir le Chef Commissaire en vie à cette époque là. Tout comme moi, tout comme vous, pour que nous puissions à ce moment là juger si les décisions prisent aujourd'hui, quel serait l'impacte sur l'avenir, M. le président. C'est ça notre rôle en tant que l'opposition. Nous ne sommes pas contre le projet, M. le président, mais nous voulons que ce soit dans l'intérêt du pays. This is my last question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a chorist what he said, a consultant, has made four options. This means that the four options can be applied. They know, they have studies; they have been paid for that. And the four more Options 1, 2, 3 or 4 can be applied. So we have chosen Option 3. But we have to go ahead. Well the great problem is one of the option is a new runway. As there been any study, ideological study? Of what the airport is? Under Plaine Corail? As there been any study? No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. How can we when you look at the airport under Plaine Corail. When we look at Plaine Corail, we must be very careful when we have any project at Plaine Corail. That is why I say everything has been done by a chorist and we have voted for the Option 3. Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have learn at school, for every action there is a reaction. Can we know from the Chief Commissioner prior to opt for Option 3, whether there has been a SWOT analysis? That is, the strength, the weaknesses, the opportunities and the threat. Whether there has been any SWOT analysis as regards to this project prior to this Option 3.

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, before launching for consultancy, there has been a team who has studied this option. With members of the Airport of Mauritius, there has been a team in order to see whether this option is a good one. We have not decided like that. Just some few words here a chorist recommendation was to consider seriously option 3 as the most feasible. They said the chorist. And everything, we did not go along with the construction of a new runway without contracting a meeting with specialist in Mauritius of the runway in Mauritius. Everything has been done so that we can take this Option 3. Thank you.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Oui, M. le président, je sais que on a fait des études concernant l'Options 3 et 4. Des études comparables. On a comparé les différents paramètres. M. le président, il y a une question qu'il faut prendre en considération, c'est là où le Minority Leader voulait mettre le point, accentué. C'est la question *crosswind compatibility*. Il y a cette question là qu'il faut prendre en considération et l'ors des différents d'études, on a démontré que la question, c'est vrai qu'il y a, comme la dit le membre Agathe, il y a des raisons pour choisir l'Option 3, il y a aussi des raisons pour choisir l'Option 4. Mais il y a cette question de *crosswind compatibility*. Je demanderai au Chef Commissaire de voir ça, parce que c'est très important pour nous parce que d'après les études, les recommandations de ICAO, l'Option 4 satisfait cette question de *crosswind compatibility*. Parce que nous savons tous qu'à Rodrigues lorsque l'avion atterrisse à Rodrigues, il y a ce problème. Donc, je dois demander cela au Chef Commissaire s'il va prendre ça en considération ?

The Chief Commissioner: Le *crosswind* il peut y avoir, même maintenant il y a le *crosswind*. Même maintenant. Alors où il faut aller pour construire l'aéroport? Sur l'île aux Combrani, par là? Non, M. le président, nous sommes une île, nous sommes une île, une petite île. Il n'y a pas suffisamment de place. Si même vous voulez mettre un nouveau, il n'y aura pas de *crosswind*. Il y aura toujours des *crosswinds*.

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: Now we come to the last question, Mr. Rosaire Perrine.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: M. le président, dans la même foulée, dans la veine de cette question, j'aimerais demander au Chef Commissaire concernant la relocation des habitants de Ste. Marie. M. le Chef Commissaire a dit oui qu'il y aura des crosswind etc. mais nous savons tous qu'en 2014, il y a eu tentative et des gens de Ste. Marie, ils ont dû quitter leurs maisons parce qu'ils pensaient que l'avion allait s'écrasée sur leurs toits. M. le président, en 2012, dans le budget de 2011, il y a eu Rs 8 million comme item de la relocation de ces habitants. Est-ce que le Chef Commissaire, la question..

Mr. Chairperson: Please sit down. This is not the main question. This is supplementary question. You are not going to make statement. Several times, I have told you. Now you come with your question.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: My question is, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether the Chief Commissioner is contemplating to the relocation of the inhabitants of Ste. Marie?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, nous savons, on a eu déjà des réunions avec eux, il y a même une ou deux personnes qui ont été placé. Mais dans cette étude qui va être faite, qui va être faite par le *Consultant, Engineering Study*. Mais le consultant va nous conseiller qu'est-ce qu'il faut faire avec les personnes qui habitent au environ de.. « *laisse mo cozé do !* ».

Mr. Chairperson: Please do not disturb. You listen first.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je n'interromps jamais ceux de l'autre côté moi. Je reste tranquille, j'écoute. Ne puis-je pas continuer à expliquer ? *Non non non non non. "Ar nou non". "Ek nou non pas ar nou ek nou non* ». Oui le consultant va nous conseiller justement parce que ça fait parti. Parce que quand même, le village Ste. Marie, quand même est très proche de l'aéroport avec les plus gros avions qu'est-ce qui va se passer. C'est à nous de conseiller et on a déjà eu des rencontres avec ces personnes. Pour avoir d'autre rencontre là, on va essayer de voir et c'est pourquoi on attend un peu ce rapport pour prendre les décisions nécessaires ce qu'il faut. Mais à mon avis, il faut quand même les faire sortir de là. Parce que c'est trop près de l'aéroport et si un plus gros avion qui va venir, le bruit aussi va incommoder les gens qui sont autour. Merci, M. le président.

**INCIDENT/24 MAY 2015/SIR GAETAN DUVAL AIRPORT
- UNAVAILABILITY OF AN AMBULANCE**

(No. B/61) **Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, he will state if he is aware of an incident which occurred on Sunday 24 May 2015 at Sir Gaetan Duval Airport regarding the unavailability of an ambulance or any other means of transport of the Commission to convey the corpse of late Mr W.P* who passed away in Mauritius and, if so, the reasons therefor?

The Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports (Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that patient W.P. who was transferred to Mauritius for further treatment by my Commission passed away on Saturday 23 May 2015 at 2.05 a.m. Immediately the protocol for transferring of corpse to Rodrigues was activated. The corpse of W.P. reached Rodrigues on Sunday 24 May 2015 at 18.30 hrs.

It is to be noted, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that this incident happened over the weekend where we operate with reduced staff such as Medical Social Worker in Mauritius and related officers at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. However, the promptness of the repatriation of W.P. corpse is in itself shows that all measures had been taken to ensure early repatriation despite being during the weekend.

I am further informed, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that no official correspondence, I repeat that no official correspondence was received from Mauritius confirming the time of repatriation for conveyance of transport at our end. *"Yes you want to answer in my place?"* However, immediately upon arrival of the plane, necessary measures were initiated for the transfer of the corpse within minimum delay, that is, same was transferred from the plane to the Nursing Post at the airport in the ambulance posted there. Furthermore, as per civil aviation protocol, the airport ambulance cannot leave the tarmac while the craft is still in taxi, that is, minimum 50 minutes.

Queen Elizabeth ambulance which was in the vicinity of Plaine Corail Petite Butte was immediately conveyed to the airport. Parallely, a Mortuary Attendant was picked up from his home to proceed to the airport as per protocol. The corpse was transferred to the Queen Elizabeth ambulance and remitted to the Mortuary Attendant to proceed to the mortuary at QEH. I am informed that the corpse reached QEH at 20.10 hours.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, according to the Commissioner for Health, the main reason behind such incidents, which occurred at the airport, was due to the fact that the person passed away during weekend. Is it not? And there was reduced staffs in Mauritius and so on and he further said that no official correspondence from Mauritius confirming the time

was received by his Commissioner. Can I ask him, first, since he was aware of that problem whether his Commission took any action to inform the Ministry in Mauritius of this shortcoming, and if so, to tell us what action he has taken? And secondly, he said that the corpse remained in a minimum delay at the airport. Can he confirm exactly for how long the corpse remained on the tarmac?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, immediately after taking notice of what happened, the fact that no correspondence was received here in Rodrigues, apparently only the Civil Aviation received a correspondence, whereas, at Queen Elizabeth we did not receive any. We have already initiated action that same does not recur. Let me remind the House that we have had so many corpses transferred from Mauritius to Rodrigues and we have not had this problem. But things happened. We have already asked not the Ministry but to those concerned to give us the explanation and also that such incident does not occur.

Second part of the question, I wish to remind the Minority Leader, that at no point in time, the corpse was left on the tarmac. Yes, I insist on that, that the corpse was left on the tarmac. In fact, the corpse was transferred from the plane on the trolley by the time the ambulance from the time the transfer is made.

Nevertheless, I have mentioned in my answer that the transfer could not be made as per protocol of the Civil Aviation for 55 minutes the ambulance should stay on the tarmac.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a corpse to be transported from Mauritius to Rodrigues either in weeks' days or weekend remains a corpse. Can the Commissioner inform the House whether when a corpse is to be conveyed from Mauritius to Rodrigues there is an established *modus operandi* that is in place to ensure that there are better coordination in such state of affairs. And if yes, who are responsible for both authorities in Mauritius and Rodrigues?

Mr. I. Valimamode: I have already answered to the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. There is a protocol and I have mentioned before we have had so many transfers of repatriations of corpses. We have not had such problems. So we are asking them to make amend so that in the future this does not occur.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner mentioned that in the absence of correspondence from Mauritius to Rodrigues via his Commission, the airport authorities were aware that a corpse were coming on such flight. Therefore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is clear that there is something missing in the protocol inland wise, that is, in Rodrigues. If the

airport was able to inform the Commission in time, maybe we would have avoided such incident, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Based on different problems that have occurred can I ask the Commissioner whether he is prepared to review, yes to review the protocol, so that it better suits the actual realities of Rodrigues.

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not think there is anything to review. The Civil Aviation they are informed of the fact that usually, they do not transfer information to our section. We were informed by Air Mauritius. The carrier, they have been paid for it. So, they have informed that there is a corpse on the plane. I think we are making a storm in a teacup because the most important thing is that formally corpses stayed in Mauritius for days before being transferred to Rodrigues. Since I am the Commissioner everything is being made that the corpse comes to Rodrigues as soon as possible in the shortest possible delay. And as I mentioned before we have not have this problem before. I think we are going to look into it that such incident does not occur.

The Minority Leader: I have a last question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I have been informed that the bereaved family felt so much aggrieved that they express the wish to sue or to take action against the Commission for this problem. Can I ask the Commissioner, whether such is true and to give details to the House thereof.

Mr. I. Valimamode: I have not received any complaint as such from the relatives. Anyway, they live in a democratic country, they are free to do so and we will answer to the question. But let me tell you that such. I am also aware that this problem did not arise from the relatives, from the bereaved relatives themselves but from someone who wanted to take advantage of it.

Mr. Chairperson: Two last questions. One for Mr. Grandcourt. Okay Mr. Agathe.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: First of all, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I want to thank the Commissioner for having said to this House that there are no more delays between the time the corpse to arrive in Rodrigues. Can I ask the Commissioner, whether he has apologised for such state of affairs because the plane arrived at 18.30 hours and it was at 20.10 hours that the corpse arrived at Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

And secondly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I know from the Commissioner whether someone accompanied the corpse to Rodrigues, an officer accompanied the corpse to Rodrigues. And if ever, there is an officer what has been done to the officer between that times that the plane landed in Rodrigues?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not aware. Normally, officers do not accompany corpses. Officers accompany live patients to and from Mauritius when the need arise. So, I am not aware that any officer accompanies the case. I have not received any complaints as I said, as I mentioned from the relatives. Because at time, even your luggage are struck at the airport. If I am in the present of such complaints, if need be, I apologise. So, I apologise to these people.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question please.

**SPECIAL HOLIDAY - STUDENTS OF THE PRE-PRIMARY,
PRIMARY, SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND MITD**

(No. B/62) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the special holiday granted to students of the pre-primary, primary, secondary schools and MITD students in Rodrigues on Monday 01st June 2015, he will state why, when and how such decision was taken and the inconveniences caused, if any, as a result thereof?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like, with your permission to reply to questions B/62 and B/84 together as they both deal with the same subject matter.

I am informed that on 01 June 2015 at 04.15 hours, the Mauritius Meteorological Services issued a Special Communiqué for Mauritius and Rodrigues. The Special Communiqué stressed upon a strong wind warning is in force in both Mauritius and Rodrigues with gusts expected to reach 95 km/hr in exposed areas.

In another communiqué from the Ministry of Education and Human Resources through the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation early morning of 01 June, mention was made that there will be no school in Mauritius due to strong weather forecasts without mentioning Rodrigues.

At the time this communiqué was on radio, some students were already on their way to schools/colleges and some were doubtful whether the ‘non-school day’ applied to Rodrigues as well.

Indeed, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the situation was confusing and my office was not made aware of the warning. The established practice when such circumstances arise is that the Meteorological Services call my office or the Island Chief Executive and inform us of the forecast. Since the Administration

of Education fall under the purview of my office, a decision would have been taken at our level to issue a communiqué for Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, once the information reached my office, after consultation with concerned stakeholders, a decision was promptly taken to issue a special communiqué for Rodrigues informing that:

- (i) to declare 01 June as a non-school day;
- (ii) to inform all parents that they have up to 10.30 hours to organize themselves to come pick their children up.

The communiqué was on radio as from 08.45 hours and at regular intervals.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to underpin that on 14 January 2015, prior to cyclone Bansi, there was forecast of torrential rain in Rodrigues but not in Mauritius and my office, rightly so, took the bold decision to close schools for the safety of our children.

Following this confusing situation, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission has liaised with the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources and the Mauritius Meteorological Services so that in future, should such unforeseen circumstances arise, the office of the Island Chief Executive should be contacted and an appropriate warning will be issued followed by a smooth implementation to minimize all potential risks.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this issue has caused much problems and much confusion. And it is the Regional Government they have their part of blame in the issue. You cannot wait when you are Commissioner for Education, you cannot wait at your home for the Meteorological Services to contact you. The Chief Commissioner is saying that the Meteorological Services as if it is apart it is not with the Regional Assembly. We have the administration of the Meteorological Services and if there were communication between the Departmental Head of Education, the Chief Commissioner himself and the Meteorological Services in Rodrigues, they would have taken the decision early to issue a warning. I would like to ask him whether there is communication, regular communication between the Meteorological Services and his Commission, the Commission for Education to ensure that such confusion *mise en danger* of the life, the security of children and their parents does not occur again.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I did mention in my reply that there was no communication. That depends on the Meteorological

Services. What happen in Mauritius cannot happen also in Rodrigues. That is why there has been confusion. And the Meteorological Services should have let us know either through the Island Executive or my office that there will be strong wind. But this has not been done, this has not been communicated to us, you know. As I said we took a decision before the cyclone Bansi. There was no torrential rain in Mauritius but it was here in Rodrigues. But we took the decision. We took the decision that on these days that there was no school. We took the decision because we have the administrative power here concerning schools but we took the decision. But the problem was in Mauritius and the Meteorological Services they did not announces what will happen. That is why there was a sort of confusion.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when something goes wrong. I stand up first. I stood up first. The Standing Orders are clear. I stood up first. You have given a practice here..

Mr. Chairperson: I am on my feet. Please sit down. Now let me tell you one thing Respected Member. When you stood up for the question at the same time Minority Leader stood up. The floor is for Minority Leader and then you will have. May be you have not noticed it, I have.

Mr. J. Roussety: What I want just to tell the Chair. I am not taking the right of the Minority Leader to ask question. There has been a practice here which have been developed whereby we have already serried who will ask question. This is not the case in Assembly. The case in the Assembly the person who stood up first and which catch the eye of the Speaker..

