

**RODRIGUES
THIRD REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Debate No. 4 of 2015

Sitting of Tuesday 18 August 2015

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

(Mr. Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

Debate No. 4 of 2015

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 18 AUGUST 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

COMPLAINT

– SIXTH ISLAND REGION MEMBER (J.L.R. PERRINE)

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Members, I have an announcement to make. The Sixth Island Region Member, Mr. J. L. R. Perrine has given notice of a privilege complaint yesterday afternoon as regards to an incident which arose at the sittings of 23 June 2015 during the reply of Parliamentary Question B/65 by the Commissioner for Public Infrastructure. The aggrieved Member during the said sitting stated that he was of the opinion that the Commissioner has misled the House as regards payment effected in connection with the four desalination plants project in view of his previous speech on the same issue at the sitting of 28 April 2015. Consequently, I have taken note of the complaint and will take time to consider the matter since I will have to look into some documents and if necessary consult the National Assembly before I can give my ruling. Thank you.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: On a point of order, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. On a point of explanation, personal explanation.

Mr. Chairperson: This is not a personal explanation. You should have come to see me privately in my Chamber. I have already given my ruling, now question by Minority Leader.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I have a point of order as regards to that issue, not on what you have said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, but on that issue because, first of all, it was through a motion from the Minority Leader from the answer that the Respected Commissioner has said, he has put all of us in a...

Mr. Chairperson: You sit down. You have heard the announcement. You have heard my ruling, that is all.

[Interruption]

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, personal explanation, I have the documents here and I would like to table it in this August Assembly. I am tabling the two documents for your perusal.

Mr. Chairperson: No, I have already given my ruling. Now, Minority Leader, your question please.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RECLAIMED LAND – MONT LUBIN

(No. B/89) **Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the reclaimed land at Mont Lubin behind the bus stop between the market now under construction and the filling station, he will:

- (a) state if any part thereof has been reserved/applied for by Rodriguans or foreigners for any project and, if so, to:-
 - (i) table their names together with the area of land allocated to each and the purpose of the projects;
 - (ii) state what has happened to previous projects on this site prior to the construction of the filling station and the new market, if any; and
- (b) inform the House of the new configuration of this part of Mont Lubin following the construction of the new market?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in our vision to provide proper amenities to the village of Mont Lubin, my government in 2003/2004 seized the opportunity during the construction of *la Route de l'Autonomie* to reclaim part of a low lying area of Mon Lubin so as to provide more land space for infrastructural development projects. The basic idea was to provide public facilities such as parking space, a new market, a filling station on the site.

I have been informed that a parcelling of the land was carried out by the former government into 13 lots mostly for private businesses. It is to be noted also that one site was encroaching on a private property. A lease was even drawn for a promoter. The proposed development catered only for six parking slots. The status of the projects of the 13 promoters is as follows:

- (i) Only the promoter has completed his project.
- (ii) One promoter has decided not to proceed ahead with his project.
- (iii) Two projects have been cancelled due to non-payment of rent.
- (iv) Three have been relocated.
- (v) The others are still being processed and the promoters have been requested to identify another site.

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I am tabling a list of the 13 promoters and the area allocated or reserved to them.

Meanwhile, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has entered into negotiation with the private landowner and is proceeding with an exchange of land. The whole site will be used for the construction of a market, a proper bus lay-by, parking and a green space. A picture of the whole development concept is being shown on site.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not see whether the Chief Commissioner has been clear enough in replying to part (b) of my question; the new configuration of this part of Mont Lubin. I have heard him saying about green space and parking space and so on.

In the first instance, I would like to ask him. He has said that among the 13 promoters, who requested for projects on this site, he has been telling us about a number of those who have cancelled their projects and so on, relocation and so on and he said that others are still being processed. Can I ask him to give the name of these promoters and to explain to the House what projects are being contemplating by these promoters?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is not ethical to mention the names of those promoters. I have tabled a list of those people, promoters, 13 lots on this small-reclaimed land. If we have in the past accepted this lack of what we call planning. How today could Mont Lubin build 13 buildings on this small-reclaimed land? We are planning for Rodrigues to be an ecological island. If you go and see a picture of the whole development concept is being shown on site. Members can go there and see. Everyday people go there and see. And there will be even a green space there and perhaps this green space will be the place where we can have the face of Mandela here, Nelson Mandela. Am I right? Nelson Mandela Square, you know. Now we must be very careful, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, not to give lease everywhere. We have to make an area plan. Have you seen Oyster Bay? Have you seen the reclaimed land in front of the government school? Have you seen that? Have you seen that? No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we must vision Rodrigues in years to come. This is our way of governing this country. Thank you.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner was telling about different places in Port Mathurin where there has been according to him misuse, bad planning of the land. I would invite him to look what has been done to the space, the reclaimed-land where the Fire Station is located, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and then, we will compare. My question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is whether prior to the start of the construction

of the market and any other construction that will be done in the near future on the reclaimed-land at Mont Lubin, whether there has been a geological survey there. Because do not forget he himself stated that it is a reclaimed-land and before that we know that part of Mont Lubin it is the location of the catchment area of many rivers, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The Chief Commissioner has been talking of Rodrigues as an ecological island. To preserve their natural environment, of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there need to be a geological survey. Can I ask him if this has been done and if so to inform the House about the recommendation thereof?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a consultant working on this area. That is why we have protest against those 13 lots here. One has already started his construction. What happened? And the one who started his construction is now at Songes. What happened? The problem is that this reclaimed-land is not protected by a wall, stonewall or gabions. This is the problem. That is why we are not looking forward for any construction there. And that is why we said there will be a green space there. But only the market is situated there because there is no problem with the reclaimed-land over there. Have you seen? Live structure, even the market, it is a very live structure. You know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, even in the airport we are talking about the new airport. The Minority Leader is talking about geological, I do not know, we have the airport also, there must be a geological study. We do not know what is under the corals. We know that, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. We know that. When we decide something, we have consultation with experts and among ourselves and we do things according to the geological of the island. Thank you very much.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, je crois que tout le monde est conscient, est au courant que maintenant, à l'heure où je parle, Mont Lubin est devenu un centre très dense de circulation, une très grande agglomération. Il y a les élèves qui constituent une grosse part de la circulation dans ce centre du pays. Donc, il y a un problème de sécurité routière. Maintenant, quand on vient avec la construction du nouveau marcher, cela va accroître encore, le nombre de personne qui quotidiennement sera dans ce centre de Mont Lubin. Auparavant, M. le président, cette espace était grandement réserver au parking, donc la sécurité était mieux assurer. Puis-je demander au Chef Commissaire si dans l'immédiat ou dans un proche avenir, il compte construire, par exemple, un *fly-over* pour permettre un meilleur control du trafic entre le marcher et le bus stop qui se trouve de l'autre côté. Yes, this is my question. And secondly, to compensate, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the lost of parking space because now I do not know how many space is being reserved for parking and to compensate this lost because there is less land available now. Will he envisage finding out more parking spaces in other parts of Mont Lubin?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, eux ils avaient prévus six parking nous on prévoit beaucoup plus que ça. Et nous avons eu des réunions de travail avec les experts du Ministère des Infrastructures Public à Maurice et nous sommes en train de travailler dessus.

Mr. Chairperson: Do not disturb, please.

The Chief Commissioner: Comment justement dégager Mont Lubin et nous avons dit il y aura sur le *reclaimed-land*, le comblage des bus qui vont attendre pour que les enfants justement ne restent pas longtemps sur le bus stop. Mais je ne vais pas venir sur autre chose. Mais, M. le président, la grosse erreur de ceux qui étaient là avant nous, de construire un collège en plein centre d'un village. Ça ne se fait pas. Ce n'était pas notre but nous et nous n'étions pas là, c'était quelqu'un d'autre qui était là.

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: Please. Mr. Rosaire. Members on the opposition side! We are not playing football here please. We are not playing football!

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je reviens sur le collège de Mont Lubin.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: On a point of order, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think the Chief Commissioner is misleading this House. It is not correct to say that the previous government or the exact words he used.

The Chief Commissioner: On a point of order, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I did not mention the previous government.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: There is one point. Let me finish.

[Interruption]

Mr. Chairperson: Sit down both of you.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I have not finished.

Mr. Chairperson: Please finish with your word.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I was saying, I do not know the exact word he used, the exact words he mentioned. But, Mr.

Chairperson, Sir, we consider it as he is misleading this House and pointing us to the fact that our government constructed the college which is completely false, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

The Chief Commissioner: Je n'ai pas dit "*the previous government, ni gouvernement*" j'ai dit ceux qui été là. Ils doivent savoir qu'il y avait un Ministre Mauricien qui était là. Il aurait dû savoir mais ce Ministre Mauricien était le Ministre de Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson: Please, I shall not accept that you mention people who are not here. You do not know what you are saying! You do not know what you are saying! Do not mention the name.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, nous avons en tout prévus, moi-même tout les jours je passe là je vois les nombres d'enfants sur ce bus stop. Nous avons prévus que sur le comblage il y aura des bus pour les enfants qui vont voyagés aller un peu partout, des bus qui vont stationner là justement sur ce comblage. Et les enfants vont aller prendre leurs bus là. Alors ça c'est très important. Il y a aussi tout un travail qui a été fait avec les experts de Ministère des Travaux Public, la sécurité routière à Maurice, nous sommes en train de réfléchir sur tout cela. Evidement, nous sommes au courant. Mais ce qu'il faut savoir, M. le président, il y a eu là un promoteur qui a ouvert une station d'essence. Et c'est ça qui a attendu pendant des années. Et là nous avons prévu un parking de plus de 25 véhicules. Il y aura un green space. Le plan est là-bas, la photo est là-bas. J'aurai dû apporter la photo montrer ici, M. le président. Quand nous faisons quelque chose nous le faisons bien. Nous ne faisons pas les choses de travers. Quand on voit un peu ce qui c'est passé sur le comblage de Baie aux Huitres, sans un plan d'aménagement, ici là ou ici, notre ring road et Port Mathurin une ville piétonnière. Tout ça a été justement jeté à l'eau.

M. le président, tout ce comblage de Mont Lubin, je suis content parce que moi-même j'ai lutté quand j'ai appris qu'on a donné des baux sur ce petit comblage et que justement notre gros morceau saura de faire un mûr et qui va coûter des millions de roupies. Un mûr derrière le comblage. Un mûr qui va donner à peu près 50 mètres de hauteur. Et tout cela, ça va coûter de l'argent. Ça va être discuté pour soutenir justement la terre pour que la terre ça n'arrive pas vers le bas, vers la rivière et vers la source. Voilà, M. le président.

Mr. Chairperson: Local Member, please Mr. Spéville.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that there is a borehole en naval du sud, can the Chief Commissioner inform the House what

disposition has been taken or will be taken in regard to waste water which will emanate from the market.

The Chief Commissioner: Well, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we know that there is a borehole over there. I do not know whether the borehole is working. Is the borehole working? Yes, it is working and there is a source over there also and we are protecting all resources, you know. The Member has talked about environment wastewater and so on. We have to think about all that. Not only at Mont Lubin but elsewhere also, a great problem, you know. We have to control all this wastewater and perhaps a question can be put next time to my colleague for environment. He has already planned for wastewater. Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question for you.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I heard the Chief Commissioner mentioning that he has planned for parking at Mont Lubin and many times we can see that there are traffic jam at Mont Lubin and vehicles in Rodrigues. Now we have long vehicles. We have vehicles from IRLDBS, AJ Maurel and others and at times these long vehicles has to go instead of going around on the way used in front of Mr. Felicité's shop, they used the way in front of the bus shelter. Listen! Listen! Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this type of doing, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can cause accident in this place in Mont Lubin. Can the Chief Commissioner.. *“mo senti ou énan ene problem ou non?”*.

Mr. Chairperson: No there is no problem. Put your question. You are not going to make statement. Put your question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I have to introduce, Sir. Can the Chief Commissioner contemplate to construct a road leading from Malabar on a straight way directly to Citronelle in order to prevent the traffic jam at Mont Lubin?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I talked to the Divisional Commander the other day and I think that the Police Service in Rodrigues must be reorganised. Sometimes we do not see Policeman at Mont Lubin and this is I know is important that from morning from six to six we have Policemen there to help the motorcycles and motorcars and so on, you know. But what we would like to know, you see this new filling station many people come there instead of going to Port Mathurin but perhaps in some weeks the new filling station at Grand La Fouche Corail will be opened. *Et cela va permettre justement d'alléger Mont Lubin. Vous saisissez le but c'est justement de décentraliser le lieu de concentration et ça aussi c'est possible. Nous avons*

déjà prévu pour Grand La Fouche Corail, s'il faut aussi un parking space là-bas. Tout ça on est en train de réfléchir. Vous comprenez, M. le président.

Alors je pense que Mont Lubin, nous savons c'est un lieu, un grand carrefour qui va vers le nord, le sud, est, ouest et un grand carrefour. Moi je pense qu'il faudra savoir aménager Mont Lubin, mettre les Policiers qu'il faut et ensuite décentraliser le service. Et ça c'est très important.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question.

DEVELOPMENT OF FARMING/RODRIGUES - 2012 TO DATE

(No. B/90) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the development of farming in Rodrigues from 2012 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:

- (a) the number of cattle, goats, sheep, pigs and poultry reared, for that period, by registered farmers;
- (b) the area reserved for grazing and the grazing capacity of our island for a sustainable farming; and
- (c) this Regional Government's policy with regards to the economic and ecological aspect of farming in Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question I am informed that the present livestock population in Rodrigues is estimated as follows:

- (i) Cattle - 7,000
- (ii) Goat - 7,700
- (iii) Sheep - 4,800
- (iv) Pig - 8,000

I am further informed that the number of heads fluctuates according to season and market demand.

As regards, local poultry, the data regarding number of heads is not exactly known since local poultry raising practice is mostly extensive and open air. Most poultry breeders do not have the exact count of their poultry. I am informed that a rough estimate would be around 9,750 heads.

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However, as regards registered poultry farms the number of broilers stands around 29,000 while layers account for 2,900.

With regard to part (b), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are about 600 hectares of grazing area (cattle walk) in Rodrigues.

There are also some 3000 hectares of forest cover from which fodder is available at specific period of the year under cut and carry system.

Based on the above, the total number of animals the island can sustain is as follows:

- (i) Cattle - 7,500
- (ii) Goat - 12,000
- (iii) Sheep - 12,000

This House may note that goats and pigs are not allowed to graze in open areas as provided for under the Rodrigues Swine and Goats Regulations 1918.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, regarding of art (c) the Regional Government's policy with regard to the economic and ecological aspect of farming in Rodrigues resides mainly in the provision of incentives to farmers to run livestock farms that are economically viable and that promote individual fodder production on top of the cut and carry fodder system.

In this present Budget, 30 model farms are being partially funded through grant schemes for goats, cattle, sheep, local poultry and black pigs to encourage farmers to embark on this avenue. The establishment of grant schemes will also facilitate the adoption of new methods of farming and the introduction of new livestock breeds thus professionalizing this sector in line with "*Rodrigues Ile Ecologique*" Strategy.

A stock of improved animal breeds to be put at the disposal of breeders to improve the performance of their livestock herds have been imported from Mauritius:

- (i) 46 goats and 92 sheep were disembarked yesterday from MV Anna.
- (ii) 12 cattle (including 11 calves) and 1 breeding bull will be shipped on 03 September on board MV Anna.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in part (c) of my question, I stressed on the economic and the ecological aspect. I have heard the Chief Commissioner mentioning about the facilities, incentives that have been put in place by this present Regional Government. Although, the statistic that has been given to this House concerning the number of cattle, goat, sheep and so on. I do not think whether they are exact because I do not know what methods have been used to collect these data. But as far as we know, I have here in front of me, the official statistic of the Mauritius Statistic Office concerning the number of these animals that were sold to Mauritius during the past five years. When we look at the figures from 2011 to 2014, we have seen that the number of cattle that were exported to Mauritius were in the decreased side except for last year, it has started going up. I do not whether this trend will be maintained. It is the same thing for pigs, contently decreased. Goats decreasing side. Farms in the decreasing side. Therefore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, based on these can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether the policy that has been put in place ensures sound economic whether farming, the sale of animals and so on can be used a sound economic ground for Rodrigues? If not, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether is he going to review this policy so that to give more economic values to farming.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we all knows that we have to modernize and professionalize the Agricultural Services. I will come later with a reply of a question where according to the new organisation of the Agricultural Services, we will employ an Economist and a Statistician and also we are starting next week what we call a survey for the distribution of farmers' card. This is very important. We do not here in Rodrigues, the farmers, planters and breeders; they do not have a card. Agricultural card, you know. Well, perhaps the information given here is approximate. It is not true information, it is approximate.

The Minority Leader: On a point of order. I want the Chief Commissioner to be more precise. He is telling us that no farmers have got a farmer's card. Is it true what he is saying? Because as far as I know in the past there has been a policy of issuing the farmers with a card. I know that many or most farmers registered in Rodrigues in the past have had their cards. Can he be precised whether this is true or not?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as far as I know it is a small farmer's welfare fund which has given a card to the planters when they pay money to form part in this. We are going further with that. We are going later with that. We are also setting up our fund for the planters and farmers of Rodrigues. That is why we need, we have been to Reunion Island, we have seen a slaughterhouse. This slaughterhouse knows exactly the number of cattle breeders and pig breeders and now they produce a number per breeder each

week or every month. They know that. But here we do not know that. That is why we need a scientific, what we say a scientific survey of the breeders and farmers and whenever there is a disaster, there is no way going around and see what is going on and so on. We have the card. Everything will be *informatisé*. *Tout cela. Il faut aller plus loin, M. le président.*

Il y a les deux monde qui développe et nous ne pouvons pas continuer que chaque il y a un cyclone ainsi de suite. Aller les gens là va voir tel affaire tel affaire. Et c'est ça qui cause vraiment, il nous faudrait vraiment avoir une organisation professionnel et scientifique du Service de l'Agriculture qui est le pilier de l'économie de Rodrigues. Alors c'est ça, M. le président. Alors nous aurons dans l'employé un Statisticien et un Economiste à l'Agriculture. Il faudrait qu'à ce moment là on puisse voir comment l'agriculture, comment l'élevage peut apporter une économie pour l'île et nous savons déjà que beaucoup plus d'argent rentre à Rodrigues à travers la vente des animaux. Ça c'est connu. Beaucoup plus d'argent rentre à Rodrigues à travers la vente des animaux. Alors il faudrait quand même profitabilités tout ça. Ne pas continuer à tort et à travers, au petit bonheur. Il faut voir Rodrigues dans les années à venir.

The Minority Leader: C'est vrai, M. le président, ça fait longtemps depuis qu'on entend le Chef Commissaire parlait des mesures qu'il faut entreprendre pour mettre de l'ordre. Alors là il dit qu'il va venir très bientôt. On attend à ce qu'il vienne avec un plan concret. Cependant, M. le président, nous savons d'ailleurs il y a une question qui vient après pour demander le nombre de baux résidentiel que le gouvernement régional est en train de donner. Alors avec l'augmentation des nombres des baux résidentiels, avec l'augmentation des autres sites commerciaux, la construction des routes etc. Chaque jour qui passe nous allons voir que dans une future très proche l'espace réserver, tout à l'heure il avait mentionné 600 hectares pour *grazing space*. Il a aussi mentionné 3000 hectares pour *forest cover* etc. Mais nous savons que dans un proche avenir toute cette espace, M. le président, va être réduit. A moins que dans son plan qu'il a déjà ils ne vont pas toucher à l'espace qui sera réservé à l'élevage. Alors puis-je demander au Chef Commissaire s'il compte venir très prochainement avec un plan très défini sur une cartographie pour montrer exactement là où sont les espaces réserver à l'élevage, l'espace réserver à la culture, l'espace réserver à l'habitation etc. pour qu'on puisse penser a un meilleur avenir pour notre pays, M. le président.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, nous avons une vision de Rodrigues. Je ne peux pas mentionner encore comblage de Baie aux Huitres ni le comblage de Baie Lascars. Nous avons une vision de Rodrigues. Nous savons et là nous sommes déjà travaillés sur les pâturages et la FAO et là pour

nous donner son service pour ce qu'on appelle un cadastre agricole. Nous savons qu'il y a eu beaucoup des terres agricoles qui ont été utilisé par des squatters peut être pour construire des maisons. Et c'est ça qu'on veut mettre dans la mentalité des Rodriguais que Rodrigues ne peut pas continuer à vivre au dépend de l'île Maurice, recevoir de l'argent et ainsi de suite mais il nous faudra comme je vais le dire que le Rodriguais doit montrer ce dont il est capable. Alors nous avons eu notre autonomie c'est pour justement nous permettre d'utiliser notre intelligence, d'utiliser notre capacité pour justement voir Rodrigues dans les années à venir et nous savons qu'il faut préserver la terre, qu'il faut préserver les terres pour les plantations d'arbres, pour les forêts. Nous savons ça et qu'on ne voit pas vraiment une petite maison sous une montagne là-bas justement ce n'est pas ça et c'est pour quoi le Service Cadastre doive aussi avoir des personnes. Malheureusement, le Service Cadastre est diminué en personnel. Il nous faudra voir des personnes qui savent vraiment faire un plan d'aménagement, qui savent vraiment juger par rapport au développement de Rodrigues dans dix, quinze et vingt ans à venir.

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Member Emilien.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner has mentioned his vision. The vision that his government has for the development of Rodrigues with regard to farming and it is also true to note that Rodrigues earns a lot of money with the sale of animals but it is also a fact that it is an ancestral practice that in Rodrigues people "*toujours nourri ene ti cochon dans coin lakaz atasé ek pied*". Nowadays, we have risk of diseases. Recently in France a new disease has appeared carried by mosquitoes. On an environmental basis, can I know from the Chief Commissioner whether his government is contemplating to come with Regulations or whatever measure he deals fit to reduce the risk of diseases in regard to these practices of rearing animals beside the house?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there will be a reply to this question at the last few minutes. But we are thinking of giving incentives to farmers and then when we say incentives we will say that further in a reply to a question what we give them. The same thing will be for next year budget. And then we think about training of farmers, training of the population. It is very important. When the Minister of Finance was there, we went to some places and we have seen. There is not poverty in Rodrigues. There are people who do not know what to do. How to use their land? How to breed their animals? This must be in a hygienic way. Not to let animal here and there, you know. This is education. This is training of the population. We will put stress on this in our next budget. And I do not know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that well we are giving

incentives. There will be a reply to one question there. Incentives but we are also training people. I think this is very important.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, from the table we see that there has been a drop with the number of animals with regard to the concept of *pasturage communautaire*. Can the Chief Commissioner inform the House whether those that have already been set up are operational and whether they are meant for cut and carry or the animal are being brought from site?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have many meetings with the Agricultural Sector. Yesterday, the other day, I think it was on Wednesday, last week we went to Deux Montagnes and we see there what we can do. We have decided to do this and that. We will go to Grenade. There will be an answer to this kind of reply and we have also been to Grenade. We are also looking for more grazing space where not only.. We are also giving space land lease to farmers who will like to produce their own food for their animals. This, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it takes time because we have to reorganise the system and we are coming later with the Regulations on animals in Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson: Mr. Grandcourt, Respected Member.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The Chief Commissioner did mention that he will set up 30 model farms. I shall try to put two questions in one. So, I will like to ask him. Those model farms our government set up in the past where does matter stand. Whether there are still follow-up on these model farms, first question? And secondly, we have to put the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, they are talking about ecological island, this is very important but we have to think about those 60 hundred hectares reserve for grazing. Are we going to leave them as such for that purpose? Because if I take the example of Montagne Plate, it is degraded, completed degraded site. If we go there. I do not know Grenade is not like that. I would like to ask him what is his policy concerning especially the site at Montagne Plate?

The Chief Commissioner: As I said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have been to Montagne Plate with a group of Technical Officers from the Agriculture and the Island Chief Executive was with us. I was there. We have seen the place. We are talking about and we will meet soon, on Wednesday to see what we have seen and how we can manage this space for grazing. There is a lot of thing we can do. It will not be a sort of space where animals will be put in. No, there will be a space and the parks, the shelters of animals will be around this pastoral and so that they cut and carry, they cut the food and then give them to the animals. No, no we are thinking about all that and we have already started.

I will say that in a few minutes there is a reply of a question on that. We will say that in a few minutes.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to facilities and incentive, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I know from the Chief Commissioner the sustainability of farming for Rodrigues is 12,000 cattles, 10,000 goats and all this, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. In order to achieve this, the Rodriguan can, we can do this. But, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what about the facilities. We have decentralised the Veterinary Unit from Citronelle to La Ferme and what did the farmers obtain at La Ferme. Only powders, only powders as medicine. This is the first one. Can we do something as regards to the medicine provided at the sub-section? This is the first one. And we have the question of agricultural lease. Up to now, people are using permit. We are obtaining only permit, permit, permit. What about the issue of Agricultural permit for farming, lease?

The Chief Commissioner: I take notice of some questions put by the Respected Member.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, nous savons tous que gouverné c'est prévoir. J'ai entendu le présent gouvernement présenter sa vision pour l'agriculture de l'île Maurice, M. le président. Le Ministre de l'Agriculture, le Ministre des Finances aussi on annoncer il y a plusieurs mesures qui sont annoncées pour accroître la production animale à Maurice. Etant donné que Rodrigues notre principale marché est Maurice. Donc, est-ce que le Chef Commissaire à penser dans un proche avenir, il y aura certainement une grosse concurrence entre les produits de Rodrigues et celle de Maurice. D'ailleurs il a mentionné la dernière fois qu'on n'exporte plus de porc vers Maurice parce que Maurice les produit déjà. Donc qu'en sera-t-il demain si Maurice n'achètera plus nos bœufs, plus nos moutons etc. Est-ce qu'il à envisager, M. le président, de voir une autre façon, *to give value added to these products*. We already have our slaughterhouse, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. Quand est-ce que le présent Gouvernement Régional pensera à exploiter au maximum cette infrastructure qui est déjà là afin d'exporter nos viande en carcasse vers Maurice, M. le président ?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, je dois dire au Minority Leader que nous réfléchissons et nous avons déjà pris des décisions. Rodrigues est dans la République de Maurice. Nous avons dit au Ministre des Finances avant que Maurice aille chercher ces cabris, ces moutons, ces bœufs à Madagascar ou au Kenya, d'abord à Rodrigues. C'est pour quoi il nous faudra produire une bonne qualité de viande et ça c'est très important. Ne pas vende du n'importe quoi et n'importe quoi. Un abattoir a été construit sans aucune

recherche par rapport au nombre d'animaux pour savoir quoi tuer et ensuite exporter vers l'Europe. Alors il y a tout un problème. Là aujourd'hui on parle d'exporter nos produits vers La Réunion mais il y a aussi avant d'exporter vers La Réunion il faut voir la qualité du produit et ensuite il faut avoir des certificats. Tout ça maintenant. Il faut voir hein ! Alors c'est pour quoi même quand nos amis vont en France qui apporte des ourites, ceci cela. Ah ! Il faut faire attention parce que n'importe quoi ne peut pas rentrer en Europe. Alors moi je dis que le Ministre des Finances est venu, on va mettre en place l'abattoir et justement on va commencer bientôt avec le poulet, le porc et ensuite des unités de transformation. Ça c'est très important. Il y a eu une formation sur la coupe et la charcuterie. Vous comprenez là ? Et c'est ça justement, il ne suffit pas simplement de tuer les animaux mais aussi il faut savoir comment couper cette viande et la charcuterie, la viande tout ça justement on va mettre en pratique, ce sera là-bas à Baie Diamant. Vous comprenez là ? En tout cas, M. le président, tout ce que le Minority Leader est en train de dire nous pensons à tous cela. Nous avons déjà pensé à tous cela. Nous ne sommes pas là tout simplement pour croiser les bras. Mais c'est là en avançant nous rencontrons aussi, il y a des difficultés. Il faut savoir les résoudre. Alors, M. le président, que ce soit, et c'est pour quoi nous disons que la viande doit avoir un goût. Le goût de nos viandes, de nos cabris, de nos moutons, de nos poulets même le goût de nos poissons, tout ça il faut voir. Pas aller nourrir les poissons *dans lakaz* avec du concentrer. Mais il faut savoir comment donner un goût à nos produits et c'est ça justement qu'on doit pouvoir défendre et exporter un produit qui a du goût, qui est apprécié par les Mauriciens ou par les étrangers. Merci.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, moi j'ai une question qui est d'actualité, M. le président. Le Chef Commissaire vient de nous dire le goût est très important et Rodrigues peut donner ce goût là à Maurice. Mais le goût à un prix. Mais récemment on a entendu dire qu'à Maurice la viande bœuf va baisser. There will be a decrease in the price. It is already on. Donc, comment est-ce que le Chef Commissaire pense palier à ce manquement parce que si on doit vendre une viande de qualité les éleveurs de bœufs ici doivent le vendre à un prix élevé et comment est-ce qu'on va rester compétitif pour que nos éleveurs continuent à avoir un bon prix avec les bétails quand on sait très bien que pour nourrir un bœuf ça prend beaucoup de temps. Ça coûte beaucoup d'argent. Donc, qu'est-ce que le Chef Commissaire préconise là dans l'immédiat moi je ne veux pas planning, étudier parce que depuis ce matin je n'entends que ça. Un gouvernement avec vision mais qui fait des plans mais rien de concret pour nous donner pour nous mettre sous les dents. Donc, qu'est-ce que le Chef Commissaire a préconisé et fait en ce moment pour que les éleveurs de bétail à Rodrigues puissent toujours avoir le prix compétitif sur le marché Mauricien saturer déjà par Madagascar et d'autres pays.

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, au cours de la mission du Ministre des Finances nous avons abordé tout cela. Il y avait même un représentant du Mauritius Meat Authority qui était là. Et puisque le Ministre des Finances a prit des décisions pour les plantations et les produits de l'agriculture. Il y a aussi une décision qui a été prise concernant la viande de Rodrigues. Alors, puisque l'Honorable Membre a parlé de prix bas de la viande à Maurice. Je me pose la question est-ce que se sera toujours comme ça ? Ou bien est-ce que ce n'est pas seulement pour la fête Eid-Ul-Fitr. C'est ça nous allons voir. Mais de toute façon nous avons discuté de tous ça avec le Ministre des Finances et je pense que nous prenons note de ce que l'Honorable Membre a dit. Nous allons voir avec le Ministre des Finances et le Meat Authority. Et d'ailleurs les gens se poser la question, on ne comprenait pas assez justement les décisions concernant les prix des bœufs, des cabris et des moutons. Alors ça aussi il faudrait qu'on voit, alors si les prix ont été donné, si vous vous associé à la Meat Authority ou bien vous êtes libre à vendre à qui que ce soit, vous pouvez vendre à n'importe qui. Alors il y a tout un travail à faire. Alors là justement nous allons contacter le Ministre des Finances et voir qu'est-ce qui va se passer concernant la viande de Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, Minority Leader.

**CONTRACT - PRIVATE LAND SURVEYORS
/1000 RESIDENTIAL SITES**

(No. B/91) Mr. G. Jabeemissar (Minority Leader) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the contract of private land surveyors for 1000 residential sites as announced in the 2015 budget, he will:

- (a) state where matters stand as at date;
- (b) inform the House where these new sites are situated and to table the site plans thereof; and
- (c) state if the TOR (Terms of Reference) will comprise the identification of forest reserves and other ecological site for Rodrigues and, if so, where?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the contract of private land surveying, for the survey of 1000 residential lots, the contract was awarded on Tuesday 07 April 2015 after the completion of procurement exercise in line with the Public Procurement Act.

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Fifteen sites have been identified by the State Land Committee and have been approved by the Executive Council. I am tabling the list of location of these sites. The consultant is presently surveying the different sites and will prepare the plans accordingly. All the works are scheduled to be completed by September 2015.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the terms of reference of the consultant do not comprise the identification of forest reserves and other ecological sites for Rodrigues.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can we know from the Chief Commissioner whether once these 15 sites which have been identified. He said that survey is still on. Therefore, the project has not been completed. Right, in the meantime, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Chief Commissioner when is he going to issue leases to those who has asked for on these sites already identified and on what criteria will they be given?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when the survey is over and the person who will receive, the Cadastral office will propose them where they live, whether you will like to have a plot of land there. But this thing has already been done, I do not know. But some people have refused and they are asking for another site and this has completed the task of the Cadastral Office.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Chief Commissioner whether over and above these 1000 new residential lots whether they are already residential lots where people have not yet started construction because this will be new lots for future constructions. Whether actually there are other residential lots which have already been surveyed and so on where people have been given the leases which are under construction or where people have not yet started construction. And if he can give the House the answer where these are located?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we know in the past, I do not know when some lands have been parcelised and even people have received their lease in this *morcellement*, they have not started the construction. Why people ask for a lease and we give them a lease of land, they do not start the construction and the Cadastral Office is working on the list of people who have asked for a lease, you know. And now, we will see with the Cadastral Office whether we can start giving leases now before the survey is over or are we going to wait when the survey is over to give leases to people.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner inform the House whether from the 1000 residential leases/sites some will be grouped in new morcellement or the existing morcellement will be extended and if yes, when?

The Chief Commissioner: The existing morcellement will not be extended. There are about 15 sites is for the contract for the private. They will not work on the existing sites. It is new sites at about 15, around the island.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when I look at the list of these 15 sites. I take one example, Pointe Vingt Tours. Pointe Vingt Tours, We all know that it is a coastal zone. We all know that it is prone to tsunami, coastal erosion. In fact, now if you go there you can see the effect of coastal erosion there. Can we know when we say Pointe Vingt Tours, where exactly? Is it far from the coast will most of the morcellement be situated. It is the same thing for Cascade Jean Louis, for example, we know, when the Chief Commissioner has been talking of grazing spaces. We know that places of Cascade Jean Louis, where there are no houses, these are mostly used for grazing. It is the same thing at Graviers. It is the same thing at Anse Nicolas. There are Anse Nicolas 1 and Anse Nicolas 2. I wonder whether Anse Nicolas has been divided into two parts of course because it is 1 and 2. And how many lots will be in all these regions? I know it is too vague, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I requested it, and I do not have it up to now.

The Chief Commissioner: I take note what the Minority Leader has said and I will find out and I take notice of the question.

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

At this stage the Deputy Chairperson took the Chair

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Next question.

DISTRIBUTION - BUILDING MATERIALS - CONSTRUCTION OF “BASSIN ROND”/“RAINWATER HARVESTING SCHEME”

(No. B/92) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (Third Island Region Member) 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:

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- (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?

The Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others (Mr. S.P. Roussety): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling the list of materials provided to beneficiaries under the “Rain Water Harvesting Scheme” for the construction of two water tanks of 2 m³.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (b) of the question the potential beneficiaries of surveyed by the staff of the Water Resources Unit to ascertain whether they satisfy the eligibility criteria. Findings of the technical survey are then scrutinized by a Technical Committee prior to the issue of materials. Prior to the distribution of materials to beneficiaries are invited to a meeting organised on a regional basis where they are informed of the condition of the scheme and are required to sign an agreement to the effect that they will complete the construction of the water tanks within two weeks after receipt of all construction materials. All the materials except the gutters and reinforcement are delivered to the beneficiaries by the approved supplier under the supervision of the officers of my Commission. The remaining two items mentioned above are delivered by my Commission.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner state the eligibility criteria for the beneficiaries to be granted a *bassin rond*?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the eligibility criteria are as follows:-

1. Persons with income less than Rs 10,000;
2. Persons that has no water tanks;
3. Handicapped persons;
4. Beneficiaries of the Trust Fund/NEF's houses;
5. Old aged persons;
6. Household living in region where water distribution is not regular;
7. Families residing in remote areas where water network are not accessible.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: *Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, le Commissaire vient de nous dire que les matériaux sont livrés aux bénéficiaires sous la supervision des officiers de la Commission. Le problème c'est qu'il a aussi dit*

qu'ils doivent un agreement comme quoi ils doivent construire des bassins dans l'espace de deux semaines. Le problème qui se passe, M. le président, c'est que les supplier dès fois ils mélangent rock sand, macadam, du sable, ils emmènent tous dans le même camion. Et puis, ils quittent ça chez le bénéficiaire sans, M. le président, sans supervision des officiers de la Commission. Et puis ils viennent nous dire qu'il faudra, les bénéficiaires doivent construire ces bassins ronds là pendant deux semaines. Ils n'arrivent pas à construire parce qu'il y a le souci, il y a un manque de matériaux. Les matériaux sont mélangés et là c'est la responsabilité de la Commission. C'est la responsabilité du Commissaire. Est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous dire comment il va faire pour palier à ce problème ?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I am not of that type of situation because me I have given instruction for the delivery of materials. Nobody has come to the Commission to complain that the materials have been mixed. Up to now, we have not received any official complaint.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, no official complaint but I have been elected. I have come here. I tell you that there has been a problem concerning the delivery of materials and he come here he tell me there has been no official complaint. What am I doing then, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir? What are we doing on this side of this House, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir? What are we doing? You should at least tell me that you will look into the matter not telling me that there has been no official complaint. I am complaining on behalf of these people. You have not made any follow-up. That is how you come here and tell me there has been no complaint because "*pas cas la tet*".