Mr. Chairperson: Again please. I think you are.. Please sit down.

Mr. J. Roussety: I am speaking. May be you do not know the Standing Orders.

Mr. Chairperson: You sit down first of all.

Mr. J. Roussety: You do not have to tell me to sit down.

Mr. Chairperson: You have to sit down when I am on my feet.

Mr. J. Roussety: If you are fair.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, I am fair. No I have to correct. You cannot challenge my ruling here. You can do it outside but not here.

Mr. J. Roussety: You will see what will happen to you. We are preparing for you.

Mr. Chairperson: I am ready for it. You are making allegation.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Sit down, please. What I am saying when you stood up to answer your question at the same time the Minority Leader stood up. I told you to sit down then I will give you the floor. So immediately after when you stood up. I am explaining to you. This is not a practice. My eyes catch such and such person first as far as possible. Please, Minority Leader.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think the question does not arise because both of us we asked the same question and I let the floor to him because he stood first that was your ruling and the second was me.

So, can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether he will admit that the Commission has been wise after the event because people heard the communiqué, they decided to send their children to school because the Ministry of Education did not issue the Special Holiday for Rodrigues. So parents took their children to school. Then once the children were already at school, then the Commission took the decision lately. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether for the prejudice, it has caused a great prejudice to everybody? Whether the Chief Commissioner thought-it fit to apologise to the population for the delays in taking the decision, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Because it was a confusion situation. It caused prejudice. Therefore, the question of taking the decision to grant one school holiday, it does not mean that it was acceptable to everybody because on that day children were already at school and some were at home and they did not know what to do and the question is whether the Commission decided to apologise for this confusing situation.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have already replied to this question. When we issued a communiqué it is for the children can go back to home. But what we say there was a confusion between the meteorological services and we were not aware what was going on. Because we do not, it is not necessary that we listen to the radio you know. And this is the problem. That is why I say the meteorological services which has an office in Rodrigues should have informed. But what I see also, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that in Rodrigues the Meteorological Services we shall have a previsionists. We have asked for that port there. So that here at the Meteorological Services could analyses situation and give us what we must do.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, je crois que nous devons en tirer une leçon. Because on the 01 June there was a communiqué on the Meteorological Services in Mauritius stipulating a “*vent fort*” on Rodrigues and Mauritius together. Then a communiqué was issued by the Ministry of Education saying that there will be no classes for pre-primary, primary and secondary schools in Mauritius and Rodrigues was out of the lots. *Vent fort* was for Rodrigues and Mauritius but no school in Mauritius, Rodrigues out of the lots. Can the Commissioner seem to it that between the Government of Mauritius and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly that a special protocol be made between the Government of Mauritius and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to cater for the whole republic whenever such matter arises. Matter concerning weather, Rodrigues and Mauritius together.

The Chief Commissioner: Well, as I have said this has already been done. The Ministry has already been contacted. The Meteorological services have already been contacted. This has taught us a lot of thing for the future what we must apply in the future. Thank you.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as a Commissioner, he must be proactive, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because there is a communiqué broadcasted by the National Radio at 04.14 hours and our radio and the Deputy Chief Commissioner was on the radio at that time. At 08.45 hours, the Rodriguan people received a communiqué that there is no school and parents have to convey their pupils back home. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on that very day, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at 14.00 hours, I saw colleges, pupils/students from different colleges, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at 14.00 hours roaming around Port Mathurin, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this communiqué, this state of affairs, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, has caused much harm between the students, the families and the parents. Can we know from what Mr. Spéville just said that an established protocol be set up so as to help up both parents, the students. Because we have to prepare the children in order to go to school.

Mr. Chairperson: You said the same question as Mr. Spéville?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: No, not only that, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at least, the Commissioner should have come on radio and ask the situation to the population.

The Chief Commissioner: I have already replied to that question.

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

At this stage, at 11.50 hours, the Deputy Chairperson took the Chair.

**FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES - RENEWAL OF EQUIPMENT
/USE OF POLICE WATER TANKERS**

(No. B/63) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Fire and Rescue Services in Rodrigues, he will state:

- (a) if any request or report has been submitted to his Office, for the period 2012 to date, for the renewal of the equipment damaged/needed and /or found missing for the good running of the service and, if so, to give details and table same;
- (b) the age of each vehicle and equipment actually in service together with their maintenance frequency and expected life span; and
- (c) the number of occasions in 2015, if any, the service of water tankers from the Police and the Commission for Water Resources were used by the Fire Services and, if so , the reasons therefor?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, I have been informed that my office has received a number of requests for renewal of equipment and procurement of new ones for the service. However, it is sheer common sense that given the budget allocated, it is imperative that we must prioritize our needs.

May I wish to remind the House, Mr. Deputy Chairperson Sir, that for the past years since 2006, the budget allocated for the acquisition of non-financial assets has been on average Rs 1 Million every year. Conscious that we need to renew certain equipment and procure new ones, provisions have been made in this budget to increase the amount of by five folds, that is, an amount of Rs 5 m. has been earmarked this year to procure new equipment and upgrade the work environment. The procurement process is in progress.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, following a meeting I had with the personnel of the Fire and Rescue Service, it was unanimously agreed that the Head Quarters would be shifted towards the Centre of Rodrigues. The new Head Quarters as well as modernizing the engines and other equipment will be taken on board in a holistic approach.

Regarding part (b) of the question, I am tabling a report submitted by the Fire and Rescue Service on its vehicles and equipment.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Assembly may wish to note that the maintenance of the vehicles and other equipment is done by the Mechanical Workshop as per their maintenance schedule. For highly complex repairs, the services of professional technicians from Mauritius are hired.

The latest intervention by a professional technician from Mauritius was carried out from 20 to 27 April where all the pumps which got damaged during the fire outbreak of 23 February have been repaired.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (c) of the question, I have been informed that from January to date the service of water tankers from the Police and Commission for Water Resources has been solicited on four occasions. This has been done in accordance with the existing protocol to provide adequate backup in case of emergency.

It is the duty of this government to see to it that all existing resources are used efficiently.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Chief Commissioner in his reply he mentioned that he received a number of requests and there were a problem of budget allocated, they prioritize the budget. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner when these new equipments will be delivered to these Firemen etc?

The Chief Commissioner: The procedures are in processed perhaps by this end of this year.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I would like to come up with the age of these vehicles because as the protocol established, rules and regulations established, the vehicles used by the Fire Service should have at least ten years old. Actually, I can see on the paper tabled by the Chief Commissioner, there are at least one, two, three, four vehicles which have more than ten years old. GMR 526, 20 years old. Can the Chief Commissioner tell the House when these vehicles will be removed at the Fire Services and will be replaced by new one?

The Chief Commissioner: As I said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a sum of Rs 5 m. in our budget for this year. So we are removing all the old vehicles. Thank you.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, most of the time on radio we heard people saying that during a fire break the inhabitants of the

nearby villages have help to extinguish the fire and in some cases the house was completely destroyed. Can we know from the Chief Commissioner according to the international norm between a call and the period of intervention, it is within nine minutes. The Fire Services will have to rescue. And in Mauritius they have brought it down to five minutes. Can we know for Rodrigues what is the time of intervention between a call and the intervention time?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, I cannot say that. But what I can say. Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, at the meeting I had with the Fire Services, it was decided that we have a principal station at Mont Plaisir and Port Mathurin will be a secondary station and we are also putting another station at La Ferme. This is the question, if all the fire services are in Port Mathurin what will happen if the road from autonomy, something can happen and in the future also there will be road from Le Chou to Port Mathurin. This is the problem. That is why we would like to go very fast with the principal station at Mont Plaisir. And at La Ferme, Port Mathurin and perhaps also in the future in the east. I think this is a must and we have heard here that sometimes it takes a long time to go to where the fire has happened. You know it takes a long time. So, we would like to say that the Fire Services in the different villages, in different areas of Rodrigues could happen to extinguish the fire very quickly.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner mentioned that there will be a principal Fire Service at Mon Plaisir. Can the Chief Commissioner enlighten us a bit on this because in all countries of the world the principal Fire Service Station are found in the capital? Can he enlighten us on this?

The Chief Commissioner: Now, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, we are working on the project at Mon Plaisir and the principal Fire Service Station will be at Mon Plaisir in years to come. And then, the Port Mathurin will stay where it is now. Unfortunately, we have a portion of land at La Ferme but unfortunately, this has been given to someone else or to an organisation. The problem is that we should have a special space where we can put a station at La Ferme. We matter what will happen to Rodrigues in 10 years time or 15 years time. We have to think about it.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, according to the Executive Council decision taken two years' back, this means that it is 2013. The Executive Council has taken the decision to purchase vehicles, equipments for Fire Fighting in Rodrigues. Can we know up to now, what equipments have been purchased for the Fire Services up to now, to date?

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Next question.

**FUEL STATION - POINTE MONIER
/DANGER-RELOCATION**

(No. B/64) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to fuel station situated at Pointe Monier, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) if consideration will be given for the relocation thereof in view of its potential danger to the inhabitants of Port Mathurin and nearby and the surrounding government offices; and
- (b) if any demand for the relocation of the point of sale, storage of fuel, gas and all dangerous inflammable substances have been made by the owner/s?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, it goes without saying that the issue of relocating the Filling Station and fuel depot of Pointe Monier is high on our agenda. Our long-term vision to relocate the fuel depot on a petroleum island was spelt out in the Port Master Plan of 2003. This ambitious project was however removed in the Port Master Plan of 2008/2009 for unknown reasons. You will agree, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that too much time had been wasted since the first Master Plan was elaborated.

Currently, we are working closely together with the promoter to devise the best possible short-term solutions so that any potential danger can be significantly reduced. The major problem being that the depot and the petrol station are within the same premises and the immediate need to segregate those two activities is most pressing.

Pending the construction of a petroleum island within the Port Development Project, we have set as objectives the reduction of traffic flow within Pointe Monier filling station. This is why this regional government has facilitated the construction of one Filling Station at Mont Lubin. A second one will shortly be opened at Grand La Fouche Corail.

Moreover, negotiations are underway with the promoter to relocate the filling station activity farther away from Port Mathurin. Once the filling station would have been relocated, the promoter has further agreed to upgrade the security around the depot which will then become a highly restricted area by constructing a perimeter wall lined with fire resistant material that would contain any fire outbreak within its compound thus minimising the risk of endangering life and property in the vicinity.

As regards part (b) of the question, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that AEL DDS Properties Ltd has submitted an application on 15 June 2012 for land outside Port Mathurin to meet the growing demand for petroleum products in Rodrigues. A site visit was effected and a site has been identified at Pointe L'Herbe for the relocation of the Filling Station.

The land falls within the Port Area. A request has therefore been submitted to the Mauritius Port Authority (MPA) on 08 December 2014. The RRA is in consultation with MPA to fast track the allocation of a lease to the promoter. We are hoping that the filling station at Pointe Monier except for the fuel depot might be relocated early next year.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, in regard to the answer the Chief Commissioner just given to this House, I would like to ask him whether the Rodrigues Regional Assembly is the owner, the promoter is contemplating to reduce the risk of dangerous inflammable gas etc. since the vicinity of this filling station you have the Police Station, Mechanical Workshop and Cadastre. All this are important building, important sections to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

The Chief Commissioner: I have already replied to that question, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir. I did say that the filling station itself will be moved to Pointe l'Herbe and the promoter will take great precaution all around this depot until we have the petroleum island in the lagoon. And that is why for the next year, for the beginning of next year, the filling station will be at Pointe l'Herbe not at the same place where it is now. And the promoter will protect the depot itself. We know there is problem. But until we start with the construction of this petroleum island, for the safety of all the inhabitants of Port Mathurin and Pointe Monier.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, during the last fire outbreak happened at Pointe Monier on the Filling Station, the Police itself called upon people to stay nearby MCB Square and not to go beyond. This means that the Assembly Point is that distance and when we go at the Filling Station, the Assembly Point is near the road in front of the Police Station. Prior to the issuing of obtaining of a fire certificate, there should be a distance for that and when we saw what had happened, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, this means that this is a hazard for Port Mathurin where the filling station is situated in a hazard for Port Mathurin. Can the Chief Commissioner contemplate to see to it in depth so that the relocation of distributing of fuel be done at another place instead of over there.

The Chief Commissioner: I have said this, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir. It has already been said. We are relocating the filling station at Pointe L'Herbe.

FOUR DESALINATION PROJECTS

(No. B/65) Mr. J. L. R. Perrine (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources & Others whether, in regard to the four desalination projects in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) If any new tenders for the completion works thereof have been launched and, if so, when;
- (b) If legal action is being contemplated by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly against the previous contractor/s; and
- (c) Payment, if any, has been effected by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to any contractors apart from JV Hydro Five and Consortium Ltd?

The Commissioner responsible for Water Resources & Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, with your permission, I shall reply to B/65 and B/83, together as both questions pertain to the same matter.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, the answer is no. The Executive Council has decided that my Commission will purchase required spares for the completion and rehabilitation of the desalination plants of Pointe Venus and Caverne Bouteille based on the assessment of the Consultant.

As I have informed this House in my replies to previous questions on this matter. These two plants were completed to 90% but the operation has been curtailed to less than 50% of the designed capacity due to break down on a major component of one of the two train at each sites.

As regards to the plants of Pointe Coton and Baie Malgache, new tender document are being prepared by the Consultant and it is expected that the bidding document will be submitted to the Central Procurement Board for vetting and launching by the end of this month.

As regards to part (b) of the question, the answer is no. Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, a sum of Rs 99,422,212.65 has been paid to the contractor Joint Venture and at the latter's request, the sum of Rs 11,433,733.18 out of the total amount was paid to a sub-contractor Aquasol PTY Ltd. on the 20 June 2014.

Mr. J. Roussety: I do not understand how there was a contract with a main contractor and now payment of Rs 11 m., if I understand well, has been made to a sub-contractor on the instruction of the contractor. When we allow a contract, the contract is with one contractor. How come that government money has been paid on the instruction of the contractor to a sub-contractor?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, yes it is possible because the joint venture has given its clearance to Petro Aquasol Ltd. for the sum of more than Rs 11 m. Prospers. It has been done in all financial procedures.