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Mr. Grandcourt asks your question.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Everything is being mixed up by the supplier. Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether he will give more supervision to the delivery of materials to the beneficiaries of these basins ronds because they are facing like maison NEF, they are facing many difficulties, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the responsible Member would have come to our office with names where the materials have been mixed up, where there is a lost of materials.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner being given that he has a team of supervision at his Commission whether he has come across. Whether his Commission has come across cases

where *bassin rond* has not been constructed, this is the first. And secondly, what are reasons behind why these *bassin rond* has not been completed.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Once again, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, we have not come across any cases where *bassin rond* has not been constructed. For us everything is going on smoothly.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, if the Commissioner is ready, I am voluntarily prepared to bring him on site in order to ascertain what I am saying to this House. If you are prepared, I can go even now.

Yes, second one, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, since there has been a tender for rock sand, aggregate, block and so on, what mechanism are there at the level of his Commission to ascertain whether the exact quantity. Here we have five tons of rock sand being given to the beneficiary.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: M. le vice président, tous ces matériaux qui ont été livré aux bénéficiaires on était calculés par les techniciens de ma Commission, comprenant le Senior Engineer, comprenant un Trainee Engineer et des Technical Officers. On a bien expliqué aux bénéficiaires comment s'en servir des matériaux mais peut être il y a des cas où ils ne s'en servent pas bien mais eux ils l'ont compris tous ce que nous avons dit et aussi le Membre responsable de l'autre côté de cette Chambre lui aussi s'il veut faire son travail un peu plus conséquent qu'il vienne avec des noms et puis on va voir.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, can we know exactly, I put the question to the Commissioner. How can we ascertain that the exact quantity of materials is being delivered to the beneficiaries?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, instruction has been given to deliver so and so quantity of materials. I cannot go on the lorry to ascertain but I will request the officers to make sure what is happening in the matter of materials and when the delivering of materials is being done, we have not any complaints from beneficiaries like in certain cases of ..

The Minority Leader: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I have come across some complaints of people living in the same locality, people in the locality having the same eligibility criteria. When some tell me that they are waiting to get their construction materials because they have been identified as a potential beneficiary. Others having the same eligibility criteria do not know up to now whether they will be considered or not. Can I ask the Commissioner, who exactly is responsible to identify these cases in the villages?

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Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, as I have said all the materials, there is a list of beneficiaries that materials should be supplied. But the supplier may at one time deliver four to five beneficiaries and others after but here again, I am not here to control the supplier but I will request my Commission to control it.

The Minority Leader: In this case, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, does the Commissioner find it important to put in place a control mechanism. There should be a control mechanism, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to ensure that the materials are being delivered to the right person and the right quantity and then you will be able to access whether what we are telling this House is true or not, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, once again I repeat we have not received any complaints, with lack of materials or receiving of less materials.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: I will insist. We are not talking about, if you allow me, Minority Leader, about complaint. He has to say Yes or No he will put in place a monitoring committee at the level of is Commission to monitor the delivery, the construction and so on of these He has to answer Yes or No. Simple.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, every beneficiaries up to now are satisfied with the way we are proceeding for the delivery of materials except Members on the other side but I am sure that everything is going on well with the officers of my Commission.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Next question.

CONSTRUCTION OF TRACK ROADS/FOOTPATHS

(No. B/93) Mr. F. A. Grandcourt (Island Region Member) 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

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- (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?

The Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I am tabling the details sought in the question.

As regards to part (b) of the question, for the 1.2 km of Track Road, Tender was launched through procurement mode Restricted Bidding address to the following bidders.

- i) RABCO Contractor Ltd
- ii) Laxmanbhai and Co. (Mtius) Ltd
- iii) J H Cleopatre Company Ltd
- iv) Rodrigues Ten Stars Building & Engineering Ltd
- v) Mr. Jean Jerry Albert
- vi) Mr. Louis Thomas BEGUE
- vii) Camp du Roi General Workshop

The closing date was fixed for 05 December 2014.

For the 5 km track road and footpath in the six Local Regions in Rodrigues Year 2015 tender was launched through Open Advertised Bidding. The closing date was for April.

As regards to part (c) of the Question, I am tabling the length of track roads to be constructed under the contract 1.2 km, with their locality and electoral region.

For the length of track roads and footpaths to be constructed under the contract 5 km, locations are being finalised and Works Order will be issued shortly.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Before we proceed with supplementary questions can the Commissioner just repeat again the date for the closing date for tendering procedures because we have not understood.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The 29 April 2015.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether why is it as regards to part (b), why is it that they have chosen restricted bidding, why, instead of open bidding? I believe this a 5

km track road. Why is it that you have gone through restricted bidding? Can we have the reason why, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, procurement wise it is legal that we go to restricted bidding.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: So, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, can we know from the Commissioner whether he has a list of contractors and these contractors form part among the bidders for this contract.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I have tabled the list of contractors.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Do you have a list of Registered Contractors at the level of your Commission as regards to this.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House for the Region 3, Montagne Cherie, 175 metres. How many families are concerned with this construction of this tract road?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: M. le vice président, à Montagne Chérie il y a plusieurs familles qui habitent dans cette petite localité et aussi il y a des vieilles personnes. Alors c'est notre *policy*, c'est notre politique de faire des *track road* pour aider ces personnes de les retirer dans ces endroits pour rejoindre la route.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Can we know from the Commissioner what is the estimated price for the track roads and the footpaths and what is the price quoted?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the estimated price for 1 metre of track road is about Rs 3000 and the quoted price has been Rs 2300 approximately.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: What is the estimated price for this contract as regards to track road and footpath? Not in metre, the contract price, the whole.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, for the price by the bidder for 1.2 km is Rs 2,782,137.50. For the track road of approximately 5 km, the price that has been retained by the Commission is Rs 11,838,383.48. The estimated price, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, ..

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, when I look at this paper, construction of about 5 km track road and footpath in six Local Regions in Rodrigues for Year 2015. But I know you have already that money for 2015 to construct track roads. I think it is around five or how many kilometres, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir. We are ending the financial year and the Commissioner and it is only now, that is, nine months, approximately nine months after this present financial year, that he is going to start project which is supposed to be completed in 2015. I would like to ask him whether he will be able to complete these five kilometres of track road during this financial year because we know as far as track roads are concerned supervision is very very important. So, I would like to ask him whether he has a team to supervise track road in Rodrigues as well as bassin rond and so on, whether he has a team to supervise all this and whether he will complete this by the end of this financial year?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the year has not yet ended and I am sure we will complete the five kilometres of track road

The Minority Leader: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, if I look at the track road that is going to be constructed in Region 1. I see that it is a track road towards Pistaches. Can the Commissioner say where does it start because it reaches towards Pistaches? Can he give an indication where it starts? Because there is nothing mentioned here.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, it is a continuous, it was to continue a track road at Pistaches but it is unethical to tell the name now where the track road will end.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, if it is unethical, we are using public money, public funds, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir. For a question of accountability and transparency, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner does not want to reveal. Does he want to hide information to this House, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I am not hiding any information to this House. But this track road has been a continuous of a previous one which was already there to ease the villagers of Pistaches towards Montagne Croupier.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Can the Commissioner inform the House whether in the contract the issue of soil compaction and drain because in some cases, the construction has not been made with reference to the type of ground and there has been a dip after movement of vehicles and erosion at the basement of these

track roads. Is there the issue of soil compaction and construction of drain in some cases because there is a dip after movement of vehicles in some cases with reference to ground compaction?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I am aware of this type of situation. I have received complaints for this type of situation but all defects regarding these places where the Respected Member is talking will be made good and the contractor has to repair.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I put the question to the Commissioner. According to PPA, Public Procurement Act, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, if a sum exceed Rs 5 m, this should be exceed this should be through open bidding. Is he aware of this? This is the first question. Is he aware that above the ceiling Rs 5 m we should go through open bidding? This is the first question and second one can we know what is the liquidated damage applied to this contract?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I am aware that over Rs 5 m, it should be open exercise bidding. What we have done at the contract of the five kilometres and the liquidated damage regarding the termination of contract after the completion date it is Rs 5,000 per day.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, now the Commissioner reveals to this House that he cannot do through a sealed quotation restricted quotation, restricted bidding for this type of tender because above the ceiling Rs 5 m, he has to go through open bidding. How come that they have done sealed quotation for this?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: M. le vice président, je crois le Membre n'a pas compris ce que j'avais dit auparavant. Le premier contrat c'est moins de Rs 5 million c'était restricted bidding. Mais le second c'était un open, parce que c'est plus de Rs 5 million.

The Minority Leader: M. le vice président, au tout début de leur mandat ce présent gouvernement régionale avait dit concernant la construction des *track road* qu'ils vont pas continuer avec les même types de *track road* comme auparavant. C'est-à-dire faire deux *lane*. C'est-à-dire qu'ils allaient faire des nouvelles routes bétonnés partout. Mais là à ce que je vois, M. le vice président, c'est *business as usual*. Can I ask the Commissioner what has happened why has they not been able to go ahead with that type of track road that they were proposing?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: M. le vice président, dans certains endroits nous avons fait des routes en bétons mais il y a d'autre endroit que nous avons continuer avec le *track road*. Pour quoi est-ce que nous avons continué avec les *tracks roads* dans certains régions, dans beaucoup régions pour que d'autres puissent bénéficier d'un morceau de *track road* mais à l'avenir on va venir avec le remplissage du milieu pour que ça vient une route bétonner.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Next question.

**PURCHASE - PREFERENTIAL PRICE/RODRIGUAN
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS BY AMB**

(No. B/94) **Mr. D. L. Guillaume (Fourth Island Region Member)** asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the purchase at a preferential price for some Rodriguan agricultural products by the Agricultural Marketing Board (AMB) as negotiated by the Regional Government, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the amount of agricultural products, in each case, sold to the Board, if any, since the implementation of the project to date?

The Commissioner responsible for Social Security and Others (L.D. Baptiste): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I will provide reply to this question as the subject matter falls under the purview of my Commission.

Following negotiation between the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security, it has been agreed that the Agricultural Marketing Board (AMB) would purchase agricultural products from the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Co. Ltd. (RTMC) as follows:-

- . 100 tons of onions QB variety;
- . 200 tons of onions Belarose variety;
- . 10 tons of garlic;
- . 100 kilograms of turmeric powder; and
- . Red beans subject to availability and also 2000 jars of processed products of mixed varieties from Limon D'Or.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I am informed by the RTMC that only red beans have been harvested following this agreement and as at date the company has purchased about 9.9 tons of this commodity from local producers. I am further informed that a first consignment of one ton of products is being shipped to Mauritius this week on the MV Anna. The company also expected to export about 175 tons of onions and 2000 jars of agro-processed products to the AMB by the end of October 2015.

Mr. L. D. Guillaume: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, negotiation has been done on behalf of planters and breeders by this Regional Government. May I know from the Commissioner whether their opinion was sought prior to negotiation?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: In previous meetings we have had with planters, so we have taken into consideration also that they have proposed and that is why I am happy that for this year, for example, for red beans, the planters have sold, have doubled their sales to RTMC as compared to 5 tons last year. Now they have sold for 9.9 tons. So, the price is much better Rs 75 as compared to Rs 60 last year.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has mentioned the purchased of 9.9 tons of red beans already done by the RTMC and if I have been right in hearing what he said, one ton is being shipped this week. Can I know from Commissioner why out of the 9.9 tons only one ton is being shipped to Mauritius? Is there a problem of *marcher* in Mauritius?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, it is according to the scheduled which has been set between AMB and RTMC.

Mr. L. D. Guillaume: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, in his intervention the Chief Commissioner announced that negotiations has been done for *bef Rs 80 kilo*, may I know from the Commissioner whether quality has been taken into account during same negotiation?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: The question of dealing with agricultural products with AMB and this is not concerned with AMB but Meat Authority.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Sorry, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, can I know from the Commissioner. He has talked about the schedule with AMB. This is why only one ton is being shipped this week. Can I know from the Commissioner, is there any problem of *stockage* for the remaining part of the lot that have been bought so far?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, we have enough space to stock and in fact the RTMC is expecting to buy another 200 kilograms and space are already available.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Space, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, it is also a concern of environment because let us take for example, for onion we have space at Citronelle for keeping onions but it did not work. I am not talking about the adequate space. The condition where these beans will be stocked?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, in fact there is a *chambre froide* and all conditions are being respected and the beans are in good storage condition.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Can we know from the Commissioner whether prior to the agreement reached between the Chief Commissioner and the Commissioner and the Minister for Finance whether any agreement has been signed between the Ministry of Finance and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly on behalf of this issue, the preferential price for Rodriguan products whether there has been an agreement signed? And secondly, what is the role of RTMC in this issue?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, agreement are made between Rodrigues Regional Assembly and concerned Ministries for Agro Industries but the executive arms for the actual purchase storage are between AMB and RTMC.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Next question.

SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE/NO. OF FOOTBALL GROUNDS

(No. B/95) **Mr. D. L. Guillaume (Fourth Island Region Member)** asked the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to sports infrastructure in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the number of football ground/s in the island and indicating the number of stadium/s and their respective location/s?

The Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports (Mr. I. Valimamode): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, there are thirty-two football grounds under the aegis of my Commission and four, what we commonly called stadiums namely Camp du Roi, Grande Montagne, La Ferme and Oyster Bay.

Mr. D. L. Guillaume: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, may I know from the Commissioner whether all these football grounds are fenced?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I may say that most of them are fenced but we are taking care so that in the future all the playgrounds are properly fenced.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, during the Budget debate, the Commissioner promised to this House that all the football playgrounds, all the sports infrastructures of Rodrigues will be lighted with a new structure, new system of lighting. Can we know where matters stand?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I think the Respected Member on the other side of the House misunderstood what I said. I said that for the present fiscal year, we are going to put professional lighting on at least two football grounds and this is being done.

Mr. D. L. Guillaume: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, may I know from the Commissioner whether all these playgrounds are being maintained at the level of his Commission?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the maintenance of the football grounds is ensured by a maintenance unit supervised by an Assistant Inspector and Football Coaches. The responsibility of the maintenance team includes inter alia grass trimming, marking football grounds, and other sports infrastructure. Collecting and carting away of all litters and cleaning of toilets where applicable. The frequency of grass trimming of football grounds depends on climate conditions and current football features. Basically, some playgrounds are trimmed on a weekly basis or on fortnightly basis while others where official matches are not played are trimmed once monthly depending on the state of the grass.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, can I know from the Commissioner as regards the grass trimming whether the grass trimming is being done by his Commission or it is being done by a contractor and if it is done by a contractor what price has been paid up to now?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, most of the time as I said we have a maintenance team but at times depending on climatic condition especially to make up for the football matches so that all football matches, all fixtures football matches are played we do have at times records to private contractors and it amounts to around Rs 50,000 per month.

Mr. D. L. Guillaume: M. le vice président, hier le Chef Commissaire a parlé que son parti et son gouvernement va lutter pour que Rodrigues soit une île à part entière aux prochains jeux des îles. In this case, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, may I know from the Commissioner whether one of the stadiums is homology?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, can the Member repeat the question, please. Sorry.

Mr. D. L. Guillaume: Do we have at least one.

Mr. I. Valimamode: At least one. Yes, the Camp du Roi Stadium is according to norms.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Mr. Spéville.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports inform the House whether the system of lightening on these football ground are timed because sometimes all day on the lights remain on.

Mr. I. Valimamode: I thank the Member on the other side of the House for this question. In fact, I agree with him because we are discussing, we have already done that with some villages so that they look, you cannot put timers on, we intended to do that, but we cannot do that, because depending on the time the players are on the field. But we are working jointly with the village committees so that they look into the matter.

Mr. D. L. Guillaume: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has said that football ground are being maintained by his Commission. May I know from the Commissioner whether the football ground of Mt. du Sable fully with *piquant loulou* is being maintained by his Commission?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, according to the list I have, the list of 32 football grounds, the one at Mt. du Sable is not in the list but we are looking into the matter to improve it because we do not have top soil as such for the time being.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, since the Commissioner said that the stadium at Camp du Roi is *homologuer*. Can we know from the Commissioner whether the football playground at Camp du Roi has a good system of irrigation there?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, as the former Commissioner for Sports, the Respected Member should know that there is a drainage, we have just put drainage around the synthetic track but the state of the ground itself is a natural drainage because it was from reclaimed land.

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Mr. D. L. Guillaume: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, we see that during cyclonic seasons flash flood, tons of soil eroded to sea from these football ground. Can I know from the Commissioner whether there is a draining system all around these football ground?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I do not understand the question. I do not.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Can you repeat.

Mr. D. L. Guillaume: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, we see that in cyclonic seasons and flash flood tons of soil from these football grounds eroded to sea. May I know from the Commissioner whether there is a draining system around all these football ground all around Rodrigues?

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, not all the football grounds do have drainage but I do not see how the drainage will stop erosion.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question from Mr. Roussety.

Mr. J. Roussety: I shall ask this question regarding Oyster Bay, Baie aux Huitres stadium whether being given the constant flooding *marécageux* state of playground on its southwestern part whether the Commissioner would consider transferring the playground through agricultural services for the planting of rice.

Mr. I. Valimamode: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, this may be, the Respected Member is he aware that the actual football ground, in fact, in the past was a place where rice was grown but no. I would say no, because as long as I shall be the Commissioner, I am not going to transfer the football ground but nevertheless, I am aware of the situation whenever there is heavy rain. We are going to put a drain alongside.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Next question.

STRAY DOGS

(No. B/96) Mr. D. L. Guillaume (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to stray dogs in the island, he will, for the period January 2012 to date, state the number thereof caught and spayed in each case, if any, and indicating their place of impoundment?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the number of stray dogs caught since January 2012 is 287. No spaying campaign has been carried out during that period.

Once caught, the dogs are taken to Montagne Plate Dog Impound where they are kept for three days during which they are fed and cared for by stockmen as required by Law. On the fourth day, they are euthanized if not claimed by owner.

Following the issue of an Expression of Interest, tenders were launched in April this year. Eight bidders submitted their bids. After an evaluation exercise, no bidder was found to be responsive. Fresh tenders would be launched soon.

Besides, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Mauritius Society for Animal Welfare has made a request to visit the island in September to sensitise and educate people on the provisions of the new legislation in regard to animal welfare.

Mr. D. L. Guillaume: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, may I know from the Commissioner whether at the level of his Commission the Veterinary Service is well equipped for these operations?

The Chief Commissioner: That is why we have launched tenders so that private people can catch the stray dogs and we are going to consider the impound itself to, what we say, so that it can be a good place for those dogs to be there.

Mr. D. L. Guillaume: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, can we know from the Commissioner how many lorries are attached with the Veterinary Service for such operations and whether all these lorries are in good running condition?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, the vehicles at the service of the Veterinary are vehicle to castor dogs. That is why we have launched tenders for that. The vehicle there is not even - we have problem with those people, Public Officers to catch the dogs. There is some problem with them. So that is why we have launched for private tenders so that private people can catch the dogs.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, stray dogs give a blink picture to the concept of making Rodrigues an ecological island. Stray dogs are permanently present in all public places causing numerous inconveniences. Can the Chief Commissioner inform the House whether the strategy of placing dogs traps in dogs prone areas still form part of the policy of his commission to

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alleviate the problem of stray dogs now? And if yes, how many of these traps are available and where they are placed?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, I did say that the Mauritius Society for Animal Welfare has expressed the wish to visit Rodrigues according to provision to the new legislation in regard to animal welfare. We are waiting for them, to discuss with them what we can do, whether we can put traps here and there or catch animals in other way. Thank you.