Mr. J. Roussety: I repeat the contract has been allocated to a joint venture. Now the joint venture instructed to pay to another sub-contractor. Has he sought the approval of the Central Procurement Board, the relevant authorities before proceeding to such thing bearing in mind that the main contractor had failed?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The works has been done, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, it was not necessary to seek the approval from the Central Procurement Board.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: *Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, je suis un peu surpris par la réponse du Commissaire, concernant la partie (c) où une somme de Rs 11 million a été déboursé pour payer un sous-contracteur. Le Commissaire en question est venu affirmer dans cette chambre à part le Hydro-Five, il n'y a pas eu d'argent qui on été payé à aucun contracteur. Et là il vient nous dire qu'il y a une somme de Rs 11 million ont été payé à un contracteur Aquasol ! Qu'est-ce qu'il a fait, M. le vice-président, il a enduit la Chambre en erreur. Ce n'est pas possible ! On veut des explications. Je veux que le Commissaire s'excuse là-dessus.*

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Respected Member substantiates what he is saying. I have never said that there was no money to pay.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Non! M. le Commissaire a bien déclaré dans cette Chambre qu'il n'y a pas eu de paiement et c'est écrit dans le hansard. S'il faut vérifier, on va le vérifier.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: C'est faux.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: This is true. M. le Commissaire nous a dit dans cette chambre qu'il n'y a pas eu de paiement à part que Hydro Five. Et maintenant, il nous dit qu'il a payé Rs 11 million. M. le vice-président, le Commissaire a enduit la Chambre en erreur. Et je souhaiterai que ce Commissaire s'excuse auprès de cette Assemblée.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, all have been done legally and if the Respected Member has found that I have done something illegal, he can go to the Police and the ICAC.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: This is not legal or illegal! This is not the question. The question is that the Commissioner *a enduit la Chambre en erreur. Il a déclaré dans cette Chambre, qu'il n'a pas payé, que sa commission, n'a rien payé à part que le Hydro Five. Et maintenant, il vient nous déclarer, deux mois plus tard que sa commission a payé Rs 11 million. C'est-à-dire qu'il a enduit la Chambre en erreur. Je souhaiterai que le commissaire nous explique là dessus, s'il ne peut pas, qu'il s'excuse.*

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Mr. Perrine, can you now at this present moment substantiate what you are saying. I think that you may come next time with..

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I move for a suspension of the Assembly.

[Interruption]

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: We are going to proceed with the question. Mr. Spéville.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources inform the House whether in the meantime a survey has been made on spare parts and equipments, if any, which are on site at Anse Goeland and Pointe Coton and, if yes, what is the way forward to ensure their good running condition later on. And, if ever there are discrepancies in their quality who will pay the consequences? The main contractor or the sub-contractor?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, following the termination of the contract awarded to the joint venture Hydro Plumbing Co. Ltd. Ocean Five Ltd., the consultant Messrs. Seervasing Jadav and Partners

Consulting Engineering Ltd. is preparing the final account in respect of the terminated contract and then any amount due will be paid to the joint venture in accordance to the condition of the contract.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: My question was whether there are spare parts and equipment that are all ready on site at Pointe Coton and Anse Goeland. If a survey has, been made on spare parts and on equipments, which are on site and what is the way forward that these equipments are being kept in good condition, for the good running condition and if there are discrepancies who will pay for the consequences, the contractor, the sub-contractor, I do not know?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, all the survey have already been made on all the four sites and there are security guards on the sites for the safekeeping of these equipments and house.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner did answer for part (a). If I heard well he has said no for part (a). Then he said that the Executive Council gave its approval for the acquisition of spare parts to run the two sites. Yes, Pointe Venus and Anse Quitor. I would like to ask him which mode, how is he going to buy these spare parts? So far, he has said no, there has been no tender, whether there will be a tender, he will launch a tender to buy these spare parts.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, all procedures regarding the procurement of spares will be effected by my commission. It will be the Maintenance and Equipment Manager who will proceed with all the purchase. Who will inform what we will have to buy.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, he has not answered my question. My question was about whether he will launch, we know that there are officers who are responsible to buy spare parts and so on in a Commission. We know! But what I am asking him is whether he will launch a tender. How is he going to buy these spare parts? The fact that he said in part (a), no tender. For condition of work, he said no. Then he says we will buy spare parts. So, how is he going to buy the spare parts, by which mode? We know there are officers doing the job. This we know. But I will like to ask him, how, whether he will launch tender for buying of these spare parts.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, it will be launched according to procedures. But, of course, we used to buy spares at the Commission.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: The Commissioner is admitting that he will launch a tender but why has he said for part (a), no?

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: No tender has been launched. But there are tenders that are to be launched I think.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, he said no for part (a), even though no tender. What is he waiting for? What is he waiting for to launch the tender? What is he waiting for? Thank you my friend. What is he waiting for to launch the tender, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir? We know he has resigned the contract of Hydro Five Ltd. for how much time and then he come here and say who will launch the tender. Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, this is not serious. I would like to ask the Commissioner whether and when he would launch these tenders.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the purchase of the spares will be made effective in due course.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Mr. Roussety.

Mr. J. Roussety: Thank you. There is one thing we need to know, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, it is the Commissioner who must tell us what is going on in this file. Is it the Regional Assembly who is indebted to Hydro Five the Joint Venture or is it because of the failure in executing the contract, the terms of the contract. It is Hydro Five Ltd. Joint Venture who is indebted to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Because he is speaking of payment to be made to the contractor at this stage. When we know that the contractor has abandoned the site, has left all the works as it is. And there are legal implication in this. The question relates to legal action and he says no legal action is being contemplated. But what about the terms of the contract. The terms of the contract specified that there are first penalties. He said that the contract would be completed by 15 April 2014. He said here in this House and he cannot deny this that the contract would be completed by April 2014 and we are now in 2015. What about all these months of delay? Has for example, all the liquidated damages, penalties been computed to the charge of the contractor? And has the contractor fulfilled all these requirements? Has there not been over payments or under payments being made to the Regional Assembly or to the contractor. What about the legal terms of the contract. Because this is a civil action. This is a civil case where there was a contract; government money has been paid to the contractor. He has not fulfilled the terms of his contract. He is in breach of his contract. So, there is a legal case on the civil side. What is being done and I want to know also about the penalties, the liquidated damages that logically should have been charged to the contractor?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, as I have said the consultant is preparing the final account and of course, we will not neglect the liquidated damage that should be applied to the contractor. We have to wait for the final account from the Consultant.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner, since it is a very serious project what is the penalty rate for this specific contract? What is the maximum percentage of penalty to be applied to the contractor for this contract, if ever; he does not complete the contract?

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

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: The Commissioner should know what is the maximum percentage penalty to be applied per project, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir? This is very simple. He should know. This he does not know! Question time? Yes, I am on my feet. Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask him whether he will look into the matter and I think the maximum percentage is 15 to 20% well to be checked with the Departmental Head?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Of course, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, all the condition under the contract will apply.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Mr. Agathe.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, according to Public Procurement Act part 7 - Procurement Contracts there are guidelines what to do in a contract. And here in the guidelines, here, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, no contractors shall transfer or assigned a procurement contract. No contractor shall transfer. So, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I will not lose the time of the Assembly to recall to what is said here. Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, there are guidelines here in the Public Procurement Act. In order for payment to be effected, payment should be effected to the contractor, not to any sub-contractor. Because here it is mentioned, no contractors shall transfer or assigned a procurement contract. This is the first one. And second one, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, there are procurement integrity. Who is or are the officer/s who have approved for the payment of such contract to a sub-contractor?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I think that the Respected Member has misinterpreted this part of law but the contractor Hydro Five has not transfer the contract to another contractor but has requested for payment which has been done legally.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, can I know from the Commissioner, the number of containers, which have been shipped to Rodrigues for the desalination project?

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: I think this is far from the main question. We will come with your question later on, Mr. Perrine.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: My question is related to the desalination project. I would like to ask the Commissioner, I am asking the four desalination plants projects. How many containers have been shipped to Rodrigues for the desalination projects, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir?

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: We are talking about tenders. Next, question please.

[Interruption]

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, abroad desalination plants are being followed everyday by poly technicians who submit report regularly about its operational state. *Ici à Rodrigues dans l'absence d'étude géologique, géophysique et géologie associé au dessalement de l'eau.* Can the Commissioner inform the House who is making the follow-up of the desalination plant, for example, at Caverne Bouteille, the borehole has been transferred to the original Caverne Bouteille? Who is making the follow-up of the desalination plant, informs the Commissioner to submit report, which spares parts, which type of spare parts should be bought/purchased, membrane etc.? Who is making the follow-up of these desalination plants? To inform the Commissioner on which type of spare parts on a priority list is being needed to ensure the continuous running of these desalination plants to prevent disruption of these plants.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, we have qualified officers at the Commission to advise us on the matter.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Next question.

DEVELOPMENT IN FISHERIES SECTOR - RODRIGUES

(No. B/66): The Sixth Island Region Member (Mr. J. L. R. Perrine) asked the Commissioner Responsible for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to the development in the fisheries sector in Rodrigues, he will state:

- (a) if any delegation from the Government of Norway, since 2012, visited Rodrigues in relation thereto and, if so, to give details as to the date thereof and composition of the delegation and table same; and
- (b) offer, if any, for training of fishers in Tanzania, since 2012, from the Ministry of Fisheries and, if so, when and how many fishers attended the training and to give details thereof?

The Commissioner Responsible for Fisheries and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, I have to inform the House that her Excellency Mrs. Tove Bruvik Westberg, Norwegian Ambassador accompanied by her First Secretary, Mrs. Annette Bull, were on official visit to the Republic of Mauritius from 15 to 20 April, 2012. They seized the opportunity to proceed to Rodrigues from 16 to 18 2012.

During their visit, the Norwegian delegation had meetings with my Commission, the Island Chief Executive and effected site visits at the South East Marine Protected Area and at *La Maison des Pêcheurs* where they met the Representatives of the Rodrigues Offshore Fishermen Cooperative Federation. Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling the information.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b) of the question, my Commission has not and never received any official offer for training of fishers in Tanzania since 2012 from the Ministry of Fisheries. Therefore, the question of when and how many fishers attended does not arise.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, may I know from the Commissioner about the outcomes of these missions and whether, there has been a follow-up and if yes, give us details on the matter.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I said previously that it was just a mission where we have discussed on matters but there was nothing which was the question about training or whatever. There was supposed to be a sort of negotiation in the future but this has never been done. And, I think maybe there has been a bit of training offered to the Rodrigues but maybe it has been eaten by rats by the Ministry Officers in Mauritius.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, by the time... *Mo koze toujours hein.* As regard to part (b), Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I want to ask the Commissioner. He mentioned that the Ministry for Fisheries has not given

any training for officers in Tanzania. Yes, can we know whether any donor countries or any NGOs or SmartFish has asked for training officers in Tanzania or whether, any group of fishers or any officer has gone to Tanzania for such project?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, as far as I know, there has not been any training for fishermen or whoever in Tanzania but there has been quite a lot of exchange with different other places in the world.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Can we know whether any officer has proceeded to Tanzania with any group in Mauritius as regard fishing is concerned?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I need notice of the question, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the date of mission of his delegation to Rodrigues from April 16 to Wednesday 18 – two days of mission. I have just asked the Commissioner whether there has been a follow-up in this mission. He just mentioned no. Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, two days of mission, no follow-up? There is something wrong. Can I know from the Commissioner whether, in 2015, there has been a sort of document which has which has been a change between his Excellency of Norway and Rodrigues?

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I have never said that there was no... We had two days of meeting. Yes, we discussed on quite a lot of things but you should know who was the Minister for the Fisheries by the time these people came to Rodrigues. And, there was probably a sort of, I did not want to say it but he forced me to say it, I will say it, a sort of obstacle.

There has always been an obstacle with the Ministry for Fisheries in Mauritius and that of the Commission for Fisheries on Rodrigues. It is only now that things are getting better and this is why... You know, I have nothing against people. We do not discuss with people. We think of the spirit of, you know, how people look at things. But, as far as I know, there have never been any concrete things between the Norwegian Embassy and Rodrigues with regard to exchange or training on Fisheries.

The Deputy Chairperson: I suspend the House for one hour for lunch.

At 12.35 hours, the Assembly was suspended.

On resuming at 13.34 hours with the Chairperson in the Chair.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, please. Eight Island Region Member, Mister.

**“TOURNÉE RODRIGUAISE”
– PARIS, FRANCE**

(No. B/67): The Eight Island Region Member (Mr. A. Edouard) asked the Commissioner Responsible for Tourism and Others whether, in regard to the “*Tournée Rodriguaise*” held in Paris, France, from 28 to 31 May, 2015, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the outcome thereof?

The Commissioner Responsible for Tourism and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to inform the House that in line with the Budget Speech for fiscal year 2015, my Commission in collaboration with stakeholders in the Tourism Sector, organised the first edition of *La “Tournée Rodriguaise”* from 28 to 31 May, 2015 in Paris, with the aim of increasing the visibility of Rodrigues as a tourist destination in France, as part of our promotional strategy to increase tourist arrivals from our third main market.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, every year, Rodrigues participate in tourism fairs such as “*Monde à Paris*”, “World Trade Market”, “Top Resa” and “*Florilèges*” just to name a few. We shall continue to participate in such fairs to promote our destination. However, Mr. Chairperson Sir, in view of our smallness and constraints, we are not that visible in those fairs, where other countries tend to dominate.

As such, this Regional Government has seen in fit to diversify our main way of promoting Rodrigues as a tourist destination. This explains why, Mr. Chairperson Sir, we have decided to go alone by organising “*La Tournée Rodriguaise*” in France, Mauritius and Reunion Island so that attention is focused on Rodrigues and we are not diluted by the presence of other countries.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, the objectives of the “*Tournée Rodriguaise*” in France were essentially to:

- Make Rodrigues known as a tourist destination in France
- Promote Rodrigues as a unique and distinct destination from Mauritius.
- Build a professional network with valued tourism players for the continuous promotion of Rodrigues.

Being the third source market for tourists travelling to Rodrigues, France is very important for the Tourism Sector of Rodrigues. A one day workshop and two days road show were organised on the 30 - 31 of May, 2015 in Paris respectively.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the workshop organised on the 28 May at the hotel Novotel Paris Est allowed for quality meetings between tourism professionals of France and Rodrigues. Quality agencies in the name of “Lastminute”, “*Tropicalement Vôtre*” and “*Promotour*” amongst others attended the workshop.

On the 30 and 31 of May, 2015, Rodrigues delighted a crowd of some 2500 people at the “*Aquarium de Paris*” at Trocadero, with its local cuisine, traditional music shows and tourism professionals delivering quality information to influence the French people to visit this rich and authentic piece of land. Some 50 people of press companies headed to “*Aquarium de Paris*” to meet the Rodriguan people. Press coverage was one of the factors playing in favor of the success of the “*Tournée Rodriguaise*”

Mr. Chairperson: Yes?

The Minority Leader: On a point of order, you will notice that the Commissioner, although this is a question, I think it is a pretext to use question time for a statement. This could have been done at statement time, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, Commissioner, please shorten your answer.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I am answering the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Answer is too long. Just circulate or shorten.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: I am nearly done.

Mr. Chairperson: Okay.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: These are the outputs of the *tournée*. Some 20 press releases about the promotional campaign have been recorded before, during and after the holding of same. It was announced and followed by well-known press and blogs; “*TourHebdo*”, “*Côte Nord*”, “*Classe Tourisme*”, “*Ile Maurice Tourisme Info*”, “*Le Mauricien*”, “*L’Express*” and “*My TravelMag*” amongst others.

“Tourmag” which is the number one newspaper for tourism professionals in France published an article about Rodrigues following an interview which I gave as head of a delegation and policy maker. In addition, they communicated about the workshop and road show prior their holding on the 28 and 30 – 31 May respectively.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, la “*Tournée Rodriguaise*” obtained a 30 minutes radio show on Radio “*Pluriel*” which is one of the most famous diversity and culture radio among the Parisian. Last page, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Due to the time factor which influences the measurement of the success of a promotional campaign, outcome in figures can barely be measured yet. Influences in arrival from the market of France following the organisation of the “*Tournée Rodriguaise*” will be noticed at a later stage. I am fully convinced Mr. Chairperson Sir that with the holding of La “*Tournée Rodriguaise*” in France, tourists arrival from that market will further increase in the years to come.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to thank all those people including tour operators, the Rodrigues Tourism Office, Air Mauritius, the staff of my Commission, my colleagues and other partners who, in some ways or another, gave a helping hand to make the first edition of “*Tournée Rodriguaise*” in France a success.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, next question, then. Next question, please.