Mr. D. L. Guillaume: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, concerning animal welfare in the island, may I know from the Commissioner the area of the dogs pound and how many kennels are there? And whether stray dogs are being impounded in conformity to Stray Dogs Regulation?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, that is why I did say the Mauritius Society for Animal Welfare would come to help us concerning the new law in regard to animals' welfare. So we are waiting for them so that we can do something which can go against the welfare of the animals. We are waiting for them so that we can discuss what we can do in Rodrigues.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner said that at Montagne Plate these dogs are being looked after by Officers of the Commission. Can I ask him, first, how many times this place is being supervised by the Veterinary Officer? And secondly, whether the way these dogs are being treated now whether they complied with the existing Regulation of the MSOW?

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

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: With this answer, I suspend the House for one hour for lunch.

At 12.29 the Assembly was suspended for one hour

On its resumption at 13.29 with Mr. Chairperson in the Chair

**PREVAILING CASES
– CANNABIS (GANDIA) AND HARD DRUGS**

(No. B/97): The First Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. C. Agathe) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the prevailing cases of cannabis (gandia) and other hard drugs in Rodrigues, he will:-

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- (a) obtain, for the benefit of the House, information from the relevant authorities as to the number of cases thereof, in each case, reported in Rodrigues since 2012 to date and indicating the:
- (i) number of cases where accused were sentenced to prison;
 - (ii) number of cases involving fine and the amount of money obtained for the same period; and
 - (iii) category by age involved; and
- (b) state the measures taken or to be taken, if any, by this Regional Government to stop its prevalence?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed by the Divisional Commander of Police that in regards to cases of cannabis and other hard drugs in Rodrigues since 2012 to date, that accused have been sentenced to jail in 12 cases and fined in 95 cases for a total amount of Rs 1,817,800.

As per age category, 37 persons aged between 18 and 25 years and 126 above the age of 25 were involved in drug cases during the above mentioned period.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (b) of the question, I am informed that the following measures are being taken to stop the prevalence of drugs in Rodrigues:

- Community Policing are being held by the Police where, the population are sensitised on the bad effects of drugs on health;
- Sensitisations are carried out throughout the island and through the media targeting the whole population;
- Three days Awareness Campaign cum Exhibition on theme “With You Making Mauritius and Rodrigues Safer” was carried out at the passenger Terminal Port-Mathurin from 23 to 25 April where, useful information on different policing issues including drugs were provided to the 10,200 persons who visited the various stands;
- A two-day sensitisation of drugs was held at the Cultural and Leisure Centre, Mont Plaisir, on 06 and 07 August 2015 under the theme “*with you making Rodrigues an island free from illegal drugs*”;

- Frequent Crackdown and Stop and Search Operations are being carried out during night and daytime both on land and at sea level including on islets for the detection of drug related cases and other illicit articles;
- Keeping constant watch on known dealers and cannabis cultivators as well as the monitoring of their movement;
- Screening of incoming and outgoing passengers as well as searching of targeted persons at point of entry.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House that the fight against drug is not only the affair of a Government or the Police. C'est une affaire qui nous concerne tous dont chacun doit apporter sa contribution pour pouvoir atteindre un objectif commun qu'est l'éradication de la drogue pour le bien-être de notre société.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, first of all, I have not received the information as regards to part (a) – not (a) (i) but (a), itself. But, in the meantime, as regards to part (a), that is, per year 2012, 2013, 2014, per year, the number of cases related to cannabis and hard drugs. Even the case of hard drugs, we have not heard the Chief Commissioner mentioning the case of hard drugs.

The Chief Commissioner: Part (a). The number of cases where accused were sentenced to prison – I have given the answer. Number of cases involving fine and the amount of money obtained for the same period – I gave the answer. Category by age involved.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I have not understood the main question. The main question is about cases relating to cannabis and hard drugs, other hard drugs from 2012 to date. And, the first part (a) (i), it relates to another thing, (a) (ii), another thing and (a) (iii), another part. The number, at least the number from 2012, the number, *tel* number, 2013, 2014 to date.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have said I am informed by the Divisional Commander of Police that in regards to cases of cannabis and other hard drugs in Rodrigues since 2012 (cases, those cases were before 2012) to date, that accused have been sentenced to jail in 12 cases and fined, cases fined, people fined, in 95 cases, drugs and cannabis, for a total amount of, I said, Rs 1,817,800.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes. Despite that, we have not received the exact figure from the Chief Commissioner. But, the exact number is 376 cases. That is, from 2012 and up to 2015 to date... Yes, 376 cases. *Oui!* I have the answer for that. *Monn ale roder après mo frer.* Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have seen that the cases are on increasing. If you have paid a visit to the Court of Rodrigues, now, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have gang. The Youth are organised by gang, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This is a concern for us. This is a concern for us as Members of the Assembly. Can we know at the level of the Commission or, be it the Chief Commissioner and the Commission for Youth, what has been done in order that these cases do not recur or otherwise, to put it on a downtrend?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, I have already given the answer, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. Roussety: We know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that from what we know, that the consumption of cannabis has been increasing among young people and all trends, all spheres of the population in Rodrigues and Mauritius also. And, there is a debate about... Not legalising; this is the wrong conception. *Dépénalisation*, we say in French and I think in English, it is decriminalisation. That is, softening. I will not say the use but the consumption of cannabis. Does the Executive Council, the present Executive, have a specific position on this?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a decision which is to be taken by us. This decision, a national decision, and also, a decision to be taken concerning the stakeholders also, all the people, what do they think about it. We are not giving here our opinion on what the honorable Member has said. It is impossible. It is not our duty, here. But, we have to say what is being done in Mauritius. And, we, here, the NGOs can give their own opinion and we have to look into that. We need notice of the question.

Mr. J. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have one more question. I would like to know, we know that the cannabis, control of cannabis etc. does not fall under the purview of the Regional Assembly but we do have responsibility for youth development, community development etc., a lot of areas under which, prevention is being made. I would like to know from the Chief Commissioner, at the level of the Regional Assembly, what is the latest in his mind. It is not an opinion. What is the latest campaign sensitisation: TV spot, newspaper advertisement, talk, anything like this that has been done against cannabis and drug consumption?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have said community policing are being held by the Police where, the population are sensitised by the effects of drugs.... Sensitisations are carried out throughout the island and through the media targeting the whole population. The Commissioner for Youth and Community Services, Development, we are doing the job with the NGOs and so on, you know. And, I do not have this answer *là* to give, detailed answers, you know. And, also, the awareness campaign made by the Police just one. Two-day sensitisation of drugs was held at Cultural Centre.

We request a.... launch.... The search operations are being carried out during night and day. I must say also, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that we must have at the Police, a good, what we call, ADSU. There is some problem. We had Mr. Bala from the Prime Minister's Office who came the other day. We have talked to him.

We would like the Police, here, to be very careful and the Police to take decisions and not to allow people here and there. We, also, have something. We have information on what is going on, you know. But, the Police, those who are in the ADSU, should be trained, those people, and not to favour here and there people to get into cannabis or sell cannabis, you know. This is what we have said. But, we are doing our job on the part of the Government. But, the Police, also, who are structured, concerning the NSS, the ADSU, other organisations of the Police, should be very, very careful and do their job conscientiously.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the same line as my colleague, the respected Member, the figures that the Chief Commissioner has presented to the House, it is statistics from Police. Well, since we know the Commission for Youth is under the purview of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, and if we consider that the involvement of our youth in these illicit drugs abuse be it *gandia*, hard drugs, whatever it is. You know, once a youth has got into that spiral of drug, it is very difficult to get back. It will go on increasing, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

One youth will bring another youth. Two youths will bring how many, it will be a multiplying effect. Therefore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this case should not be taken in isolation. It should be a very serious matter because dealing with our youth; it means dealing with the future of this country.

Surtout, M. le président, que j'ai entendu le Chef commissaire parler de la politique de son parti concernant la jeunesse, il y aura une grande manifestation etc. Maintenant, M. le président, moi, ce que je voudrais demander au Chef commissaire, y-a-t-il sous ce présent Gouvernement Régionale, un *policy*

regarding this specific issue, c'est-à-dire mettre en place déjà une structure, un comité etc. pour essayer d'enquêter over and above what policy is doing, Mr. Chairperson, Sir ?

Il y a le *Youth Parliament*. Il y a les *youth clubs*, il y a plusieurs unités où la jeunesse peut, M. le président, prendre cette affaire comme quelque chose de sérieux parce qu'il ne faut pas se voiler la face. Le problème est sérieux, M. le président. Je voudrais entendre le Chef commissaire. *What is his policy on that issue ?*

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, nous sommes conscients de cette situation et c'est pourquoi nous disons même au niveau des collègues, il faut qu'il y a des causeries au niveau des collègues, qu'il y a des groupes qui s'occupent au niveau des collègues, qui vont entretenir une des collègues. Il y a des ONGs et aussi.. Et justement, le *Youth Council* s'occupe de tout ça. On est conscient. Nous sommes conscients. Mais il y a quand même des personnes qui tolèrent des planteurs de gandia. Il y en a.

Alors, c'est là où la police justement doit pouvoir justement entrer dans ce domaine et voir ce qu'il faut faire. Et ces policiers, justement, doivent recevoir une bonne formation et aussi, ils doivent être consciencieux de l'avenir de notre jeunesse. Alors, c'est pourquoi, M. le président, M. Bala était là. Nous avons parlé fortement de cela. Et même hier, on a parlé aussi de National Security Service.

Ces personnes-là, justement, doivent pouvoir aussi chercher les informations pour avertir, justement, la police. C'est-ce qui se passe dans les pays. Il y a beaucoup même de gandia, même de la drogue, qui sorte de Maurice qui rentre dans le pays. Nous savons tout ça. Et c'est là où la police doit être très sévère que ce soit l'entrée lorsque des avions viennent, que ce soit lorsque les bateaux viennent. Et c'est ça. Il faut les voir, M. le président. Il y a tout le monde doit s'y mettre. Ce n'est pas juste le gouvernement mais la Société Civile doit s'y mettre. La police doit s'y mettre. Les parents aussi doivent s'y mettre. Vous comprenez là ? Alors, justement, c'est ça, justement. Je suis content qu'on soulève ce problème-là ici qui est très sérieux pour l'avenir de nos jeunes de demain.

Mr. J. Roussety: M. le président, ce qu'on a entendu ici précédemment dans la dernière question, c'est que la NSS et l'ADSU seraient des complices, des acteurs passifs ou impliqué ou ne font pas leur travail, ils savent qui sont les gens qui plantent de gandia, qui utilisent le gandia.

The Chief Commissioner:Tout ce qu'on dit sur telle affaire.

Mr. J. Roussety: *Oké.*

The Chief Commissioner: NSS doivent chercher des information.

Mr. J. Roussety: J'ai bien entendu que l'ADSU ne fait pas son travail comme il se doit.

The Chief Commissioner: Excusez-moi, M. le président, je n'ai pas dit ça. J'ai dit que l'ADSU doit pouvoir entrer dans le problème et avoir de la formation pour pouvoir justement aller vers là où il faut pour pouvoir, comment dirais-je, trapper les planteurs de gandia ou des gens qui vendent du gandia. Tout ça, il existe. Tout le monde sait, ici. Mais je voudrais que nous ayons une police très consciencieux de la situation et qui fait son travail comme il faut.

Mr. J. Roussety: On parle de l'ADSU et moi j'ai entendu qu'il y aurait certains gens de l'ADSU qui ne feraient pas leur travail convenablement. J'ai bien entendu.

Mr. Chairperson: Sorry, respected Member. I did not hear this.

Mr. J. Roussety: I will not argue on this. Maybe there is a recording of this. Yes. We will not go into the details of listening to the recordings but for the sake of the wellness of your ears...

Mr. Chairperson: Sorry, I heard the word ADSU but on the right side.

Mr. J. Roussety: Okay. I agree with you. I will not enter in argument, please. I will just invite you when you have some spare time to listen to the previous *ça* and maybe you will be enlightened. There is a problem with ADSU.

Mr. Chairperson: I am already enlightened. Continue.

Mr. J. Roussety: Already enlightened. I send you an invitation if you want to listen back, if you do not want, but I did hear that ADSU, there is a problem with ADSU. I would like to know whether, the Chief Commissioner intends to officially report to the Commissioner of Police and the Prime Minister, who is responsible for law and order in the country about these problems of which he is aware!

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, j'ai causé en général qu'il y a l'ADSU, ici, doit pouvoir être formé pour aller beaucoup plus dans ce travail

pour essayer justement de savoir qui plante le gandia, qui vende le gandia, qui vende de la drogue qui sorte de Maurice. Ça, c'est son travail. Nous souhaitons que ce service de la police puisse être professionnel. C'est ça que j'ai souhaité. Je n'ai pas dit qu'ils ne font pas leur travail. Je souhaite tout comme nous disons qu'au niveau des ONGs, des comités villages doivent pouvoir savoir qu'est-ce qui se passe dans les villages. Tout ça, justement.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I raised this question to this House because I have come across cases where, I have always been to the Court of Rodrigues in order to listen to some cases and to have some ideas. But, I have come to across certain cases where, cannabis is being sold to students of different colleges of Rodrigues, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

For the last month, that is, the month of July, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have heard. I have been in Court. I saw pupils, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, pupils of colleges being arrested by the Police for cannabis consumption. And, what we want, here, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as the Chief Commissioner just mentioned earlier and I saw the face of the Commissioner of Youth. She seems not so worried about this case. Yes! Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a concern for our country. Because in Mauritius, I will tell you one case, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Ms. M. R. Edouard : Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order, please.

Mr. Chairperson: Please, come to your question, now.

Ms. M. R. Edouard : The respected Member is imputing motives saying that I am not concerned; the Commissioner for Youth is not concerned about the issue and I wish that he removes these words.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I said from her face.

Mr. Chairperson: Wait, please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I heard from the T.V. that people start consuming drugs; *bann drugs pas trop dur et puis commence à aller vers le plus dur*. Le plus dur maintenant c'est arrivé avec '*c'est pas bien*'. Est-ce que le Chef commissaire...

Parce que regardez même il n'y a pas une loi, M. le président, surtout si quelqu'un a fait un accident, on fait le, ce qu'on appelle l'alcool test, l'éthylotest mais pour les consommateurs de cannabis, on a aucun. On a aucun test pour ça, M. le président. Est-ce que le Chef commissaire peut voir surtout

au niveau des collèges qu'est-ce qu'on peut faire pour conscientiser les jeunes pour ne pas consommer le cannabis ?

The Chief Commissioner: M. le président, il y a eu cette délégation qui est gérée par M. Bala. Et j'ai même parlé au Commissaire de Police. Nous avons même dit à M. Bala que je vais rencontrer le Premier ministre, que cette commission qui a été instituée pour voir la question de la drogue, je voulais demander que cette commission-là aussi vienne à Rodrigues pour voir comment c'est et qu'est-ce qu'il faut ainsi de suite, que ces commissions-là fassent une enquête et voir comment Rodrigues est atteint par la prolifération de la drogue, s'il y en a, comme à Maurice. Alors, nous attendons justement cette commission. J'espère que le Premier ministre va accepter que cette commission fasse une tournée à Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson: Question, please.

INSTALLATION OF FOUR DESALINATION PLANTS

(No. B/98): The First Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. C. Agathe) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others:- whether, in regard to the installation of the four desalination plants in Rodrigues, he will

- (a) state the country of origin of all the spare parts purchased and to table a copy of their respective certificate of origin, if any;
- (b) table the amount of money paid for the spare parts for each plant and to whom payment was effected in each case, if any;
- (c) state the number of times breakdown occurred on each site, if any, and the reasons thereof; and
- (d) table the amount of electricity paid since the operation thereof to date or still due to be paid for each plant?

The Commissioner for Water Resources and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, no spare part has been supplied under this contract and no payment to this effect has been made. But, however, six unit manometer of 0-100 bars, stainless steel pressure gauge have been purchased from Aqualia DPI before a total cost of Rs 33,120. I am tabling the respective certificate of the manometer.

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Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that 15 and 12 technical breakdowns have been recorded on the desalination plants of Pointe Venus and Caverne Bouteille, respectively. The defects involves the Energy Recovery Device, PVC piping, pressure gauge, manifold, victaulic coupler, fittings, leakage of piping, surface pump, valves and basket.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since the operation of the two desalination plants, the amount paid for electricity are Rs 1,179,478 and Rs 807,342 for Pointe Venus and Caverne Bouteille, respectively. The claims for July 2015 are Rs 139,408 and Rs 139,040 for Pointe Venus and Caverne Bouteille, respectively. An amount of Rs 4,094,703 was paid for the Central Electricity Board for the extension of its network to supply the four desalination plants. I am tabling the copy of bills per amount paid to the CEB.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I put the question to the Commissioner. Are all the equipment installed inside the container, are they not called spare parts?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: As I have said, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what is in the container, it is for the Contractor. But, what have been in the desalination plants at Caverne Bouteille and Pointe Venus, now; it is under the custody of the Commissioner for Water Resources.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: No, I have not received the reply for my question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I put the question again to the Commissioner. Are all the equipment inside the containers considered as spare parts? All?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The container is not ours.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir...

[Interruptions]

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Member Roussety, say your question, please.

Mr. J. Roussety: The question related to four desalination plants. And, curiously, we do not hear anything about the other two remaining desalination plants. Can we know what is happening to the two other desalination plants as far as this question, that is, Pointe Coton and Anse Goéland, Baie Malgache.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: This will be answered in the next question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: As regard to the pressure gauge, can we know whether, they have been defective and replaced? I do not know if he had heard well. Whether, they have been defective or whether, they were missing in the container and he has bought new ones?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if they have been replaced, so, that means they were defective.

Mr. J. Roussety: Why were they... He has already sat down. Can we know why these pressure gauge became defective? And, after how much time?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is purely technical. I have not looked into the matter and the pressure gauge has been replaced because it was defective.

Mr. J. Roussety: Is it true that all materials which have been used in these desalination plants are very cheap parts which will not last? Cheap bolcops, cheap valves, cheap pressure gauge. And, this is why they are breaking now. That is, these things which are being installed are not up to the norms and not conformed to a true desalination plant for salt water?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, all these spares, all the fittings that have been purchased, it is under the contract and it was the Consultant who was supervising the work. I cannot, me, as a layman, as a politician, to see whether, the pressure gauge was good or not.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt : When we look at the pressure gauge, pressure gauge means pressure. It calculates the pressure. It measures the pressure. If all the pressure gauges have been defective, this means that there is a problem with the apparatus, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. There is a problem with the plant, itself. This is a sign, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

This is a sign that there will be other parts of the plant which will be defective soon. It starts with the pressure gauge. It gives you an indication whether; the pressure inside the apparatus is high or not. And, if this gauge is being defective, this means that there has been too much pressure or I do not know what has happened. Too low, it can be... too high. I would like to ask the Commissioner whether, he has a team to monitor these plants and whether, it is under the responsibility of his Commission or the Contractor?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that is why the contract of the Contractor has been terminated. First of all, he was not able to continue with

the work. And, now, we are looking to repair all that has been done. That is why; we terminated the contract of this Contractor. And, then, in the near future... You want to answer in my place? Hey, come here! You will be never here.

Mr. Chairperson: Continue, Commissioner, please.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. We are looking into the matter. So, that all be repaired in the near future.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether, with regard to the compatibility of the spare parts, his Commission has, at any time, sought technical expertise elsewhere. And, if yes, where and from whom? And, secondly, being given that the different stages involved in the purchase and commissioning of spare parts for desalination plants is cumbersome, can the Commissioner inform the House which method of procurement is being entailed or will be entailed by his Commission so that this process for repairs is valued for money and is less than commissioning?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: This will be answered in the next question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when we have a contract with a Contractor, first of all, we have spare parts being purchased for the four desalination plants. In order to install the desalination plants, there are spare parts inside. We put all the spare parts in order to make the desalination work. First of all, in order for payment to be effected, the Officer or the Consultant should see to it whether, the country of origin of the spare part is genuine. Can the Commissioner table a copy of all the parts that have been purchased, spare parts, all these, whether it is a genuine one?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at the time of terminating the contract, no spare parts have been supplied in the first paragraph of my answer. So, there is no spare part which has been supplied by the Contractor.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner two questions. First of all, where does the apparatus for the desalination plants come from? What country of origin? And, state to this House how many containers have been shipped from the country of origin of these desalination plants to Rodrigues?

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, Commissioner?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I need notice of this question for this time.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Does this mean the Commissioner did not go in his file? I would like to ask him again, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am asking for the country of origin of the plant. If the Commissioner cannot tell me this, so, there is a problem somewhere.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, have you something to say?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: No....

Mr. Chairperson: Next question. Last question.

The Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, actually, we can see on our roads from morning until afternoon, all the water tanks fetching water from Mourouk. Can I ask the Commissioner Responsible for Water, the reason why so many water tankers are on our roads, does it mean the two desalination plants are producing less than normal or is there a lack of water somewhere to fill, to distribute to households?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, rainfall has been on the deficient trend since May 2015. But, as I have said, the desalination plant is producing half of the capacity 452 to 500 m³ per day. So, there is need again to supply water by lorry.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question!

FOUR DESALINATION PLANTS – BIDS – COMPLETION DATE

(No. B/99): The First Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. C. Agathe) asked the Commissioner responsible for Water Resources and Others whether, in regard to the installation of the four desalination plants in Rodrigues, he will state:

- (a) if the bids were prepared (excluding vetting and launching) by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly or the Central Procurement Board and where were they opened; and

- (b) the expected completion date of any remaining works thereat following the termination of the contract and if liquidated damages have been applied to date and, if so, the amount thereof?

The Commissioner Responsible For Water Resources and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to part (a) of the question, the bidding documents were prepared by staff of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and same was forwarded to the Central Procurement Board for vetting and launching. The opening and evaluation of the bids was carried out by the Central Procurement Board.

As regard to part (b) of the question, new bidding documents for the installation of the desalination plants at Pointe Coton and Baie Malgache/Anse Goéland are being finalised. The tentative time frame for the completion of the project would be seven months. As for the rehabilitation of the Caverne Bouteille and Pointe Venus plants, same will be rehabilitated by my Commission based on the assessment of the Consultant.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is now that the Commissioner, I do hear, the Commissioner said on one occasion that the tendering procedures were prepared by the Central Procurement Board. Yes, I have ever heard this. I will find it. I will find it and I will come to you.

Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir... I will come. *Mo pou ale rode li.* Yes, can we know from the Commissioner how many addenda have been sent in relation to these bidding procedures?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: I need notice of this question.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner just said that the staff of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has prepared the tenders. And, now, he does not know how many addenda have been sent?

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. C. Agathe: How many addenda have been received? This is the first one. Let him reply.

Mr. Chairperson: Have you put your question?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: How many addenda? *Bisin koner.* Yes, the second one, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether, the IDP, what has been the remark of the IDP? The final remarks.

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Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is technical procurement procedures. A Commissioner cannot go into the procurement procedures.

[Interruptions]

Mr. Chairperson: Member Rosaire, please, listen! Your question, please.

Mr. J. Roussety: Yes. We are now speaking, I think, less than one year after the operation of... one or two years, we do not have the exact date, of the two desalination plants at Caverne Bouteille and Anse aux Anglais and we are already speaking about the rehabilitation. A tender... Do not say you did not say it, I heard very well. A tender will be launched for the completion of the two and tenders also for the rehabilitation of those who are already operating. This is a sign that they are already in decrepitude. Why do these plants need to be rehabilitated at this stage, this early stage?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is not the first time that a desalination plant is being rehabilitated. Perhaps, some of the Members of the other side have forgotten the episode of Songes. And...

[Interruptions]

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

Mr. J. Roussety: My point of order is that my question is not being fully addressed. I did not ask whether, there was a plant in which some people or someone else; they did not do his job. I am asking about the plants of Anse aux Anglais and Caverne Bouteille. Because you are the Commissioner responsible! And, you are the one who must answer here.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The same thing happened at Songes. And, now, we are rehabilitating the plants of Pointe Venus and Caverne Bouteille like was disposed on for the Songes desalination plant.

Mr. J. Roussety: Why, Mr. Chairperson, Sir? Why is it that after such a short time, operation of these two plants, they need rehabilitation? Why?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the two plants are running. But, for the one that I have just mentioned not a long time ago, never one month, two months, it was operating. It was just go on bad condition.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House, therefore, what the rehabilitation work will be consisted of? Since he is talking about rehabilitation, what the work will be consisted of and how much that will cost the Regional Assembly to carry out the rehabilitation work? *Parce que je vois que* rehabilitation is becoming a favourite word of the Commissioner. *Parce que* the bridge at English Bay also is being rehabilitated. What is the work consisted of?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have already answered the defects on the desalination plant in the question of B/98 which consists mainly of the energy recovery device, piping device, pressure gauge, manifold, victaulic coupler, fittings and leakage. I will not answer on what is happening because it is not in the question regarding the Pont des Soupirs which is very near to that.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner whether, since it started operation, the two desalination plants at Caverne Bouteille and Pointe Venus have been able to produce their full capacity, that is, 1,000 m³ per day? Because every now and then when we hear about these two sites, they have never been producing half of their capacity. Now, it is below half. Can I ask him whether, since being operational, whether, they have been able to produce their full capacity and on how many occasions?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the two plants have been operated on full capacity. But, for many days, I have not the answer. But, they have been producing on full capacity at the time of running.

Mr. Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. J. Roussety: We come, now, to the tender. There will be a new tender for the completion, he would say, of the one at Anse Goéland and Pointe Coton. Can we know grossly what works, which completion works need to be done at these two sites and for how much money in each case?

Mr. S. P. Roussety: The tender is being finalised. It will be.... civil works and also a complete plant at each site.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, by complete plant, does the Commissioner mean that the plants, the equipment, the machines which produce/desalinate water, the machines, the electrical machines, pump etc., does he mean that for the former contract, these were not supplied?

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

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: B/100.

Mr. Chairperson: I have to inform you that question B/115 has been withdrawn. 115.

RODRIGUAN FAMILY WELFARE

(No. B/100): The First Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. C. Agathe) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to Rodriguan family welfare from 2012 to date, she will:

- (a) state briefly to the House about the degree of poverty prevailing in Rodrigues;
- (b) consider the possibility for causing a survey to be conducted as regards to the number of families who have gone abroad (including Mauritius) leaving their kids with relatives in Rodrigues; and
- (c) table the number of cases in relation thereto reported officially and informally to her Commission involving minors, teenagers and adults and to give the outcomes thereof?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question according to 2012 Household Budget Survey, the relative poverty line is estimated at Rs 3,483 in 2012, as I said. The proportion of poor households was estimated at around 16.9% and the proportion of poor persons stood at 19.5%.

With regard to part (b) of the question, so, there is no need to have a survey as we can gather from the Commission for Social Security. As, over the years, we have had 379 abandoned children of whom the Social Security is catering for assistance as per stipulated in the regulations and with regard to part (c), we are compiling the data.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, how has she reached such percentage?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the respected Member did not listen to the answer. I am referring to the Household Budget Survey conducted by a sample statistic in the year 2012.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, you based yourself on the survey. And, I want you to give the figure as related to the population of Rodrigues. As regard, we have almost 40,000 people. What is the number? The 90% represents what?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what I can gather for the numbers, so for the number of poor households, it stood at 1,800 and number of poor persons stood at 7,500 people/persons.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes, can we know what is the minimum wage per family according to United Nations (UN)?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, referring to the same document, so, the average minimum monthly household income for 2012 was Rs 17,950.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Can I know from the Commissioner where is the most of the 1,800 people found? In what region?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Rodrigues is considered as a region, itself, in the survey. So, these 1,800 people, they are scattered around the island.

The Minority Leader: M. le président, je voudrais demander au *Deputy Chief Commissioner*, elle vient de nous donner un chiffre qui date depuis 2012. Justement. Mais le Ministre des Finances était ici le mois dernier. Il a fait une conférence de presse, il a mentionné qu'à Rodrigues, il y a au moins 4,000 familles pauvres qui tombent sous un *below poverty line*.

Et je voudrais demander au DCC whether, she agreed with the Minister of Finance and whether, the figures that the Minister has been mentioning are false because she maintains that what she is saying to this House is what is true.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, le *Minority Leader*, peut-être, mélange les informations. Donc, j'ai fait référence au *Household Survey* de 2012 et le Ministre de Finance a parlé du nombre de bénéficiaires de *Social Aid* et de ceux aussi enregistrés sous le SRM qui nous emmènent autour de 4000. Donc, ce n'est pas la même chose.

Mrs. M. L. C. Meunier: M. le président, la Commissaire fait référence to *Household Budget Survey* et elle dit que *she does not have any figures to refer to*. Bein, moi, je me souviens qu'avant, on avait fait des études pour identifier les poches de pauvreté. Donc, au niveau de la Commission, est-ce que

la Commissaire pense faire des études, donc, bien spécifiques *although Rodrigues is considered as a region for Household Survey* ?

We can, here, itself, in Rodrigues, for local purposes, maybe carry out studies and surveys to identify where do the... *quelles sont les poches de pauvreté, où est-ce qu'on retrouve les personnes les plus au bas de l'échelle* and what her Commission intends to do concerning family welfare to cater for the purpose of alleviation of poverty in Rodrigues?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: M. le président, en effet, je le répète. Au niveau de Rodrigues, dans toutes les régions, on peut trouver des personnes de familles pauvres. Donc, il n'y a pas une région spécifique où il y a une concentration importante de familles pauvres. Et, bien sûr, aussi, la Commission, c'est travailler en faveur des familles vulnérables, ce n'est pas un travail que la Commission, seule, fait.

C'est un travail, donc, par rapport à toutes les mesures que le Gouvernement Régionale prend, c'est surtout pour *alleviate poverty*. Et c'est là, la raison de laquelle on a pris des mesures. On a pris, par exemple, on a les personnes, 300 personnes sous le ERP qui, aujourd'hui, avec leur formation, avec le travail qu'ils font, on les encadre pour demain, sortir de la pauvreté. Il y a aussi au niveau de NEF. NEF a donné, donc, à 6724 enfants, des uniformes, des matériels scolaires. Il y a eu aussi, au niveau NEF toujours, des projets de maisons.

L'Assemblée Régionale, toujours dans un souci pour aider les familles pauvres, on a pris les mesures importantes par rapport à l'éducation gratuite aux pré-primaires, *coaching* au niveau de pré-primaire pour assurer que les enfants vulnérables réussissent leurs examens, des *incentives* pour l'*Educational Tour* pour que chaque enfant ait une meilleure chance, des livres gratuites pour le secondaire, on a continué, de *new schemes* pour les élèves partir, les enfants des familles vulnérables...

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Member, the respected Member is making a statement, on a point of order.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, you should say point of order, first.

Mr. J. L. R. Perrine: On a point of order, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Member making a statement to this House? Or...

Mone refaire, mo pa inn...

Mr. Chairperson: Proceed and be quick.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I had a question. I am answering to that question and I will continue. So, of course, we are offering...

Mr. J. Roussety: There is a point of order, you continue?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: But *fini rule!* The Chair ruled!

Mr. Chairperson: I have just said you continue but shorten it. This, I have said if you have not heard about it.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Measures to alleviate poverty, registration fees for tertiary students, scholarships based on social merit. Also, we have Housing Programmes for Elderly.

We are having also schemes for women in distress, le Plan de Prestation Transitoire, beaucoup de mesures au niveau de l'agriculture pour encourager les jeunes et les gens à retourner vers la terre, beaucoup de constructions qui permettent aussi l'emploi au niveau de la population. Donc, pour dire que tout ce que le Gouvernement fait, c'est surtout pour combattre la pauvreté à Rodrigues.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: As regard to part (b), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I want to put the question to the Commissioner whether; she has made a survey in order to know the reason why such number of children are abandoned in Rodrigues.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Pour préciser, M. le président, que les 379 enfants déclarés *abandoned* au niveau de la Sécurité Sociale, c'est sur des années cumulatifs. Ce n'est pas pour une année. Donc, bien sûr, il y a beaucoup de raisons pourquoi les gens ont bougé. On n'a pas pour 2012, on apporte pour toutes les années passées, 379 ont été enregistrés.

Donc, il y a beaucoup de raisons. On a divers raisons pour lesquelles les Rodriguais bougent vers Maurice ou ailleurs et je pense c'est inévitable. Les Rodriguais vont continuer à bouger. La migration est un phénomène mondial. Ce que nous avons la responsabilité de faire, c'est de travailler avec de gros projets comme le port/l'aéroport, développement informatiques pour que au plus allé, autant que possible, les Rodriguais partent par choix et pas par force. C'est le travail que nous faisons.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question, please!

NEW MARKET FAIR – MONT LUBIN

(No. B/101): The Eighth Island Region Member (Mr. A. Edouard) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure & Others whether, in regard to the construction of the New Market Fair at Mont Lubin, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the estimated cost thereof together with the rationale behind same and indicating the expected benefits to the prospective vendors and the public at large?

The Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others (Mr. S. P. Roussety): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the contract for the Construction of the New Market Fair at Mont Lubin has been awarded to Chisel Met Ltd. for the total sum of Rs 12,354,481.05 inclusive of Contingency Sum Discount and VAT. There will be 30 vegetable stalls, 6 fish stalls and 4 meat stalls. The expected completion date for the project is 19 October 2015.

The construction of the new market at a different site forms part of a master plan for the redesign of Mt. Lubin Traffic Centre and in a second phase will include the construction of food kiosks, green areas, bus laybys for school buses and parking for private cars.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir the new market will replace the existing one which can no longer provide adequate and proper space to operators and the consumers. It will improve accessibility to the agricultural products thus increasing the revenue of vendors and the conditions in which their products are being exposed. The fish and meat stalls will ensure that meat products and fish are sold under proper hygienic condition which may not be always the case for the time being.

[Gap in recording]

**NEW EDITION OF “SALON
DES METIERS ET DES ENTREPRISES”**

(No. B/102): The Eighth Island Region Member (Mr. A. Edouard) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the new edition of the “Salon des Métiers et des Entreprises” held this year at the Mont Lubin College, she will, for the benefit of the House, state what has been the outcome thereof?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is a decision of Salon des Métiers, was the fourth edition. Some 50 participants

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from Rodrigues and 25 participants from Mauritius took part in the event. The Salon was meant to be a B-to-B and a B-to-C platform whereby, entrepreneurs and other visitors were able to purchase inter alia innovative and high quality products at low price.

Local entrepreneurs were given the opportunity to create business relationship with suppliers for the future and where, the different schemes and programmes of the RRA like the Technology Acquisition Scheme were promoted. The Salon has also focused on the training of entrepreneurs and students whereby, training institutions like the MIE, Medine Education and MyJob were present to guide young visitors on possible fields of studies and choice of career where, two Consultants from Reunion Island dispensed training of cold cuts from 50 persons engaged in *Boucherie and Charcuterie*.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question!

**RECENT VISIT – HONOURABLE
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

(No. B/103): The Eighth Island Region Member (Mr. A. Edouard) asked the Commissioner responsible for Environment and Others whether, in regard to the recent visit of the Honourable Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state the objectives and outcome thereof?

The Commissioner Responsible for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have to inform the House that just after the passage of cyclone Bansi on Rodrigues, the Honourable Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management, Mr. Raj DAYAL led a Task Force consisting of representatives of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre, the Special Mobile Force and the Central Electricity Board to Rodrigues on Sunday 18 January, 2015.

The main objective of the Task Force was to take cognisance of the impacts of the cyclone and to ensure that immediate actions be taken regarding reconstruction works. With the support of the Task Force, the whole electricity network which was restored at 80% at the time of visit was completely re-established within a few days.

As far as environmental issues are concerned, site visits were conducted on public beaches to identify areas of coastal erosion. The Honourable Minister agreed to send experts from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency

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(JICA), who were working at the Ministry and a team of officers to conduct a technical assessment and to advise my Commission on remedial measures. The team conducted the survey of eroded beaches from 09 to 10 April 2015 and has submitted a report with recommendations that my Commission is studying in view of implementation.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, training has also been provided to the Environment Division on how to apply GIS to the management of coastal erosion. Issues that have been discussed with the delegation are:-

- (a) State of beaches in Rodrigues,
- (b) Effect of retaining walls on beach changes,
- (c) Placement of breakwaters in the lagoon to break waves before they reach the shore,
- (d) Sand dune exploitation and sand extraction in the lagoon.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the visit was an opportunity for me to meet the Minister for the first time since his election. We discussed areas of cooperation between the Ministry and my Commission. For example, the Honourable Minister agreed to....

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a point of order, I wanted to know whether, the Commissioner is replying to the question or is making a statement.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think I am replying to the question. The person who set the question must be the one who said if...

Mr. Chairperson: Question time over, already.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: It is over?

Mr. Chairperson: Yes.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: So I can continue?

Mr. Chairperson: No, you cannot continue.

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Okay. We stop here.

**REFORM OF AGRICULTURAL
SECTOR IN RODRIGUES**

(No. B/115): The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mr. J. R. Ramdally) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the reform of the agricultural sector in Rodrigues as announced in the Budget Speech 2015, he will state on the different projects that have been launched, or are about to be launched, if any, as at to date, together with their respective objective(s) and completion date?