“SPECTACLE DE DANSE” – WORLD DANCE DAY

(No. B/68): The Eight Island Region Member (Mr. A. Edouard) asked the Commissioner Responsible for Arts & Culture and Others whether, in regard to the “spectacle de Danse” organised on the 09th May 2015 in the context of the World Dance Day, she will, for the benefit of the House, state the objectives and outcomes thereof?

The Commissioner Responsible for Arts & Culture and Others (Ms. M. R. Edouard): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on the 29 April 2015, the International Dance Day, also known as the World Dance Day, was celebrated in Rodrigues. And, this celebration has started since 1982 through the promotion of International Dance Council.

The objective of the organisation of the World Dance Day is to provide a platform to Rodriguan dancers and choreographers of both traditional and

modern dance to exhibit their talents and promote artistic exchanges and excellence in this field of art.

It has to be highlighted though that the World Dance Day was not organised in Rodrigues since 2009. And, I wish to put forward the following activities that were organised to mark the celebrations. First of all, we had a radio programme on the Thursday 29 April with relevant resource persons on the issue of dancing as a field of art and its progress in Rodrigues.

And, then, secondly, we had a dress code and guidelines for the typical dance dress in view of keeping cultural heritage authentic and unique. The guidelines are now being circulated to all Commissions and traditional groups together with video and photo presentations.

Finally, on the 09 May 2015 at the Leisure and Cultural Centre, a dance show was organised and priority was given to emerging cultural groups covering all generations.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, it was a great opportunity to enable young and promising emerging group to express their talents and also to enhance collaboration with the Senior Citizen Association with the participation of three 3rd Age dancing group. This was also an occasion for the blending of tradition and modernity.

Added to that, the Leisure Centre has been put at the disposal of choreographers and dancers for rehearsals and ticketed shows and which various groups are taking advantage.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me to express my deep appreciation to all the participating groups who performed for free for the occasion and my Commission provided transport facilities and other facilities to these persons who have facilitated. And, all these were culminated by dance workshops by two professional choreographers from the 12 to the 14 June 2015. I wish to express my gratitude to all these groups and resource persons. Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Members, I wish to inform you, the House, that Question B/78 and B/79 are withdrawn. Next question, please.

**“MAURITIUS OPEN MEET”
- CAMP DU ROI STADIUM**

(No. B/69): The Eight Island Region Member (Mr. A. Edouard) asked the Commissioner Responsible for Health & Sports whether, in regard to

the “Mauritius Open Meet” held on the 30th May 2015 at Camp du Roi stadium, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the objectives and outcomes thereof?

The Commissioner Responsible for Health & Sports (Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to inform the House that my Commission is now well-experienced in the organisation of major sports events in Rodrigues being given that it is the sixth of such event hosted in Rodrigues since I took office. The Mauritius Open Meet, Rodrigues, has been yet another occasion to showcase our capacity to organise such events both on a technical and administrative level.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, it is to be noted that around seventy 70 athletes from Rodrigues participated together with nine athletes from Mauritius and four athletes from Reunion Island. The event, in addition to highlighting the re-operation of activities at the stadium, has also contributed tremendously to:-

- (i) revamp the athletic community which has been compelled to relocate activities on other playgrounds around the island for the past four years during which the stadium was closed for renovation.
- (ii) create opportunities for our athletes to compete at high level with other athletes of the Indian Ocean Region, namely Reunion and Mauritius and increase competitive opportunities in view of the Indian Ocean Island Games 2015.
- (iii) put our island on the forefront to increase the visibility as a touristic destination.

We are thankful to the organising committee which comprised of members of the Rodrigues Regional Athletic Committee and officers of my Commission for their hard work and support culminating in the success of this prestigious event.

A vote of thanks also goes to the Athletic Federation through the President, Mr. Vivian Gungaram, for his unflinching support to Rodrigues and here, in terms of equipment and for having granted its blessing to the Regional Committee, to host this event in Rodrigues.

The islands of the Indian Ocean have very much to share in terms of cultural, technical knowhow and touristic potentials. This is why my Commission will continue to organise such events and exchanges for the benefit of our people and the development of our athletes’ aptitudes. Thank you.

**CONSTRUCTION OF STUDENT'S
ACCOMMODATION HOUSE
– VACOAS, MAURITIUS**

(No. B/70): The Eight Island Region Member (Mr. A. Edouard) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the construction of a Student's Accommodation House at Vacoas, Mauritius, for Rodriguan students, she will, for the benefit of the House, state where matters stand?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as the House may be aware, the number of Rodriguan students pursuing tertiary education increases constantly each year. The numerous schemes set up at my Commission have greatly helped many Rodriguan families in this respect.

In the same line, to facilitate the lives of the Rodriguans students in Mauritius, especially those coming from family with low incomes and accommodation house will be built at Vacoas, Mauritius. Some 45 students will be able to have an accommodation there during their period of study.

Tender for the construction of a student's accommodation house for the Rodriguan students at Vacoas, Mauritius, has been launched through open advertised bid on 29 May 2015 on the Public Procurement Website as well as in the local newspapers and to widely circulated newspapers in Mauritius. A pre-bid meeting was held on the site at Vacoas, Mauritius on Thursday, 04 June 2015 at 10 o'clock, in view to facilitate prospective bidders in Mauritius to purchase bidding documents; the sale of bidding documents is being made also by the Ministry responsible for Rodrigues Procurement Section since Monday, 08 June 2015.

A second notice was uploaded in the Public Procurement Website on 05 June 2015 accordingly. The closing date for the submission of bidding documents is Wednesday, 24 June 2015 up to 13.30 and bids will be opened publicly at the conference room of the Central Procurement Board as from 14.00 hours on the same day.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS - RODRIGUES

(No. B/71): The First Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. C. Agathe) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to primary schools in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the total number of students attending both Government and RCA schools, respectively, for the year 2015;
- (b) the proposed program for slow learners performed outside working hours and to table the allowance, if any, paid to each officer or staff; and
- (c) table a detailed list of money allocated and spent per schools as regards the Independence Day celebration 2015?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the number of pupils attending Government schools and Roman Catholic Education Authorities Schools for year 2015 is 3091 and 1974 respectively. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as the vision of my Government is to have quality education for all and particular care for all slow learners.

That is why, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Government has introduced a Special Coaching Programme since mid-February 2015 for pupils of Standard III and IV in primary schools who have not achieved a required literacy and numeracy level at this stage. The Special Coaching Programme, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, aims at addressing about 620 pupils with learning difficulties for the provision of targeted education in reading, writing and numeracy for students of Standard II and IV who have achieved the pass marks below 40% in three core subjects. That is, English, French and Maths.

The programme is also extended to CPE pupils who have learning deficiencies and are at risk but likely to succeed in these CPE Examinations. The programme, therefore, aims at improving pupils' leaning abilities, particularly at the level of the core subjects namely English, French and Mathematics so as to help them to succeed in the forthcoming CPE Examinations.

The programme, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is held three days a week, that is, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 15.45 to 16.45. The pupils are also provided with food commodities, tea and cakes. The allowance paid to officers per month for the programme is as follows:

- (a) Inspectors – Rs 4,620
- (b) Headmasters – Rs 4,180
- (c) Educators – Rs 3,300
- (d) School Caretakers – Rs 840

The rate is based on the ones that were established by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources for the Enhancement Programme when same was being conducted in primary schools. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the number of staff involved in the programme is:

- (a) Inspectors – 2
- (b) Headmasters – 10
- (c) Educators – 59
- (d) Caretakers - 10

The same Special Coaching Programme will be implemented in all Roman Catholic Education Authorities School on the same criteria as for Government Schools. The request for Roman Catholic Education Authority is being processed by my office.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Part (c). There is something missing part (c), Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Yes, thank you. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Chief Commissioner when does the coaching programme has started in Rodrigues for students of Government Primary Schools and RCS Schools?

The Chief Commissioner: I have just answered to the question. I said February in Government Schools and for the RCEA, RCS Schools, we are waiting for information from the RCEA and the programme is being processed.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what are the reasons behind that the same coaching programme had not started on the same day as for the government school and the RCS school?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the same programme for RCEA and for government schools. For government schools, which has... the enhancement programme three days a week and it will be the same in the RCEA schools and we have asked for more information. We have said that for 620 pupils with learning difficulties for the provision of targeting education and reading and so on.

This percentage of 620 has been worked out by a team of Service to Mauritius. And, they could make an excellent work looking for their results at the level of the government schools and the different results in class Standard 3 and 4. I must thank, here, this team of Service to Mauritius (STM) for their good work.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have not received the answer, the exact answer that I want from this question. But, nevertheless, Mr.

Chairperson, Sir, I see here, that in government school, we have the coaching programme. And, in the RCEA, we have enhancement programme. And, in primary school, for government primary school, it is meant for students of Standard 3 and Standard 4. And, for the enhancement programme, it is for Standard 6. Can I know from the Chief Commissioner whether, there is a difference in curriculum taught at government primary schools and RCS schools?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I did mention in my reply. It did mention in my reply. We have our programme: English, French, Mathematics, the same programme and the CPE also. I did mention that. And, the RCEA, they have their programme. That is why we have asked them to give us the programme and to see whether, it matches with our programme. So, that is why I say this is being processed.

Mr. Chairperson: Member Spéville, please.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at the time being, we are in winter and, at 16.45, night begin to fall. And, those who have to travel by foot may reach home in the dark. Can the Chief Commissioner inform the House whether special arrangement has been made for transport of pupils living in remote areas?

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. All these have been done. It was just like the enhancement programme. The transport of the pupils were organised after 14.45, something like that. Everything has been planned for this coaching programme.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I want to know from the Chief Commissioner, the exact... I want the exact reply. *Oui, mo koné pé noye, noye nou. En réalité, enan enn problème quelque part.* Yes, we have in primary school, all students of the primary schools, being RCS schools or government schools, are Rodriguan students. And, we want to know, what we want to know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, first of all, we have the same curriculum prepared by the MIE or the Ministry for Education.

Can we know who supervise both government primary schools and RCEA schools? Whether, the Inspector, he, who supervises the curriculum there or there are different people who do that?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, government school is government teachers, inspectors, headmasters. Well, the RCEA, they have got their inspectors, they have got headmasters. Quite different but the thing is that

Standard 3 and Standard 4 and Standard 6, well, there is everywhere in RCS school, in government schools, the same programme!

Mr. Chairperson: Next question.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS - RODRIGUES

(No. B/72): The First Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. C. Agathe) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to secondary schools in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) if any incident involving sit-in of students in any Rodrigues Educational Development Co. Ltd. (REDCO) College/s of Rodrigues during this year and, if so, to give details thereof; and
- (b) the number of optional school holidays, for the year 2015 to date, already granted to each college together with the number of times students were compelled to stay at home and the reasons therefor?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that (a), there was an incident at Le Chou College on Monday 11 May 2015 after recess. The cause of this incident was due to the following reasons:

- (i) the students were unhappy about the fact that this year, they were being asked to wear red jackets in line with the official colour of the school. According to internal school regulations, the official colour of jacket that the student should wear is red. The common practice, however, is that students were allowed to wear different colours although the internal regulations say otherwise.

I think it is clear.

- (ii) the students were also complaining about the price of the school jacket which was considered too high. This was due to the fact that the school was ordering small quantity of jackets yearly.
- (iii) The students also protested because they felt that they were not given enough time to adjust themselves to this new situation, that is, to wear the official school jacket.

I am informed, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that due to the Intercollegiate Athletics Meeting this year, the school has obtained a reasonable price for the procurement of jackets as a bulk order has been processed.

I am also informed, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that after discussion between the management of the college and the students, a decision has been taken to maintain a status quo concerning the colour of jackets worn by the students until next year. Meanwhile the students will adjust themselves to the official colour of the college and wear the official college jacket. The unrest started after recess and ended about 40 minutes later when the agreement was reached.

(b), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that, all the REDCO institutions took their first optional Holiday on 13 March 2015. The second optional Holiday was taken by Mont Lubin College on 30 April 2015 whereas Grande Montagne, Le Chou, Marechal and Terre Rouge Colleges opted for 29 May 2015.

I am also informed, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that Rodrigues College opted for their first holiday on 30 March 2015 and the second one on 08 May 2015. I am informed, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that students were compelled to stay at home on 14 January 2015 due to torrential rain followed by 15 and 16 January 2015 due to cyclone Bansi. Warnings of Class II, III and IV. Also, on the 01 June 2015 due to strong wind warning, there was no school.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: M. le président, est-ce le Chef commissaire peut nous dire qu'il y a encore un problème concernant la grève que les élèves ont fait à l'école ? Il y a aussi le problème de '*lasé soulier*'. Est-ce qu'il est au courant de ça ?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je viens de dire. Je pense qu'il y a une chose qui s'est passée et ça, c'est très important dans le management d'un collège. Vous avez un *Student Council*. Il y a aussi c'est ce qu'on appelle, *School Development Committee (SDC)*. Je pense que le management du collège ne doit pas agir seul.

C'est pourquoi il y a le *Student Council*, il y a le *PTA*, il y a un *School Development Committee*. J'ai souvent assisté à ces réunions. Même là-dedans, il y a le *PTA*, il y a les enseignants, il y a un *Student Council*. Mais à mon avis, le management de tous les collèges doit faire appel avant de prendre une décision, doit faire appel à ces comités et avoir l'opinion des parents, des enfants, des enseignants et tout cela.

Il me semble c'est ce qui est dit dedans. Lorsqu'il y a eu une rencontre entre le manager et les élèves, qu'il y a eu vraiment, qu'ils ont cessé de faire cette grève, je ne sais pas quoi. Et il me semble que dans les années à venir, il

faut que le management d'un collège adopte cette attitude justement de consulter les enfants, les parents et les enseignants.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: B/73. I agree with the Chief Commissioner.

**ALLEGED CASES OF
MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE - RODRIGUES**

(No. B/73): The First Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. C. Agathe) asked the Commissioner Responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to alleged cases of medical negligence in Rodrigues, he will:

- (a) state the number of enquiries (i) internal and (ii) by the Police, if any, carried out thereinto where death occurred from 2012 to date and, if so, to table the findings thereof and, if not, why; and
- (b) table the diagnostic carried out by the Medical Practitioners, both in Rodrigues and Mauritius, for one Mr E. E. P* also known as M. J* a fisherman of Corail and state if enquiry for any alleged case of medical negligence is envisaged to situate responsibility thereinto?

The Commissioner Responsible for Health and Sports (Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that based on the records at my Commission and number of enquiries, whether be internal or by the Police where, death occurred since 2012 to date, is nil.

I am further informed, Mr. Chairperson Sir, that with regard to part (b) for one Mr. E.E. P also known as M.J, no case has been reported whether be at my Commission or at the Police.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairperson Sir, it is highly unethical to table such confidential information as medical diagnosis of patient as requested in part (b).

Mr. J. Roussety: Can the Commissioner state whether, in the case, we will not name, of a woman who gave birth to triplets and where there were deaths, three deaths, whether there is no police enquiry on this?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am answering to the question related to what the Member is asking about enquiries in connection with death. The case mentioned by the respected Member of the other side, the

question is that the other case is I mentioned it last time. It is still birth; this is not considered as life birth. So, it is different.