[Withdrawn]

Mr. Chairperson: Question time is over.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: *Dir moi arreter ester la !*

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

L'ÉNERGIE RENOUVELABLE

The Commissioner Responsible for Environment and Others (Mr. J. R. Payendee): M. le président, merci de me de me donner l'occasion de faire une réflexion sur les potentiels de Rodrigues en matière de l'énergie renouvelable.

L'utilisation de l'énergie renouvelable est un aspect important si ce n'est pas primordial dans notre vision de faire de Rodrigues une île écologique. M. le président, ce Gouvernement au pouvoir s'est fixé une vision de faire de Rodrigues une île écologique et on va y arriver car on est en train d'y jeter les bases.

M. le président, actuellement Rodrigues dépend de l'énergie fossile qui, bien sûr, n'est pas renouvelable et qui sait ce qui va se passer dans 10 ans, 20 ans, 50 ans, comme le dit si bien le Chef commissaire. Le coût de cette énergie ne cesse d'augmenter et pas besoin de dire la quantité de pollution qui va avec. Et si un jour *bateau la pas vini, ki pou arriver ?*

M. le président, je dois dire que je suis fier du progrès qu'a fait Rodrigues au fil des années en matière de l'énergie renouvelable. D'après les statistiques du CEB 9 % de l'énergie totale utilisée à Rodrigues provienne de l'énergie renouvelable. Avec les éoliennes, les panneaux voltaïques, les panneaux solaires, l'utilisation des ampoules qui ne consomme pas beaucoup d'énergies, on est sur la bonne voie. Mais on doit viser encore plus loin.

M. le président, l'hors d'une réunion que j'ai eu à Maurice il y a quelques temps, on m'a posée la question, jusqu'où vous voulez aller en matière de l'énergie renouvelable à Rodrigues ? Bien sûr, ma réponse était 100 %. Quand j'ai dit cela, des gens dans la salle ont ri comme s'ils se moquaient de moi. Puis, on m'a fait comprendre que j'avais visé trop haut et que peut-être il fallait viser un maximum de 30 %.

Mais tout dernièrement, j'ai entendu que l'île de La Réunion s'est fixé un objectif d'arriver à 100 % un jour. Donc, ça m'a réjouis car j'ai vu que j'avais raison de fixer la barre très haut. C'est là, notre vision, M. le président, il ne faut pas penser petit quand l'avenir d'une île et d'un peuple est en jeux.

Oui, M. le président, comme le dit si bien le Chef commissaire, ce n'est pas des politiciens qu'il nous faut ; c'est des visionnaires pour amener ce petit paradis à bon port. *Eh, reste trankil hein ! Mo pou kav kozer la hein !*

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. R. Payendee: Il est dans la vision du gouvernement au pouvoir de réduire notre dépendance sur l'énergie fossile et c'est bien écrit dans le discours programme du Chef commissaire 2012-2017.

M. le président, on a tout ce qu'il faut pour y arriver et la technologie est très avancée dans ce domaine. On a la chance d'avoir le vent, les vagues, les courants maritimes, le soleil, les ordures organiques et de la biomasse.

Ce sont des atouts vers lesquels on doit absolument se pencher pour réduire notre consommation de l'énergie fossile et, en plus, ils sont gratuits et non polluants.

En matière du vent, M. le président; des études ont été faites par la MRC et des données sont soigneusement gardées qui nous permettront de mettre plus de éoliennes sur la terre comme en mer. On réfléchit même sur un Parc Éoliennes en mer ou plus précisément, un *offshore wind farm*, car Rodrigues est petit.

M. le président, permettez-moi de féliciter le Gouvernement nationale qui vient de donner des facilites aux Rodriguais pour se procurer des chauffe-eaux solaires plus facilement.

Le projet SSDG en matière photo voltaïque est un succès mais il faut enlever les barrières car il y a beaucoup de demande à Rodrigues. Les Rodriguais ont compris l'importance de ce projet mais la quantité de kilowatt

qui est consacré pour Rodrigues est arrivée à sa limite. J'effectuerai bientôt une mission à Maurice pour en parler au Ministre de l'Énergie.

M. le président, des études entreprises dans le passé démontre qu'il est possible de produire de l'électricité à partir de la courantologie dans la Grande Passe de Port Sud-Est en utilisant des hydro turbines.

M. le président, concernant la conversion des ordures organiques en énergie, ma commission a déjà fait des consultations avec des experts Français qui ont trouvé qu'il y avait des gros potentiels dans ce domaine. C'est également dans cette optique qu'on a initié la construction d'un centre de tri à Rodrigues.

Sachez, M. le président, qu'aujourd'hui, les ordures sont devenues des sources d'énergie et de revenue. Il est également possible de nos jours de produire de l'énergie en convertissant les matières fécales humaines et d'animaux pour produire de la biogaz pour être utilisée dans la production d'énergie pour les cuisines.

M. le président, tout récemment, j'ai eu l'occasion grâce à l'intervention du *Australian High Commissioner*, de participer à une signature d'accord entre une compagnie Australienne, Carnegie, et le MRC par rapport à l'exploitation de l'énergie des vagues. En Australie, ils ont développé une technologie où ils utilisent l'énergie des vagues pour désaliniser l'eau de mer.

C'est un projet extraordinaire qui est très adaptée pour Rodrigues et avec mon collègue, Simon Pierre Roussety, Commissaire de L'Infrastructure Publiques, on va exploiter cela à fond. Ce qui est magnifique avec ce projet, c'est que tous les appareils sont installés sous l'eau, ce qui ne gâchera pas la beauté de Rodrigues, de la mer et qui est également un atout touristique pour Rodrigues.

Avec le temps, il y a des algues qui poussent sur les appareils et ça devient un Dispositif Concentration de Poisson, un DCP, qui sera très bénéfiques pour les pêcheurs. Je suis fier d'annoncer qu'une délégation de cette compagnie dirigée par l'*Australian High Commissioner*, fera le déplacement à Rodrigues au début de Septembre pour étudier la possibilité d'implémenter ce projet chez nous. Donc, cela va résoudre beaucoup le problème de dessalement et on va pouvoir mettre pas quatre mais dix stations de dessalement dans le futur.

M. le président, il existe également une autre forme d'énergie qu'on peut très bien exploiter à Rodrigues et ça s'appelle la biomasse. C'est l'utilisation

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des espèces végétales envahissantes comme le piquant loulou pour produire des pellets à l'aide d'une machine pour être après utilisée pour faire cuire de la nourriture. Cela nous aidera à exterminer cette espèce qui nuit à notre environnement.

M. le président, il existe aujourd'hui, des voitures, des motos, vélos et des bateaux électriques qui sont chargés à l'aide de l'énergie solaire. Avec la quantité de véhicules qui rentrent à Rodrigues, il est temps qu'on fasse une réflexion sur la pollution que cela apportera. Ma Commission a écrit un projet pour avoir les financements auprès de la COI pour se procurer de ces véhicules et des bateaux à titres d'exemples et j'espère que notre projet sera approuvé et sinon dans le prochain budget on y investira de l'argent dans ce projet.

M. le président, Rodrigues peut être l'exemple dans la république de Maurice et dans le monde. On est déjà l'exemple dans pas mal de domaine et je pense qu'en matière de l'énergie renouvelable, on peut devenir l'exemple. Quand j'avais dit qu'on doit atteindre le seuil de 100%, je ne bluffais pas et je pense qu'on y arrivera un jour.

M. le président, dans le prochain budget, ma Commission a l'intention d'initier la création d'un éco-village ou bien *Eco-village* à Rodrigues où tous les aspects de l'optimisation de l'utilisation de l'énergie renouvelable, une bonne gestion des déchets, l'enfouissement des tuyaux d'eau, le passage sous la terre des câbles électriques et téléphone qui gâche le paysage de Rodrigues, l'éclairage des routes avec des panneaux solaires, la plantation d'arbres endémiques, fruitiers, mellifères et décoratifs. Bref, tout pour montrer comment Rodrigues doit devenir dans 50 ans.

Oui, M. le président, Rodrigues peut devenir indépendant en énergie un jour en utilisant toutes les énergies renouvelable possible. C'est notre vision et on va l'atteindre un jour si on a des politiciens visionnaires. Je redis, si on a des politiciens visionnaires.

Je vous remercie pour votre attention.

Merci, M. le président.

MOTION

STANDING ORDERS - AMENDMENTS

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg leave to move to the Motion standing in my name and which reads thus –

“This Assembly resolves that the Report of the Standing Orders Committee in regards to the amendments to Standing Order 2 and Standing Order 55A of the Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, presently in force, which was laid on the Table of the Regional Assembly on 23 June 2015 be approved, and that the amendments contained therein come into operation forthwith.”

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on the 28 April last, I had come with a Motion in this House so that the Standing Orders Committee be empowered to look into the Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly presently in force, more specifically Standing Orders 2 and 55A, with a view to making recommendations for the necessary changes to be brought to the provisions relating to the procedure in connection with the annual estimates.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like here, to place on record our deep appreciation to the Standing Orders Committee, under your chairmanship, for reviewing and proposing amendments to Standing Orders 2 and 55A with such expertise and dedication as would be expected of experienced respected Members of this Assembly sitting in the Standing Orders Committee.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as we are all aware, the proposed amendments to Standing Orders 2 and 55A have become necessary as a result of the amendment brought by the National Assembly to the Finance and Audit (Amendment) Act 2015 for the replacement of the Programme-Based Budgeting by the Vote of Expenditure for more transparency and accountability.

I would like to stress once more that the amendments to the Finance and Audit Act were passed in total compliance with Section 75E of the Constitution whereby, the National Assembly may alter the RRA Act subject to the amendments being supported by at least two thirds of the votes of all its members. I wish to also confirm that the Executive Council has been consulted prior to the above amendments and the Executive Council has conveyed its concurrence thereon to the Central Government.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, as per section 44 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001, every year, I have to, in my capacity as Chief Commissioner responsible for the subject of finance, to submit to this Assembly draft estimates of revenue and draft estimates of expenditure for the succeeding financial year. Here, I shall remind the House that the proposed amendment to Standing Order 2 is the consequence of amendments brought by the National Assembly to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001.

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As regards the amendment to Standing Order 55 A, it is proposed that draft estimates which ought to be submitted to this Assembly before end of September for each year, we will have as from now on to do so before the end of March of every year. Again, this is due to the amendments brought by the National Assembly to the Finance and Audit (Amendment) Act 2015 which, itself, amended the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001.

This is why the Standing Orders Committee had to sit down and work out amendments to be brought to the existing Standing Orders so that our Standing Orders are consistent to the aforesaid statutory amendments. In addition, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the second limb of the proposed amendment to Standing Order 55 A is to get rid of “Programmes” and replace same by “Vote of Expenditure”.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I can assure the House, that the proposed amendments to Standing Orders 2 and 55A will in no way affect the conduct of proceedings of this Assembly as regards debates on the draft estimates and the deliberations of the Draft Estimates Committee.

In short, nothing will be changed as regards to proceedings of the House. Let me repeat it once again, Mr. Chairperson Sir, those changes are purely of a technical nature and will no way affect the proceedings of the debates on the draft annual estimates.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I again thank the Standing Orders Committee for its remarkable output in completing the task assigned to it.

On this, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I commend the Motion to this Assembly.

The Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased today to intervene on the debates in this House following the Motion presented by the Chief Commissioner to approve the report of the Standing Orders Committee pertaining to the amendments brought to Standing Order 2 and Standing Order 55 A of Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly presently in force.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we all know the reason behind such changes which are the consequences of the political wheel of the new Government following the General Elections of December last. As such, since section 44 of the RRA Act 2001 has been amended, the Standing Orders Committee of which I am a Member, has met on several occasions to come up with a report in which the House is called upon approve today.

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I seize the opportunity to thank and congratulate all my colleagues of the Standing Orders Committee and of which you are the Chairperson, and for the good work we have done. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me first to comment on the reasons why the Central Government and Rodrigues Regional Assembly have decided to do away with the Programme-Based Budgeting and to come back to the Line Budget which was previously in force.

It is worth noting that the Fiscal and Budget Policies are not ours. It is a national policy. Normally, a Government leaves its footprints in the history of the country. It is worth noting also that we, on this side of the House; we were the first when we were the Regional Government, who adopted the Programme-Based Budget which was decided by previous Government.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when previous Government decided to come up with Programme-Based Budgeting, it was said that it was a new budgetary approach that would change the focus of budgetary process from an input-based annual activity to a performance-based exercise.

Accordingly, such policies aimed at making Public Management more results-oriented, at promoting high quality, client-responsive public services, at improving effectiveness of Government and Ministries and Departments when developing their programmes and sub-programmes and measuring performance to ensure transparency and accountability amongst others.

However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we all know that this famous Programme-Based Budgeting (PBB) has lasted for only some five years. When this new Government came into power, one of the first measures that were announced was to do away with the PBB, reinforce, and to revert back to the previous version. And, to do this, the Government presented to the National Assembly the Finance and Audit Amendment Bill in March this year.

Allow me, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to read an extract of what the Honourable Vishnu Lutchmeenaraidoo, Minister of Finance and Economic Development said during the reading of the Bill which was presented to the National Assembly in March 2015. I quote:

‘The Programme-Based Budget (PBB) Estimates in its current format has proved to be a document that is unnecessarily complicated not to say opaque for Members of the National Assembly and the public at large making the appropriation process at the National Assembly tedious and laborious.’
Unquote.

He further added, I quote again:

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'Let me re-assure the House that the changes we are bringing, while simplifying the whole process will adhere fully to the principles of a modern and performance-based budgeting approach.' Unquote.

Based on this, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we can deduce that Programme-Based Budgeting (PBB) has been replaced by Performance-Based Budgeting (PBB) in a new simplified version. Because we can note that the estimates will continue to be presented in a three-year rolling macro fiscal framework and in a medium term expenditure framework.

The major changes that we can note are on the fiscal year. Previously in Programme-Based Budgeting (PBB), it was from 01 January to 31 December and now, it will be again from 01 July to 30 June of the next year. Allow me, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, to refer again to the presentation of the Finance and Audit Amendment Bill No. 1 of 2015 by the Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Development. He said, I quote:

'Clause 17. Provides for sequential amendments to the local Government Act to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and many other parastatal bodies and so on. And, the RRA has already presented the budget 2015. The change in the financial year for them, that is, for us, will take effect as 01 January 2016. I should mention, he quotes, that the Executive Council of the RRA has given its agreement in principle to the inclusion of the proposed amendments the RRA Act in this Bill.' Unquote.

I think, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this may be a reply to the question that was put forth by one respected Member in this House earlier when these amendments were first presented to the House by the Chief Commissioner. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, moreover, since the advent of the Programme Based Budgeting, RRA prepared its Annual Financial Statements in line with the Programme-Based Budget for the first time for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2010.

However, the Director of Audit has ever since then, commented in its different reports on the fact that the Finance and Audit Act has made no provision requiring RRA to prepare and present a statement showing a progress report on performance in respect of outcomes achieved an outputs delivered as stated in the annual report of the Accountant General on the accounts of Republic of Mauritius.

As such, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is clear that RRA, since the introduction of Programme-Based Budgeting (PBB), has not been able to show full

compliance of the PBB due to this gap in the law. I do expect that this time, there will be no loopholes and that RRA will exercise full compliance of the new budgetary policies of this Central Government.

Based on what the Minister of Finance said concerning the agreement in principle by the Executive Council for the inclusion of the proposed amendments to the RRA Act in the Finance and Audit Act Amendment Bill, can we understand that in spite that National Assembly had the majority not to get the concurrence of the RRA, can we understand that RRA has already given its agreement and the concurrence has been obtained? This is my question.

Before ending, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish that the Executive Council make good use of this Budgetary Policy. – Because at the end of the day, all of us, here in this House, we will have to work on it, vote on it, debate on it, and at the end of the day, it is our country and its population which will benefit fully from the public funds appropriated by the National Assembly for Rodrigues. With these words, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for your attention.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. First of all, I want to thank all the members of the Standing Order Committee who have made a good job. They have even looked for advice, from expert's advice, from legal advice and you have made a good job. But, first of all, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not supposed to intervene on that Motion standing on the Order Paper as I am on the view that it was straightforward. It is a mandatory for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to amend the Standing Order and Rules to be in conformity with the Finance and Audit Amendment Act 2015.

But, due to some important shortcomings which, I believe, are not in order in this House, should be placed on records for our future generations to assess. Being in a democratic island where, the Majority rules, bringing an amendment to the Motion, standing on today's Order Paper will ultimately not pass or receive a negative resolution.

Fortunately, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in this Assembly, as the case is for most democratic commonwealth countries, which Mauritius has adhered to, all the debates are recorded and the debates are kept in a Hansard. Thanks to that. But, I put the question to this House, to all of us, respected Members, here in this House; can we intervene on a Motion which is wrongly drafted? Can we intervene on that?

According to our... This is my opinion. Can we intervene on a Motion which is wrongly drafted? Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on Tuesday 28 April 2015, the Motion, there is a Motion stand on the name of the Chief Commissioner where,

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I enlightened lengthily on two issues mainly the word ‘Annual Estimate’. The word ‘Annual Estimate, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is well defined in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act section 44. Annual Estimate, here it is. Section 44 and it goes up to sub-section 7.

So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we all see here, if you have a copy of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act section 44, you will see that the word ‘Annual Estimate’ has been well explained here. And, in this Motion, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, standing on the name of Chief Commissioner, it says that, I will read the last paragraph:

‘More specifically, Standing Order 2 and 55 A, with a view to making recommendations for the necessary changes to be brought to the provisions relating to the procedure in connection with the Annual Estimates.’

‘With the Annual Estimates.’ This means this one: section 44 Annual Estimates. And, when we have a look at the amendment brought to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, this one, there are many sections that have been amended here. We have the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act section 44, section 45, section 47, section 50, section 52 (1) and the Statutory Bodies Accounts and Audit Act Section 2 and 4A. All these parts are amended.

Here, when we mentioned only the word ‘Annual Estimates’ here in the Motion, this means that only the part, we are related to only to this part, the word ‘annual estimates’. When we have a look at the Act, this is very different. We have not only the Annual Estimates that have been amended. We have all these parts. We have section 44, 45, 47, 50, 52(1).

In drafting this Motion, this should have been included here! And, surprisingly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what has happened? When I have a read at the draft report, I see that the Committee has had to seek for expert advice. That is good! I am happy to hear.

But, from what expert advice your Committee considered it fit to request expert advice from officers from the Finance Department of the Central Administration to provide clarification and explanation on the proposed amendments to the Standing Orders and Rules of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly? The expert advice of the Finance Department on the Standing Orders? *Et ou retire ou mot do!*

[Interruptions]

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Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in what occasion, when you have had doubt regarding Notice of Question that we have sent to you, myself and Roussety, where have you seek for advice? From the National Assembly. You have sought for advice from the National Assembly. And, these are the advice of the Clerk of the National Assembly. *Ester koz Rodriguais la? National Assembly ti aler!*

Now, how come...