Mr. J. Roussety: Are we sure, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that there were life births and then deaths or there were still births? – Because there is a police enquiry ongoing on this.

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a police enquiry and I maintain it is still birth.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: As regard to part (b), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am aware of the case because I have had a look at the card. Yes, I phoned. Yes. The first diagnostics, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Practitioner, Medical Practitioner called the person. He has been to hospitals several times.

Several times, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and the reply is *li gagne congestion*. *Li gagne congestion*. But, the same person, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, E.E. P, went to Mauritius on his own. And, when he arrived at Mauritius, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Practitioner said to him, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, he did not have the problem of *congestion* but he has been attacked... *Bé ou koner alors! Bé attack, mo pa koner moi*.

Mr. Chairperson: Okay, now, continue and say your question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Que la personne est arrivée à un stade bien avancé qu'il ait maintenant, souffert de tumeur, M. le président. Tension, pour venir maintenant tumeur, M. le président. Qu'est-ce qui s'est passé entre temps ? Et même la commission n'a rien fait pour cette personne-là, M. le président. Et cette personne-là est partie à Maurice *on his own*. Qu'est-ce qui s'est passé ? Est-ce que le commissaire peut maintenant, avec cette information que je viens de lui dire, de faire une enquête interne ? C'est ça.

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think I have already answered to that question. The first question he mentioned. Now, he is mentioning that, he is stating that the patient was suffering for this and that. This is the information he gathered. I think as there has been no case reported either to my commission or to the Police, if they want to go forward and ask for any enquiry, then, we will go. Personally, I cannot go by the saying of the respected Member of the other side.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and, we have not only that case. We have a case of a pregnant woman at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. She was informed that her baby was dead. And, after a second day, Mr. Chairperson,

Sir, the same woman gave birth to two children, live children. And, on the very day when the Gynecologist informed the patient that her child was dead, the same Gyne was on the airplane to Mauritius. Can he, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, conduct an enquiry into that case?

Mr. I. Valimamode: I want to repeat, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is to those who felt they have been aggrieved that they go ahead and asked for an enquiry. Then, we will proceed.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I am aware of one case of a woman who passed away living at Montagne Cabris Est. Their family, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, has proceeded to Grande Montagne Police Station in order to start an enquiry to know what has happened to their family. And, here, today, we heard the Commissioner mention that there is no case, that there is no enquiry. Since 2012 to date, there is one, at least one. I give you one.

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, he is insinuating. The guy is insinuating. I am in the presence of the report from the Police before answering in this House. To date, there has been no such alleged case of negligence leading to death. If any other enquiries are still at the Police...

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, will the Commissioner prepare to step down if I come with at least one case?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I am in the presence, I am answering to the report written by the Police.

Mr. Chairperson: No, sit down. I cannot accept this question. No. I cannot accept that question. Yes, you want to say one question? No, you want to say the question, you? Bon, if the Commissioner wants to give a reply, okay.

[Interruptions]

Mr. Chairperson: We are not challenging anyone. Do not challenge anyone. You have one question, Member Perrine?

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, I would like to.

Mr. Chairperson: The last question for you.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. M. le président, cette affaire de négligence médicale, nous avons l'impression que le Commissaire en question, c'est vrai qu'il n'est pas des fois en mesure de répondre à des

insinuations. Mais nous avons des cas, beaucoup de cas, *genuine case* que nous avons rapporté.

Donc, ce qui fait que moi, ce que je voudrais demander au Commissaire, le fait qu'il y a tellement de cris de la part de la population générale à Rodrigues concernant ces négligences médicales, est-ce qu'il est en mesure de conduire une étude ou bien un genre de *report*, une petite enquête interne pour voir qu'est-ce qui se passe ? Parce que la semaine dernière, il y a eu sur 12 cas de naissances à Mont Lubin, neuf césariennes. Est-ce que vous trouvez ça normal ?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not in a position to answer for the Gynecologist as to why he is performing operations or not. I am not here trying to hide or to defend any other doctors. They are not my families or if I have to defend the citizen, I will do but as long as there are no cases reported at my Commission or to the Police, it would stay like this.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

LABOUR DISPUTES - RODRIGUES

(No. B/74): The First Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. C. Agathe) asked the Commissioner Responsible for Labour, Industrial Relations and Others whether, in regard to labour disputes in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the composition of the Rodrigues Commission for Conciliation and Mediation and to table the number of cases reported thereat, from 2012 to date and the findings thereof; and
- (b) the number of cases reported to his Commission and to give a brief outcome thereof?

The Commissioner Responsible for Labour, Industrial Relations and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Rodrigues Commission for Conciliation and Mediation commonly known as the RCCM, is established under section 99 of the Employment Relation Act 2008 as amended in 2013. It consists of a President, one Representative of Employers, one Representative of Workers Organisation and one independent member, all appointed by the Commissioner Responsible for Labour and Unemployment.

From the year 2012 to date, the RCCM has registered a total number of 197 cases out of which, 167 have been settled representing about 85% of the

total number of cases reported. Seven cases have been withdrawn, eleven still ongoing, one case has been rejected and the other one has not been entertained. I am tabling the requested.

As regard to part (b), I wish to inform the House that the Labour Office of my Commission has registered a total of 705 complaints from 2012 to date. All these complaints have already been enquired into. The outcome is as follows:

- (i) Amicable settlement has been reached in 550 cases, for which a total of Rs 6,130,601 has been recovered and paid to aggrieved workers. Out these 550 settled cases, 214 workers have been admitted to the Workfare Programme.
- (ii) A total of 56 cases were rejected by the Labour Office.
- (iii) 80 cases were referred to the Industrial Court. Out of these cases, settlement and judgment has been given in 38 cases where, a total amount of Rs 1,372,475 has been paid to plaintiffs and 42 cases are still ongoing.
- (iv) 25 cases are still pending as at end of May 2015 and enquiry is ongoing.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I know from the Commissioner what is the role of the RCCM? Is it here to mediate or to reject cases?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, the functions of the RCCM are well established according to the act. And, obviously, they also have the right to... The President has the prerogative to reject cases as stipulated in section 65 of the Employment Relations Act.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, can I know from the Commissioner whether the section regarding the RCCM, whether there has been any amendment in the act and what amendment has been brought to it? Because Rodrigues Commission for Conciliation and Mediation, it is almost his role as Commissioner to have an overview about it. What has been amended in here?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: In 2013, there has been only an amendment regarding appointment of President. Before, it was mentioned that the President shall be appointed on a part-time basis by the Commissioner. Now, the words 'on a part-time basis' have been removed. So, a President shall be appointed simply and not on part-time basis.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: What is the difference between appointed and... You say appointed and on contract. This means almost the same. The President is on a contract basis whether, it is on a contract basis or it is on appointed as an officer there.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: The President is appointed for a period which shall be determined by the Commission. Yes, on a contractual basis.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question.

**PROGRAMME 503 “CONSTRUCTION AND
MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND BRIDGES”
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015**

(No. B/75): The Second Island Region Member (Mrs. M.D.L.C. Meunier) asked the Commissioner Responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to the Programme 503 “Construction and Maintenance of Roads and Bridges” of the Budget Estimates 2015, from January 2015 to date, he will:

- (a) state the number of roads and bridges (i) maintained and (ii) constructed, respectively;
- (b) table the list of roads and bridges maintained, respectively and indicating the name of the successful bidders and the cost of each project; and
- (c) table the list of roads and bridges constructed or under construction, respectively and indicating the name of the successful bidders, the cost of each project, their respective location and time frame?

[Withdrawn]

RELOCATION OF INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (ICU)

(No. B/76): The Second Island Region Member (Mrs. M.D.L.C. Meunier) asked the Commissioner Responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to the project for the relocation of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to the ex-pediatric ward, he will, for the benefit of the House, state where matters stand?

/UNREVISED/

[Withdrawn]

“RODRIGUES NATURELLEMENT”

(No. B/77): The Second Island Region Member (Mrs. M.D.L.C. Meunier) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the implementation of the label “Rodrigues Naturellement”, she will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the number of entrepreneurs/operators who have registered for same;
- (b) the procedures and main implications in obtaining same; and
- (c) the main sectors of the Rodriguan economy for which it will be applicable and to table a sample thereof?

[Withdrawn]

**CONSTRUCTION OF “BASSIN ROND”
– “RAINWATER HARVESTING SCHEME”**

(No. B/78): The Third Island Region Member (Mr. F. A. Grandcourt) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to distribution of building materials for the construction of “bassin rond” under the “rainwater harvesting scheme” around the island to date, he will:

- (a) table the list of materials delivered to each beneficiary indicating the quantity delivered per material; and
- (b) state the procedures put in place by his Commission prior to the delivery thereof to the beneficiaries?

[Withdrawn]

CONSTRUCTION OF TRACK ROADS/FOOTPATHS

(No. B/79): The Third Island Region Member (Mr. F. A. Grandcourt) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to construction of track roads/footpaths around the island from January 2015 to date, he will:

- (a) table the list of contractors who participated in the bidding exercise thereof and indicating the prices quoted by each;
- (b) state the mode by which tender was launched together with the closing date for same; and
- (c) state the length of track roads to be constructed under the contracts and to table a list thereof under construction indicating their respective length, locality and electoral region?

[Withdrawn]

ACTIVITIES ORGANISED – SLAVE EMANCIPATION 04 JUNE 2015

(No. B/80): The Ninth Island Region Member (Ms. M. D. S. Perrine) asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts and Culture and Others whether, in regard to activities organized in the context of slave emancipation on the 04th June 2015, she will, for the benefit of the House, state the rationale and outcome thereof?

The Commissioner responsible for Arts and Culture and Others (Ms. M. R. Edouard): M. le président, le 04 juin 2015, nous avons célébré le 176^{ème} anniversaire de l'émancipation des esclaves à Rodrigues. Les rodriguais, en effet, ne furent prévenus que quatre ans après l'abolition de l'esclavage annoncée à Maurice le 1^{er} février 1835.

M. le président, Rodrigues respecte le rituel établi pour célébrer l'abolition de l'esclavage chaque 1^{er} février, et de plus, honore la date de la réelle émancipation des esclaves à Rodrigues. C'est-à-dire, le 04 juin 1839. Ce troisième anniversaire marque le début d'un nouveau rituel, qui s'inscrit dans l'histoire de notre île.

Il est important, M. le président, de commémorer cette différence, car elle fait partie des particularités qui forment l'identité de notre pays. Et j'aimerais bien souligner, M. le président, that the first time the emancipation was celebrated was in 2013 whereby, the Chief Commissioner was the Commissioner for Arts and Culture and which saw the renovation and the delimitation of slave tombs, fencing of the site and the erection of footpath leading to the "Lieu de Memoire".

The site, since 2013, has been upgraded while reinforcing its natural beauty. *M. le président, émanciper un peuple, c'est le rendre libre, l'affranchir d'une domination, d'un état de dépendance.* Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a best design

for a monument was also organised in 2014 and the best design was unveiled on 04 June 2015 during the Wreath Laying Ceremony at Montagne Cimetière. A wreath laying was also made by the Acting Chief Commissioner at Monument des Esclaves, Lieu de Mémoire of l'Union.

The monument was widely appreciated, that is the new monument, is widely appreciated by the officials, the schools and the public at large and it has indeed historical significance. The basement of the monument is presented in a spiral form which illustrates the creativity of our local performance.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the monument signifies a family comprising of a father...

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order, I think that the Commissioner is making a statement, not replying to the question mentioned.

Mr. Chairperson: Please, I am just looking for the number of minutes. Only 2 ½ minutes. You have taken more minutes, you know. Then do not go to...

Ms. M. R. Edouard : It is nearly over. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me to finish the question. Thank you. *Non*, this is not too long because I am nearly over. Let us continue.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the monument signifies a family comprising of a father standing firmly with a broken chain in his arm, a son kneeling down beating the tambour, showing the musical identity inherited from our African ancestors, a mother and her daughter dancing the séga tambour. The family is celebrating the joy of liberation and shows gratitude to Rodriguan slave who were the pioneer of the socio-cultural and economic development of Rodrigues

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission has also seized the opportunity to further upgrade and embellish the site with the collaboration of the Commission for Environment and Forest and the Commission for the Public Infrastructure. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, you will also note that an informative sign that has been fixed at Montagne Cimetière to create greater awareness of our history.

La Commission des Arts et de la Culture poursuit ses travaux de mémoire et de mise en valeur des sites, avec la mise en place d'œuvres d'art, comme cette statue (que nous avons dévoilé) qui rappelle à tous le chemin parcouru par nos ancêtres, les combats pour la liberté, pour le respect, pour l'identité, pour la fierté et pour l'autonomie de notre terre. Merci, M. le président.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

**PURCHASE OF LOCAL POULTRY
– RODRIGUES TRADING AND
MARKETING CO. LTD. (RTMC)**

(No. B/81): The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. D. Speville) asked the Commissioner responsible for Trade, Commerce and Others whether, in regard to the purchase of local poultry by the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Co. Ltd., (RTMC), he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information therefrom information as to where matters stand in relation thereto?

The Commissioner Responsible for Trade, Commerce and Others (Mr. L. D. Baptiste): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that the RTMC has attempted in November 2013 to purchase local poultry and export to Mauritius following demand from individual buyers on the Mauritian market. A first consignment was shipped to Mauritius accordingly. However, it was not possible to continue to honor its commitment due to shortage on the supply side from local poultry breeders. Subsequently, the RTMC could not continue with this activity.

I understand that the Commission for Agriculture is implementing several measures with a view to boost up the local poultry production in Rodrigues. We are closely monitoring the situation and the RTMC is ready to intervene at any time if the need is felt in view of maintaining the market outlet, avoiding any speculation and maintain the price of the product to the benefit of the breeders.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Can the Commissioner inform the House whether, at the level of his Commission, a study is being made to see how we can render this purchase of local poultry, we can render this purchase more efficient, we can see whether, there is an *économie d'échelle* in Rodrigues for this purchase of local poultry being given the Commission of Agriculture is doing much for the farmers?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. In fact, the RTMC is working in close collaboration with the Commission for Agriculture as well as the Commission for Entrepreneurship, Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office in view of finding more potential for the production and marketing.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the main purpose of the Rodrigues Trade and Marketing Agency was to purchase all Rodriguan

products, all! You will see in his main objective. One of his main objectives is to purchase all Rodriguan products. Amongst, it is the local poultry.

Now, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the local poultry is purchased on credit. The buyer purchases the local poultry. And, afterwards, when he has finished selling all these local poultry, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and then, he pays all the producers. Does he agree with the State of Affairs?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, private buyers are free to buy poultry from breeders. And, they, also, they are free to sell with whoever they want. I think that it is an agreement. If they agree to sell with these people on a credit, it is their... But, it is true, as I have said, the RTMC is also carrying a business and we cannot just enter the market if we cannot have firm commitment from breeders that we will be able to have a minimum, a required amount number of fowls to be sent to Mauritius. Because when we do a contractual agreement, we have to make sure that we can abide by what has been stipulated.

That is why, as I have said, we are trying with the Commission for Agriculture to increase local poultry productions so that we can have sufficient amount. And, in this case, then, RTMC will step in and will ensure that all the breeders can benefit from this activity.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner work in collaboration with Commission for Agriculture and the RTMC and the Marketing Board in Mauritius so as to encourage Rodriguan, local products of Rodrigues to be able to have the ability to sell our local poultry to Mauritius or even in Rodrigues itself?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: That is what I just said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. We are working in straight collaboration with the Commission for Agriculture. And, actually, we do not have the sufficient amount. The supply is limited and we have to ensure that we get the amount required.