Mr. Chairperson: Sorry to disturb you please. First advice was sought from here then from Mauritius.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Even though I have it here, it was from the National Assembly. We have sought advice from the National Assembly and how come that I, Mr. Christian Agathe, have moved for an amendment and here, you sought clarification from expert from the Finance *cadre* of the Central Administration? How come? How come? *Oui, kifer akoz moi? Akoz moi ha?*

Ms. M. R. Edouard : Rodriguanisation.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: *Ein, Rodriguanisation. Moi mo pa Rodriguais moi ? Moi, mo africain ? Moi mo africain ?*

This is not correct, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, even for the Public Accounts Committee where we are confused. We have sought for the advice from the State Law Office and we have received the advice of the State Law Office. Today, where have we got the advice? We have expert advice from the Central Administration. This is not correct. And, as regard to the capital fund, I agree. I agree with the legal advice. Il y a un proverbe dans la bible qui dit...

Mathieu 5 chapitre 21 à 23. Versée, chapitre. Versée, oui, abé nou lire li nou tou do ! Il dit... Pa per toi, mo enan li la. Pa per ou ! Mo pou pren tou mo letemps moi.

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. C. Agathe: La sagesse. *Mo pou dir ou li la. Mo pou dir ou la. Mo pou dir ou li la pa per ou. Pa per ou !*

Mathieu 5, 23 à 25 :

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'Si donc tu présentes ton offrande à l'autel, et que là tu te souviennes que ton frère a quelque chose contre toi, laisse là ton offrande devant l'autel, et va d'abord te réconcilier avec votre frère; puis, viens présenter ton offrande.'

Voilà ce que j'ai fait. Voilà. Oui ! Je présente mon offrande à l'autel. Ça, j'accepte. Mais quand même, M. le président, en regardant le Finance and Audit Act... *Pa per ou bondié la mem li.*

When I have a look at the Finance and Audit Act, I have seen that the reference made to capital has not been deleted. But even though, I accept it. But, one issue that I want to put to this House, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the procedures. As regard the procedures in order that our budget is voted here, in this Assembly, and you, as Chairperson, you send a certificate to the Central Government in order...

[Interruptions]

Mr. J. C. Agathe: *Non fini la !* ...and, this go through the National Assembly for approval, and here, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the vote as regard to Rodrigues, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly that is, Item 26: Grant. 26311001: Grants to Rodrigues Regional Assembly. For 2015 and 2016, that is, ending up to June 2016 has already been voted. And, we have also the quantum here: Rs 2,020,000. This has been voted for Rodrigues for up to 2016. And, in the law, it is said that by the 31 of October, we have to prepare another budget.

But, now, here in the National Assembly, it has already been voted. It has already been voted here by the National Assembly, the quantum for Rodrigues up to 30 June 2016. With these words, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I thank you all for your kind attention even from the Majority side. Thank you.

Mr. J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is normal from time to time that we have amendments to the Standing Orders. And, we all know the procedures about how to adopt and modify the Standing Orders. However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, before I proceed further, I would like to have your ruling on a point of law and a point of order regarding the admissibility of this Motion.

My point is regarding the issue of the concurrence of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. I am of the opinion that the concurrence of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly should have been sought first even though the National Assembly, the commandment has the $\frac{2}{3}$ majority in Mauritius. Because the provision, the constitutional provision in chapter 6A of the Constitution of Mauritius at its section 75E makes and entrench provision that we cannot

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modify the laws, anything related to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly unless there is the concurrence of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

It says subject to the provision of the constitution, any law giving effect to this chapter and any matters incidental thereto shall not be altered without the concurrence of the Regional Assembly unless such alteration is supported at the final voting in the National Assembly by the votes of not less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of all the Members.

Unless according to me, unless means if the Regional Assembly has refused. Then, if the National Assembly has $\frac{2}{3}$, they can go ahead with their amendments. This way of doing things is a sort of disrespect to this Regional Assembly. And, those people in front of me: Chief Commissioner and his team, Executive Council, they are to be held responsible for this State of Affairs.

Because if we look at the law, section 75E of the Constitution refers to the consent without the concurrence of the Regional Assembly, not the Executive Council because it is a very important thing. And, the fathers of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly: laws, constitution, etc., they have put these entrenched provision exactly, precisely to protect the Regional Assembly from any Government which may come in Mauritius and abolish... We know what happened to the Local Council etc.

So, section 75E of the Constitution refers to the concurrence of the Regional Assembly. And, in the same chapter where, the Regional Assembly is defined, it is said that the Regional Assembly shall consist of a Chairperson who need not be an elected Member of the Regional Assembly and such other Members elected and holding office. It means this House of Assembly. It is necessary, it is utmostly necessary that the procedure of amending the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act comes to this House first and then, according to my opinion, if we do not agree, they can use their prerogative of $\frac{2}{3}$. This is not what has been done here.

This is not what has been done here, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This is not what has been done. What has been done is that there has been a short... the Chief Commissioner mentioned in his speech that the Executive Council which is not the Regional Assembly! We know that the Executive Council can take decisions without the Regional Assembly but not on this one! – Because it would be anticonstitutional.

We remember in 2009, it was me who was Chief Commissioner, and we wanted to amend the same thing the other way from former to PBB. And, now, we are moving back from PBB to the *sa*. And, we came here; I presented a

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Motion here with the proposed amendments tabled here in this case. Where are the amendments brought to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly? Where are they? We are being told the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has been amended. Where are they? Members, here, are not aware!

So, I would like you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with all the respect, that you give your ruling, your official ruling about whether, it is proper that the concurrence of the Regional Assembly, this House, with you as Chairperson as defined in section 75A of the Constitution, it is not necessary to consult us, Executive Council, as they have done, can give the concurrence and then, they vote it here.

I am of the opinion that this word, unless means if we have refused by proper constitutional channel, the matter should have been submitted to us because tomorrow, they may say “*okay, we are going to abolish the post of Minority Leader, we are going to decrease the number of Commissioners, we are going to modify the number of local regions, we are going to...*” This is a danger. We have, here, to act so that this integrity of this House, the respect which is due to this House is preserved.

So, I hope, I think you have understood my point. My wish for an interpretation, for a ruling from you is that the procedure is okay or whether, we should go through a Motion giving our concurrence. Because here, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has not given its concurrence. It is the Executive Council and the Constitution does not speak of the Executive Council; it speaks of the Regional Assembly. And, in the Constitution, it does not say that the Executive Council can bind the Regional Assembly. It is in the Regional Assembly Act, a subsidiary law to the Constitution. Thank you.

[Applause]

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

At 15.20 hours, the Assembly was suspended.

On resuming at 15.43 hours with the Chairperson in the Chair.

Mr. Chairperson: Respected Members, first of all, I would like to draw the attention of the House. This is a matter of interpretation section 75E which deals with the alteration of the provision of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act. I wish to further inform the House that the National Assembly is supreme and the Finance and Audit Amendment Act has been enacted under section 75E of the Constitution and already ascended by the President of the Republic who

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has the responsibility to ensure that the provisions of the Constitution are not infringed. My Office is not in a position to give any legal interpretation in this section of the Constitution. As such, the respected Member is free to seek redress from the appropriate forum. This is my ruling.

Mr. J. Roussety: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I think we will consider seeking redress on this interpretation. I would like to continue with my intervention just on the issue of the change of the amendment, itself.

Mr. Chairperson: But I think you have already....

[Interpretation]

Mr. J. Roussety: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I told you to give your ruling before I continue.

Mr. Chairperson: Continue.

Mr. J. Roussety: Thank you. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, during the debates of this House on 10 March 2009 when I was a Chief Commissioner, I presented a Motion here when we wanted to change from the old system to PBB. And, this Motion was entitled that this House conquers with the amendments to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 as proposed by Government to enable the introduction of Programme-Based Budgeting.

This is what we did in 2009 to give the concurrence of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the amendments which were being contemplated. And, I remember the then Chairperson issued a Certificate to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly saying that the amendments were okay.

Coming to the change, itself, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said earlier, I do not think that this is a good thing that we are moving from PBB back to the old system. I do not think that it is a good thing that we are moving back from the calendar financial year to the financial year starting on the 01 July to the 30 of June. I understand that this is a national change but I think that Rodrigues just like someone, Rodrigues could give the example, those who lead the discussion could have put the arguments to the Minister of Finance and ask him to consider these arguments.

During my speech in the same debates, we made very important observations regarding all the advantages, all the benefits of PBB. We said that PBB is a new management tool to facilitate a more efficient and effective allocation and use of our limited resources. We said that we will be able to

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gather data on output thus, facilitating the monitoring of projects. And, Members of the House intervened. Many Members intervened to support this Motion. And, I can see, here, what Mr. Lisette then in the opposition, now absent from this House said. He said:

'Rodrigues is transitioning to a new program-budgeting structure. For the past years, Government leaders worldwide have struggled to explore the latest approaches to and best practices in performance-based budgeting. International conferences have been held on this subject, and it has been noted that the change to this new system of budgeting has been followed worldwide. It is therefore important that Rodrigues follows this international trend.'

He also said:

'The application of this new budget format will enable us to see what is accomplished with each rupee that we spend. This new budget format will show us the results we get when spending our money. And I think that the measures that going to be taken by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in order adapt to this change represent a very big challenge.'

He said he: *'firmly believe that together with the complete overview and transformation regarding the budgetary process, there should have been an obligatory and compulsory public consultation process.'*

We are all aware, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are all aware of the changes, the important changes and the improvements, I would say, the modernisation that the PBB brought in the Government. And, this is a modern tool being followed by France, the United States, Singapore where, we have our resources, we have our targets, we have our performance indicators, and we have the past outputs which are in the budget.

It is unfortunate that at the national level, we have had to come back to the old system in which, there will be only line budgeting, no performance indicators and therefore, less accountability and less measuring rods to look at the performance of those who are in the driving seat. So, this is why and also because of this procedure, this procedure that the proper according to us, the proper channel has not been followed, we personally think that this Motion should not have come at this stage. And this is... We have the debates on the Finance and Audit Amendment Bill. Listen to what the Honourable Minister for Finance said. He said:

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'I should mention that the Executive Council of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has given its agreement in principle to the inclusion of the proposed amendments to the RRA Act.'

Agreement in principle! Our opinion is that the Executive Council is not in a position to give its agreement whether in principle or confirm on this issue. And, I am informing you that we will go to the proper forum to challenge this decision. Thank you.

[Interruptions]

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I thank all Members who have discussed on this Motion. What I may say it is this amendment is a purely technical or technical nature. It is not to amend the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA) Act. That is all that I would say.

Mr. Chairperson: Thank you. We have finished with the debates on the Motion for the approval of the report of the Standing Orders Committee. I wish to thank all Members who have intervened on the Motion and all the Members of the Standing Orders Committee for their valuable contribution in the preparation of the vote. I will now put the question.

On question put, the Motion was agreed without amendment.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 22 September 2015 at 10.30 a.m.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

At 15.56 hours the House was, on its rising adjourned to Tuesday 22 September 2015 at 10.30 a.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**CONSTRUCTION OF TRACK
ROADS/ROADS/MINOR WORKS**

(No. B/104): The Sixth Island Region Member (Mr. J. L. R. Perrine) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others

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whether, in regard to the construction of track roads/roads/minor works in villages around Rodrigues, he will state if:

- (a) the construction of track road/road from “croisée Le Chou via Jardin Mamzelle to Fond Baie Aux Huîtres” will be done during this present financial year and, if so, when and the estimated cost thereof;
- (b) Mont Charlot village will be connected with track road and other infrastructural amenities to protect the inhabitants from flooding; and
- (c) the construction of track road/road from “Allée Tamarin to Mt Tonnerre” will be done during this present financial year and, if so, when and if not, why?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the inhabitants of Jardin Mamzelle were well aware that their track road will be constructed in this financial year for about 600 metres to join the track road of L’Union.

The construction of the track road has already begun since last week. The track road will be constructed for about 600 metres to join the track road of L’Union. The track road from L’Union to join La Croisée Le Chou will be completed at a later stage.

This will help the villagers regarding transport, opening their village to L’Union and Le Chou and then to other villages, especially for the transfer of patients to hospital.

The estimated cost of the 600 metres of the track road is Rs 1,410,524.00.

- (b) the village of Mont. Charlot is already connected to track road. There is no problem of flooding in that village. Some drainage works were undertaken at Mont. Charlot to facilitate evacuation of storm water.
- (c) The Programme of this Regional Government is to construct a road from Allee Tamarin to Quatre Vents via Mt. Tonnerre. This will be done upon availability of funds.

**COMPENSATION PAID TO PLANTERS
- CYCLONE BANSI JANUARY 2015**

(No. B/105): The Sixth Island Region Member (Mr. J. L. R. Perrine) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to compensation paid to planters following cyclone Bansi in January 2015 in Rodrigues, he will:

- (a) table the list of planters registered therefor to date together with the list of damages reported and the compensation paid to each and when; and
- (b) state if any of them have not yet received their compensation and, if so, why?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson Sir, since 2012, it has been policy of this Government to compensate farmers who have been affected by cyclones and other natural calamities, either in kind or in cash.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to PQ B/52 of the sitting of 28 April 2015, where I enunciated our policy on this issue.

It is felt that it would not be ethical to table the list of persons who have been compensated.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, as regards part (b) of the question I am told that complaints have been made by some planters of Port Sud Est, Lataniers, Sainte Famille and Riviera Banane that they have not been compensated though they have suffered losses during the cyclone.

I am informed that those complaints have been addressed satisfactorily.

In view of the problems encountered, my Commission has taken the decision to proceed with the registration of farmers. Planters would be targeted in the first instance and registration procedures will start next week.

DEVELOPMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE

(No. B/106): The Sixth Island Region Member (Mr. J. L. R. Perrine) asked the Commissioner responsible for Arts & Culture and Others whether, in regard to the development of arts and culture in Rodrigues, she will:

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- (a) state and table the list of all artists who benefitted from the Artist Assistance Scheme and indicating their different categories and the sum allocated to each from 2012 to date;
- (b) inform the House as to where matters stand with regard to the inscription of the Sega Tambour as an intangible heritage with UNESCO; and
- (c) state and table the list of recordings/objects/photos that the “archives sonores” of Rodrigues collected to date indicating if same will be made available to the public and, if so, when?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Artist Assistance Scheme has enabled many artists and cultural groups with financial difficulties to develop an arts oeuvre and at the same time to earn a living through the sale of their art works since 2004. The Scheme is contributing to a great extent in the development in the development of Cultural Industries of Rodrigues and has allowed the Commission to achieve its main role of acting as a facilitator for the local artists.

Mr. chairperson, Sir, the grant is being paid to recording studio for (CD/DVD/Video Clip), publisher for (publication of books), provider of frames, materials used thereof or owner of the exhibition (Arts Exhibition) and provider of costumes, other materials and services used thereof and to owner of venue (drama/theatre) amongst others.

In 2012, a total of eight projects were approved in CD production and two in arts exhibition. An amount of Rs 150,000 was made available to finance the project for financial 2012/2013. Artists could receive a maximum of Rs 15,000 for their projects individually.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as announced in the budget speech 2013 by the Chief Commissioner, the ceiling for the grant of Artist Assistance Scheme has been revised from Rs 15 000 to Rs 30 000 in a view to better support artists in the implementation of their art projects. In addition, the application form and the conditions for application were also amended in 2013 so as to facilitate the grant of the Scheme, as follows:

- 1. The application form was translated in creole to ensure greater understanding;
- 2. The income of the applicant and spouse is no longer applicable;

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3. The applicant will be eligible to re-apply once every two years instead of every three years;
4. The applicant has to complete the project in the same year it has been approved.

The criteria have also been reviewed with emphasis on the quality of the project. Nineteen projects were granted to individual artists and four projects to cultural groups have been allocated for the production of art oeuvres in the field of CD/DVD production, Theatre, fine arts etc.

- Arts exhibition – 2 projects
- DVD/CD Production – 19 projects
- Film Production – 1 project
- Publication of book – 1 project
- Musical comedy – 1 project

A sum of Rs 632,000 was provided on two financial years 2013/2014 to finance the arts projects.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards 2014, with greater focus on quality of projects, a total of 17 projects were approved as follows:

- 10 projects in CD/DVD Production
- 2 projects in Fine art
- 2 projects in arts shows
- 2 projects in video production
- 1 project in publication of books

A sum of Rs 660,000 was provided for the financial year 2014/2015 to finance the arts projects.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this year the evaluation process has been further amended and improved. The condition of the Scheme has also been revised to include the following:

- (i) Mentors will be put at the services of the beneficiaries to ensure that the quality of the project is up to standard; (Even those who have not been short listed can benefit from the services of the mentors)

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- (ii) The quantum to be granted will depend on the type and cost of the arts projects;
- (iii) The projects will be evaluated by a committee based on an objective rating scale, namely, Originality/text (10 marks), Content/Composition (10 mark) and Creativity (10 marks).
- (iv) The applicant should declare whether this is his first arts project and state the number of projects already implemented by him.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this year, priority will be given to Literary and Traditional Music Project. A total of 38 projects were received for 2015 in the following fields:

- 18 - CD production
- 9 - DVD/Video Clip production
- 4 - Arts Exhibition
- 4 - Publication of Books
- 1 - Theatre / Drama
- 2 - Others

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, applications for artist assistance scheme for 2015 are presently under consideration and I consider that it is unethical to table the list of beneficiaries. However, I am tabling the list of projects which received grants and the amount of money allocated to each.

- (ii) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (b), a delegation comprising of National Heritage Fund, University of Mauritius with the full support of my Commission has already started the preparation of the nomination dossier on Sega Tambour which will be forwarded to UNESCO in early next year for possible inscription on the UNESCO representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a heritage trip to Rodrigues Island was organised by the National Heritage Fund and the University of Mauritius from 05 to 13 August 2015 under the guidance of Associate Professor George Abungu and Dr. Answar Ganoo from the University of Mauritius and the delegation was composed of three faculty members, 12 MA Heritage student of the University of Mauritius and two cadres of the National Heritage Fund. The Associate Professor George Abungu who is also a UNESCO Expert working with the

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National Heritage Fund has contributed in the inscription of '*Sega Tipik*' in Mauritius and is now assigned to the dossier '*Sega Tambour*' for Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the delegation has also organised consultative meetings on 11 and 12 August 2015 to gather maximum information from the *Conseil Culturel*, Rodriguan Community, Community of Practitioners and Artists, NGO's, Private Sectors, Owners of Tourist Attraction and other key stakeholders. The workshop has debated on the following important themes: Historical background, importance and instrument of the '*Sega Tambour*', outcome of the inscription, the role of the community, the presentation of the nomination questionnaire, and sustainability issues. In addition, an assessment of the listed and potential heritage sites has also been carried out; written consents have also been sought from most of the stakeholders to further support the '*Sega Tambour*' dossier.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a report will be submitted shortly to my Commission which will include an action plan for the presentation of the '*Sega Tambour*' dossier to the UNESCO. The dossier is expected to be completed by December 2015 and a first draft will be forwarded to Rodrigues for further consultation and approval from the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Upon clearance from Rodrigues, the dossier *Sega Tambour* will then be submitted to the Ministry of Arts and Culture to seek approval of the Cabinet and will finally be sent to the UNESCO by the Government of Mauritius by March 2016.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (c), my colleagues will note that the Archives Sonores Unit (Audio Visual Archives) was launched in 2013 in the context of '*Festival Kreol*' with the aim safeguarding our history and oral tradition via audio visuals materials (videos, CD, etc). One Field Supervisor and one Word Processing Operator have been posted to this Unit to enable the achievement of the objective mentioned. The officers have performed various interviews and collection of data on field and have also provided audio visual support in the functions organised by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Delegations from the OIF and the Ministry of Arts and Culture who visited the unit are impressed by the work done already and are looking into the issue of extending help to us for the flourishing of the unit. All the processed information are accessible to the public at the Unit in CELPAC, Port Mathurin. We are fully satisfied with the work carried out as at date and I am pleased to table the list of recordings objects and photos available in the Archive Sonores Rodrigues

DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS IN RODRIGUES

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(No. B/107): The Sixth Island Region Member (Mr. J. L. R. Perrine) asked the Commissioner responsible for the Commissioner responsible for Health and Sports whether, in regard to the development of sports in Rodrigues, he will state if the Camp du Roi Stadium and other sports infrastructure are accessible for sports for all and, if so, to give details thereof and if not, why?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson Sir, I wish to inform the House that all sports infrastructure under the aegis of my Commission are accessible to the general public as long as all security measures for the users and the proper utilisation of the infrastructure are ensured.

However with a view to optimize the use of these infrastructures, priority is given to activities organised by recognised Regional Sports Committees based on a pre-established calendar.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, with regard to Camp du Roi Stadium, the facilities are used regularly by the Regional Athletics Committee and the Regional Football Committee.

Activities which are covered under athletics entail the following: throws, jumps and tract events.

Given that these activities represent high risk of injury if not supervised properly, access to the football ground is restricted to the general public during training and competition time for security reasons.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, Camp du Roi Stadium is the only full-fledged stadium that we operate in Rodrigues. Regular training occurs from 15.00 hours to 18.00 hours on week-days and from 07.00 hours to 12.00 hours on week-ends.

It has been brought to my attention on several occasions that some members of the public are seen within the closed perimeter of the Stadium despite warnings and imposed restrictions. Furthermore, it is regrettable to note that on several occasions again, it has been reported that youngsters use the synthetic tract as a racing tract for their bicycle after training time.

Being given that the synthetic track amounting to nearly Rs 30 million has very recently been upgraded, it is the responsibility of my Commission to ensure the proper utilisation and sustainability of same.

Thus, appropriate measures have been taken in that direction including redeployment of staff.

BAD WEATHER ALLOWANCE

(No. B/108): The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr. J. Allan Ladd Emilien) asked the Commissioner responsible for Fisheries and Others whether, in regard to bad weather allowance, he will state the:

- (a) number of official days of bad weather allowance payable to both in-lagoon and off-lagoon fishers for the different regions of Rodrigues for the months of March, April and May 2015; and
- (b) allowance paid to those fishers for the same period and indicating their respective region?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson Sir, with regard to part (a) and part (b), I am tabling the required information.

**HONOURABLE MINISTER
OF FINANCE – OPTICAL FIBER CABLE**

(No. B/109): The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr. J. Allan Ladd Emilien) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, she will, following declarations made by the Honourable Minister of Finance during his last mission in Rodrigues as regards the optical fiber cable connecting Rodrigues to the world via mainland Mauritius, state, for the benefit of the House, the new time frame for the installation thereof?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the initiative to connect mainland Mauritius to Rodrigues is being led by the Ministry of Technology Communication and Innovation.

I am informed that the Ministry has set up a Special Working Committee to work onto the project for inter connecting Rodrigues to the world via mainland Mauritius, using submarine fibre optic cable.

I have also been informed that once this study is finalised and the project awarded, it would take between 12 to 18 months for the construction of the said submarine fibre optic cable.

OCTOPUS CLOSED SEASON – YEAR 2015

(No. B/110): The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr. J. Allan Ladd Emilien) asked the Commissioner responsible for Fisheries and Others whether,

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in regard to the octopus closed season for the year 2015, he can inform the House about difficulties encountered by his Commission, if any, to enforce the laws during the past closed seasons and the measures taken/envisaged to avoid recurrence of same, thus avoiding contraveners to benefit from loopholes, if any, in the Regulations?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform the House that there are no loopholes in the RRA Octopus Closed Seasons 2012 Regulations. The various Enforcement Officers be it the Police, the Fisheries Protection Service, the National Coast Guard and *la Police de l'Environnement* have informed that they have no difficulty in enforcing the said regulations. In fact, those who contravened the regulations and have been caught have been fined before the Rodrigues Court. Prior to introduction in the Regional Assembly, the Regulations have been duly vetted by the State Law Office which gave the green light to go ahead.

Octopus Closed Seasons have worked well in terms of the increase in the stocks of octopus every year at the reopening. Nevertheless, my Commission recognises that there is still room for improvement. The challenge, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is to have a proper surveillance plan in view of maximising the success of Octopus Closed Seasons.

During the first Closed Seasons of 2012, it has been observed there was reasonable and adequate compliance to the Octopus Closed Season Regulations 2012 by the fisher community. The fisher community expressed the wish to participate in the surveillance of the resource during the Closed Season 2013. Watchmen were selected from the fisher community who volunteered for the position and were posted at strategic points along the coastline for better surveillance.

With the posting of watchmen at strategic points, illegal fishers operated mostly late evening and landed their catch at night out of sight of the Enforcement Officers. Additionally, we noted that there were illegal fishing and landing of octopus in remote areas outside the control of enforcement officers.

Measures were taken to curb down the illegal fishing and landing of octopus. This involved the prevention of illegal fishing through regular patrol at sea and presence of more watchmen at strategically remote sites along the coastline as well as the posting of Watchmen for the monitoring of fisher activities at sea early morning and late evening through a shift system to deter fraudulent fishing of octopus.

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Additionally, Community Members were encouraged to declare their stock as per the provisions of the Octopus Closed Season Regulation 2012. This was cumulated by the stock verification exercises during the closed season to ascertain against illegal trafficking of octopus by fishers, buyers and operators.

A surveillance committee has been set up this year comprising relevant stakeholders namely the Fisheries Protection Services, National Coast Guard, *La Police de L'Environnement* and SEMPA with the objective of harmonising efforts through the development and adoption of a surveillance plan with a view to improving the effectiveness of enforcement throughout the closure. The surveillance plan entails regular patrol at sea and along the coastline by joint enforcement teams to deter illicit activities. We want to give a firm statement of intent by issuing search warrants for checking private premises for illegal possession of octopus.

In addition, Mr. Chairperson Sir, Enforcement Officers are conducting crack-down operations whereby fishing boats will be searched to detect illegal weapons and octopus caught during the present closed seasons.

We have learnt from weaknesses of the past and we are working to address those weaknesses by improving our surveillance and giving a clear signal that we mean business. We hope, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that our efforts will deliver positive results for the benefit of the fisher community and Rodrigues at large.

**MALAYSIAN AIRLINES FLIGHT
MH 370 – DEBRIS**

(No. B/111): The Fifth Island Region Member (Mr. J. Allan Ladd Emilien) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, he will state if the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has been requested to participate in researches effected to trace eventual debris of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH 370 and, if so, what has been done/scheduled so far?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have to inform the House that no request has been made the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to participate in researches with a view to trace eventual debris of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH 370.

However, I have been informed by the Commissioner of Police that the Police have been requested to assist in the search.

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In that context, the National Coast Guard (NCG) in Rodrigues has carried out regular patrols around the island to look for any debris washed ashore. Furthermore, afloat patrols have been carried out around Rodrigues for more than 40 hours to look for any floating debris.

The National Coast Guard personnel are also sensitising the general public, picnickers to keep a lookout for any debris whilst proceeding to the beaches in Rodrigues.

Several sorties were undertaken by the Police Dornier Aircraft in order to conduct comprehensive searches in our Exclusive Economic Zone and more sorties will be undertaken as and when required.

“JEUX DES FEMMES DE L’OCEAN INDIEN”

(No. B/112): The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mr. J. R. Ramdally) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the forthcoming “Jeux des Femmes de l’Océan Indien”, she could enlighten the House about the scope and objectives of same, and where matters stand as regards preparatory works, if any, to host this game?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Office intends to organise the first edition of the “*Jeux des Femmes*” on the 05 and 06 September 2015. As the House may be aware, my Commission has been organising the *Jeux des Femmes* in Rodrigues for some time now and following success of same, we have decided to extend the participation to other islands of the Indian Ocean as well. Three islands will participate in this 1st edition, namely Mauritius, the Seychelles and Reunion Island.

The scope is to open inter island avenues of cooperation through sport and consolidate inter island relationships.

As regard preparatory works for the game, the upgrading works at the sport complexes to be used are quasi completed.

Athletes have registered for all 6 disciplines namely basketball, handball, football, athletics, *pétanque* and volleyball. The logo has been finalised and will soon be displayed all over Rodrigues and the “*hymne des jeux*” was officially launched on the 1st August 2015. Procurement is ongoing for equipment that will be needed during the games. Overall, the preparatory works to host these games are going well and is within prescribed timeframe.

WEB-CUP COMPETITION

(No. B/113): The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mr. J. R. Ramdally) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Web-cup competition held during the last school holidays, she could give details about the project and the outcomes and future developments thereof, if any?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the local web cup competition has as main objectives to help in detecting new talents and promoting the ICT Sector. It aims also at making the ICT Centre for Excellence and Rodrigues Island visible in the Indian Ocean in the field of ICT. The project was initiated following the participation of two teams in web cup Mauritius where they performed quite well. One of the teams ranked 4th amongst 19 teams with special jury mention.

A web cup competition consists of developing a web page within a prescribed time limit and according to a particular subject of interest.

This first edition was the first junior edition of the Indian Ocean and it created much enthusiasm in the students as they asked for other such competitions in the future so that they develop their curiosity and capacity in the sector. The project was a pilot one and the aim was to assess the knowledge of the students in web development. It also allowed the exchange of information and sharing of knowledge for the running of web cup in Rodrigues next year for which the winner will be called to represent Rodrigues at the national level in the web cup competition in Mauritius.

In terms of development, the web competition has shown there was need for training and what type of training to be provided to the students for capacity building of our resources in the field of ICT for the creation of new job and ICT incubators in the development of applications. This will contribute in preparing our manpower for the forthcoming fibre optic cable.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, 'L'Association Web Cup' a tenu à nous féliciter pour l'organisation de ce premier 'Web Cup Junior' et a confirmé que cette initiative unique en son genre a demandé une grande organisation en amont. Rodrigues a le privilège de pouvoir annoncer au monde entier que la première 'Web Cup Junior' a eu lieu sur son territoire. C'était une première mondiale, et dès l'année prochaine, le concept sera essaimé à travers le monde, en commençant par les voisins et partenaires de l'Océan Indien.

(No. B/114): The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mr. J. R. Ramdally) asked the Commissioner for Youth and Others whether, in regard to the third edition of the Youth Parliament, she could give details about the changes that have been brought to the project and the outcomes thereof?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Youth Parliament, which was a first, was organised for first time in Rodrigues on 10 and 11 December 2013 and the second edition on August 2014 at the Mon Plaisir Cultural and Leisure Centre. Both editions were great successes as some 200 young people (100 for each edition) were given the opportunity to have parliament experience, develop their leadership and communication skills through the debating of eight topics.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this third edition of the Youth Parliament, saw major changes for the better implementation of same. For the first time in history in Rodrigues and the Republic, the third edition of the Youth Parliament took place at the seat of the Regional Assembly itself (28 and 29 July 2015), as announced by the Chairperson, Regional Assembly at the assembly session of 23rd June 2015. I would like at this point to thank you Mr. Chairperson Sir, and the Clerk and Deputy Clerk and all staff of the Regional Assembly, the staff of my Commission, members and associates of the third edition of the Youth Parliament and members of the Police force for their precious contribution in the smooth organisation of this third edition.

Secondly, all the 24 members of the Youth Parliament had the opportunity to live the experience as parliamentary members of both on the majority and minority side. The 48 other youth associates also experience the gist of debates and resolutions, in a real setting of parliament.

Thirdly, all the decorum of the Regional Assembly was provided for the smooth running of the sitting of the Youth Parliament, such as Sergeant at Arm and Hansard facilities, amongst others.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, lastly, this third edition was a special one in the sense that it has encouraged more sharing and closeness amongst all youth due to the fact that three regions have merged together to work on a specific theme and to propose a common and final resolution to the Assembly to be debated.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, before coming to the many outcomes of this third edition of the Youth Parliament, it was a great pleasure for all of us to welcome the presence of our guest speaker the Honourable Mr. S. Lutchmeenaraidoo, G.C.S.K, Minister of Finance and Economic Development who delivered an inspiring message to our Youth. He also announced various innovative projects in Rodrigues, namely the setting up of the Smart SME Village in Rodrigues, the

advent of a technopole and the implementation of Fibre Optic Cable in a near future.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I also wish to thank Mr. Louis Serge CLAIR, GCSK our Chief Commissioner for his message whereby he stated that politics is a training school and that young people should take this opportunity to discuss and take their responsibility for a better Rodrigues. He also briefly gave an insight of the history of Autonomy and elaborated on the participation of each and every citizen to be active Partners in the consolidation of that Autonomy.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the outcomes of this third edition of the Youth Parliament were numerous. First of all the 2015 Youth Parliament was of high level and the debate intense between the two teams. During this third edition of the Youth Parliament two main development topics were debated on namely:

- (i) Rodrigues ecological island, its implication and way forward; and
- (ii) youth implication in the creation of a modern economy for Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, after two days of lengthy debates, the two following resolutions were adopted namely;

- (i) promoting the use of other resources to prevent over-reliance on fossil fuel; and
- (ii) the importance of ocean economy as an innovative sector wherein many jobs could be created.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as my colleague Mr. R. PAYENDEE, the Commissioner for Environment and Fisheries was present on the second day of the parliament, the house can rest assured that all the points and issues raised by the members of the Youth Parliament will be taken on board by this Regional Government as those initiatives taken for resolutions adopted for the two previous Youth Parliaments.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, secondly the youth participating in this third edition have lived a new enriching experience. The members of the Youth Parliaments were dynamic and played their roles effectively. These Youth who had the privilege to attend this third Youth Parliament will I am sure help in the organisation of the fourth edition of the Youth Parliament next year.

**RECLAIMED LAND – MONT LUBIN
– PERMANENT REMEDIAL MEASURES**

(No. B/116): The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. D. Speville) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure and Others whether, in regard to the construction of a new market on the reclaimed land at Mont Lubin in the vicinity of the filling station, he will state the permanent remedial measures that are being contemplated, if any, to address road traffic congestions thereat during peak hours?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the construction of the new market has nothing to do with the issue of road traffic congestion at Mt. Lubin during peak hours.

However, I wish to inform the Assembly that the issue of traffic flow in Mont Lubin is being looked into with the collaboration of all stakeholders, the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit of Mauritius, the Rodrigues Road Safety Committee the Consultant to come up with a proper traffic management plan for this Central Carrefour.

**RODRIGUAN STUDENTS PURSUING
TERTIARY EDUCATION**

(No. B/117): The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. D. Speville) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the Rodriguan students pursuing tertiary education in all tertiary institutions in Mauritius, he will, for the benefit of the House, state and table the:

- (a) number and names of all the students, faculty-wise per institution; and
- (b) total cost of registration fee, tuition fee, monthly stipends and other related fees, if any, that have been and will be incurred by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the academic year 2015-2016?

Reply: As regard to part (a), Mr. Chairperson Sir, I am tabling the number and names of the students, faculty wise per institution accordingly.

As for part (b), the cost of registration fees paid as at date amount to Rs 207,075 and the final amount that will be incurred for academic year 2015-2016 is not final yet.

STATE LANDS – TRANSPARENT

SET OF PROCEDURES – ALLOCATION

(No. B/118): The Second Local Region Member of Maréchal (Mr. J. D. Speville) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the state lands, he will state if his Office will consider coming up with a more transparent set of procedures for the allocation thereof with a view to tackle the problems of arrears and debtors?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the House that the procedures for the grant of lease in Rodrigues are transparent in as much as the granting of lease is governed by the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Housing and Lands and by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in terms of criteria, conditions and procedures to be adopted under the provision of Section 6(1) (c) of the State Lands Act and Section 26 (1) (2) of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly 2001 respectively.

Since my Government took office, we have been working towards the elimination of back logs of applications for lease which have accumulated since years. In the same context, in a spirit of fairness and transparency, applications for residential leases are being treated in a chronological order based on the date of application, that is, on a first come first serve basis.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House that the Cadastral Office is trying their best with limited staff to satisfy the demand of the population but with the limited resources, they could hardly achieve the set objective. In the same breath, a contract has been awarded to a private surveyor for the survey and preparation of one thousand (1,000) lots for residential purposes in the island.

As regards to the problems of arrears and debtors, the procedures are clear enough in so far as the lease agreement under its Articles provides that the lessor may cancel “*de plein droit*” without payment of any compensation if the rent has remained unpaid for more than three (3) months after its falling due and a forty eight hour notice is to be served upon the lessee requesting him to pay the rent which has remained unpaid. The Director of Audit has in its past report continuously drawing the attention of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly that arrears on State Land are on the rise and the need for necessary action. A ‘*mise en demeure*’ has been served to industrial lessees having arrears to effect payment failing which Rodrigues Regional Assembly will take action in accordance with the conditions of the lease.

“CADASTRE AGRICOLE”

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(No. A/11): The Eighth Island Region Member (Mr. A. EDOUARD) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in regard to the “Cadastre Agricole” for agricultural land in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, state where matters stand?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson Sir, the development of an agricultural cadaster is designed to protect and better manage our agricultural land. This Government aims at making agriculture as one of the main pillars of our economy.

A land suitability map for Rodrigues was elaborated back in the 70's by the FAO and the former Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute. There is now an urgent need to update the map for planning the development of agricultural land, ensure food security and settle dispute among farmers.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, following consultations the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) has agreed to finance this venture. A mission of two Experts namely Dr. FERAS from FAO and Mrs. CHUNG from Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute is currently in Rodrigues to assess our needs before carrying out the necessary surveys.