We had a market with the Chinese Chambers of Commerce. But, unfortunately, when we discussed with the breeders, they could not ensure that we will have enough and a regular and continuous supply. I am talking about a regular and continuous supply. Then, if it is possible, if conditions are set, now, we will enter into this. Yes!

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please!

ERADICATION OF POWDERY WILDEW

(ICERYA SEYCHELLARUM) “COSNI”

(No. B/82): The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. D. Speville) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the project for the eradication of Powdery Wildew (*icerya Seychellarum*) commonly known as *cosni* in Rodrigues, which massively attacks plants and having adverse effect on agriculture, he will give a description of progress thereof to date?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is a very long answer. I can come later with a statement.

[Interruptions]

The Chief Commissioner: Okay, then.

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 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 June, it was confirmed that the bugs commonly known as “*cosni*” was in fact the *Icerya Seychellarum*, a common mealy bug of fruit trees.

With a view to contain the problem, massive spraying of the pest was carried out from the beginning of June up to 13 November 2014 and covered the following villages which was mostly affected by the pest: Grand Bay, Caverne Provert, English Bay, Terre Rouge, Creve Coeur, Bay Lascar, Roseaux, Port Mathurin, Camp Du Roi, Fond la Digue, Mt Charlot, Pte Monier, Hauteur Accacia, Accacia, Grand Bois Noir, Oyster Bay, Pte La Gueule, Baie Diamant, Allée Tamarin, Fond Baie aux Huitres, Fond la Bonte, Vangard, Citronelle, Dans Giraumon et La Ferme.

This exercise was facilitated with the enlistment of the service of private sprayermen by my Commission. They were closely supervised by field officers and technicians of the Agricultural Services. I am informed that after spraying in these localities, the pest was successfully eliminated on domestic plants and it was noted that most previously infested plants showed recovery signs either by producing new leaves or flowers.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, following advice from the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) and the Centre International de Recherche Agronomique et du Développement (CIRAD) of Reunion Island, my Commission is privileging the use of “coccinellid beetle *rhodolia*” to combat the

mealy bug in Rodrigues. The “coccinellid” has been introduced on two occasions in Rodrigues up to now. Additional consignment from FAREI will be despatched soon.

My Commission is furthermore exploring the possibility of setting up a rearing plant of the mealy bug predator “rhodolia” in Rodrigues with the assistance of FAREI to ensure the sustainable management of the pest.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, the passage of cyclone Bansi over the island in the month of January 2015 reduced the pest infestation on the island considerably. Besides, frequent heavy rains in the months of February and March 2015 contributed to maintain the pest population at a low level.

Furthermore, the fall in temperature with the arrival of winter is expected to reduce the rate of propagation of the pest. I am informed that presently, the pest population is under control on sites visited in June 2015.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, yes, we have the answer, but we can see that “*cosni*” is still propagating and repropagating at a high rate and many fruits plants are more vulnerable, are being attacked massively. The chemical eradication is temporary. This is why I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner to see into it that the biological eradication be made available in Rodrigues in order to eradicate “*cosni*” more efficiently.

The chemical eradication is temporary. There is a repropagation of “*cosni*” in Rodrigues on all fruit plants. This is why I would like the Chief Commissioner, that the office of the Chief Commissioner see into it that biological eradication be made more available more rapidly in Rodrigues to sort out this problem.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I will find out and see whether technicians of the Agricultural Services, whether, we can restart again with the private spraying of those biological....

Mr. Chairperson: One minute left for question time.

FOUR DESALINATION PROJECTS IN RODRIGUES – NEW TENDERS

(No. B/83): The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. D. Speville) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others whether, in regard to the four desalination projects in Rodrigues, he will

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state if new tenders have been launched or will be launched for the completion thereof to date and, if so, to give full details thereon?

(Vide reply PQ B/65)

**DECISION TO CLOSE SCHOOLS AND
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
– BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS**

(No. B/84): The First Island Region Member (Mr. J. Roussety) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards the decision to close schools and educational institutions due to bad weather conditions on 01st June 2015, he will state:

- (a) the reasons for the closure thereof;
- (b) when the decision was taken in relation thereto and indicating why the decision was not taken earlier on that day; and
- (c) if this Government would consider establishing a protocol in view to eliminate all misunderstandings and potential risks for students?

(Vide reply PQ B/62)

SWIMMING POOL - MARECHAL

(No. B/85): The Second Local Region Member of la Ferme (Mrs. M. J. Ravina) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to the swimming pool at Marechal, he will, for the benefit of the House, state if it is presently operational and, if not, why?

The Commissioner Responsible for Health and Sports (Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson Sir, I wish to inform the House that despite our efforts to keep the Marechal Swimming Pool running, as at date, it is not operational due to infrastructural problems.

However, my Commission has already initiated action to undertake a technical survey by experts with a view to identify the problems to be able to solve them.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can we know from the Commissioner for how long the swimming pool is in that present state?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have noticed this problem since long, quite a lot of time but we thought it would solve with time. But unfortunately, since last year, we have been trying to solve the problem with no positive results. So, this is why we have asked for expert advice on the matter.

Mrs. J. Ravina: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is so sad to hear that the swimming pool is not operational because our children, the swimmers, here, in Rodrigues, they are losing. I want to know from the Commissioner if there is a timeframe, there is a time when this can be solved, this problem will be solved or do not know.

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am happy to hear from the Member of the other side that she is sad for our children whereas, the swimming pool were unoperational for years during the previous government. But as I said, the...

[Interruptions]

Mr. Chairperson: Continue, please.

Mr. I. Valimamode: Yes, as I said...

[Interruptions]

Mr. I. Valimamode: Yes, I operated it. It was operational for more than one year! Excuse me, it was operational for more than one year and we are waiting for the expert's advice. The, I will be able to tell from it.

[Interruptions]

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, Statement by Commissioners, Commissioner Payendee.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Maël avant.*

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

ADVERSE COMMENTS – HEALTH SERVICES

The Commissioner for Health and Others (Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as Commissioner for Health and having served more than three decades in the Health Sector in Rodrigues, I am deeply pained and

aggrieved following the recent adverse comments either by some section or the press or in press conferences on the Health Services in Rodrigues.

Les chiens aboient. I have been given the privilege to witness the step-by-step colossal improvement since the past decades in the Health Services especially during the past three years in Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I suppose that the aim behind such maneuver is to create a psychosis, a *psychose* in our population with regard to Health Services, especially, since solely the Government provides healthcare in Rodrigues. Thus, by creating unnecessary *psychose* in the population, the main objective is once again to try to destabilise the present force in power in Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me to remind the House a few of the many improvements brought in the Health Sector since my appointment as Commissioner for Health and Sports.

- The setting up of a Chemotherapy Unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Thus, our patients no longer need to travel to Mauritius for their treatment. In doing so, the patients are constantly surrounded and supported by their relatives during their treatment. As such, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a significant step towards healthcare and treatment provided to our cancer patients.
- The upgrading of Baie Topaze Community Centre has been completed in 2014. This was one of the most worn-out of all the community health centres in Rodrigues.

Pou vinn kot toi après.

- The renovation of the old Paediatric Ward into a modern ICU with a fully equipped Cardiac Unit. As announced in budget speech for 2014, the project has been completed within deadline and is presently being equipped and will be operational shortly. It is to be noted that the new ICU will be equipped with state of art modern equipment and will be doubled in bed capacity, that is, from three to six beds with an Isolated Unit and a Baby Corner.
- The renovation and upgrading of La Ferme Area Health Centre which now comprises a full-fledged and modern equipped casualty, Specialist consultation rooms, x-ray and laboratory services as well as different wards. This was one of the main projects announced

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by this Government in 2012. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as you can see, we have kept our words.

- The setting up of a new nursery at Queen Elizabeth Hospital with a fully equipped and manned by our own experienced staff. In the same vein, three new incubators have been procured for this unit in 2014. This unit offers special dedicated care for new-born babies.

M. le président, encore une fois, c'est une première à Rodrigues.

- The entrance at Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been completely reorganised through the resurfacing of the parking thus, decongesting the main entrance, hence, facilitating access to other ambulances especially during the emergencies.
- In 2014, my Commission invested heavily in equipping the laboratory at Queen Elizabeth Hospital with modern technology for hematology and biochemistry. The equipment at Queen Elizabeth Hospital is at par with the equipment at Victoria Hospital, Candos.
- With a view to increase safety and control at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and other main area health centres, my Commission is coming up with a contracting out of private security. Same will be implemented in two months' time. Such measure will not only improve safety within the main health infrastructures but also ensure that personnel, patients as well as the major equipment and infrastructure are secured.
- As mentioned in PRB 2014, as an indicator for improved healthcare delivery, two medical officers have been posted on call since October last, thus, decreasing waiting time considerably in casualty wards.
- In the same view of improving health quality and delivery, the posting of one delivery officer to be in charge of each area health centres has been set up thus, ensuring closer and continuous monitoring of patients.
- Specialised care such as ophthalmology, oncology and geriatric clinic are provided on full-time basis.
- Laboratory at Mont Lubin is fully equipped and operational.

Mett enn no entry dan to figuir.

- X-Ray Unit at Mont Lubin – The design and tender documents for the X-Ray Unit have been finalised and is being launched to date. The construction is expected to be completed in October 2015. Moreover, the MCB Forward Foundation has funded the full set of equipment for the X-Ray Unit at Mont Lubin and same will be delivered upon completion of the building. Let me inform the House that X-Ray Unit at Mont Lubin will be equipped with the identical equipment found at Clinic Darné Fortis in Mauritius.
- In 2014, the Dental Unit at Mont Lubin Area Health Centre was equipped with new set of dental equipment.
- In 2012, when I took office, one of the main steps initiated was to further equip the Hemodialysis Section at Queen Elizabeth Hospital based on the increasing number of patients in Rodrigues. Six new dialysis machines along with the electrical chairs have been procured. Concurrently, a reversed twin osmoser was also procured to improve the services of the Hemodialysis Section.
- The following amount have been invested in the acquisition of medical equipment:
 - 2012 – Rs 10 m.
 - 2013 – Rs 12 m.
 - 2014 – Rest 40 m.
- In 2014, for the first time, the fleet of ambulances was increased by four at one go. I wish to remind my colleagues from the other side of the House that the last time the Rodrigues Regional Assembly procured new ambulances was in 2009. Thank you. It seems, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that conveyance of our patients was not the priority of my predecessors since 2009.
- Successful negotiations have been held with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life since I took office to increase the frequency of visiting specialists in the following fields: ENT, Oncology, Eye, Physical Medicine, etc. and upon requests.
- A full-time Psychiatrist has been posted in Rodrigues since 2013.

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- A full-time Radiologist is posted in Rodrigues since March 2014. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me to enumerate some of the few tests which was done in Mauritius a few years back, which are now carried out in Rodrigues.
- Number of CT Scans performed from:

July 2014 to 31 December 2014	- 273
January 2015 to date	- 148
 - Number of echography performed from:

July 2014 to December 2014	- 552
January 2015 to date	- 729

Furthermore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, over and above the heavy investment in terms of infrastructure and equipment in the Health Services, several campaigns have been organised for the promotion of healthy living in Rodrigues. I can proudly state that during my mandate as Commissioner for Health and Sports, much emphasis has been laid to screening, promotion of healthy living and “*sport de masse*”.

My Commission has worked in close collaborations with various NGOs whether be local, national or international ones in the field of healthy living. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we all know that the wealth of Rodrigues resides in its population. As such, my Commission has spared no means in investing in the empowerment and training of our health personnel.

Several trainings sessions in Mauritius and abroad have been funded by my Commission. In terms of recruitment, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am once again proud to be the first Health Commissioner to welcome Rodriguan Medical Officers and Dental Surgeons on the Rodriguan Establishment. As at date, I can proudly affirm that we have eight Rodriguan medical officers at post in our services.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to recruitment of nursing officers in our services, 19 joined in after their training in 2014. And, not later than yesterday, I welcome 12 more nursing students having completed their three-year training course in Mauritius. Yesterday itself, I also welcomed 20 freshly recruited nursing students who will proceed for training next month.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, *au risque de le répéter encore une fois, une première à Rodrigues*, the top-up diploma course for all nursing officers has been carried out for the first time in Rodrigues, itself. A first batch of 30 has already completed their course in November last and the second batch is scheduled to sit, for examinations very soon.

Cette mesure a été possible grâce à la bonne collaboration qui existe entre ma commission et le Ministère de la Santé. Toujours dans le domaine de la formation, les deux physiothérapeutes basées à Rodrigues sont actuellement en formation à Maurice.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the midwifery cadre, long considered as being neglected, have also been given due consideration by this present Government. After a long battle, ten midwives were promoted as Senior Midwives as announced in the budget speech last year.

With a view to improve antenatal clinics, the presence of midwives has been strengthened both in the maternity and the periphery. Eight Ambulance Care Attendants have been recruited this year. It is with much pleasure and honour that I can announce the House that the Health Services in Rodrigues has created *une première*.

Dans le souci de la parité de genre et d'offrir un meilleur service de santé à tous les niveaux, j'ai eu l'honneur d'accueillir la première dame « *Ambulance Care Attendant* » qui a pris le service hier.

[Applause]

Mr. I. Valimamode: *C'est une première non seulement pour Rodrigues mais aussi dans la République de Maurice.* As announced in the budget speech for 2015, the Patient's Assistance Scheme is operational since 01 January 2015. *Gagne dimal? Gagne dimal!* This scheme is an improved version of the 2012. Patient's Scheme destined to alleviate difficulties of our patients sent for further treatment in Mauritius.

Since January 2015, all patients irrespective of their household income and irrespective of the number of days spent in Mauritius, are being paid Rs 200 daily. An advance payment of Rs 1000 is paid upon departure at Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, much has been said lately in the Press regarding the increase in cancer patients in Rodrigues. Cancer is indeed a global phenomenon

and Rodrigues is not being spared. Let me give the House a few figures of the percentage of cancer related deaths in Rodrigues since 2010.

- 2010 – 8.8%
- 2011 – 11.4%
- 2012 – 17%
- 2013 – 12.9%

My Commission is following closely these trends. The several measures have been implemented with a view to increase awareness in the population with regard to cancer. For example, a booklet on «*la Prévention du Cancer à Rodrigues – Connaitre et Prévenir*» was issued by my Commission in 2013 and distributed to the population.

In view of the great demand, a new batch of this booklet will be edited and issued to the public. Regular screening on quarterly basis is being carried out in collaboration with Breast Cancer Care and “*Lumière et Vie*”. It should be noted that Breast Cancer Care provides counseling by a professional to Rodriguan patients while being on treatment in Mauritius and on a quarterly basis in Rodrigues with their relatives.

Several campaigns related to healthy living and “*Sport de Masse*” organised by my Commission to encourage people to be more health conscious. Thus, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, having said all these, I can only conclude that the Health Sector is in good health in Rodrigues. Et pour ne pas faire mentir le dicton, ‘*Il n’y a pas plus sourd ou plus aveugle que celui qui ne veut pas voir ou qui ne veut pas entendre*’.

[Applause]

PROGRÈS - SECTEUR TOURISTIQUE

The Commissioner for Water Resources and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): M. le président, merci de me donner l’occasion de faire un petit envol du progrès qu’a fait le secteur touristique à Rodrigues depuis la venue de ce gouvernement au pouvoir justement pour répondre à ce que dis un groupe de politicien.

M. le président, tout dernièrement, on a entendu à la radio, vu dans des journaux, des articles de presse qui essayent de montrer que le secteur touristique à Rodrigues, qui forme également partie de notre pilier économique, est à la dérive ou en déclin.

Permettez-moi, M. le président, de mettre les points sur les i par apport à ces on-dit qui ne reflètent pas du tout la réalité. Il y a des politiciens qui disent que le secteur se porte mal et le qualifie même de « fiasco ». M. le président, je ne comprends pas d'où ils tirent cette conclusion ou ils sont juste en train de bluffer comme d'habitude.

M. le président, les statistiques sont là pour témoigner la bonne santé du secteur touristique de notre petit paradis et de la bonne gestion de ce secteur. Un secteur en déclin devait montrer une baisse dans les arrivées. Hors, ce n'est pas cela qu'on voit. Que nous montrent les statistiques ? On voit une nette hausse dans les arrivées touristiques et le graphe continue à monter.

M. le président, je tiens à confirmer que le secteur touristique est en très bonne santé et se porte à merveille. M. le président, ils parlent également d'amateurisme de certains dans la gestion, le marketing, la promotion de notre île et que des professionnels ont été licenciés au profit des personnes qui ne connaissent rien à ce secteur.

C'est du n'importe quoi, M. le président. Les personnes qui ont été recrutées pour travailler à l'Office du Tourisme sont tous qualifiées pour le faire et je dois dire que je suis fier de ces jeunes qui font la fierté de notre île. Il est à noter, M. le président, que s'il y a eu des licenciements, c'est parce qu'il y avait des problèmes qui faisait du mal à l'office du tourisme.

Notre mission c'est de mettre de l'ordre là où il y a du désordre et c'est ce qu'on a fait, M. le président. Les deux *Tourism Promotion Officers* sont qualifiés de l'Université de Maurice et de l'Université de la Technologie de Maurice. Ils ont chacun leur degré en *Tourism and Hospitality Management* et *Tourism et Leisure and Recreation Management*.

Ils ont dit aussi qu'on fait de la politique pou faire *zot dimoune* voyager avec l'argent l'office du tourisme et disent aussi que ceux qui font de la promotion *are not the right persons*.

M. le président, je pense qu'ils font allusion aux Directeurs du Board de l'Office du Tourisme mais c'est important que les Directeurs aient une idée de comment ça se passe sur les salons pour pouvoir prendre après des bonnes décisions.

M. le président, ils parlent aussi des promotions qui sont mal adaptées, qui sont fait dans une période où les français sont partis en vacances. C'est faux, M. le président. On a fait la « Tournée Rodriguaise » en juin et tout le

monde, à part ces politiciens, sait que les vacances en France débutent à partir du 1^{er} juillet.

Il y a aussi l'argument, si je peux l'appeler ça comme ça, M. le président, que *'nou pe guete figir pou donne permis, enan pé gagner, enan pas pé gagner'*. Là aussi, M. le président, ce n'est pas vrai car il y a pas qu'une personne qui détermine qui doit avoir un permis ou pas. Nous avons une équipe qui travaille sur les demandes de permis touristique.

La « *Tourism Technical Team* » comprend une équipe de cinq personnes, un représentant de la Commission du Tourisme, un du bureau des Cadastres, un de l'environnement, un du bureau de Sanitaire et des Pompiers. Ils doivent tous donner leurs rapports respectifs pour pouvoir accéder, pour pouvoir dire ou non si cette personne ou cet établissement peut avoir son permis.

Si tous les rapports sont positifs et si tous les documents requis sont en bonne et due forme, il n'y a aucune raison pourquoi la personne n'aura pas son permis. Si l'hébergement est dans les normes, *ki fer bizin guete figir?* M. le président, cette manière de faire est chose du passé.

M. le président, ma Commission vient de donner 17 permis en mai à des hébergements déjà en opération depuis belle lurette mais qui ne pouvaient pas avoir leur permis à cause de leur bail. Le Conseil Exécutif, sous la présidence du Chef Commissaire, a pris la décision de leur accorder leur permis en attendant que leur bail soit revu. Cela va suivre M. le président. Nous allons continuer sur le même rythme et travaillons en collaboration avec la Commission des Terres pour continuer à donner les permis à ceux et celles qui ont les normes pour opérer.

En 2013 et 2014, nous avons délivré une vingtaine de permis et de janvier à ce jour, la Commission a déjà donné plus de 20 permis. Sur la question de camping, M. le président, nous aussi, à notre niveau, nous sommes conscients du problème de camping sauvage à Rodrigues que quelques touristes exploitent sans pour autant faire bouger l'économie de l'île.

La « *Tourism Advisory Committee* » a déjà donné son avis là-dessus. Par contre, le camping est un atout que Rodrigues a et ajoute à notre charme. Malheureusement, après mûre réflexion, on ne peut pas déclarer Rodrigues comme un « *non-camping zone* » comme prétend quelque politicien car cela peut avoir un impact négatif sur notre arrivée touristique. Nous allons trouver une autre solution pour gérer ce problème sans pour autant faire fuir nos visiteurs. Nous entamons des discussions avec les opérateurs touristiques afin de régler ce problème.

M. le président, sur la question que *'la gestion touristique est un fiasco'*, comment se fait-il qu'en avril de cette année, on a eu une augmentation de 12.65 % dans notre arrivée touristique, une augmentation de 24.28 % en mai et en juin, on vient nous dire que c'est la gestion du secteur touristique de Rodrigues est un fiasco?

M. le président, maintenant que j'ai fini de répondre à ces allégations non fondées qui sont là juste pour essayer de montrer que le gouvernement au pouvoir est en train de mal gérer Rodrigues, je voudrai continuer, si vous le permettez, à citer quelques-uns des autres progrès que connaît le secteur touristique de Rodrigues depuis que je suis le Commissaire du Tourisme.

Au niveau de la promotion, M. le président :

- On a rénové le site web du *Rodrigues Tourism Office*, on a créé une page Facebook, on a fait de la publicité sur des taxis en Angleterre,
- On a un *Public Relation Officer* déjà présent sur le marché Chinois lors du *Salon du Guanzhu International Trade Fair* qui fait de la pub pour Rodrigues,
- On a établi un contact avec l'aéroport de Pierrefonds à la Réunion où on organisera très prochainement notre deuxième édition de la « Tournée Rodriguaise » à la Réunion.
- On a participé au « Salon de la Plongée », à « Miel Vert » à la Réunion, « Salon de la Randonnée » en France et au « Salon Prêt à Partir » à Maurice.
- On a organisé la Tournée Rodriguaise à Maurice, Réunion et France, nos trois plus gros marchés.
- On a placé des *billboards* pour la promotion à Maurice plus précisément à Ebène, Grand Baie et Port Louis.
- Avec Air Mauritius, on a organisé des *Educ-Tours* avec la République Tchèque, La Suisse, Maurice, Madagascar et la France.

Au niveau des activités qui peuvent attirer plus de touristes chez nous, M. le président :

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- On participe dans l'organisation du « *International Festival de Kite Surf* » à Rodrigues ensemble avec le « *Rodrigues Kite Surf Association* ».
- On a organisé la première édition du « Festival de la Mer ».
- On organise pendant la période pointe, la présentation de la danse traditionnelle les samedis devant l'office du tourisme pour mieux faire découvrir notre culture.
- On a installé des photos acryliques de Rodrigues dans l'aéroport de Maurice, dans l'espace qui est pour Rodrigues.

Au niveau de développement dans le secteur, M. le président :

- On a refait le bâtiment de l'île aux Cocos
- On a rétabli le vol direct Rodrigues-Réunion
- Le projet pour nommer les bus stop à travers l'île pour faciliter le déplacement de nos visiteurs dans l'île est en cours.

M. le président, pour témoigner la bonne santé du secteur, plusieurs établissements de Rodrigues ont eu un *Award of Excellence* avec *Trip Advisor* et parmi il y a l'île aux Cocos qui est gérée par l'office du tourisme sous ma supervision.

M. le président, je suis persuadé que j'ai certainement oublié quelques activités que j'aurais dû mentionner ici mais ceci démontre que le secteur touristique est bien géré et je vais le répéter, se porte à merveille.

Mais, M. le président, mon ami voulait le dire mais il n'a pas fini. Moi, je vais le dire en plein. '*Le chien aboie, la caravane passe*', et rien ni personne n'arrêtera cette caravane qui a eu sa vitesse de croisière pour faire avancer ce petit paradis. Merci, M. le président.

[Applause]

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 18 August 2015 at 10.30 hours.

The Commissioner Responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

MATTERS RAISED

ÉDUCATION – AIDER LES ENFANTS AU BAS DE L'ÉCHELLE

Mr. J. D. Spéville: M. le président, malgré des facilités ont été mises en place, pour soutenir les étudiants Rodriguais qui vont dans des institutions tertiaires à Maurice, des facilités ont été mises en places mais ces facilités doivent être dynamiques et méritent continuellement d'être revues et renforcées. En ce moment que je vous parle, nombreux sont ces étudiants qui viennent de terminer la HSC et qui affrontent beaucoup de difficultés financières pour pouvoir partir pour Maurice pour être admis à l'université.

Je pense que le Gouvernement Régionale qui prône pour l'éducation et la formation de nos Rodriguais mérite de voir cet état de choses avec beaucoup plus d'humanisme et voir si pour les enfants dont les parents sont au bas de l'échelle, on peut les aider financièrement par peut-être un protocole d'accord avec l'Université de Maurice et le Ministère de l'Éducation pour que leurs enfants puissent être admis à l'université initialement.

J'entends dire qu'une réunion sera organisée dans le sillage de cette affaire et j'espère que les solutions seront trouvées pour éviter le désistement et soulager ces étudiants et parents. Merci.

PROBLÈMES DES PATIENTS

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Merci, M. le président. M. le président, c'est avec beaucoup de tristesse et de peine que je saisis cette occasion pour faire part des problèmes auxquels nos patients ont à faire face depuis un certain temps. Je vais énumérer quelques-uns parmi tant d'autres. Et si j'avais à énumérer, M. le président, en 30 minutes, je ne pourrais pas le faire.

Premièrement, M. le président, le nombre d'enfants mort nés à Rodrigues est en hausse et la preuve, nous avons des statistiques qui peuvent trouver que le nombre d'enfants mort nés à Rodrigues est en hausse. Qui dit hausse dans le

taux de mortalité infantile, M. le président, dit aussi qu'il y a un problème de base. Et s'il y a un problème de base, toute personne responsable doit s'asseoir et tirer des conclusions pour savoir quelle a été la cause.

Et nous, nous avons fait une étude entre nous pour savoir qu'est-ce qui se passe exactement, M. le président. La première chose que nous avons vu, c'est l'absence de la présence continue sur un long terme du service d'un gynécologue à Rodrigues. Il faut que le gynécologue soit à Rodrigues sur une période au moins trois mois.

Venir travailler à Rodrigues pour une durée d'un mois, c'est difficile voire même compliquée pour le gynécologue d'avoir un bon diagnostic sur la personne qui enfantera un enfant. Parce qu'au niveau de la maternité, on n'a pas que la naissance. Il faut savoir qu'il y a la prénatale, natale et postnatale. Il faut que la personne qui vient à Rodrigues puisse voir ces trois sections-là. Et est-ce quelqu'un qui est à Rodrigues sur une période d'un mois peut faire un travail bien planifié sur une période d'un mois pour pouvoir palier aux problèmes dont les mamans font face à Rodrigues ? C'est difficile, M. le président.

La première chose, on demande qu'on a le service d'un gynécologue sur une période au moins trois mois. Un mois, ce n'est pas raisonnable pour pouvoir faire un bon planning au niveau de la gynécologie. Mais ce qui est grave, M. le président, il y a un cas où on annonce (je viens de dire ça tout à l'heure-là) à une mère, on a fait l'éco avec la mère et on vient dire à la mère qu'elle a un enfant et l'enfant qu'elle porte dans son ventre est mort, un seul. Mais miraculeusement...

M. le président, on a voulu faire une césarienne avec la maman mais la maman a refusé. Pourquoi la maman a refusé ? La maman a refusé parce qu'elle sent encore quelque chose qui bouge dans son ventre malgré qu'on dit à la maman que l'enfant est mort. Après deux jours, M. le président... Vous riez ? Il me semble que ça vous fascine. Mais qui rit le premier rira le dernier.

M. le président, après deux jours, miraculeusement, la maman met au monde non pas un enfant mort nés mais deux enfants bien vivants. Et le papa est arrivé à l'hôpital pour s'enquérir qu'est-ce qui s'est passé exactement. Et au moment où le papa est arrivé à Crève Cœur, où est la gynécologue, M. le président ? Elle est déjà dans l'avion en partance pour Maurice. Et le papa est devenu tout rouge de rage, M. le président, mais heureusement que le Rodriguais avec...

On est bien pratiquant, on fréquente l'église, on est bien pratiquant. Ça nous arrive, M. le président, de pardonner. Ça nous arrive de pardonner. Après un certain temps, un enfant parmi est mort et l'autre enfant est resté dans l'ICU pendant quelque temps. Et la maman a à faire le trajet entre Mangués et Crève Cœur presque au moins un mois ou deux mois.

M. le président, il n'y a pas que ça. Il y a aussi au niveau de la santé, les cas suspectés, j'ai bien dit, suspectés de négligences médicales. Mais il y a eu aussi, M. le président, à Rodrigues, au moins trois praticiens qui sont suspendus, au moins trois qui sont suspendus de leurs fonctions. Il y a un cas. Je ne vais pas mentionner tous les cas par... Oui, il y a au moins trois, au moins trois cas. Il y a encore, M. le président. Et je vous donne un exemple de M. E.E P que j'ai mentionné tout à l'heure-là, M. le président.

Cette même personne, M. le président, a fait le trajet Corail-La Ferme pour voir le praticien. Il est retourné à la maison. On lui dit : « *Tu as congestion* ». La deuxième fois, M. le président, la même personne est partie à Crève Cœur. On a fait un diagnostic avec lui et on lui dit que tout est clair, tout propre, *filme propre*, M. le président.

Comme si, la personne n'a rien, il n'y a que le problème de congestion que la personne a eu. Et j'ai parlé de ce cas-là à un praticien et tout de suite, il me dit : « *Bé dans ce cas-là, cette personne n'a pas de tension forte, n'a pas de diabète mais cette personne-là a une tumeur.* » Tout de suite, sans faire aucun diagnostic, M. le président. Mais il travaille toujours à l'hôpital.

Mais, M. le président, après tous ces vas et viens de cette personne de E.E P entre Corail, La Ferme et Crève Cœur, on n'a rien vu. On dit à la personne que « *tu as congestion* ». Combien de personnes, combien de patients Rodriguais a eu ce diagnostic pour lui dire « *bé tu as eu congestion* » mais en fin de compte, M. le président, ce patient a eu tumeur. Et lorsqu'il est arrivé à Maurice, il est allé à Maurice par son propre moyen, mais lorsqu'il est arrivé à Maurice, M. le président, on lui dit que c'est trop tard. « *Si tu es venu un petit peu plus en avance, tu aurais pu être sauvé.* »

Mais malheureusement, à la dernière minute, là, qu'est-ce que la personne attend maintenant, M. le président ? Qu'est-ce qu'il attend ? La personne est à la maison, là, en ce moment. Il n'attend que la mort. Il n'attend que la mort, M. le président. Le docteur lui a dit « *bé on ne peut rien faire* » et la personne est là à la maison.

Est-ce que là, M. le président, en tant que commissaire, en tant que membre de l'Assemblée, est-ce que cela ne nous concerne pas ? Alors, M. le

président, il y a pas mal de cas à Rodrigues où il y a des cas suspectés de négligences médicales. Et je fais un appel au Commissaire Responsable de la Santé, M. le président. Non pas venir cacher derrière des... Il y a pas mal de cas et je vais venir de l'avant pour lui dire, pour lui montrer. Et la personne que je vais venais de parler ce matin, c'est une parent à moi. Et je viendrais peut-être dans une semaine, vous aurez votre affaire.

Et, M. le président, tout ce cas de négligence, tout ce problème dont nous avons au niveau de la santé de Rodrigues, ça nous concerne. Et nous, on est là pour aider. On est là même dans l'opposition, on est là pour aider, M. le président. Parce que qui dit la santé dit la santé de la population. Il n'y a pas que ça. Il y a le problème de cancer. Et je viens de parler à un *Principal Youth Officer (PYO)*. Il me dit, et j'ai eu peur, M. le président. Même les rouges à lèvres qu'on met, là, M. le président, c'est cancéreux, même les rouges à lèvres.

M. le président, je vais déposer quelques copies à l'Assemblée pour que tout le monde dans cette Assemblée ait une idée de quoi on en est avec le problème de cancer et ça nous concerne. Parce qu'on me dit dans l'avenir, autant de personnes, autant de Rodriguais feront face au cancer. Merci, M. le président.

SUICIDE D'UNE ÉTUDIANTE À MAURICE

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: M. le président, merci de me donner l'opportunité de dire quelques mots. Cet après-midi, je voudrais dire quelques mots concernant un cas qu'on a eu tout récemment, une étudiante qui s'est donné la mort en se suicidant à Maurice. Cette étudiante étudiait à l'Université de Maurice et ça nous a beaucoup interpellés. C'est un drame. C'est triste pour la famille, c'est triste pour la population de Rodrigues et c'est triste aussi pour les étudiants qui ont fait le déplacement jusqu'à Maurice.

Voilà pourquoi nous, au sein de cette minorité, on avait un projet concernant la construction d'une université à Rodrigues que la majorité a refusé. Ils ont dit qu'ils vont faire une *agri-business*. Jusqu'à maintenant, on n'a pas vu une seule pierre pour l'*agri-business*. Mais malheureusement, cet incident est arrivé à un point nommé où... *Pa fer narnien kot li été ou pas été*. Cet incident est arrivé à un moment où on célébrait l'Enfant Africain.

Vous savez, M. le président, il est grand temps que nous, en tant que politicien, en tant que responsable de ce pays, on donne des beaux signaux, des bons signaux à la population et la faire comprendre que nous, quand même, nous tenons à leur bien-être et non pas faire semblant. Cette fille, cette jeune

universitaire, aurait pu avoir la vie sauve si elle aurait été à Rodrigues avec ces parents.

M. le président, la construction d'une université... *Atan ou tour pou kozer la*. La construction d'une université à Rodrigues est devenue une chose prioritaire. Il faut à tout prix qu'une fois pour toute, vous acceptiez que c'est une réalité et que là, c'est une chose qui est arrivée. Mais, M. le président, *comme di bann la, en bas, bas*, vous savez ce qui se passe ?

Les jeunes universitaires qui n'arrivent pas à joindre les deux bouts pour payer leurs études, pour terminer leurs études, M. le président, pour avoir de quoi à manger, j'ai été témoin ce matin, *la moitié papaye gramatin, la moitié papaye tantôt* pour subvenir à leurs besoins. Alors que si ces enfants-là, si on aurait eu une université à Rodrigues, les enfants auraient été proches de leurs familles. On aurait pu avoir aussi d'autres enfants pour venir étudier à Rodrigues. Cette université aurait aidé à régler beaucoup de problèmes que nos étudiants font face actuellement.

M. le président, je vais faire un appel aux personnes de la majorité, aux responsables de la majorité, au Commissaire de la Jeunesse parce que c'est son rôle aussi. Au lieu de faire des fêtes tous les jours, *amizer*, boire, *diverti*, de prendre en compte vos responsabilités. Parce que c'est aussi votre travail d'aller enquêter pour voir s'il y a des problèmes. Et je sais, tout le monde sait qu'il y a mais on veut voiler la face. C'est ce qu'on a eu actuellement.

Ce décès est un signal. M. le président, il y aura... M. le président, je fais un appel parce que ce problème-là nous concerne tous et je sais qu'il y a d'autres personnes qui souffrent dans le silence, *ki manze zot coup comment nou dir*, parce que pour ne pas faire la honte de la famille. M. le président, sur ce, je vous remercie.

*At 15.27 hours the House was, on its rising adjourned
to Friday 18 August 2015 at 10.30 hours*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

“SPORT ANIMATORS” – CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

(No. B/86): The Second Local Region Member of la Ferme (Mrs. M. J. Ravina) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to “Sport Animators”, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the

number thereof enrolled in his Commission and the conditions of service attached to their scheme of duty?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I wish to inform the House that my Commission employs on a sessional basis 43 sports animators for the promotion of football, volleyball, athletics, judo, *boxe française* and boxing. Out of the 43 sports animators, 16 are public officers and the remaining 27 are not government officers.

Sports Animators are required to deliver training at recognized training schools of the Commission at least 12 times monthly, that is, at a rate of three times weekly for sessions of at least 1hr 30 mins.

The performance of Sports Animators is supervised by Coaches of my Commission and their contract is subject to renewal upon satisfactory work at the end of every year.

ADVERSE REPORT - RATS – QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

(No. B/87): The Second Local Region Member of la Ferme (Mrs. M. J. Ravina) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to public health, he will, for the benefit of the House, state if he is aware of the adverse report, if any, recently made, during the year 2015, as to the presence of rats at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and its proliferation at other places around the island and, if so, the decisions taken to mitigate same?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I wish to inform the House that as at date, my Commission is not in presence of any official adverse report or survey carried out by scientific or technical professionals to sustain the presence of rats at QEH and its proliferation at other places around the island.

PROJECTS FOR HEALTH SECTOR – YEAR 2015

(No. B/88): The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mr. J. R. Ramdally) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to projects for the Health sector for the year 2015, he will state to the House the different projects (i) launched and not yet completed (ii) to be launched indicating in each case their objectives, scope of works, status and completion dates?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson Sir, the following projects have been announced for the Health Sector for the year 2015 and the statuses are as follows:-

(i) **Operationalisation of ICU and Cardiac Unit**

First batch of equipment and accessories have been received. My Commission is awaiting for the second batch of equipment which is expected very soon for the operationalization of the ICU and Cardiac Unit.

(ii) **Conversion of Maternity Ward into Paediatric Unit**

Design and tender documents have been finalized and vetted by Central Procurement Board. My office is waiting for the proclamation of amendments to Public Procurement Act to launch the tender.

(iii) **Renovation of La Ferme Area Health Centre (Phase II)**

The tender documents are under evaluation process and it is expected that the project will be awarded by August 2015.

(iv) **Provision of Radiology Services and Laboratory at Mont Lubin**

The design and the tender documents for the X-Ray Unit at Mont Lubin have been finalized and is being launched this current week. As regard to the Laboratory at Mont Lubin, I am pleased to announce that it is fully operational.

(v) **Provision for medical equipment**

The procurement procedure for the provision of medical equipment for the year 2015 has already been initiated and delivery is expected as from September 2015.

(vi) **Grant of Rs 200 per day to all patients transferred to Mauritius for further treatment**

The scheme is fully operational since 1st January 2015.

ACQUISITION OF DEROCKING MACHINE

(No. A/8): The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mr. J. R. Ramdally) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to acquisition of a derocking machine, he will give details thereof and indicating the objective(s), scope of work, cost and status of the project?

Mr. Chairperson Sir, in line with the policy of my government to boost agricultural production in Rodrigues, my Commission has just acquired a TrackType Tractor Model D6R with accessories from Scomat Ltd to the tune of rupees ten million seven thousand and forty thousand (Rs 10,740,000) plus VAT.

The objective of the project is to provide additional mechanical equipment to the Agricultural Services for the conversion of some 100 hectares of degraded lands annually over the next five years and bringing them back to production.

The equipment will help the Agricultural Services significantly to raise crop production from 3000 tonnes (2013) to 8000 tons by 2022. Mr. Chairperson Sir, the scope of works of the D6 R machine is as follows:

- (i) de-rocking and rehabilitation of 500 ha of Agricultural land presently abandoned around the island to encourage sustainable methods of crop production.
- (ii) removal of *Accacia nilotica* (Piquant loulou) in Rodrigues, especially on agricultural lands.
- (iii) opening of access roads for both public and farmers around the island.

The D6 R machine has reached the island on 22 May 2015 via the MV Anna. As at date, the testing and commissioning of the machine has already been effected as well as the training of Drivers on the operation, care and maintenance of the equipment.

WORLD CLASS QUALITY EDUCATION

(No. A/9): The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mr. J. R. Ramdally) asked the Chief Commissioner whether,

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the vision of the Commission for Education is to provide World Class Quality Education. The specific objectives of the construction of a Community School at Anse Quitor project are to:-

- (i) Provide a quality education to all pupils fostering their overall development and to give special care and attention to pupils with learning difficulties;

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- (ii) Provide inclusive education through potential involvement; and
- (iii) Allow pupils to walk to attend schools.
- (iv) Provide a well-balanced learning cum sports activities for a healthy generation.
- (v) Promote space for gardening – *'Jardin Scolaire'*.

The scopes of works consist of:

- Platforming works for the school building, compound and parking
- Construction of a community school comprising of reinforced concrete buildings of total gross floor area 1630m²:
- Classrooms
- Offices for Head Master, Deputy Head Master & School Clerks
- Staffroom
- School Library
- Laboratory rooms
- School canteen including covered preau
- Toilet facilities
- The structure of building consists of reinforced concrete foundation, columns, beams and slab.
- The roof consists both of flat surface, which will cater for future extension and sloping roof slab.
- The works shall also include, but shall not be limited to the following: block work, finishes, painting, aluminium powder coated openings, glazing and waterproofing treatment to the flat slab.
- Electrical and Plumbing Works inside the building including other M&E services, i.e septic tanks, water tanks, service trenches, etc.
- Civil works consisting of soil pipe drainage, leaching field, access networks etc.
- Renovation and refurbishment of existing Pre-primary school
- Landscaping works and construction of parking facilities.
- A multi-purpose sports ground for a balance education.

Cost of project is Rs 50,815,788.30 and handing over of site to Messrs. Ramloll Booshan Renovation & Building Ltd. was effected on 13 June 2015 for a total period of 364 days as from handing over.

SETTING-UP OF COMMUNITY FORESTS

(No. A/10): The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mr. J. R. Ramdally) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the setting-

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up of community forests in different villages, for the year 2015, in Rodrigues, he will give details as to:

- (a) The projects already completed and indicating the:-
 - (i) number of trees planted in each village;
 - (ii) problems encountered in the implementation thereof; and
 - (iii) outcome thereof
- (b) the project recently launched and indicating the measures taken to cater for the problems previously encountered, if any?

Reply: The Setting up of community forest started in 2013: Nine villages were involved. The activities undertaken were: Removal of invasive plant species in nine villages as well as production of a total of 60 000 seedlings in three of the nine villages.

With regard to year 2014, community forests projects have already been completed as per table below:-

- (i) Number of trees planted 150000 as per table below.
- (ii) Problems encountered: Illegal grazing in areas not fenced.
- (iii) Percentage of success 55.2%. Failure was mostly in areas not fenced which have been subject to illegal grazing.

Activity	Serial no	Name of Village Committee/Association	Place of activity	No of seedlings planted	Removal of invasive species
	1	Anse Quitor Village committee	Anse quitor Nature reserve	10 000	
	2	Tamarin/Anse Raffin Village Committee	Anse Raffin	10 000	

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	3	Baie Malgache Village Committee	Baie Malgache	10 000	
	4	Camp Pintade Village Committee	Mt plate	10 000	
	5	Association Planteurs Limons et autres Produits de Gravier	Cascade St Louis	10 000	
	6	Deux Goyave Village Committee	Mt Limon	10 000	
	7	Grande Montagne Village Committee	Grande montagne Nature Reserve	10 000	
	8	Association Des Eleveurs Alle de L'Avant	Mourouk	10 000	
	9	Mt Cabris West Village Committee	Mt cabris West	10 000	
	10	Pistache/Mt Croupier Village Committee	Mt Croupier	10 000	
	11	Mt Malgache Village Committee	Mt Malgache	10 000	
	12	Association Des Agriculteurs Rivière Banane	Grenade	10 000	
	13	Soupirs Village Committee	Cascade Pigeon	10 000	
	14	Montagne Goyave Village Committee	Montagne Goyave	10000	5 hectares
	15	Association des Eleveurs de Roche Bon Dieu	Roche Don Dieu	10000	5 hectares
B. Production of native and endemic plant seedlings	1	Association Des Eleveurs Alle de L'Avant	Mourouk	20000	
	2	Mt Malgache Village Committee	Mt Malgache	20 000	
	3	Tamarin/Anse Raffin Village Committee	Anse Raffin	20 000	
		SUB TOTAL			

With regard to part (b)

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(a) The project already launched in 2015 are as follows:-

Activity	Serial no	Name of Village Committee/As sociation	Place of activity	Activities	Amount
	1	Anse Quitor Village committee	Anse Quitor nature reserve	Fencing planting	1800 m 5000 plants
	2	Tamarin/Anse Raffin Village Committee	Anse Raffin	Fencing Planting Nursery	1000m 5000 plants 25000 seedlings
	4	Camp Pintade Village Committee	Mt plate	Fencing Planting	1000m 5000plants
	5	Deux Goyave Village Committee	Mt Limon	Planting	5000plants
	6	Grande Montagne Village Committee	Grande montagn e Nature Reserve	Planting Removal of invasive plants	5000 plants 5 hectares
	7	Terre Rouge Village committee	Jeantac	Ringbarkin g <i>Acacia nilotica</i> Planting	2.1 hectares 3000plants
	8	Mt Cabris Corail Village Committee	Mt cabris Corail	Fencing planting	1200m 5000plants
	9	Pistache/Mt Croupier Village Committee	Mt Croupier	Fencing planting	1000m 5000plants
	10	Mt Malgache Village Committee	Mt Malgach e	Planting Removal of invasive plants Nursery	5000plants 5 hectares 25000seedlin gs

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	11	Pte L'Herbe North Village Committe	Pointe l'Herbe	Fencing Planting	500m 3000plants
	12	Soupirs Village Committee	Cascade Pigeon	Fencing Planting	1000m 5000plants
	13	Citron Donis Village Committee	Citron Donis	Fencing Planting	1000m 5000plants
	14	Mt Goyave Village Committee	Mt Goyave	Fencing Planting	2500m 5000plants
		SUB TOTAL			

To cater for the problems encountered in year 2014 provisions have been made for the fencing of areas to be planted. However, area like Mt Limon does not need fence as illegal grazing of animals is not a problem there.